

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

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

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(20 June 1983)

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EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA

(24th June 1983)

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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 83/PV/1

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(13 June 1983)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15 sous la présidence de
M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas bajo la presidencia de
M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION
- I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE
- I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Members of the Council, Observers, Officials of the FAO, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I welcome you all to this 83rd Session of the Council. Since our last meeting in November 1982, ten of our Members who were with us have been reelected to the Council. These are Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Panama, Thailand and Venezuela, I welcome them again in our midst and I am happy they will continue to help us in the work of the Cornicilo

I would also like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the new Members of the Council. There are six of them: Benin, Cyprus, Iraq, Malawi, Rwanda and Spain. May I welcome the distinguished delegates of these six new Members of the Council.

I also want to welcome the observers from Member Nations of FAO, representatives of various United Nations bodies and observers from Intergovernmental and Non-Intergovernmental organizations. We value your presence.

While opening this 83rd Session of our Council I would be remiss in my duty if I do not pause for a moment to recall with gratitude and appreciation the services of one who has long been a familiar figure on this podium. You all know, of course, that I am referring to Mr. N.C. de Caprona, who, as many of you may know, decided to take early retirement this year to pursue his long-cherished interest in historical research. In his capacity as Director of the Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division, Mr. de Caprona served the Governing Bodies of this Organization faithfully and well, and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him many happy years of fruitful activity in his future pursuits.

You will see on the podium Mr. A. Sole-Leris, who will help in this Council meeting. He is no stranger to you. He has been interpreting all of us and he has also served earlier in this capacity.

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
- 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier
- 1. Aprobación del programa y del calendario

CHAIRMAN; Document CL 83/1 was circulated early in April this year together with the invitation letter to this meeting of the Council. You will observe that a provisional agenda as such has not been prepared since it would duplicate the annotated agenda which gives much more detailed information.

To those who read the Spanish version I would like you to take note that document CL 83/1 carries a typographical mistake in the title of Item 18 where the word "otros" should be deleted. All the other language versions are correct.

In addition, there have been a few changes in the reference numbers of two documents before the Council I would like again to refer to them. The relevant amendments concern all language versions of the provisional annotated agenda and are the following:- Item 9.1 "Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO", the correct document number should read C 83/19 C 83/19 is the relevant document in relation to Item aol. Similarly, under Item 20 "Any Other Business" the reference number of the document on the World Forestry Congress should read CL 83/15.

All these amendments will be incorporated in the final version of the agenda to be done, immediately after your adoption.

The timetable which is now before you carries the number CL 83/INF/1, and you will note that an additional sub-item to Item 18 "Constitutional and Legal Matters" has been included. This additional item is 18.4, "Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme Committee". This addition is a result of a development which took place at the recent session of the Programme Committee. The sub-item is only for the information of Council members and the relevant document is CL 83/INF/10. This addition will also be reflected in the agenda as adopted.

I have no further comments to make at this stage, and if Members of the Council do not have any observations I shall consider the agenda and the timetable adopted as amended.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia): I do not have any objection to accept the timetable for our session but I have noticed that there is no time for meetings in the morning and afternoon. Actually at what time do we have to meet in the morning and at what time in the afternoon? For this session I would like to suggest, if it is accepted by all the members, that we meet in the morning at 10.00 hours and at 15.00 hours in the afternoon.

CHAIRMAN: Well, I was about to announce, after we had adopted the timetable, that we should meet at 09.30 hours to 12.30 hours and at 14.30 to 17.00 hours in the afternoon because we have a very heavy agenda before us.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: This is a problem we have had for the last twenty years: working hours of the Council and the Conference. We have also working hours set for the staff. During summer time the staff works until 17.00 hours, so for every supplementary hour - 5 to 6 for instance - it means we have to pay overtime for a very large number of people. This has therefore some financial implications, but of course we are in the hands of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: In the light of the further information that the Director-General has given, I think the distinguished delegate from Saudi Arabia agrees we start at 09.30 hours, and we will adjourn at 12.30. We will meet again at 14.30. The agenda and timetable are adopted. The small corrections which I pointed out will be incorporated.

Before taking up the next item, may I draw your attention, particularly the heads of delegations, to item 10.2 on the timetable, "Nomination of the Chairman and Other Officers of the Conference". You will find within brackets "(Heads of Delegation members of the Council, in closed meeting, to select names of persons to be approached)". Now, since this item will come on Monday morning next, I would suggest that some time this Friday, 17th June, we have this closed meeting and this will also give you time during this week to have consultations. I shall announce a precise time for the closed meeting some time on Friday. Would the Heads of Delegations please make a note we will discuss on Friday sometime in closed session item 10.2 relating to the Conference.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia piensa que sería mucho mejor celebrar esa reunión privada de jefes de delegaciones el lunes, veinte, en las horas de la mañana.

CHAIRMAN: Well, it is all right with me. It means that on next Monday morning at 09.30 hours the first item in the morning will be a closed meeting of the Heads of Delegations to discuss item 10.2.

2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of Chairman and Members of Drafting Committee
2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction
2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes, y nombramiento del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Redacción

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia tiene el honor de proponer al distinguido colega y amigo señor R.A. Sorenson, de los Estados Unidos de América, para una de las Vicepresidencias de este periodo de sesiones de este Consejo.

El señor Sorenson es bien conocido, lleva varios años entre nosotros como representante de su importante país, es persona cordial, simpática y amable, además de ser un delegado eficaz competente y preparado.

Por las razones anteriores, al hacer esta propuesta la delegación de Colombia está segura de que usted, señor Presidente, tendrá un valioso colaborador en el señor Sorenson y de que todos los miembros del Consejo nos beneficiaremos de los servicios que el distinguido colega sin duda nos ofrecerá.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation takes great pleasure in supporting the nomination of Mr. Sorenson to become one of our Vice-Chair men. Mr. Sorenson is well known to almost everybody around the table. He has attended many sessions of our Organization and contributed constructively to its work. We have no doubt, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Sorenson will be helpful to you and also to us in carrying out our task, and let us hope that he has not lost his good sense of humour which we enjoyed very much, particularly when we entered into controversial discussions.

K. HADDAD (Liban): Je voudrais m'associer à la déclaration de la République fédérale d'Allemagne et appuyer chaleureusement la candidature de M. Sorenson à la Vice-Présidence.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba tiene el honor de proponer para una de las Vicepresidencias de este Consejo al señor João Pereira Silva, Ministro de Desarrollo Rural de Cabo Verde. Este es un pequeño país con una gran decisión de transformar su medio rural y el señor Pereira Silva ha desempeñado, y desempeña, una gran labor en la implementación de su reforma agraria. Creemos, señor Presidente, que el señor Pereira Silva, representando a Cabo Verde, puede ser de mucha utilidad para nuestra labor.

P. W. McLEAN (United Kingdom): It is a great pleasure and honour for my delegation to second the proposal by the distinguished representative of Cuba that Mr. João Pereira Silva, the Minister of Rural Development of Cape Verde, be the second Vice-Chairman for this Session of the Council.

A. F. M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): My delegation would also like to second the nomination of his Excellency Mr. Pereira Silva, Minister from Cape Verde, to be a Vice-Chairman of our Session.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La delegation du Congo se fait un plaisir et un honneur de proposer à l'une des trois Vice-Présidences la candidature de M. Y. A. Hamdi, Représentant de l'Egypte.

M. Hamdi est connu de nous tous qui assistons régulièrement aux réunions de la FAO. Il a derrière lui un certain nombre d'années d'expérience de cette Organisation. Nous pensons qu'il pourra mettre cette expérience au service de tous les délégués et de notre Conseil.

Pour cette raison, nous pensons que son élection aidera beaucoup notre Conseil et vous-même, Monsieur le Président, à venir à bout de nos travaux.

F. G. POULIDES (Cyprus): It is a great pleasure for my delegation to second the proposal of Congo for Mr. Hamdi, the very well known Permanent Representative of Egypt to the FAO, as one of the Vice-Chairmen of the Council.

LEE CHENG YAN (Malaysia): The delegation of Malaysia would like to associate itself with the nomination of Mr. Hamdi of Egypt to be one of the three Vice-Chairmen.

CHAIRMAN: We now have three nominations: Mr. Roger A. Sorenson of the United States, nominated by Colombia and seconded by the Federal Republic of Germany and Lebanon; His Excellency João Pereira Silva of Cape Verde, Minister of Rural Development of Cape Verde, proposed by Cuba and seconded by the United Kingdom and Brazil; and Mr. Yousef A. Hamdi of Egypt, proposed by Congo and seconded by Cyprus and Malaysia.

Are there any other nominations?

If there are none, may I request you all to join me in congratulating these three Vice-Presidents?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Personally I am very delighted that three very distinguished members who have served on the Council for many years are going to adorn this podium and help me and all of us to get through this agenda.

I have the good fortune of knowing them personally and look forward to working with them. I congratulate them on this unanimous choice, and I also wish to congratulate all of us in the Council for having so well chosen the three distinguished Vice-Presidents.

We shall now proceed with the election of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee. Mr. Sylla informs me there is a suggestion that we take this up this afternoon in order to provide a little more time for consultation because there are one or two gaps and we want to be sure we have the whole list together. So, if you approve, shall we take it up as the first item in the afternoon? I see nods. Thank you very much.

So then we shall proceed with our agenda item 3, a very important item to which we all look forward in all our meetings.

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Déclaration du Directeur général

3. Discurso del Director General

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués et Observateurs.

J'ai l'honneur de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à cette 83ème session du Conseil de la FAO, en mon nom personnel et au nom de mes collaborateurs.

Parmi ces derniers, je suis heureux de vous présenter notre nouveau Sous-Directeur général pour l'Administration et les Finances, M. Dean Crowther, qui nous arrive du Département de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis où il a fait une brillante carrière.

J'ai le plaisir de vous présenter également le nouveau Sous-Directeur général, responsable du Département du Développement, M. Raymond Lignon, qui lui, vient de France et qui remplace M. Jacques de Mèredieu.

Monsieur le Président, la session de printemps que le Conseil tient les années de conférence, occupe toujours une place capitale dans notre cycle biennal de réunions; en effet, outre la situation alimentaire mondiale, nous devons y examiner le sommaire de notre Programme de travail et budget, les préparatifs de la Conférence et les rapports de plusieurs Comités importants.

Armement, financement, ravitaillement

Monsieur le Président, les problèmes les plus pressants du monde d'aujourd'hui peuvent se résumer en trois mots: armements, financement, ravitaillement. Le surarmement, l'instabilité de notre système monétaire et l'extrême fragilité des approvisionnements alimentaires, notamment pour les pays et les gens les plus pauvres, sont trois grands défis de ce milieu des années quatre-vingt.

Il nous faut les relever tous les trois, ou renoncer à tout espoir d'amélioration de l'économie mondiale.

Armements

Je ne suis pas ici pour faire la morale, pour dénoncer une fois encore le scandale des dépenses d'armement face aux besoins du développement. Permettez-moi simplement de vous rappeler quelques faits: plus de 17 000 armes stratégiques sont aujourd'hui pointées sur nous. Les dépenses militaires des deux superpuissances représentent plus d'argent que la totalité des échanges mondiaux de produits agricoles. Le commerce des armes joue un rôle majeur dans certaines économies. Enfin, les trois quarts des importations d'armes sont le fait des pays en développement, dont les dépenses militaires dépassaient déjà les 300 millions de dollars par jour en 1980.

Problèmes financiers

Sur le plan financier, l'attention des responsables du monde industriel se concentre surtout sur trois points: instabilité monétaire, niveau excessif des taux réels d'intérêt, et enfin vulnérabilité du système bancaire à la suite des prêts massifs consentis à un petit nombre de pays en développement à revenu moyen. Les pays en développement les plus pauvres, qui sont surtout endettés à l'égard des organismes publics de financement, ont vu leur économie frappée de plein fouet par un effondrement des prix des produits agricoles tel que l'on n'en avait pas connu depuis une génération; et il se trouve aujourd'hui dans une situation désespérée. Au total, la dette extérieure des pays en développement atteindrait aujourd'hui 700 milliards de dollars, c'est-à-dire qu'elle aurait presque décuplé en 10 ans. Je relisais il y a quelques jours le discours du regretté président Boumédiène devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en 1974, il disait que les dettes des pays en voie de développement atteignaient cette année-là (en 1974) 70 milliards de dollars; et nous sommes aujourd'hui à 700 millions de dollars. Cette dette fait peser une grave menace sur les possibilités de reprise économique mondiale.

Production vivrière

Venons-en à la situation alimentaire, en commençant par ses aspects positifs. Sous réserve des disparités habituelles, les récoltes ont en général été bonnes en 1982. La production mondiale de céréales a été de l'ordre de 1 milliard 560 millions de tonnes, soit 3 pour cent de plus qu'en 1981. Les stocks mondiaux de céréales atteignent aujourd'hui des niveaux records; ils correspondent à 21 pour cent de la consommation annuelle, soit nettement plus que le minimum nécessaire pour la sécurité alimentaire qui est estimée à 18 pour cent. Toutefois, leur augmentation est due essentiellement aux céréales secondaires qui sont utilisées plutôt pour la nourriture des animaux et, par ailleurs, plus de la moitié de ces stocks se trouvent en Amérique du Nord.

Au total, la production vivrière a augmenté de 2,5 pour cent en 1982; les résultats des pays en développement ont été un peu inférieurs à ce chiffre.

Par habitant, elle a légèrement fléchi dans les pays en développement à économie de marché; la production de céréales, toujours par habitant, a fortement diminué dans 33 des 69 pays à déficit vivrier et à bas revenu. Dans 19 pays en développement, la production a même diminué en volume. Bien que les récoltes aient été bonnes en Chine, la production a fléchi dans l'ensemble de l'Extrême-Orient, et en particulier en Inde.

En Afrique, les résultats ont été inégaux. La production vivrière par habitant a diminué dans 23 pays sur 42. Beaucoup de pays africains sont en butte à de graves difficultés, et ceci m'a conduit, le mois dernier, à lancer un appel à la communauté internationale pour qu'elle accorde une aide d'urgence à ceux d'entre eux qui sont les plus touchés par les pénuries. La sécheresse a sévi sur une bonne partie de ce continent africain et mis à mal les cultures; qui plus est, une terrible épidémie de peste bovine menace aujourd'hui l'élevage en Afrique. Il faudrait que l'Afrique importe plus d'un million de tonnes de céréales de plus que l'an passé, aide alimentaire comprise. Dans le même temps, il faut prendre de toute urgence un minimum de mesures pour réparer les dégâts et réorganiser la production animale et végétale; leur coût est estimé à 27 millions de dollars. Je suis sûr que, comme à leur habitude, les pays donateurs répondront avec générosité à cet appel et fourniront, à titre bilatéral ou multilatéral, toute l'aide complémentaire voulue: vivres, intrants agricoles etc.

Commerce

Ces deux dernières années, les termes de l'échange des exportations de produits agricoles des pays développés se sont dégradés de 9 pour cent. On ne peut que le déplorer. Mais que dire alors des pays en développement où le recul a été de près de 30 pour cent? Depuis 1977-79, les recettes nettes que les pays en développement à bas revenu tirent du commerce des produits agricoles ont diminué de 60 pour cent en dollars courants.

Perspectives pour 1983

Pour ce qui est de 1983, il faut sans doute s'attendre en fin de compte à une diminution notable de la production mondiale des céréales. Cela sera surtout dû à la politique délibérée de mise en réserve des terres pratiquée par les Etats-Unis. Il faut y ajouter les effets du mauvais temps qui a frappé l'Europe et surtout l'Europe centrale, ainsi que plusieurs gros producteurs d'Asie et d'Océanie et certains pays d'Afrique, comme je viens de le signaler. On s'attend donc à une diminution de la production de blé et, surtout de céréales secondaires, qui devrait baisser en Europe de trois pour cent environ par rapport à 1982. D'autres cultures importantes, notamment les légumes en Europe, ont également été durement frappées. La peste bovine en Afrique a fait des ravages et menace les approvisionnements en viande. Dans une grande partie de l'Afrique, la situation est grave sur tous les plans. Une aide d'urgence est nécessaire.

Prix des produits de base

L'effondrement des prix de certains des principaux produits d'exportation, dont beaucoup de pays en développement tirent l'essentiel de leurs ressources en devises, a pris toutes les allures d'une véritable catastrophe.

En 1982, les prix de beaucoup de ces produits étaient, en termes réels, à leur niveau le plus bas depuis 50 ans. Espérons que la nette reprise observée au cours des premiers mois de cette année ne restera pas sans lendemain. Je parle en particulier de la reprise des prix du sucre et du cacao. En effet, un document qui vient d'être distribué à la CNUCED, indique que, pour un certain nombre de produits agricoles de base, produits agricoles exportés par les pays en développement, la demande en 1990 diminuera par rapport à la demande en 1983 (la demande dans ces marchés augmentera seulement pour un produit, le tabac). Donc, la CNUCED prévoit pour la période 1980-90, la possibilité d'une croissance zéro des importations de la plupart des produits provenant des pays en développement, et ceci dans les pays développés, à économie de marché. J'espère que ces statistiques sont erronées, sinon la situation serait vraiment difficile pour les matières premières de base.

Protectionnisme

Nous espérons tous que la sixième CNUCED et les suites qu'on attend du sommet de Williamsburg permettront de renverser la tendance au protectionnisme. Je ne m'étendrai pas sur cette question, si ce n'est pour souligner les effets catastrophiques du protectionnisme sur le commerce alimentaire et agricole, notamment pour les produits transformés ou semi-transformés dans les pays en développement. Il va de soi que cette question joue également un rôle crucial dans les relations entre pays riches. On a beaucoup parlé ces dernières semaines des dangers que ferait courir au monde une escalade protectionniste comparable à celle des années trente et dont les effets seraient en fait encore bien pires. Je reviens de Belgrade où j'ai assisté à la première partie des travaux de la CNUCED, et je peux vous dire que le protectionnisme y a été très discuté. Je me permettrai, Monsieur le Président, de faire distribuer une copie du discours que j'ai prononcé à cette occasion, elle sera distribuée à tous les délégués ici présents.

Le protectionnisme ne résoudrait pas les problèmes du chômage dans les pays du nord, pas plus qu'il ne mettrait fin aux déséquilibres commerciaux. Quant aux pays pauvres, ils seraient plus que jamais à la merci de forces extérieures implacables.

Et pourtant, si on leur apportait aide et encouragement, ces pays pourraient être l'un des moteurs de la reprise et de la croissance dans les pays du nord. L'interdépendance n'est pas une fiction; ce n'est pas une invention d'idéalistes acharnés à promouvoir l'aide internationale; c'est une réalité, - une réalité que tous ont intérêt à reconnaître.

Certes, il est inquiétant que les revenus des agriculteurs aient diminué de quatre pour cent aux Etats-Unis, environ et de neuf pour cent au Canada; mais il est évident que la forte baisse des prix, la détérioration des termes de l'échange et le protectionnisme frappent bien plus durement encore les ouvriers agricoles sans terre et les exploitants les plus pauvres, qu'il s'agisse de leurs revenus, de leur niveau nutritionnel ou de leur capacité de pourvoir à leurs besoins.

En pareille conjoncture, la sécurité alimentaire est plus que jamais d'actualité.

Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale

Venons-en justement, Monsieur le Président, à la dernière session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, qui a eu lieu en avril, dans cette même salle.

Le rapport où je proposais une nouvelle approche de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, de nouveaux principes et de nouvelles méthodes a été au centre des débats du Comité. Je m'étais volontairement fixé un objectif très ambitieux en m'efforçant de faire le tour complet de la question; non que j'aie cru possible tout de suite d'obtenir des résultats spectaculaires, mais pour élargir au maximum les débats du Comité et lui indiquer des voies nouvelles. Je suis parti de l'idée qu'il fallait avancer pas à pas, par consensus.

Il n'est jamais facile de parvenir à un consensus, surtout "sur un terrain semé d'embûches où s'affrontent de puissants intérêts commerciaux et financiers. Je me réjouis donc que nous ayons pu au moins prendre, me semble-t-il, un bon départ.

Conception de la sécurité alimentaire

Le premier et principal résultat est que le Comité dans son ensemble a approuvé la conception de la sécurité alimentaire, selon laquelle il faut faire en sorte que tous aient en tout temps la possibilité matérielle et économique d'accéder aux aliments de base dont ils ont besoin.

La sécurité alimentaire devrait avoir trois objectifs spécifiques: garantir une production suffisante; stabiliser au maximum le flux des approvisionnements; permettre à ceux qui en ont besoin d'accéder à ces approvisionnements.

Il s'agit d'une oeuvre de vaste envergure, pour laquelle on doit prendre en compte tous les facteurs qui pèsent sur la capacité des pays ou des personnes à produire ou acheter de quoi se nourrir. Il faudrait notamment agir dans les domaines suivants: développement agricole et rural; production vivrière (surtout dans les pays à bas revenu et à déficit vivrier); pouvoir d'achat des couches sociales les plus pauvres; réserves alimentaires; fonctionnement des marchés alimentaires nationaux et internationaux; besoin de devises des pays importateurs; libéralisation des échanges; recettes d'exportation; ressources financières; aide technique et alimentaire; dispositif d'intervention d'urgence etc. Jamais auparavant un comité, aux Nations Unies, n'a traité le sujet de sécurité alimentaire dans toutes ses dimensions, dans toute son envergure, comme l'a fait votre Comité ce printemps .

Mesures nationales et régionales

En deuxième lieu, le Comité a dans l'ensemble approuvé les mesures nationales et régionales spécifiques proposées dans mon rapport. En revanche, et comme on pouvait s'y attendre, les mesures internationales que je suggérais n'ont pas fait l'unanimité. Il nous faudra donc les clarifier et les préciser.

Autres suggestions

Nous pourrions aller de l'avant dans les domaines où il semble possible de parvenir assez rapidement à un consensus; je veux parler, par exemple, de ce que pourrait faire la FAO en vue d'un Programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Le rôle du Comité

En troisième lieu, le Comité a reconnu le rôle pilote de la FAO dans le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, sinon l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies n'aurait pas créé un Comité sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale placé sous l'égide de la FAO, ce Comité aurait été placé ailleurs. Il va de soi que la FAO aura un rôle pilote dans le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, mais pas exclusif. Beaucoup de délégations ont souligné que le Comité avait un rôle central à jouer dans ce domaine et qu'il fallait développer graduellement ses activités dans le cadre de son mandat actuel, et je le répète : dans le cadre de son mandat actuel.

Dans la pratique, l'objectif sera de parvenir à une approche globale intégrée, tous les aspects de la sécurité alimentaire devant être dûment pris en compte et examinés avant que des décisions ne soient adoptées par les organes compétents. Certains auraient pu souhaiter que le Comité soit habilité non seulement à discuter tous les aspects alimentaires mais ait la compétence pour discuter lui-même de tous les problèmes, de toutes les solutions. Ce n'est pas le cas, ce n'est jamais le cas d'ailleurs aux Nations Unies. Le Comité joue un rôle moteur mais beaucoup de décisions relèvent d'autres organes compétents qui sont libres de changer le point de vue que peut exprimer le Comité, mais qui bénéficient toujours des orientations des propositions que peut faire le Comité. J'anticipe un peu sur la discussion sur ce sujet.

Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire

Le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire a comme de coutume présenté son rapport au Conseil de la FAO et au Conseil économique et social. (Il va le proposer, il ne l'a pas encore présenté.) Il a proposé un objectif d'un milliard 350 millions de dollars pour les ressources du Programme alimentaire mondial en 1985-1986. C'est 10 pour cent de moins que ce qui avait été demandé par le Directeur exécutif, avec l'appui du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et du Directeur général de la FAO, mais c'est un peu mieux que l'objectif biennal actuel.

Objectif pour les ressources ordinaires du PAM

Si, comme je l'espère, vous approuvez le chiffre proposé, qui paraît bien modeste au regard des besoins et des possibilités, je pense que nous pourrions au moins, pour une fois, atteindre l'objectif fixé - car il n'a jamais été atteint - voire le dépasser. Cela devrait permettre au PAM de maintenir et peut-être même d'accélérer légèrement le rythme de ses activités, et notamment de soutenir plus vigoureusement les politiques alimentaires et programmes de sécurité alimentaire des gouvernements, y compris les projets de stockage et de stabilisation des prix. Il y a là une nouvelle voie très importante qui s'ouvre pour le Programme alimentaire mondial et qui a, je crois, été un peu discutée à l'occasion de la dernière session.

Estimation des besoins d'aide alimentaire

Le Comité a été saisi de documents préparés par la FAO et le PAM, où figuraient des estimations révisées des besoins d'aide alimentaire en 1985. On y cite le chiffre de plus de 20 millions de tonnes de céréales, dont trois millions pour les situations d'urgence provoquées par de mauvaises récoltes. Le Comité n'a pas accepté d'augmenter l'objectif de 10 millions de tonnes fixé en 1974 pour le flux annuel de l'aide céréalière, et qui n'a jamais été atteint, mais il a reconnu par consensus que les nouvelles estimations constituaient un "indicateur utile" des besoins en 1985.

Réserve alimentaire Internationale le d 'urgence

En ce qui concerne la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence, les contributions de céréales à la Réserve ont: diminué de 40 000 tonnes en 1982. A l'heure actuelle, les promesses de contributions ne portent environ que sur 365 000 tonnes pour 1983 (je ne sais pas si ce chiffre a été augmenté depuis que ce discours a été préparé, M. Ingram le dira) et 177 000 tonnes pour 1984. Qui plus est, le nombre des donateurs est tombé de 20 en 1980 à 18 en 1982 et jusqu'à présent 15 seulement ont annoncé leurs contributions pour 1983.

Cette Réserve de 500 000 tonnes est financée finalement par un très petit nombre de pays comme je le disais, 15 à 18 pays, et c'est vraiment regrettable. Il serait souhaitable que ce nombre soit plus élevé car il y a encore d'autres pays qui ont la capacité de donner une aide et j'espère que le nombre de ces pays augmentera.

Les ressources de la RAIU restent donc imprévisibles malgré les nouvelles procédures adoptées pour les promesses de contributions. J'espère que la prochaine Conférence des contributions répondra aux attentes de ceux qui ont appuyé ces nouvelles procédures. Quoi qu'il en soit, le problème de renforcement de la Réserve reste à résoudre, en tout cas, c'est mon point de vue.

Comité de l'agriculture

J'en viens maintenant à la session du Comité de l'agriculture qui a précédé les réunions du Comité de sécurité alimentaire et du Comité des politiques alimentaires. Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget était l'un des principaux points de son ordre du jour. J'en parlerai tout à l'heure, mais j'ai le plaisir de vous informer dès maintenant que le Comité de l'agriculture a approuvé les principales priorités indiquées dans ce sommaire ainsi que les crédits prévus pour chacune d'entre elles.

Les documents consacrés à un certain nombre d'autres sujets ont également été bien accueillis par le Comité dont les commentaires guideront nos futurs travaux.

Ressources phytogénétiques

Comme nous nous y attendions, il y a eu un point de l'ordre du jour, et un seul, qui a suscité des gros problèmes. Je veux parler de l'élaboration d'une convention sur les ressources phytogénétiques et de la création d'une banque internationale de gènes. Il y a eu des divergences de vues assez marquées sur cette question, et ce n'est pas sans difficulté que le Comité a abouti à la décision qui était probablement la seule possible dans ces conditions : il a demandé de convoquer un groupe de travail gouvernemental restreint mais représentatif au titre du paragraphe 5 de l'article VI de l'Acte constitutif et en vertu des pouvoirs qui me sont conférés par le paragraphe 6 de ce même article.

Ce groupe de travail s'est réuni vendredi dernier durant une matinée et je crois que nous avons obtenu un consensus en ce qui concerne la nature du rapport que je dois présenter au mois de novembre au Conseil, (sur le contenu de ce rapport et non pas sur les conclusions) et j'ai invité tous les membres du groupe de travail qui le souhaitent à m'adresser par écrit leurs commentaires, leurs idées sur un plan de travail que j'ai indiqué et qui, me semble-t-il, a reçu l'accord des personnes présentes. En tout cas, il s'agit du rapport du Directeur général et le groupe de travail est un groupe qui doit conseiller le Directeur général. C'est un rapport que je présenterai sous ma propre responsabilité.

Engrais

Il me faut aussi parler de l'important problème des engrais. En 1981/82, la production mondiale d'engrais a diminué pour la première fois depuis 1945, la crise économique a donc eu une grave répercussion sur l'économie mondiale des engrais. La consommation a baissé brutalement en Amérique latine de 15 pour cent et elle a baissé aussi en Asie, en particulier je crois comprendre qu'en Inde la consommation a baissé. En Afrique, elle a augmenté marginalement, moins de 0,5 pour cent. Les investissements dans l'industrie des engrais ayant été différés, les approvisionnements risquent d'être difficiles à partir de 1986/87. Or, dans l'état des techniques actuelles, et vous le savez mieux que personne, il sera impossible de faire progresser les disponibilités alimentaires au rythme qu'exige la croissance démographique sans un accroissement continu de la production et de la consommation d'engrais, c'est une condition sine qua non.

A ce propos, j'ai le plaisir de vous informer que j'ai écrit récemment à M. de Larosière, Directeur général du Fonds monétaire international et ceci à la suite du rapport de la dernière session de la Commission des engrais de la FAO. J'ai évoqué la possibilité que le FMI, en collaboration avec la FAO, fournisse un appui supplémentaire pour financer les achats d'engrais des pays les plus gravement touchés et les moins avancés ayant de graves difficultés de balance des paiements. Je rendrai compte en temps opportun des résultats de cette démarche, mais il se fait que plusieurs pays ici présents sont aussi membres du FMI et pourraient peut-être, si l'occasion s'en présentait, appuyer cette proposition, qui n'est pas la mienne, que je suis heureux d'entériner, qui est celle des gouvernements réunis à la Commission des engrais qui s'est tenue à Rome cette année.

Aide à l'agriculture

Par ailleurs l'aide à l'agriculture des pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire diminue. S'ils ne reçoivent pas une aide suffisante, ces pays n'ont guère de chance d'amorcer une progression dynamique de leur production vivrière. Or, la reconstitution des ressources de l'Association internationale de développement et du Fonds international de développement agricole s'est heurtée à de graves difficultés; du coup, l'avenir apparaît compromis en ce qui concerne le flux des fonds d'investissement multilatéraux octroyés à des conditions de faveur. Déjà les engagements ont diminué

ces deux dernières années, comme vous le savez, pour l'Association internationale du développement de 30 pour cent et, par ailleurs, le secteur agricole qui recevait plus du tiers des crédits de la Banque internationale ne recevra plus que 25 pour cent seulement de ces crédits. Et je dois dire que la BIRD et l'AID sont les principales ressources de financement pour le secteur agricole. J'ajouterai aussi que, pour le FIDA, les ressources ont diminué en valeur réelle.

Rien n'indique que cette chute que je viens de signaler ne soit compensée par un accroissement de l'aide bilatérale.

Au contraire, nous avons vu que l'aide bilatérale a diminué elle aussi plus pour les pays du GATT. De même, l'assistance technique à l'agriculture a beaucoup souffert de la contraction des ressources du PNUD et de l'insuffisance du financement pour les programmes d'action de la FAO. N'est-il pas navrant que ce déclin de l'aide survienne au moment même où, encouragés par de fortes pressions internationales, les pays à déficit alimentaire redoublent d'efforts pour résoudre les problèmes de politique fondamentale qui sont la cause d'une grande partie de leurs difficultés ? Si, maintenant, la Communauté internationale n'intervient pas, les problèmes à résoudre demain ne seront que plus amples et plus graves.

Investissement

Malgré tout, je suis heureux de pouvoir vous dire que notre coopération avec la Banque mondiale, avec le FIDA et avec les banques régionales est plus étroite que jamais. M. Clausen, Président de la Banque mondiale est récemment venu à Rome et nous avons eu ensemble des entretiens très cordiaux et très fructueux en vue de renforcer notre programme de coopération qui donne déjà d'excellents résultats.

FNUD

Nous restons aussi le principal partenaire du PNUD dans le domaine de la coopération technique. Environ 25 pour cent des chiffres indicatifs de planification restent consacrés à l'agriculture et ceci malgré la crise financière du PNUD.

Il est regrettable que les efforts récents du Comité plénier intersessions du Conseil d'administration du PNUD n'aient pas abouti à un accroissement sensible des ressources courantes du Programme ni à un accord sur un système de financement pluriannuel qui donne plus de garanties.

Cependant, nous renforçons notre effort commun pour continuer de collaborer, en particulier sur le terrain, afin d'atteindre des objectifs communs. L'Administrateur du PNUD et moi-même sommes récemment convenus d'adresser aux Représentants Résidents du PNUD et aux Représentants de la FAO dans les pays une deuxième lettre que nous signerons tous les deux. Dans cette lettre, nous appelons l'attention sur la gravité de la situation alimentaire mondiale, sur la priorité que lui accordent la stratégie internationale du développement et les décisions prises par les gouvernements aux divers sommets internationaux, ainsi que sur l'amélioration de notre coopération dans le pays. Je crois que ceci est important pour les représentants des ministères de l'agriculture des pays en développement parce qu'ils devraient trouver, après que ce texte ait été reçu par les Représentants du PNUD, des conditions très favorables pour donner une plus grande priorité aux projets d'assistance technique dans le domaine de l'agriculture financés par le PNUD.

A cette occasion, M. le Président, permettez-moi de rendre hommage au dévouement inlassable avec lequel M. Bradford Morse, Administrateur du PNUD, sert la cause de la coopération technique multilatérale et fait toujours valoir la priorité de l'agriculture dans le développement économique et social.

Situation financière

Je voudrais parler maintenant de certaines des principales questions qui se dégagent des rapports du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier.

Tout d'abord, la situation financière de l'Organisation et en particulier les questions de contributions. Vous savez ce qui s'est passé en 1982, je n'y reviendrai pas. Heureusement, la situation s'est améliorée pendant le premier semestre de 1983; toutefois, elle n'est pas encore entièrement satisfaisante. Plusieurs Etats dont la quote-part est élevée ont versé ponctuellement et intégralement leur contribution. D'autres en ont payé une partie. Certains ont aussi réglé leurs arriérés et je voudrais rendre hommage à des pays qui traversent une situation économique difficile et qui l'ont fait. Vous les reconnaîtrez quand vous aurez vu le document traitant de ce sujet. Et, je le répète, la situation s'est améliorée mais elle n'est pas encore tout à fait satisfaisante.

Le problème des arriérés n'en reste pas moins très préoccupant, surtout dans le cas des Etats Membres qui risquent de perdre leur droit de vote. Il y en a un certain nombre qui sont dans cette situation. Je ne pense pas que nous soyons menacés par une crise de trésorerie d'ici la fin de l'année, mais cela dépendra dans une large mesure des intentions de deux pays, sinon trois, dont la contribution est la plus élevée.

Locaux du Siège

Nos plus grandes causes de soucis sont les attaques portées à nos immunités et l'impasse où se trouve la question des locaux du Siège. Sur ce dernier point, je n'ai guère de progrès concrets à signaler, notamment en ce qui concerne la nouvelle aile à construire à côté du bâtiment C. Pour les 70 bureaux prévus au huitième étage du bâtiment D, on a un peu progressé, mais lentement et péniblement. Nous n'avons pas encore franchi les innombrables obstacles que nous opposent les Services d'urbanisme et l'on nous a fait savoir que la construction prendrait un an et demi après l'approbation définitive et l'obtention des financements nécessaires. Quant au projet d'une nouvelle aile adjacente aux bâtiments principaux, rien, semble-t-il, ne pourra se faire tant que les Services archéologiques n'auront pas rendu leur verdict. J'ai été informé la semaine dernière qu'ils avaient encore des recherches à faire mais qu'ils avaient épuisé leurs crédits. Comment, dans ces conditions, le Comité financier n'aurait-il pas exprimé sa déception, même avant de connaître cette dernière nouvelle?

L'Organisation doit fournir des locaux, non seulement à son propre personnel, mais aussi à celui d'autres organismes; elle a déjà de plus en plus de mal à y parvenir dans l'espace disponible - et la situation pourrait encore s'aggraver. Alors que nous faisons le maximum pour réduire encore nos dépenses administratives et améliorer notre efficacité, nous sommes obligés de dépenser de l'argent pour assurer un service de transport entre les bâtiments qui risque de coûter de plus en plus cher.

Immunités de la FAO

En ce qui concerne nos immunités, la situation s'est encore aggravée : non seulement les propriétaires du bâtiment F continuent à nous narguer et à nous poursuivre en justice, mais nous avons été victimes de jugements défavorables dans de nouvelles affaires. Le Comité financier a tenu une réunion officieuse sur ces questions de locaux et d'immunité. Le nouveau Représentant permanent de l'Italie, l'Ambassadeur Francisci Di Baschi, que j'ai le plaisir d'accueillir ici, a participé à cette réunion, ainsi que moi-même. Je lui suis reconnaissant de son attitude amicale et constructive mais en l'absence de progrès concrets, je dois avouer que je reste très préoccupé pour ne pas dire ulcéré, car ce sont les intérêts de tous les Etats Membres qui sont en jeu.

J'en viens maintenant au Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, qui est le principal point de l'ordre du jour de notre session.

Monsieur le Président, j'en viens au principal des points inscrits à votre ordre du jour, mais je serai bref, puisque je participerai ensuite à vos débats sur cette question. Je me permettrai de faire une courte présentation de ce document.

Cadre financier

De tous les Programmes de travail et budgets que j'ai présentés jusqu'ici, c'est celui-ci qui a été le plus difficile à préparer. Comme d'habitude, j'ai dû tenir compte du fait que plus que jamais la FAO doit à la fois faire face à des besoins d'assistance accrus et rendre ses programmes plus efficaces et plus souples, surtout dans la conjoncture économique internationale défavorable que nous traversons.

Il est de tradition que la plupart des Etats Membres développés réclament qu'on mette un frein aux dépenses budgétaires. Mais aujourd'hui, nous assistons en outre à un renforcement du bilatéralisme aux dépens du multilatéralisme, et de nouvelles contraintes limitent les attributions d'aide. De plus, les pays en développement manquent terriblement de devises et cherchent à concentrer les efforts sur certains domaines prioritaires en recherchant un maximum d'efficacité. Priorités, efficacité et économie ne sont pas le souci exclusif d'un seul groupe mais notre préoccupation à tous.

Objectifs

Mes propositions visent donc un triple objectif:

- Premièrement, limiter la charge financière qui pèse sur les Etats Membres tant développés qu'en développement, et continuer à rechercher l'efficacité et l'économie en gérant avec prudence les fonds confiés à l'Organisation. L'augmentation nette de ressources que je demande est réduite au strict minimum puisqu'elle représente une croissance réelle de 0,5 pour cent seulement pour l'exercice 1984/85.
- Deuxièmement, affecter le plus de ressources possible aux programmes techniques. Les services de soutien administratif seront sévèrement dégraissés, ce qui nous permettra de consacrer plus de 7 millions de dollars supplémentaires aux activités techniques et économiques sans demander pour cela de nouveaux crédits.
- Troisièmement, réduire les dépenses de personnel en supprimant encore 40 postes. Le coût des postes établis ne représentera plus que 58 pour cent du budget total, contre 77 pour cent il y a dix ans.

Je voudrais répéter cette phrase parce qu'elle est importante et parce que souvent des gens non avertis critiquent la bureaucratie onusienne, en particulier de la FAO, et parlent de dizaines de

milliers de fonctionnaires. Monsieur le Président, le coût des postes établis ne représentera plus que 58 pour cent du budget total en 1984/85 contre 77 pour cent il y a dix ans. Nous rognerons encore sur la documentation, qui sera cette fois-ci réduite d'environ 4 pour cent. Mais, pour axer davantage encore nos activités sur les pays, en particulier dans le domaine de la formation, il nous faudra accroître de 11 pour cent le budget des voyages et de 21 pour cent celui des réunions.

Stratégies et priorités

Les stratégies et priorités proposées pour 1984-85 sont évidemment inspirées par les consultations constantes qui se tiennent au cours de chaque exercice: sessions de la Conférence, du Conseil et de ses nombreux comités, des Conférences régionales, des organes techniques, ainsi que par les recommandations de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies qui nous adresse des recommandations que nous pouvons parfois accepter, de l'ECOSOC et d'autres organismes avec lesquels la FAO collabore.

Le document décrit en détail les domaines prioritaires pour lesquels je propose des augmentations nettes : développement de la recherche et de la technologie qui est à la base de nos programmes techniques; analyse des politiques et planification, qui nécessitent notamment l'étude de certains aspects cruciaux du développement agricole tels que les systèmes d'exploitation et les politiques de prix agricoles; enfin, action dans les pays, au titre du PCT, de nos programmes de terrain et du programme de soutien des investissements. Rassurez-vous, pêches et forêts auront leur juste part. On a fait aussi une place particulière aux problèmes et aux besoins de l'Afrique.

Mais la réorientation de nos programmes de fond ne se mesure pas seulement aux augmentations nettes. Les transferts de ressources à l'intérieur des divers programmes sont indiqués dans l'Annexe du document, comme vous l'aviez demandé. Ils fournissent un exemple concret de la façon dont l'Organisation s'adapte à l'évolution des besoins et affronte les problèmes nouveaux.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai été heureux de l'accueil généralement favorable que le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier ont réservé aux priorités et allocations que je propose. Sous réserve des observations que vous pourrez formuler sur leurs rapports, j'examinerai avec soin la possibilité d'apporter des ajustements de détail en préparant la version définitive du Programme de travail et budget que vous examinerez en novembre prochain.

Augmentation de coûts

Pour l'exercice en cours, j'avais dû demander un crédit de 11.4 millions de dollars, non compris les ajustements pour variations des taux de change, pour faire face aux augmentations de coûts. Ce montant correspondait pour les années 1982 et 1983 à 40 pour cent de la base. Ces augmentations de coût, comme vous le savez, sont dues à l'inflation essentiellement. Cette fois-ci, pour le budget 1984-85, ce poste, pour lequel nos prévisions sont encore provisoires, ne représente plus que 22 pour cent de la base contre 40 pour cent en 1982-83. C'est donc presque la moitié du pourcentage des augmentations de coût pour le précédent budget. Je tiens à faire cette observation parce qu'elle a, je crois, son importance. Le Comité financier a étudié la méthodologie utilisée ainsi que le contenu des augmentations de coûts proposées, et il a abouti à des conclusions positives qui figurent dans son rapport.

Mais, à en juger par les tendances actuelles dans le pays hôte, on peut d'ores et déjà craindre que les prévisions concernant les augmentations de coûts ne se révèlent insuffisantes. En outre, elles ne tiennent pas compte de certaines augmentations qui pourraient intervenir au cours du prochain exercice. Je pense en particulier au fait que la Commission de la fonction publique internationale pourrait proposer de relever le barème des traitements du personnel des Services généraux à l'issue de sa prochaine enquête; en outre, il se pourrait que les locaux nous coûtent plus cher que prévu, c'est-à-dire que le loyer pourrait être augmenté sur la base de la législation italienne. Je me réserve donc le droit de proposer, si nécessaire - j'espère que ce ne sera pas le cas -, des changements dans la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget. Bien évidemment, le plus cher serait de pouvoir réduire le poste "augmentation de coûts", mais on ne peut exclure qu'il faille au contraire l'augmenter.

Cela dit, je tiens à vous affirmer avec la plus grande force que mes collègues et moi avons fait le maximum pour obtenir, à la prochaine session de la Conférence, un consensus sur le Programme de travail et budget. J'espère sincèrement que ce sera possible. Je souhaite que le Conseil puisse y parvenir à la présente session, afin que la Conférence puisse concentrer son attention sur les questions de politique générale et les problèmes de fond et non pas sur les questions du niveau du budget. Je me rends bien compte que cela ne sera peut-être pas possible pour certains d'entre vous. Toutefois, j'espère que le Conseil, quelles que soient les conclusions de son rapport, voudra bien me donner des indications précises et positives pour la préparation de la version intégrale du Programme de travail et budget.

Conclusion

Le Programme de travail et budget revêt une importance extrême. C'est en effet sur cette base que l'Organisation va s'acquitter au cours des deux prochaines années de ses fonctions au service de tous les Etats Membres pour lutter contre la pauvreté et la faim.

Dans toutes nos activités, je m'efforcerai sans relâche de renforcer notre coopération avec toutes les autres institutions intéressées. Mais la FAO détient un mandat très vaste et d'une importance primordiale. Elle doit s'occuper de tous les aspects du développement agricole, alimentaire et rural: moyens d'action, politiques, planification, information, services consultatifs, réglementation, opérations. Nos organes directeurs ont toute latitude pour adresser des recommandations à d'autres et pour se prononcer sur celles qui nous sont adressées. J'ai le devoir imprescriptible de lutter par tous les moyens contre tout ce qui pourrait réduire le champ d'action de la FAO et son efficacité; ce devoir, je le remplirai fidèlement, je vous l'assure.

Mais pour cela, l'appui de nos Etats Membres m'est indispensable. S'il vient à faire défaut, l'Organisation ne pourra remplir pleinement son rôle dans la solution du plus grand problème de notre époque. La faim dans le monde n'est pas une crise éphémère que l'on guérit avec des traitements qui durent quelques jours. Pour la vaincre, il faudra que tous les hommes de tous les pays se vouent sans relâche au combat séculaire et implacable contre les ravages de la sécheresse, des maladies et des privations, contre la pauvreté et pour une meilleure justice sociale; ils devront lutter pour atteindre les objectifs gravés dans le marbre dans notre Acte constitutif: améliorer la nutrition, relever les niveaux de vie, améliorer le sort des populations rurales et contribuer ainsi à développer l'économie mondiale et à affranchir l'humanité de la faim.

Il n'existe aucune mission qui soit plus noble ou plus impérieuse. Si absorbés que nous soyons par les préoccupations terre-à-terre du travail quotidien, nous ne devons jamais perdre de vue notre foi et notre idéal. Qu'ils nous soutiennent en ces temps difficiles et nous guident vers un avenir qui - nous l'espérons, nous en sommes sûrs - sera plus lumineux pour les peuples de toutes les nations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Well, members have already shown their appreciation to the Director-General for his very comprehensive and incisive statement. He has gone into all the problems which we have to discuss when we take up the different items on the agenda. We share your concern and we are very grateful to you for the trouble you have taken to give this statement.

I would also like to add our words of welcome to the new Assistant Director-Generals whose appointment Dr. Saouma announced. Mr. Crowther, the Assistant Director-General for Administration and Finance, and Monsieur Lignon, the Assistant Director-General of the Development Department, and on behalf of the Council I would like to welcome them and we will look forward to their contributions to the work of this Council.

I am also grateful to the Director-General for announcing that he will share with the delegates his very important statement made at Belgrade recently at UNCTAD VI, and I am sure you will find this document a mine of valuable information.

Normally we do not take up for discussion the Director-General's statement because these items will come up, but nevertheless the Chairman of the Group of 77, the distinguished delegate of Colombia, Mr. Bula Hoyos, wants to make a statement on behalf of the Group of 77. So I give the distinguished delegate of Colombia the floor.

G. BULA HOYOS (Presidente del Grupo de los 77): Gracias, señor Presidente. Como usted lo ha dicho, ruego la benevolencia suya y de los distinguidos miembros del Consejo para hacer ahora una breve declaración general en nombre del Grupo de los 77, que tengo el honor de presidir.

A los representantes de los países en desarrollo nos preocupa la actual difícil situación mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación. Han desaparecido los signos de recuperación que se manifestaron hasta el año pasado y de nuevo esa situación ha vuelto a ser sombría con perspectivas negativas.

Nos inquieta particularmente que esa situación sea más dramática en los países menos adelantados, con bajos ingresos y déficits alimentarios en favor de los cuales la FAO debe intensificar sus esfuerzos de asistencia.

La progresiva y creciente concentración de reservas en unos pocos países productores contrasta lamentablemente con la gran escasez alimentaria en numerosos países en desarrollo. Creemos que esa injusta situación no deberá perpetuarse; hay que situar las reservas en lugares estratégicos en todas las regiones, de acuerdo con la recomendación hecha en ese sentido por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación en 1974.

El Grupo de los 77 piensa que este Consejo debe reconocer y destacar el esfuerzo que ha hecho el Director General de la FAO al presentarnos un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que se ajusta a las dificultades causadas por la actual recesión económica mundial, si bien el incremento real de los programas propuestos para 1984/85 es sólo del 0,5 por ciento para el bienio, incremento que está muy lejos de corresponder a nuestras aspiraciones y necesidades. Nos conforta el hecho de que el Director General haya aplicado reducciones en sectores menos prioritarios para fortalecer los programas técnicos y económicos que representan el verdadero interés de nuestros países.

Los representantes de los países en desarrollo apoyamos con decidido entusiasmo los aumentos propuestos para el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, Programa que ha sido una de las felices y prácticas ideas innovadoras del Director General y que ha confirmado su validez de efecto multiplicador rápido y útil en beneficio de la asistencia más inmediata que requieren nuestros Estados.

El Grupo de los 77 reitera su rechazo a la teoría del crecimiento cero porque las dificultades de nuestros países no tienen crecimiento cero, sino que, lamentablemente, se multiplican y agravan. Por ello nos oponemos a que en los bienios futuros se prolongue esa tendencia y trate de aplicarse ese crecimiento cero a los presupuestos de la FAO, que es una de las Agencias de las Naciones Unidas que trabaja mejor y necesita recursos y medios suficientes para servir a todos los Estados Miembros particularmente a los países en vías de desarrollo.

El Grupo de los 77 piensa que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en su 82 período de sesiones, celebrado en Roma del 13 al 20 de abril pasado, aprobó por unanimidad importantes recomendaciones sobre un interesante y valioso informe del Director General basado en un nuevo, revisado y ampliado concepto de la Seguridad Alimentaria. Los representantes de los países en desarrollo opinamos que esas orientaciones adoptadas por todos los miembros del CSA deben seguir vigentes para la consideración futura de todo lo relacionado con la Seguridad Alimentaria, actividad en la cual debe reconocerse a la FAO el carácter de punto focal y una función preponderante debido a la experiencia y a los conocimientos de nuestra Organización, que con tan buen éxito ha venido ocupándose de esos asuntos desde hace largo tiempo. Debe respetarse la importante función de la FAO y no duplicar sus actividades.

El Grupo de los 77 propugna la mejor cooperación entre todos los organismos de las Naciones Unidas que se ocupan de la seguridad alimentaria, pues pensamos que se debe hacer mejor uso de los escasos y limitados recursos de que se dispone y sumar todo esfuerzo en favor del objetivo común que debe ser la seguridad alimentaria del Tercer Mundo.

El Grupo de los 77 señala a la atención del Consejo el hecho de que en esa misma reunión del CSA, el Director General de la FAO presentó un importante documento sobre las limitaciones que impiden el crecimiento de la producción en los países africanos con bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos. Los representantes de África en el CSA aportaron indicaciones de prioridad, las cuales fueron apoyadas, plenamente, por todos los miembros de ese Comité.

Pedimos al Consejo que esa voluntad expresa de los Gobiernos de África sea útil guía para la consideración y solución de los problemas en esos fraternos países africanos, en favor de los cuales, una vez más, demandamos la solidaridad de la comunidad internacional.

El Comité de Agricultura, en su séptimo período de sesiones celebrado en esta ciudad, del 21 al 30 de marzo de este año, adoptó importantes recomendaciones, particularmente en cuanto a la propuesta de celebrar un convenio internacional para recursos fitogenéticos, y el establecimiento de un banco internacional de genes.

Hemos apoyado la creación del Grupo de Trabajo a que se ha referido el Director General, grupo que rendirá su informe al Consejo de noviembre próximo, por lo cual esperamos que en esta reunión se mantengan los resultados obtenidos en la sesión del COAG y se consagre el principio de que los recursos fitogenéticos son patrimonio analienable de la humanidad, y deben estar siempre a la libre disposición de quien los necesite.

Al Grupo de los 77 le preocupa profundamente la disminución del consumo de los fertilizantes en nuestros países. Apoyamos la recomendación de la Comisión de Fertilizantes sobre la necesidad de procurar asistencia técnica y financiera adecuada a aquellos países que estén en condición de asociarse para establecer empresas comunes, y de todos modos para que las naciones en desarrollo puedan importar y atender sus necesidades de fertilizantes, que son esenciales para el aumento de las producciones agrícolas.

El Grupo de los 77 reitera su apoyo al Programa Mundial de Alimentos, como válido instrumento para el desarrollo, y pedimos que el Consejo haga un llamado a todos los donantes para que, con sus contribuciones, se complete la meta fijada para el período en curso y que apoye los objetivos para el PMA de 1 350 millones de dólares, que aceptamos como compromiso mínimo de consenso para el período 1985/86.

Señor Presidente, en los términos anteriores, he tratado de cumplir el mandato que me confiaron mis compañeros del Grupo de los 77 en Roma para que hiciera una declaración en esta importante sesión del Consejo, en la cual, como cada dos años, se discute el resumen del programa de labores y presupuestos, documentos que serán la guía de nuestros trabajos, la Biblia para el próximo bienio. Queremos destacar el mejoramiento progresivo y notable de las actividades de la FAO en los últimos años, particularmente apoyamos la visión amplia y práctica del Director General quien ha entendido la ineludible vinculación que existe entre todos los factores que integran la economía mundial y les ha asociado a los cambios de la agricultura y de la alimentación, convencido con nuestro apoyo de que esos problemas no pueden considerarse aisladamente, ni ser resueltos independientemente, sino en relación directa con el comercio internacional, las políticas agrícolas y todos los otros factores que pueden contribuir al tratamiento y a la solución de los problemas alimentarios y agrícolas. Es así como la FAO ha mantenido y ha presentado la importancia que representa para los países en desarrollo.

La FAO pertenece a todos los Estados Miembros, y nosotros, los miembros del Grupo de los 77, nos complacemos en compartir, con los representantes de todos los países del mundo, sin distingos ni confrontaciones, la responsabilidad que nos corresponde al aportar nuestra colaboración para que la FAO siga trabajando cada vez mejor y más eficazmente.

Los representantes de los países en desarrollo nos hemos preparado particularmente, en el seno de nuestro Grupo de los 77, para participar activamente en los debates que hoy se inician con plena conciencia de nuestra responsabilidad, porque así lo determinan las graves circunstancias que afrontan nuestros países, cuyas soluciones parecen alejarse indefinidamente; pero rechazamos toda confrontación porque creemos que la confrontación causa perjuicio a todos y no representa beneficio para nadie. Por el contrario, ofrecemos nuestra más plena cooperación, e igualmente la demandamos, de los distintos representantes de todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO.

Una vez más queremos invitar a todos ustedes a trabajar en franco espíritu de cordialidad, con el más sincero y leal ánimo de mutua comprensión y pleno entendimiento. Unidos en el convencimiento de cada día es más tangible la irreversible interdependencia que existe entre todos los países del mundo. La paz social y un nuevo orden económico internacional más equitativo, que conlleve el progresivo cumplimiento de la justa reivindicación del Tercer Mundo, serán siempre las bases insustituibles sobre las cuales reposarán la subsistencia pacífica y ordenada de toda la humanidad. Animados de este espíritu indeclinable, los países que pertenecemos al Grupo de los 77, pedimos cordialmente a todos los miembros de este Consejo que entiendan nuestra posición y comprendan nuestras preocupaciones. Demandamos mayor asistencia técnica y financiera para nuestros países porque aún la necesitamos; no obstante, haber intensificado nuestros propios esfuerzos nacionales y haber conseguido cada vez más alta prioridad en la agricultura de nuestro plan nacional de desarrollo. Ese esfuerzo internacional aún no es suficiente, pero estamos dispuestos a seguir afrontando nuestras responsabilidades, confiados de que nuestros estados y pueblos merecen un futuro mejor, con progreso y felicidad, que será el fruto del trabajo añorado de nuestras gentes.

La FAO, Agencia de las Naciones Unidas, dirigida por un hombre inteligente, dinámico y capaz como el Dr. Saouma, ofrece un marco propicio para esa cooperación internacional. Entendemos las dificultades que hoy también padecen algunos países desarrollados, pero creemos que las consecuencias de esa situación no deben recaer, desproporcionadamente, sobre los débiles hombros de los países en desarrollo.

Le pedimos apoyar nuestra Organización y ofrecer a la FAO los medios y los recursos necesarios que están siendo invertidos, eficaz y adecuadamente, en favor de los países en desarrollo.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Columbia, for your detailed statement. Does anyone else wish to take the floor?

Well, if there is no one else, what I would suggest now is to adjourn and to meet punctually at 14.30 hours to complete the Drafting Committee composition, and then hear Professor Islam's introductory statement and go on to deal with item 4.

The meeting rose at 12.00 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 83/PV/2

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(13 June 1983)

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La deuxième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30 sous la présidence de
M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas bajo la presidencia de
M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of Chairman and Members of Drafting Committee (continued)
2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)
2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes, y nombramiento del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I mentioned to you this morning that when we reconvened in the afternoon I was hoping to have the names of the Chairman and the members of the Drafting Committee. I am happy to report that this has been possible and I am grateful to those who must have worked during their lunchbreak to make this possible.

His Excellency Leopoldo Ariza Hidalgo of Cuba has been proposed as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee; members from Africa: Congo and Ethiopia; Asia and the Pacific Region: Pakistan and Indonesia; Europe: France and the Federal Republic of Germany; Latin America: Mexico and Panama; Near East: Afghanistan and Iraq; North America: The United States and the Southwest Pacific: New Zealand. Are there any comments? Is this list agreeable to you?

We are now condemning all these people to hard work and a labour of love and I would want to thank them on behalf of the Council in anticipation of the excellent work that they are going to do. They will of course know the fruits of their labour next Thursday afternoon but I am sure they will do an excellent job under the leadership of his Excellency Leopoldo Ariza Hidalgo of Cuba. May I ask you in anticipation to give them a clap of welcome.

Applause.

Applaudissements.

Aplausos.

B. N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): Mr. Chairman, I apologize for coming in, but I believe that I have made a mistake and would like it to be corrected if that is the case. I see that for the Drafting Committee we have Cuba, Mexico and Panama. Where I made a mistake is that I have here three countries for Latin America where other areas have only two countries. Therefore I would like to be informed on what is happening here.

CHAIRMAN: Mexico and Panama.

B. N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): But we have also Cuba. We have Cuba, Mexico and Panama.

CHAIRMAN: The Ambassador of Cuba is the Chairman.

B. N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I am not quite clear in my mind. Can I have the Chairman of the African Group to give us some clarification please.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Congo, would you like to say anything?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je prends la parole pour appuyer ce que vient de dire le délégué de l'Angola. Nous avons une grande habitude de ces réunions. Il nous semble qu'au niveau du Conseil la répartition doit se faire équitablement.

Nous notons qu'ici, c'est-à-dire au niveau de notre région, nous avons déjà eu à présider le Conseil. Nous savons que notre Président était parmi les membres de la région. Nous ne voyons pas pourquoi ici on met trois pays de l'Amérique latine au lieu de deux. Nous proposons que cela soit rectifié à l'avantage de tout le monde.

CHAIRMAN: I would briefly revert to the question of parity in representation among all regions on the Drafting Committee. I therefore intend to request Mr. Sylla, the Secretary-General, to make a statement.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Depuis les cinq dernières années il y a eu des variations dans la composition du Comité de rédaction et ces variations ont toujours oscillé entre huit et 11 membres. Le cas évoqué par l'Angola a un précédent. Nous avons eu par exemple en novembre 1981 la présidence du Comité de rédaction confiée à l'Europe qui était en plus représentée au sein du Comité par la République fédérale d'Allemagne et par la Pologne, la présidence étant à ce moment-là assumée par l'Italie. Donc, il n'y a vraiment pas de règle précise ni dans les règlements généraux ni dans le Règlement intérieur du Conseil qui donne d'indications précises pour la composition du Comité de rédaction.

C'est une décision qui appartient au Conseil. Je crois que vous pouvez apprécier vous-mêmes s'il faut ou non vous limiter à un membre par région, comme cela a été le cas au début, ou à deux par région comme maintenant proposé par les différentes délégations, notamment le Groupe des 77.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Sylla. I hope this provides clarification. We have no particular rules. The basic texts do not mention anything about the Drafting Committee. It is a committee to assist us and in any case, whatever the Drafting Committee proposes comes to the Council. It is only a smaller group to help us by working overtime. We are grateful to its members and I would suggest that we now get on with the job. Does the delegate of Congo wish to make a remark?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Monsieur le Président, nous nous en remettons à votre sage décision. Mais nous voudrions simplement rappeler que l'Afrique a toujours demandé d'avoir une meilleure répartition dans ce genre de groupes, parce que nous estimons que nous sommes une cinquantaine de pays et que nous ne pouvons pas être représentés par autant de membres que les groupes régionaux qui ont une dizaine ou une vingtaine de pays.

Je pense que désormais il faudra que l'on en tienne compte pour que la représentation soit équitable.

B. N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): I wish to thank Mr. Sylla for the explanation given which is quite satisfactory indeed. We also were aware that there are no strict rules in this case. However, if we look at the figures we see that Latin America has nine Member countries on the Council; Africa has twelve members. That is one quarter of the membership of the Council.

In the past, the question of proper representation of Africa has already been talked about in this forum. However, what I do not understand - and that is precisely why I started my intervention this morning - is that before the results appeared we had some negotiations in the background and we have come to a given understanding. I do not understand the results which are now presented in relation to the previous conversation, and that is why I requested, that the Chairman of the African Group be allowed to make a statement so that he may enlighten me.

CHAIRMAN: Is the Chairman of the African Group here? - There is no one apparently who would like to make a statement. I again give the floor to the delegate of Congo.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je crois que ce problème a été réglé au niveau du Groupe des 77. Si le Président du Groupe des 77 était là, il faudrait qu'il fasse une déclaration pour nous éclairer sur ce problème.

A. A. KHALIL (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I wish to suggest that we leave the matter pending until such time when our group will deliberate tomorrow morning and that we do not go on discussing it here and now. This is a matter that concerns the Group of 77 nor do the other members of the Council have any interest in listening to this kind of debate.

CHAIRMAN : He seems to be arriving. Meanwhile, delegate of Cameroon, do you want the floor?

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Cameroon) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, but I think the Ambassador of Colombia, as Chairman of the Group of 77, should give the results of his consultations.

CHAIRMAN : I suggest that while this is being discussed by the Group of 77 we will now get on with the next item on our agenda, namely item 4, the Current World Food Situation. The documents are CL 83/2 and CL 83/2-Sup.1 and it will be introduced by Prof. Islam.

- 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 (CL 83/2; CL 83/2-Sup.1)
- 4. Situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale (CL 83/2; CL 83/2-Sup.1)
- 4. Situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo (CL 83/2; CL 83/2-Sup.1)

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economie and Social Policy Department): You have before you two documents on the current world food situation, the first, the longer document, CL 83/2, was prepared in early May and the supplementary document CL 83/2-Sup.1 updates it with information as of late May.

The world food supply has shown overall improvement during the past year but the aggregate picture is a mixed one. Overall food supplies of major commodities have increased but per capita the food production has fallen in developing market economy countries.

The world recession continues to affect adversely the ability of many countries to pay for essential imports, including agricultural inputs required to step-up food production. The decline in cereal prices provides more benefits to cereal importing countries but low prices and mounting stocks have led to efforts by the main exporting countries to cut back production and stocks in 1983. While the present large world stocks provide protection against effects of possible production shortfalls in 1983, stocks can be reduced quickly in the near future as a consequence of government action and production setbacks.

A feeling of uncertainty has been providing thought and discussion on the current food and agricultural situation. These uncertainties relate to three main areas; first, the food supply situation in Africa; second, the effects of acreage cutbacks on cereal production in 1983 and hence on cereal supplies next year and the long-term effects of world recession on agricultural and rural economy.

The food situation in Africa gives cause for deep concern, particularly about what course the emergencies will take. The supplementary document draws attention to the drought which for the second year in succession is affecting southern Africa. Other emergencies are affecting other African countries from Sahel to Ethiopia. This situation has been aggravated by the wide-spread outbreaks of cattle plague, rinderpest in eleven countries. The situation in Nigeria, Sudan, Cameroon and Chad is particularly grave. Countries in the South Arabian peninsula are also affected. FAO is strongly involved in efforts to alleviate these difficult situations. The emergency situation to counter rinderpest threat has been provided to 21 countries, African countries, including ten during the first six months of 1983. A project proposal for a Pan-African rinderpest campaign has been prepared jointly by FAO, OAU and EEC and the Office International des Epizooties. The necessary funds are being sought from all prospective donors..

The second area of uncertainty lies in prospects of food production especially cereals in 1983. Low food prices combined with production cut back programmes in North America raise questions as to whether the recent high level of production and stocks will be significantly reversed. Indeed, at the Eighth Session in April of this year, the Committee on World Food Security noted that world cereal production was expected to decline in 1983. The Committee agreed to draw the attention of the Council to the need for keeping development under continuous review so that if necessary recommendations regarding the 1984 cereal production policies are considered in the light of world food security objectives.

Since April growing conditions for wheat in the northern hemisphere have been generally favourable. Current indications point to a large world crop in spite of a smaller area sown.

The exporting nations need to be encouraged to find ways to stabilize agricultural incomes in a manner which minimizes danger to low-income food-deficit countries.

The third area of uncertainty concerns the longer-term effects of the world economic recession on the agricultural sector and rural people. While it is not possible to foresee the future there are two after effects which demand your special attention, that is on trade and aid. Agricultural trade has been hurt by the recession. The 1982 world agricultural exports were some 10 percent below those of 1981. Price declines accounted for much of this. Several commodities of special importance to developing countries, such as sugar and cocoa, have been especially hard hit and overall declined trade balance in crop and livestock products was about \$4 billion in 1981, which was nearly 60 percent of the value of the flow of official commitments of external assistance for food production in that year. The recession has also accentuated the gravity of the need to achieve more international cooperation in trade arrangements. The protectionist trends which thrive in many nations at times of economic recession are easier to initiate than to eliminate.

As a result of the decision taken at the ministerial level meeting of GATT late last year there is in place a new GATT Committee on Trade and Agriculture. Its work programme bears on an area of major importance, agricultural and export subsidies and their implications for market access. It is hoped that some progress can be made in that area under the aegis of this Committee.

Of course as we meet in Rome UNCTAD VI is in session in Belgrade. One hopes that out of this will come meaningful progress leading to international consensus about future trade arrangements for the developing countries, including a speedy ratification of the UNCTAD common fund agreement.

As regards commitments of external assistance to agriculture, it is already clear that official commitments have levelled off since 1979 having grown quite rapidly during the 70s.

Preliminary estimates indicate that between 1981 and 1982 total multilateral commitments of assistance to agriculture decreased by about 4 percent. Information on bilateral assistance is at present not available fully but existing information suggest that the downward trend continues.

We want to call special attention to a new FAO data series presented in the document before you. This relates to the information about actual disbursements of external assistance to agriculture. For some time now we have been aware that commitments do not provide a full picture of external assistance as it reaches developing countries. Lately annual disbursements have been running only about one half of the value of new commitments for the same year. Undoubtedly it is the relationship between this year's disbursements to the commitments of previous years that one should really compare, and more analysis therefore is needed in respect of the issues relating to the speedy utilization of already committed aid.

To summarize, this is not just another year for food and agriculture. This is a year when there are serious problems to be dealt with and new kinds of uncertainties to be anticipated, but in some ways this period of stalled economic progress provides a breathing space to set in motion policies and actions which can make the most of the post-recession environment as and when it emerges.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Islam, for this very brief but precise report on the current global food situation.

K. HADDAD (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais, pour commencer, remercier le Directeur général et le secrétariat pour l'évaluation objective de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation, telle que reflétée dans le document CL 83/2.

Ma délégation est d'accord avec ce qu'a dit le Directeur général, c'est-à-dire que la situation économique mondiale n'est guère rassurante, vu les nombreux facteurs qui sont à l'origine de cette instabilité. Bien qu'une certaine amélioration ait été enregistrée dans la situation mondiale, rien ne nous donne à penser que cette reprise économique va continuer pour avoir des effets bénéfiques sur le bien-être des pays en développement. Ajoutons que les investissements ne sont guère assurés et que la situation précaire des pays en développement ne leur permet pas de faire face à l'endettement élevé; cette situation est très préoccupante et requiert toute l'attention. Enfin, la situation économique dans les pays développés ne va guère mieux que dans les pays en développement. Si l'on tient compte de leur coopération en vue de réduire les taux d'intérêt, et d'aider ainsi les pays en développement à résoudre leur problème d'endettement, et de limiter les tendances protectionnistes exagérées en matière commerciale.

lever, and I. can summarize my comment in six brief points.

1) There is nothing to assert that the development that took place in food and agricultural production in 1982 will be a long-term trend. The period of progress and economic recovery seems to be transitory and this calls for concern. Weak countries are still lurking under the burden of debts and interest rates are still skyhigh and are not within the capacity of poor countries to cope with. Extreme protectionist tendencies are not in the interest of developing countries. Moreover, the environment does not encourage investment in many of these countries.

2) It is true to say that the cereal stocks today are better than at any other time in the past, but we are still at the mercy of nature and the catastrophes that come from all sources and directions. The current stock is a buffer stock against what will happen in the future, and nobody can forecast about the future and future crops. In addition to this, one can say that the policies of some countries in order to reduce the areas or the acreage planted with cereals are not in the interests of the global cereal production situation and not in the interests of the consuming countries.

3) We in Africa regret the situation of food and agriculture in many African countries as a result of drought and natural catastrophes and man-made disasters. We are in agreement- and concur with the

Nous sommes d'accord sur ce qui a été dit dans le document de travail, c'est-à-dire que la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture s'est un peu améliorée en 1982, quoiqu'elle soit moins bonne qu'en 1981. Mais nous voyons que les pays en développement éprouvent encore des difficultés pour leur développement agricole. Il faut en tenir compte davantage.

Quant à la sécurité alimentaire, quoiqu'on ne manque pas d'aliments, les stocks sont entre les mains d'un petit nombre de pays exportateurs. Ce sont principalement les céréales secondaires. De plus, la réduction des emblavures en Amérique du Nord, et dont les conséquences sont pour le moment imprévisibles, ne manquera pas d'avoir un effet sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous demandons donc aux pays exportateurs d'être conscients de cette situation et de tenir compte de ce qu'a recommandé le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire pour l'adoption de politiques visant l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire en 1984.

Ma délégation a suivi avec beaucoup d'inquiétude la détérioration de la situation agricole et alimentaire, surtout en Afrique. Il y a eu des foyers de peste bovine et d'autres fléaux

et catastrophes qui rendent difficile le développement agricole dans de nombreux pays d'Afrique. De plus, le déclin du commerce des produits agricoles en 1981-82 n'aidera guère les pays en développement à couvrir leur déficit et à payer leurs dettes, et ce sont les pays africains qui seront sans doute les plus touchés par cette situation.

Il est à relever que les pays en développement ont dû commencer à importer des produits agricoles à partir de 1981. Ceci nécessite de la part de ces pays d'accorder toute l'attention requise à cette situation inquiétante, et d'avoir une attitude commune dans leurs négociations avec les pays développés, et surtout au cours de la Vie CNUCED.

Enfin, nous nous inquiétons également de ce que l'assistance au développement soit restée au niveau de 1979, ce qui est en dessous des engagements des pays développés envers les pays en développement, les statistiques du document indiquent que l'assistance financière au développement est arrivée à un maximum qui n'a jamais été dépassé.

La situation instable de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde nous oblige à obtenir davantage de renseignements et à faire des études plus approfondies sur les situations économiques et agricoles des pays en développement. Nous pouvons dire que la FAO est certainement l'organisme le mieux placé pour entreprendre cette tâche. Nous considérons que la FAO pourrait intensifier le rassemblement des statistiques et la préparation d'études en profondeur à ce sujet. L'assistance que la FAO pourrait donner aux pays dans ces domaines mérite d'être retenue. Je considère que la FAO pour ce faire a besoin que le Conseil considère positivement ces efforts. Ma délégation accueillera favorablement toute décision dans ce sens et nous espérons que le Conseil approuvera toute demande présentée à cet effet par le secrétariat.

TESSEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): First of all, I wish to express my pleasure, Mr Chairman, at seeing you in the chair. I also extend my congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen who have been elected to assist you. I also wish to congratulate my dear friend, the Ambassador of Cuba, for his election as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf I extend my congratulations to the Director-General for his moving opening statement which is very comprehensive and wide in scope. Lastly, I also wish to thank Professor Islam for his excellent introduction of the item in a precise but complete manner.

My delegation finds the document before us highly informative and analytical. For the sake of brevity, I shall concentrate my intervention on the information contained therein which relates to the Africa region. The document starts on a slightly optimistic note regarding overall global food supplies. At the same time, the difficulties that many African countries are experiencing in mobilizing resources for food production are noted.

The document once again confirms that the Africa region is lagging far behind other regions in all aspects of food production, distribution and consumption. It is the hope of my delegation that this Council will provide a special directive to the forthcoming FAO Conference on how best to tackle the deteriorating food availability in many African countries. We thus wish to propose the following policies or institutional issues which this Council could consider for recommendation to the Conference for follow-up and action:

1) We tend to believe that current and past FAO studies fail to reflect a deeper understanding of the primary cause for the present problem of food production and consumption in the Africa region, although we appreciate all the efforts made in this respect, including the paper on Africa presented to the last meeting of the CFS. In almost all FAO's studies there is no serious analysis of the absorption of African food production by big agribusiness, including the control of food markets by these monopolies. There are no studies which show how marginalisation is taking place as a result of multi-national and even mini-national investments. Without a deeper understanding of this sector and the remedial measures that ought to be taken, very little progress could be made in increasing the capacity of food production, distribution and consumption. We therefore recommend FAO undertakes on a country-by-country basis a serious structurally based study on food systems, taking into account the peculiarities of each country, the set-up of institutions, habits of work and even the technology of food production systems.

2) It is now more than three years since the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (WCARRD) passed important resolutions in support of the rural poor and small farmers. We know that WCARRD missions were organized in some countries. My country had the privilege to host one just about a year ago.

I wish to ask the following questions, which I hope will be given a positive welcome by the Secretariat:

i) To what extent are the various units of FAO reoriented to make the WCARRD principles working guides for their activities?

ii) To what extent is the Declaration of Principle and the Programme of Action of WCARRD a guiding principle of FAO?

We strongly recommend that FAO and its units seriously re-examine the structure, if they have not done so, and re-orient their programme in favour of the rural poor and small farmers.

3) FAO seems to have abandoned the important area of land tenure and land reform. So many changes are taking place in the Africa region today. Landlessness is growing fast. The traditional customary tenants are threatened by expansion of commercial agriculture. We therefore remind FAO to take heed of these factors.

4) In respect of marketing, including the whole range of what we call marketing mix, FAO could provide important general guidance while recognizing that policies are sovereign rights of states. When agricultural prices are too high, the poor, non-farming population in the rural areas and urban areas suffer most. When they are low because of lack of sufficient incentives, agricultural production suffers. What is needed here, therefore, is a guidance that will help to reconcile these two extreme situations.

5) The Council has the responsibility to look into the issue of food aid. Food aid is now an activity of so many bilateral and multilateral agencies. The Ethiopian delegation is more than happy to see food aid channelled through fewer agencies, preferably through the UN, FAO, WFP and food policies coordinated at that level. We shall dwell on this when we come to Agenda Item No.8.

6) As indicated on Page 6 of the document before us, Africa remains the region most affected by food shortages. Under the circumstances, we think to direct FAO towards a zero growth budget is unjustified, especially as a concept when the lives of so many million people is at stake. We strongly object to any such attempts. I hope the Council will seriously consider this when we come to Agenda Item No. 12.

A.A. KHALIL (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Allow me to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat for this valuable document on the evaluation of the current world food situation. Allow me to comment briefly on the food and agricultural situation on the global level, and I can summarize my comment in six brief points.

1) There is nothing to assert that the development that took place in food and agricultural production in 1982 will be a long-term trend. The period of progress and economic recovery seems to be transitory and this calls for concern. Weak countries are still lurking under the burden of debts

and interest rates are still skyhigh and are not within the capacity of poor countries to cope with. Extreme protectionist tendencies are not in the interest of developing countries. Moreover, the environment does not encourage investment in many of these countries.

2) It is true to say that the cereal stocks today are better than at any other time in the past, but we are still at the mercy of nature and the catastrophes that come from all sources and directions. The current stock is a buffer stock against what will happen in the future, and nobody can forecast about the future and future crops. In addition to this, one can say that the policies of some countries in order to reduce the areas or the acreage planted with cereals are not in the interests of the global cereal production situation and not in the interests of the consuming countries.

3) We in Africa regret the situation of food and agriculture in many African countries as a result of drought and natural catastrophes and man-made disasters. We are in agreement and concur with the Director-General that the Africa continent should be given special attention by the international organizations and it should be given top priority by the FAO.

The fourth point is that regrettably we find that the value of this aid and financial assistance to developing countries, including the least developed African countries, shows a continuous downtrend. International assistance is not in line with the economic situation and the deteriorating conditions in these countries. Rich and able countries do not respect what they have committed themselves to towards these needy countries.

Fifth, the volume of trade in agricultural products for 1981/82 is not in the interests of developing countries, and this does not help them to meet their outstanding debts. Most of these countries are importers of foodstuffs, and this would make their bargaining possibilities with the developing countries weaker and would stand in the way of their economic development.

Finally, allow me to dwell briefly on the need to increase the possibilities and the potentials of the organization, namely FAO, in the field of economic studies, analysis, and statistics in the agricultural field. By virtue of the Constitution of FAO, this is one of its primary duties, and the FAO has undertaken the implementation of this duty in an excellent manner. FAO is more qualified than any other organization to carry this forward in the future.

My delegation supports any proposal that would strengthen FAO's possibilities in this field and would lead to increasing and developing an analytical and statistical study, and we hope that this august assembly would endorse this proposal.

KONG CANDONG (China) (original language Chinese): We have carefully studied document CL 83/2, and we have just heard Professor Islam's introduction on the current world food situation. Particularly the explicit analysis on world economy and food situation made by the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, this morning. This has given us additional information, helped us to better understand the major problems in the field of food and agriculture and the trend of development.

We learned from the document that the world cereal production gained some increase last year. There are ample supplies of major food commodities in the world cereal market, and their prices on the whole are stable. Food security has been improved in many countries. However, there is no increase in per capita food production in quite a number of developing countries. Besides, due to the sombre effect of the extended world-wide economic recession, the growing protectionist tendencies in agricultural trade, the decline of export of farm produce and enlarged foreign debts, food problems still exist in the developing countries. Particularly in parts of Africa and some other places in the world, because of frequent natural calamities, the number of countries affected by serious food shortages has of late increased. We cannot but express our concern for this. At present, though there are signs of economic recovery in some developed countries, the adverse effect on food production and trade exercised by the extended world economic recession and the consequences still exist brought about by the shift of economic crisis onto the developing countries, which merits our attention. All this has once again made us realize the importance and complexity of the food problems. Hence, food problem should remain one of the priorities in our future endeavours.

As document CL 83/2 points out: "In spite of ample world food supplies, the basic causes of insecurity remain". We share this view. At various relevant international fora in the past, we for many times referred to the international causes of the current food problem. By now, more and more facts have shown that the solution of food problem lies not only in the development of production, promotion of food trade, efforts to establish stocks and improve distribution, but it must be linked up with the establishment of a new international economic order.

We are pleased to note in the last section of the document that measures have been taken at the regional or sub-regional level to improve food security in Asia, Africa and Latin America. For instance, ASEAN has established a collective food reserve; steps have been examined by CILSS to establish a regional food reserve system; SELA is taking action to establish a regional food security system. This is the inevitable outcome of developing countries following the principle of collective self-reliance, strengthening their solidarity as well as the expression of the spirit of South-South cooperation under the circumstances in which international food trade is monopolized by a few developed countries and international aid for agriculture is dwindling. It is our hope that cooperation among developing countries in the fields of agriculture will continue to gain momentum, and the developed countries will take wise actions to render support to this trend of development.

Mr. Chairman, China's agriculture in 1982 has been mentioned in several places in the document. I would like to take this opportunity to give you some additional information.

In 1982, our country continued to implement the policies conducive to the development of rural economy, extended and improved the responsibility system linking payment with production, thus further mobilizing the peasants' enthusiasm in production. The peasants are supplied with improved seed strains and adopted advanced farming techniques. Some peasants even increased their investment in agricultural development. At the same time the state augmented the supply of fertilizers, medium-and small-sized farm machinery and other means of production. In addition, weather was quite favorable in most parts of the country. As a result, bumper harvest was recorded in agriculture, livestock and fishery.

We adhere to the principle of "sparing no effort in developing grain production while actively promoting a diversified economy". China has one billion people and therefore to feed the population is of first and foremost importance. Adequate area under grain crops is guaranteed. Efforts have been made to raise the per-unit yield and to build commodity grain bases. Last year, the total grain output reached 353.43 million tons, which exceeded the state target by 6 percent, registering an

increase of 8.7 percent against the previous year. The area under summer crops this year has been expanded after three years of reduction due to readjustment, which is now 1.2 million hectares more than that of last year. The crops are growing well and so a new increase is expected.

While expanding food production, due attention is paid to bring local advantages into full play in enhancing an integrated development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupations and fishery in accordance with the specific local conditions. Intensive management is practised. Small-scale rural industries are developed to provide the peasants with more employment opportunities and increase their income. In recent years, our country has made remarkable progress in developing a diversified economy. Since 1979 when we started to promote a diversified economy, the proportion of forestry, animal husbandry, side-line occupations and fishery in the entire rural economy has gone up to a certain extent.

With all-round progress of agriculture, the peasants' income has increased and their livelihood improved. However, as China's rural economy has a rather poor foundation and the rural population has grown at a fairly fast rate, there is only modest improvement in the peasants' living standard. Moreover, agricultural development is far from uniform among different regions. If we look at the country as a whole, per caput grain production is only 340 kgs, which is well below the world average. In order to make grain production keep pace with population growth and improvement of the people's life, while continuing to take measures to "develop production and guarantee supply", we must pay particular attention to controlling population growth. In recent years, we have given family planning high priority, putting the stress in the rural areas. One-child family is encouraged. Our objective is to keep population growth under control so that the increased grain can be more and more devoted to improving the people's life. We shall continue to carry on the tradition of relying on ourselves and working hard, to speed up the development of agriculture in an effort to make the people's life better off on the basis of developed production by the end of this century.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): Mr. Chairman, this is the first time in 21 years of membership that Cyprus takes the floor as a member of FAO's Council. This has become possible, thanks to the support in order to establish this country, which by very positive vote has assured Cyprus's election to this Council. Cyprus, therefore, wishes to express its gratitude to all those FAO Member States.

Secondly, I would like to commend the Director-General and the Secretariat for the excellent assessment of the World Food Situation as presented in document C 83/2. My delegation agrees with the Director-General that the world economic background against which the assessment is made carries grave consequences and causes anxiety. Although there are signs of recovery in the world economy, it is not at all certain how long-lasting and vigorous the recovery could be, and that the effect would be on the growth prospects of developing countries.

The future investment climate is also very uncertain, and the capacity of developing countries to absorb heavy debt burdens remains a cause for concern. There is also grave uncertainty as to these prospects for establishing a spirit of international cooperation among the developed countries that would increase the development assistance, help in other debt problems and lead to a relaxation of trade protectionism.

Whilst it is conveying the current food and agricultural situation has some favorable aspects, the document before us underlines the serious difficulties which still confront many developing countries. We are particularly concerned about a number of negative factors.

As regards food security, while current cereal stocks are large they are nonetheless concentrated in a few exporting countries, and coarse grains represent a very large part of them. Moreover, the cereal acreage reductions in North America can only have repercussions on the overall food security situation. However, we trust that exporters would watch the situation very closely and keep food security concerns in mind in making their decisions regarding the 1984 production policy as requested by the CFS.

Another factor for serious concern is the precarious situation of food in Africa. As the report rightly points out, in several locations the Continent is being assailed by drought and disease and other problems which hinder food production. The decline in agricultural trade in 1982/83 makes it doubly hard for developing countries to overcome their debt problems, and African countries have been particularly hard-hit in this respect. It is significant that developing countries as a group became net importers of agricultural commodities for the first time in 1981. Negotiations to redress the long-standing problems of agricultural trade have made little progress and we strongly feel there is urgent need for further negotiations and initiative in fora like UNCTAD.

Finally, development assistance which since 1979 has stagnated, shows due signs of increase and is indicated in the supplement to the document under discussion. Actual aid disbursements are lagging seriously behind commitments.

Willingness to provide food aid seems to have hit a ceiling. The perilous economic and food situation that lies before us makes it imperative that information and competent analysis be made available to Member countries. The FAO plays a requisite role in this respect. We believe that the steps being taken by FAO to further strengthen its statistics situation and outlook and the analysis situation should be fully supported and wish to urge the Council to commend the efforts which the Director-General is continuing in this direction.

M. BENNIS (Maroc): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de présenter mes sincères félicitations aux honorables délégués des Etats-Unis, du Cap Vert et de l'Egypte pour la confiance dont ils ont bénéficié de la part de notre Conseil les choisissant pour nous aider et pour assumer les responsabilités de vice-président. Mes félicitations vont également au Secrétariat et à M. N. Islam pour la haute qualité des documents CL 83/2 et CL 83/2-Supp.I. Nul doute que le point que nous sommes en train d'étudier est d'une importance capitale pour l'humanité entière, mais plus particulièrement encore pour les pays en développement. Nous devons tous nous féliciter des efforts inlassables que mène notre Organisation sous la direction éclairée et dynamique de son Directeur général, M. Saouma, pour mettre en place un système de sécurité alimentaire garantissant à tous, en tous lieux et en tout temps, un approvisionnement suffisant en denrées alimentaires, particulièrement en céréales. Par ailleurs, l'action de la FAO est à encourager de notre part puisqu'elle se développe tout en s'adaptant aux données nouvelles en matière d'approvisionnements et de productivité alimentaires. L'assistance que nous apporte la FAO est très bénéfique dans la mesure où elle concerne souvent des domaines nouveaux et prioritaires en matière de développement économique en général et de production alimentaire en particulier.

D'ailleurs, ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour remercier la FAO et son Directeur général de l'aide qu'ils n'ont cessé d'apporter à mon pays pour réaliser son autosuffisance alimentaire.

La délégation du Maroc partage entièrement le point de vue exprimé par le Directeur général dans sa déclaration de ce matin, notamment en ce qui concerne les engrais et la nouvelle approche en matière de sécurité alimentaire. En outre, nous voudrions proposer que la FAO oeuvre davantage en vue d'une plus grande concertation entre pays riches et pays pauvres pour lever le protectionnisme et permettre la réalisation d'un équilibre juste et adéquat sur le plan alimentaire entre toutes les régions du globe.

P. M. AMUKOA (Kenya): We would like to start by endorsing the assessment made by the Director-General this morning and also by Professor Islam in his introductory remarks on the precarious nature of the world food situation, especially in Africa. We also support the views of those delegates who have already spoken on this issue, particularly those expressed by the delegate of Ethiopia. Many low-income food-deficit countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, have not been beneficiaries to the positive trends in food production and trade described in this document. Many of them have seen no increase in food production in recent years. In fact, some of them have had negative production and also declining nutritional standards; yet these countries are the homes of many poor, hungry and malnourished people. These people are expected to till land often with rudimentary technologies, to produce for themselves and for their nations. These poor people are expected to purchase important farm inputs such as fertilizers, when the prices of the external market conditions are often deterrent. National efforts to import farm inputs in order to raise production have also been frustrating. Most of the foreign exchange of these countries comes from imported raw materials and, as we all know, the prices offered for these agricultural commodities in recent years have not been encouraging, so investments in agriculture from these earnings have been and are bound to be inadequate, since also these meagre earnings are shared across other sectors of the economy. So even when farm input prices are low on the world market, like in the case of fertilizer prices in 1982, it becomes difficult to purchase sufficient commodities to meet domestic requirements.

In a situation like this, one would have hoped that fertilizer supply scheme arrangements or programmes, including grants, should be encouraged. Yet you find that such schemes experience problems and difficulties.

Also, the poor countries have to import food to augment their domestic supplies. This may not be easy even when food prices on external markets are low. When foreign exchange problems are biting very hard, it is difficult to buy enough to supplement domestic production, let alone building reserve stocks. So what happens? This is partly why we want domestic food production strengthened, something which all of us agree with. We therefore need to strengthen our efforts in the implementation of short-term, medium-term and long-term measures that will achieve a sustained increase in food production, especially in low-income food-deficit countries. Some of these measures will come up for discussion in other agenda items at this meeting and we shall participate in this discussion.

In a situation of falling food production, increasing hunger and malnutrition and almost apparently permanent poverty, we are told in this document that total bilateral assistance to agriculture has declined and its concessional component is tending to decrease. IFAD which has favourable lending facilities to low-income countries is having problems in its fast replenishment. We also regret that FAO is not increasing its budget for the next biennium. Resource problems in the UNDP, IDA and so on are also pointing a finger in the wrong direction.

When we assess the food situation we get to know the negative aspects regarding food production, consumption, stocks, trade and accessibility to food. What we want now is the economic and political back-up from the international community to supplement our own efforts aimed at reducing those negative aspects.

M. AHMED (Pakistan): Let me first of all congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee who have been elected unanimously by the Council.

We have been greatly impressed by the graphic and comprehensive appraisal of world agriculture given by the Director-General, and the brief yet lucid exposition by Professor Nurul Islam of the current world food situation. The document CL 83/2 highlights that world food supply has shown some improvement in the past year. This indeed is a cause of some satisfaction but certainly not complacency, and provides - as has been said by Professor Nour Islam - only a breathing spell to have a fresh look at national and international policies, so that the world food situation keeps on improving not only to meet the needs of expanding populations but also to ensure higher per capita food availability.

In this context the situation in Africa needs special attention as well as assistance. It is a matter of concern that some countries do not have minimum food security although the world food stocks of cereals have greatly increased. We recognize that a large part of the effort has come from the deficit countries themselves but developed as well as developing countries in a position to do so can certainly provide assistance on bilateral, multilateral, regional and other bases to help increase production and thereby alleviate hunger and malnutrition. The statement in the document that there has been some decline in the production of agricultural commodities due to a fall in petroleum prices and that therefore difficulties for the farmers have reduced, may not hold true in many countries which have been subsidizing agricultural inputs for their farmers. These subsidies are being gradually withdrawn to provide resources for development and to promote greater efficiency in the use of these costly agricultural inputs. At the same time, food prices cannot be adequately increased because of the depressed international market. These factors do impose a considerable burden on the farmers, and should be duly taken note of.

I am happy to report that as far as my country is concerned, there has been a considerable improvement in the production of cereals and agriculture in general. For the past five years we have been able to maintain a growth rate in agriculture of 4.4 percent. We have increased our cereal production by 34 percent and that of wheat by 46 percent and we have a bumper wheat crop this year. Increases have also been witnessed in the case of sugar, rice, maize, potatoes and vegetables. We have turned the corner and have emerged as a net exporter of agricultural products. Incidentally, from our country we have banished the rinderpest disease altogether.

These achievements have been the result of food policies and strategies successfully implemented during the Fifth Plan period ending June this year. Our policies are backed by economic incentives in the form of support prices, application of high-yielding varieties technology along with the supply of seeds, fertilizers and improved delivery systems dovetailed with necessary institutional improvements. We have also developed an agricultural system and have sharpened its focus to priority needs.

The fact that official commitments of external assistance to agriculture decreased in 1981 by 7.5 percent at current prices and bilateral commitments by 15 percent will definitely place the developing countries in a difficult situation. The mounting debt burden, the declining aid, the hardening terms of financial assistance, the worsening terms of trade would have, as they have already had, an adverse impact on their efforts to increase production.

We would like to emphasize that aid has helped some developing countries in making a transition from being a deficit to being net exporters. There should be no decline in aid in real terms if this momentum has to be sustained and many more countries have to come into this category. We are conscious that some major donor countries are confronted with inflation, unemployment and other economic problems. But developing countries, particularly those of Asia and Africa, need assistance to feed the hungry and malnourished populations and meet their other essential needs. We request the donor countries to enhance aid flows in their own enlightened self-interest and for the achievement of a better future for mankind.

Before I conclude I would say that though we welcome the economies and improvements in efficiency which the Director-General proposes to bring about in the next biennium as explained by him in his opening statement, however, the agricultural situation in the developed countries called for an even greater role on the part of FAO and consequently a substantial augment of his resources if a target of 4 percent growth in agriculture is to be achieved and, what is more important, if it is to be sustained.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Mis primeras palabras son para felicitar a usted, Señor Presidente y a los Vicepresidentes electos en la mañana de hoy.

Creemos que la evaluación general hecha por el Director General esta mañana es conclusiva, por lo tanto, nuestra delegación la apoya en todas sus partes. La Delegación cubana ha estudiado con mucha atención el documento CL 83/2, ya que considera que en materia de política es el tema más importante que se analiza en el Consejo. Queremos felicitar a la Secretaría, y específicamente al Sr. Islam, por la evaluación de la situación actual de alimentos en el mercado y por la presentación del tema que nos hizo.

Nos parece, Señor Presidente, que todos debemos coincidir en que la llamada crisis alimentaria no es un fenómeno propio de los últimos años, aunque la profunda crisis económica actual contribuya a acentuarla. La FAO ha hecho ingentes esfuerzos por ayudar a resolver el grave problema del hambre y la malnutrición y sobre esto creo también que debemos coincidir todos los que estamos reunidos aquí. Su nivel de ayuda en todos los sectores de la agricultura y la alimentación ha sido sustancial y definitivo; sin embargo, Señor Presidente, el marco sombrío de la generalizada recesión económica mundial está bosquejado bien claro y preciso en este documento si lo analizamos parte por parte.

Primeramente, nuestra delegación quiere apoyar en todas sus partes la evaluación general expuesta en las páginas 2 y 3 y, asimismo, el análisis de los precios y la aceleración relacionado en la página 5; la situación de emergencia alimentaria y la ayuda de urgencia, ya que es cada vez mayor el número de países que padecen escasez anormal de alimentos. La expansión de la producción alimentaria sigue siendo menor que la del año anterior, salvo las economías de planificación centralizada que en Asia aumentaron su producción superando el incremento del año anterior, como se dice en la página 8 del texto español.

Análisis objetivo correspondiente a la preocupación de los responsables de las políticas agrícolas de los países desarrollados, en la página 11, cuarto párrafo, es muy interesante la reducción del margen de los precios y costos; el análisis que a renglón seguido se hace de la Comisión de Fertilizantes; en la página 13 se hace una evaluación no muy profunda de las verdaderas causas de los problemas que confronta el comercio agrícola y de alimentos; se hace ver el debilitamiento de los valores unitarios de las importaciones en dólares y la disminución del volumen del comercio de alimentos que subraya la debilidad de la demanda.

En la página 15 en lo que concierne a existencias de alimentos se hace ver la existencia de una demanda efectiva bastante débil.

El párrafo 3 de esta sección es, a nuestro juicio, también revelador de la injusta realidad de la acumulación de existencias; pone de relieve el desequilibrio crónico entre la oferta y la demanda. Los países desarrollados están produciendo muchos más alimentos; algunos de estos países introducen programas para desviar los productos hacia la alimentación de animales; actualmente uno de ellos ha iniciado un programa cuya finalidad es reducir la producción de cereales; en cambio, en los países en desarrollo existe una enorme demanda sin satisfacer.

Ante esta situación nos preguntamos: ¿Cómo se podrá materializar los esfuerzos para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria mundial que se enumera modestamente en la página 19?

Señor Presidente, lamentablemente en estos momentos, reafirmado incluso en la última reunión de la UNCTAD la bancarrota del actual sistema de relaciones económicas y la crisis monetaria financiera internas, nos dicen que son los orígenes de esta caótica situación. La economía del Tercer Mundo reflejada en este documento se ha visto golpeada por la desintegración del sistema de tipo de cambio, la aparición de enormes déficits de la balanza de pagos en cuenta corriente, la inflación galopante y la escasez de recursos financieros utilizables en condiciones adecuadas, fenómeno que ha aumentado en forma desmedida las tasas de interés y el endeudamiento externo.

¿Cómo podemos los países subdesarrollados enfrentar la política de los bancos comerciales de crear, con la fuerza común, a toque de pluma, dinero sin otro reparto de la fuerza coercitiva? ¿Cómo podemos enfrentar la realidad de institucionalizar el desorden financiero? ¿Cómo podremos enfrentarnos con la fluctuación de las tasas de cambio que producen incertidumbre, depreciación, reducción del valor de los ingresos por exportación, desnivel de las reservas y que ha hecho prácticamente imposible cualquier proceso de programación económica en estos países? ¿Cómo podremos afrontar las altas tasas de inflación producidas por la práctica deformación de precios en forma unilateral y la brusca afiliación de los gastos improductivos, en especial los gastos militares?

Los países subdesarrollados han quedado así atrapados en la red de un mercado de dinero en alto grado especulativo y restrictivo que se nos ofrece reducir más de los ya ínfimos niveles de vida, la famosa austeridad, y dejar operar a bajo costo y sin restricción a las empresas transnacionales.

¿Como podremos afrontar una financiación externa condicionados en la medida en que asfixia el FIDA, el PNUD y la FAO en parte? La FAO ha sido, y lo demuestra con este informe el organismo de las Naciones Unidas más dinámico en la batalla por el desarrollo del Tercer Mundo. Recordemos, entre otras acciones, el Plan Indicativo Mundial presentado por la FAO hace más de veinte años, en 1962, en que se establecían directrices para que en 1985 esta horrible realidad que azotaba a la humanidad fuera un amargo recuerdo de un ingrato pasado. Desafortunadamente nos encontramos bastante lejos de esa posibilidad; hoy es más evidente que nunca la lejanía de lograr el objetivo tan primario como esencial de que los seres humanos dispongan de alimentos suficientes para desarrollar sus potencialidades en el disfrute de una vida plena; la realidad cierta, aunque dolorosa, es que el hambre no solo persiste más allá de las metas para erradicarla, sino que tiende a crecer.

Y para agravar más esta situación, todo esto ocurre en medio de una desenfrenada carrera armamentista, que es insensata no solo por su esencial peligrosidad y dimensiones, sino también por los contrastes que establecen entre los colosales recursos invertidos en el desarrollo de los medios de exterminio del hombre y las necesidades vitales y cotidianas de nuestros pueblos. Sobre este importante aspecto el Director General nos ha hablado varias veces y ultimamente en la intervención de la 6ª UNCTAD también dejó sentir su palabra clara y precisa de que la FAO, organismo para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, también tendrá que entrar a analizar los problemas del armamentismo.

No pudiéramos decir que esta difícil situación alimentaria persiste por falta de análisis y preocupación. Recientemente cuando se celebró en la India la 7ª Cumbre del Movimiento de Países no Alineados, el Presidente saliente, el Comandante Fidel Castro, presentó un exhaustivo análisis de la crisis económica y social en el mundo donde se dedica un capítulo específico a los problemas de la crisis y la alimentación y a la FAO en su labor, en su combate contra el hambre.

Se analiza de manera precisa la evaluación de la producción agrícola alimentaria en el Tercer Mundo incluyendo las sombrías perspectivas. Asimismo también contamos con un documento muy profundo y analítico de la FAO "Agricultura Horizonte 2000", ¿cómo lo utilizamos? Aquí, dentro de la FAO, solamente concluye entre otros importantes aspectos que para el año 2000 en que el excedente neto de cereales de los países desarrollados alcanzará la cifra de unos 213 millones de toneladas, los países del Tercer Mundo enfrentarán un déficit ascendente a 165 millones de toneladas.

Asimismo la importación agrícola de los países subdesarrollados absorberá no menos del 95 del valor de sus exportaciones originadas en la agricultura, lo que limitará drásticamente las posibilidades de obtener saldos comerciales positivos.

No es difícil concluir que los países menos adelantados tendrán importaciones agrícolas superiores al menos dos veces y media a sus exportaciones de dichos productos. Esta perspectiva, sumamente difícil, no podrá tampoco ser superada, o al menos mitigada en estos países si no se cuenta con ayudas financieras externas adecuadas que sustenten los esfuerzos propios que efectúen esos países, y esto parece difícil dentro del contexto del orden monetario financiero imperante.

Seguramente todos los presentes coincidimos en que la existencia de grandes masas hambrientas y desnutridas en el mundo constituye una afrenta para toda la humanidad; afrenta que es mayor aún cuando algunos países desarrollados siguen haciendo uso de los alimentos como arma política.

Es preciso buscar una solución estable y permanente a este grave problema; es una responsabilidad colectiva que nosotros miembros de este importante Consejo no podremos soslayar. Debemos de tratar de encontrar una solución inmediata a la aguda crisis mundial de alimentos. Africa se nos presenta como la más aguda; creemos que una vía pudiera ser lograr flujos importantes provenientes de los enormes excedentes mundiales transferidos en forma de donación, créditos blandos y ventas a precios especiales.

También es de vital importancia la creación de reservas alimentarias mundiales, luchando a la vez contra la inhumana y deliberada reducción de la producción de alimentos y esa absurda destrucción por motivos comerciales en determinados países.

Consideramos muy válido que junto al flujo imprescindible de sus tasas, recursos derivados de la revisión de los gastos militares y de otras fuentes exista también en la Comunidad Internacional un aporte de recursos financieros tecnológicos y humanos que coadyuven a la solución de estos complejos problemas antes analizados. Los países que no disponen de medios financieros suficientes podrían aportar otros recursos de acuerdo con sus posibilidades, como es la asistencia mediante el envío de médicos, ingenieros, profesores y otros técnicos en forma gratuita o en favorables condiciones de pago; esta sería una verdadera y real cooperación dentro de un marco real de interdependencia.

Por ultimo, consideramos necesario llevar a la conciencia de todos los países, especialmente a los subdesarrollados, la necesidad de promover los cambios estructurales internos indispensables. En este punto apoyamos totalmente la exposición de la distinguida representación de Etiopía referente a uno de los eventos más profundos que se han efectuado en esta FAO, que es la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, en la cual hay que insistir para ver si realmente nuestros países pueden llegar a tener un común factor fundamental: el desarrollo,

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): My delegation would like to convey its thanks and compliment the Director-General on his very precise and exhaustive portrayal of the existing global situation. I also thank the Assistant Director-General, Professor Islam, for the presentation of his excellent study on the current world food situation, bringing into focus the paradox of the prevailing situation. The obvious trend of progressive deprivation in the developing economies, particularly in Africa, as also in countries in Asia and Latin America, against a backdrop of global surpluses is a matter of the gravest concern, pushing the long cherished goals of elimination of hunger and malnutrition. It is imperative at this stage that the political will of the world community is meaningfully reflected in dealing with this most demanding challenge.

It has already been very correctly pointed out by the Director-General and Professor Islam that the prevailing situation in spite of its uncertainties and anomalies offers some positive aspects which can be used to advantage. However, the tendency on the part of some developed countries reflected in some of their policies obviously has not been compatible with identified requirements of the developing economies, and their efforts in agricultural development which cannot but cause serious misgivings. The problem of today is not only to produce food but also to make the same available to all that need food, and this has been rightly identified in the document under study.

Again, maintenance of self-sufficiency in agro based economy is as difficult and as delicate an exercise as attaining self-sufficiency. This calls for in-depth evaluation of the existing situation and possibly redesigning of national, regional and global strategies.

The FAO Secretariat has been doing a commendable job in studying the complex situation and helping in designing strategies, and I take this opportunity to thank the Director-General again for his very excellent exposition of the total situation this morning. In the backdrop of the growing food imbalances as revealed in Dr. Islam's report, the developing economies in Africa, Asia and Latin America need at the moment not only adequate assistance in their development efforts but also adequate food aid on a sustained basis.

I am confident that FAO, being the lead organization, can further enhance its efforts in this regard and that it will receive in turn all the support from the world community in realizing its strategies and objectives, and a substantial augmentation of its resources.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : La délégation de mon pays a examiné avec beaucoup d'attention les documents CL 83/2 et CL 83/2 Sup.1. Il ressort de cet examen qu'il s'agit de documents fouillés, bien structurés et concis, qui doivent permettre au Conseil d'apprécier utilement la situation actuelle de l'alimentation dans le monde. Nous voudrions donc exprimer nos félicitations au Secrétariat de la FAO, et spécialement au Professeur Islam qui en a fait une brillante présentation.

Ces documents sont d'autant plus utiles qu'ils complètent harmonieusement la déclaration courageuse et pertinente que nous a faite le Directeur général de la FAO, à qui notre délégation voudrait rendre hommage pour les efforts qu'il ne cesse de déployer pour mettre l'humanité entière devant ses responsabilités historiques face aux problèmes de la faim, de la malnutrition et de la misère dans le monde.

Tous les éléments contenus dans le document soumis à notre examen sont suffisamment explicites. L'humanité possède tous les moyens pour atteindre l'objectif que s'était fixé la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation en 1974, c'est-à-dire celui d'éradiquer la faim et la malnutrition d'ici 1985.

Mais là, hélas, l'élément essentiel manque; je veux parler de la volonté politique de tous les gouvernements. En effet, il est surprenant de constater que les disponibilités mondiales totales des principaux produits alimentaires ont augmenté, et que la production alimentaire par habitant a néanmoins diminué dans les pays en développement à économie de marché.

Il convient de s'interroger sur cette absence de progrès dans ces pays, et spécialement ceux d'Afrique dont le sort paraît le plus menacé. Ici tous les rapports concordent, ce manque de dynamisme de l'économie rurale africaine est le résultat de la faiblesse des investissements

consentis pour développer ce secteur, et nous savons tous que ces pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire souffrent d'une insuffisance de ressources susceptibles de favoriser l'acquisition de moyens agricoles, la capacité de production agricole et alimentaire, et d'avoir une agriculture qui ne dépende pas des seules conditions physiques naturelles qui l'exposent tant aux sécheresses qu'aux inondations périodiques ainsi qu'aux ravageurs de toutes sortes.

M. le Président, la délégation de mon pays se réjouit de constater que, pour la seconde année consécutive, les stocks mondiaux de céréales ont sensiblement augmenté par rapport à la consommation mondiale, mais voudrait exprimer également ses inquiétudes face à l'injuste répartition géographique de ces stocks, qui manquent atrocement dans beaucoup de pays en développement, les exposant à une insécurité alimentaire effrayante.

Notre conseil doit mettre à profit cette période d'abondance au niveau mondial pour lancer un appel aux pays nantis afin qu'ils prennent les dispositions utiles pour combler cette lacune et permettre à toutes les régions, voire tous les pays, de disposer de réserves alimentaires. Le moment, à notre avis, semble plus que favorable.

A cet égard, nous pensons contraire à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale d'encourager les producteurs à réduire les superficies emblavées, lorsqu'on sait qu'une telle politique vise la diminution de la production qui entraîne une augmentation du prix des produits agricoles et décroît la capacité d'achat des pays importateurs à faible revenu. Ainsi la consommation dans ces pays s'en trouverait réduite, ce qui, à nos yeux, paraît suicidaire lorsque l'on connaît la faiblesse actuelle du niveau de consommation alimentaire dans ces pays dont l'endettement extérieur est un sujet de préoccupation d'une vivante actualité.

La récession mondiale frappe certes sans distinction les pays riches et les pays pauvres, mais nous savons tous qu'elle est ressentie plus douloureusement dans les pays en développement, en raison de la fragilité même des structures de ces derniers. C'est pourquoi le Conseil doit en appeler à l'opinion mondiale pour qu'elle redouble d'efforts dans la mise en oeuvre des négociations devant aboutir à un nouvel ordre international sans lequel la fin de la récession qui semble pointer à l'horizon risque d'être éphémère. Il ressort de toute cette analyse que toute relance économique mondiale passe par la résolution durable des situations prévalant dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire. La communauté internationale dispose de moyens pour une exploitation rationnelle des ressources naturelles des pays déficitaires.

La situation en Afrique est plus que préoccupante, et nous sommes reconnaissants au Directeur général de la FAO de l'attention soutenue qu'il apporte aux pays de cette région, mais cet effort demeure insuffisant au regard de l'ampleur de la situation catastrophique qui prévaut dans cette région et la menace continuellement, situation sur laquelle nous reviendrons au cours de cette session de notre Conseil.

Les perspectives de production de l'Afrique nous inquiètent et nous sommes heureux que les maux qui minent l'agriculture africaine aient été recensés par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. C'est ainsi que nous savons que le niveau d'investissement en agriculture est faible et appelle de la part de la communauté internationale des efforts particuliers si l'on veut accroître la productivité du paysan africain. Et, à cet égard, la faible consommation des engrais en Afrique est un facteur déterminant qui explique cette basse productivité.

Le volume d'assistance extérieure et d'aide alimentaire doit être réactivé pour ne pas continuer à être inférieur aux besoins annuels dans ce secteur, à moins d'accepter la perpétuation de la situation actuelle. Hélas, on ne peut s'empêcher d'être pessimiste lorsque l'on constate que des organismes chargés d'aider les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire éprouvent tous des difficultés pour obtenir les ressources nécessaires pour leur permettre de jouer pleinement leur rôle. C'est le cas du CPA, dont la reconstitution des ressources traverse des difficultés certaines; du PAM, dont l'objectif proposé par le Directeur exécutif pour le biennium 1985-86 n'a pu être accepté par le CPA qu'après une réduction substantielle résultant d'un compromis difficile, sans que nous soyons sûrs que ce dernier sera atteint dans la période indiquée.

M. le Président, le moment est venu, pensons-nous, d'affecter une partie des ressources actuellement distraites dans l'armement pour apporter une solution définitive au problème de l'alimentation, afin de rendre effectif le concept du droit à la nourriture pour tous, qui exclue en conséquence l'utilisation de l'aide alimentaire à des fins politiques, mettant en péril l'indépendance des pays bénéficiaires.

C. NTSANE (Lesotho): Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much. We are happy once more to be with you at this meeting, and we congratulate all your assistants for this Session.

This document provides a premise from which we can meaningfully examine the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, when that time comes. The usefulness of this document is illustrated by the fact that in his introduction, Professor Islam has already indicated what is being done to address low food production in Africa south of the Sahara with special reference to livestock, and while we heartily welcome the Pan-African rinderpest control programme, it would bring greater relief to know a specific programme designed to step up food production once and for all. We submit that in southern Africa, special attention to water conservation and use is the key to a solution of the persistent drought problem. We wish to come back to this issue when we discuss the Programme of Work and Budget. It is important to establish a direct relationship between programmes and the ugly world food situation and to seek permanent solutions.

The second major area of concern is the declining level of aid. Perhaps our colleagues from donor countries might wish to enlighten us on the prospects for the future so that we can know precisely how to direct the Secretariat to restructure the Programme of Work in order to take account of the future situation in the area of development aid.

Finally, my delegation greatly appreciates what is reflected under efforts to improve world food security on page 15, and we look forward to positive reports in the future.

LEE CHENG YAN (Malaysia): Mr. Chairman, may I first of all on behalf of the delegation from Malaysia express our pleasure to see you again in the chair to conduct the deliberations of this important governing body of the FAO, namely the 83rd Session of the Council. We are confident that this Session of the Council will be concluded successfully under your very able leadership.

Since this is our first intervention, I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Permanent Representative of the USA to FAO, Mr. Roger Sorenson, His Excellency Mr. Pereira Silva, The Minister of Rural Development of Cape Verde, and Mr. Yousef Hamdi, the Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO for being elected Vice-Chairmen of this Session, and to His Excellency Mr. Ariza Hidalgo, the Ambassador of Cuba to FAO, for being elected Chairman of the Drafting Committee. With the vast experience of these distinguished members, we feel confident that our task would be a fruitful one.

Further, my delegation would like especially to congratulate and to express our deep appreciation to the Director-General of the FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, for his comprehensive and realistic key-note address, and to Professor Islam for his clear introduction of the document entitled "Current World Food Situation".

It is clear from the Director-General's speech and also from Professor Islam's introduction that first, notwithstanding some positive developments in the food outlook in some developing countries, there continue to be signs that the long-term outlook is still uncertain and far from satisfactory. Though world cereal production has risen in recent years, we are informed there is still a large number of low-income food-deficit countries which are experiencing production shortfalls and that food situation in Africa has again deteriorated.

Secondly, even though materially, there is enough food in the world for everyone, there still remain millions in the developing countries who are hungry and short of food. This is because world food supplies are not fairly distributed.

It is a paradox that many in the low-income food-deficit countries have experienced food shortage and live in the shadow of hunger and malnutrition while there are plentiful supplies of food in other developed regions of the world.

Thirdly, due to the continued world recession, coupled with the increased tendency of some developed countries toward protectionism through export subsidies and other similar practices such as tariff and non-tariff barriers on export of the developing countries, and through other trade and other economic sanctions, the capacity of the developing countries to finance development programmes and import their food requirements has been greatly hampered

The problems and issues facing us have been well defined. The international community has accorded priority attention on the problem of food, hunger and malnutrition, but today we seem to be completely mesmerized and unable to extricate ourselves from the same problems and issues which seem to grow and become more complex. We are disappointed that there have been too many failures to translate decisions taken at previous multilateral negotiations into concrete actions. It has been repeatedly stressed that in order for us to respond justly and effectively to this important issue and to this most pressing problem of mankind, that is, to ensure that every human being is able to get his food at all times, particularly under the present economic climate, the international community must increasingly and sincerely play its role as envisaged in the New International Economic Order.

The sad truth is that today there appears to be wavering will to reinforce and adhere faithfully to the ideals and principles to which all of us have given our commitment. Today, the world economy is going through a most difficult phase. It has slipped into a state of deep depression, causing despair among many of us, particularly those in the developing countries. We sincerely hope it is a passing phenomenon, a man-made phenomenon which he can surely undo if he has the will and determination. We not only hope but urge them to reverse their decisions which have led to the economic crisis that we face today and to bring back some order and stability to the limping world economy.

In this respect, we are happy to see some signs of recovery, but what has been the effect of the present economic situation? Among other things, we are confronted with high interest rates, growing inflation, rising unemployment, mounting protectionism, tumbling commodity prices and a tight squeeze in financial aid. These have put a very heavy constraint towards the development efforts of developing countries, towards their capacity to implement programmes to increase food production and towards their capacity to import food to feed their people, resulting in ever-increasing incidence of hunger and malnutrition. The international community would definitely not want to see the situation entirely deteriorate further.

How could we therefore confront the issues and minimize the problem? There is no one specific solution. As we have noticed before, agricultural development is a complex problem. It involves a host of factors which have to be coordinated efficiently and effectively. However, we do all agree that a large amount of emphasis has to be placed on the need to produce more food throughout the world and that individual countries should, as far as is possible, strive to become self-reliant in their food requirements. Producing more food, though important, is not an end in itself. Better distribution of the food available in the world and within nations should be the goal of food production programmes. The global food situation will continue to be subjective to ever-increasing prices in the years to come. Demand for food will still outpace production capacity. Population growth, vagaries of climate, natural disasters, increasing cost of production and limited land resources for cultivation are only some of the factors that have contributed to the shortage of food supplies. To meet the situation it will require a wide variety of measures which must be tailored to the specific needs of the individual country or individual region of the country. Modernising agriculture seems to be a way to increase food production. Since developing countries are at different stages of development with different kinds of resources and cultures, modernisation of agricultural programmes and activities must be developed on the basis of the stage of development and the capacity of a country to undertake the development. The efforts and assistance of the international agencies like FAO and the World Bank and other regional banks where there is abundant expertise in the field of food and agricultural development should be encouraged and strengthened. However, it must be pointed out that in the past, the emphasis and the approaches to the problems of increasing food production have been technical in nature, such as improving physical infrastructure and introduction of new techniques.

Since people is a main factor in the development programme, development efforts should be sensitive to the social and political factors and shift the emphasis from simply providing technical aids to putting more emphasis on social development, helping the people to build awareness to take advantage of the system and circumstances so that they can make their own decisions and participate effectively in the development process.

In the context of increasing and accelerating food and agricultural development, the government of Malaysia has taken those factors mentioned earlier and formulated policies and programmes which could bring about enhanced development in this very important sector of our economy. At present, Malaysia is experiencing a rapid rate of economic development. There is a constant need for investment both within the agricultural sector itself and those in the non-agricultural sector. The increasing population and the growing pace of industrialisation and the demand for increasing volume of agricultural products to meet this demand, has brought about an increased accelerated agricultural production under the competing situation with the basic factors of production, namely, labour and land.

This means that the required increase in production is to be achieved largely through higher productivity by the ever-decreasing agricultural work force and suitable area capable for agricultural production. We hope that the result of this adjustment would bring about the desired increase in productivity instrumental in achieving the objective of our new economic policy, namely the eradication of poverty among the citizens, and to reduce social economic disparities between the agricultural and the non-agricultural sectors.

In conclusion, my delegation would like once again to reiterate our concern over the present trend in the world food production, especially in Africa and those vulnerable countries in other regions. Much more effort has to be put in by all of us, from developed and developing countries alike, if the whole problem of world hunger is to be reduced. In this connexion we are highly appreciative of the enduring efforts of the Director-General of FAO and his staff in trying to assist the developing countries to improve their food production capabilities and capacity. We give our whole-hearted support to the activities and efforts of the Organization.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): We would like to join with our other colleagues in commending the Secretariat for providing this informative and well-balanced document. We would commend the drafters of the document for drawing our attention not only to the problems but also to the notable success that some nations are beginning to enjoy for having invested their resources wisely and taking some of the difficult resource allocation policy decisions which have undoubtedly had a great deal to do with their success. We have heard some of the success stories this afternoon from distinguished delegates from China and Pakistan. From the point of view of the Canadian cereals production, the latest in the albeit preliminary estimates for 1983/84 indicate an increase of 6 percent in the land area sown to cereals which we estimate will yield a somewhat smaller crop than last year of about 26 million tons, and, on the other hand, a somewhat larger carryover of about 10.6 million tons.

Turning to the document we have a few observations to make. This document, as so many others that we have seen in other fora, makes the point about the unequal distribution of food stocks and draws from that fact that this even of itself poses a threat to food security. My delegation, however, pleads that food security is a much broader concept than those remarks tend to imply. It may not be given to all nations to achieve self-sufficiency in food production, and perhaps the best utilization of their scarce resources lies in other areas which allows them to acquire the needed foodstuffs in world markets. As a major producer and exporter of cereals and other foodstuffs, Canada shares the concerns that are reflected in the larger concept of food security about the necessity of ensuring the availability of the needed food and to enhance the effect of demand, i.e. the ability to purchase of developing countries through liberalized trading systems both among developing countries and between developing countries and the developed countries. It is perhaps for this reason that my Government attaches a great deal of importance to the agricultural work programme, currently being undertaken in the GATT.

Mr. Chairman, we believe that if there were a few additional elements in the document before us it might provide us with a somewhat more complete analysis of the situation. The first element is that while we are given information on overall movements in food production, which appear to be positive, this is then contrasted per capita food availability which is declining, and that of course is deplored. We are left with an inferred causality, and here probably we are relating to population growth. Perhaps this causality could be borne out in other documents and the emphasis more clearly placed. Secondly, the document deals with official development assistance force to the agricultural sector, and there is considerable comment on the adequacy of these resources. We believe this is only part of the resource picture and we believe it could be very useful for the same analytical scrutiny to be brought to bear on so-called budgetary resources on developing and developed countries being applied to the agricultural sector.

Our interest in the wholistic approach, Mr. Chairman, perhaps explains why my Government has enthusiastically supported the food strategy approach because we believe that if this is followed it will give a higher priority to the food sector both in terms of budgetary resources and a general assistance, but also in terms of attention the policy formulation will receive.

Turning to the question of the IFR, we continue to believe in the joint pledging mechanism and trust that it will provide the needed resources in predictability. On the question of resources I would like to recall the Director-General's statement when he pointed to the unfortunate decline in a donor base. We believe that emergencies as well as the overall work of the World Food Programme are the responsibility of all Member Governments.

Whether contributions are large or small is not really the issue. The issue is the tangible commitment to the Programme. This declining participation does not argue convincingly for the needs of the Programme, nor does it provide a convincing argument for requests for more resources from already hard-hit administrations, and I would therefore urge all countries to make their pledges known to the IFR and the WFP.

Finally, the document presents in its analysis a disquieting picture of the facts and changes in food production and the availability of food in Africa. In the light of these problems my Government, through the agencies of SIDA, which is our development association, is giving its first priority to agricultural development, and agricultural development particularly in Africa.

A. PEREZ-MARSA HERNANDEZ (España): Considero un deber y una obligación por parte de España el que en su representación pronuncie unas muy breves palabras al inicio de este 83º período de sesiones del Consejo., en el cual entramos a ser miembros. Mi felicitación a usted, señor Presidente, así como a aquellas personas que han sido nominadas para ocupar los puestos de responsabilidad de este Consejo, concretamente el Representante de Estados Unidos, Sr. Sorenson, a Su Excelencia, el Ministro de Desarrollo Rural de Cabo Verde, Sr. Pereira Silva, al representante de Egipto, Sr. Hamdi, así como al Presidente del Comité de Redacción, Su Excelencia el Embajador de Cuba, Sr. Ariza. Estoy seguro de que bajo su dirección y contando con la colaboración de todos, los resultados del mismo serán fructíferos en la labor a realizar por la FAO.

Deseo, igualmente, expresar mi agradecimiento a aquellos países que en el transcurso de la 21ª Conferencia de la FAO apoyaron con su voto la situación de España como miembros del Consejo. Han transcurrido diez años desde la última vez que España formó parte del Consejo; pero en este período de tiempo hemos asistido con el máximo interés, como país observador, a los períodos de sesiones celebrados pudiendo constatar cómo sus actuaciones quedaban plasmadas en las labores de la Organización.

Mi delegación, Señor Presidente, ha escuchado con verdadero interés la declaración del Señor Director General y quiere, asimismo, felicitarle por su brillante exposición de esta mañana. Quisiera felicitar también al Profesor Islam y la Secretaría de la FAO por la presentación del Documento CL 83/2 y CL 83/2 Sup. 1, que presenta con mucha realidad la situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo. Analizando detenidamente el Documento, y para ser breves puesto que nos siguen cuatro oradores más, todas las cuestiones que se contemplan en el mismo documento son de por sí complejas, pero deberán resolverse con la voluntad necesaria de los que formamos parte en este Consejo.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I would like first to welcome you on behalf of the New Zealand delegation. We are sure, Sir, that you will chair our meeting effectively as you did in November, and offer you our full and continuing support.

Also, New Zealand would like to put on record its congratulations to the three newly-elected Vice-Chairmen and also to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Sir, in compiling some remarks on item 2 we would like first of all to congratulate the Director-General on his far-reaching and pertinent statement. His statement contained many points that we can accept, and I think also pointed to areas where further work is necessary before a consensus emerges on some of the more difficult and complex problems which confront us.

My delegation would also like to congratulate Professor Islam, particularly on his introduction this morning in which he put this item in very clear perspective. We attach, I think as do others, considerable importance to the success of work being undertaken in the GATT which was mentioned this morning, and also look for a successful conclusion on matters currently under consideration at UNCTAD VI.

New Zealand shares the general concern noted by the Secretariat in the document CL 83/2. I think, Sir, this document points out something of a contradiction. It notes that there has been an improvement in food supply in global terms, but nevertheless in some regions food deficits remain. The situation is exacerbated by a reduction in the growth of foreign exchange earnings of many developing countries, and indeed the earnings of some other countries also. The consumer demand has continued to fall, and protectionist policies, aggravated by the industrial recession, make it difficult for food producing developing countries to obtain prices for their products which would encourage them further to develop their agriculture.

Also of significance is the growing foreign indebtedness mentioned this morning by the Director-General that has also affected the developing countries' ability to pay for essential inputs; for example, fertilizers to help improved production. Therefore, Sir, we find that progress in improving the world nutrition has been slow, and indeed food production on a per capita basis in some areas of the world has actually declined.

Mr. Chairman, at the 82nd Council Session last year, New Zealand was among those delegations which emphasized that the most desirable way to improve the world situation is to encourage countries to improve their own food production rather than, as is often the case, of having to rely heavily on the transfer of food from developed countries' surpluses. New Zealand remains of this view since we feel policies of such transfer can affect the sensitive structural balance of food production and trade. In the short term, of course, some benefits may accrue, but in the long term there is no food security, and surplus trading encourages disincentives to investment and production in recipient countries. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, when we come to consider the FAO Work-Programme later in this Council Session, this matter is likely to be addressed again.

The problem needs also to be addressed from the perspective endorsed by FAO of the continuation of the development of food production programmes in the developing world within a favourable international trading environment. Requirements that need to be addressed in this context include the development of specific incentives in the financial and technical areas to produce food, adequate access to overseas markets to earn foreign exchange to pay for essential inputs such as fertilizers, insecticides and so on, further development of pest and disease control programmes and the development of an internal market demand to encourage food production initially.

Before concluding, I should like to emphasize the importance that the New Zealand delegation attaches to a continuation of the general world economic recovery that seems now to be just starting. If this recovery can be sustained, then the problems we face will start to be alleviated by external factors. Hopefully, international economic recovery will also help to reduce tendencies towards agricultural protectionism with the result that a real increase in global world food trade will help reverse the disturbing developments in the terms of trade of many developing countries which were highlighted by the Director-General when he spoke to us this morning. The New Zealand delegation congratulates FAO for its continuing efforts to improve food production. This Council Session will examine and deliberate on specific areas of the Organization's work in this most important area. I can assure the Council that New Zealand remains fully in support of FAO's objectives.

Y.A. HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure indeed to see you again chairing our session and I shall start by thanking the distinguished members of the Council for their confidence, particularly the representatives of Congo, Cyprus and Malaysia. I avail myself of this opportunity also to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen, Mr. Sorenson and Mr. Silva on their election.

My country's delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for his comprehensive report which was distinguished by an excellent analysis of the problems relating to the human community of food and agriculture and also for his brief expose on the matters submitted to the Council.

I also wish to thank Professor Nour Islam for his presentation of the document under discussion. My country's delegation wishes to express its reserved satisfaction with what is stated on pages 4, 6 and 9 of the Arabic text of this document concerning the improvement of the per capita share of food and the reduction of world prices of food products and the increase in world food production. Yet there are a few remarks I wish to make.

First, Table 3 of this document refers to an increase in the number of countries affected by abnormal food shortages, particularly African countries, which makes it imperative to make available effective emergency assistance and also food reserve stocks, because of their telling influence on development. Second, the Near East and Africa have not made such good progress in food production as explained on page 9, which requires that there should be well defined recommendations that can serve as a programme of action for providing assistance to these two regions, by helping them increase their production.

Thirdly, from analysis of the special sections on trade in food commodities it appears that there has been an important development which is not in favour of low-income countries and this results in an increased demand on food supplies by certain countries, which led to a deficit in the balance of payment of developing countries, requires a strengthening of the infrastructure for food stuff marketing. The President of the Arab Republic of Egypt has read a statement at the Sixth UNCTAD Conference yesterday emphasizing the necessity of cooperation between developing and developed countries and the encouragement of trade and the liberalization thereof from customs barriers and other protectionist policies and the improvement of the preferential treatment system.

Fourthly, the greater part of cereal stocks and dairy products are concentrated in developed countries at a time when developing countries did not achieve any improvement in their stocks or reserves. We have not denied the negative effects of this state of affairs which makes us always trust in a continuing dialogue for a new world economic order.

Fifth, from an analysis of Table 7 we see a decrease in the flow of external assistance in all its forms in spite of the emphasis made on the importance of this assistance in several international fora. This decrease or drop has been substantial in bilateral assistance and this leads us to make an appeal to all countries and financing institutions to facilitate the conditions of a good flow of such assistance to developing countries.

G.E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): Señor Presidente, quisiéramos, en primer termino, expresar nuestra felicitación a usted y a los tres Vicepresidentes que hemos elegido en el día de hoy, y hacer llegar también nuestras felicitaciones a la Secretaría por la elaboración de los documentos objetivos como el que nos ha presentado, así como por la clara introducción que nos hiciera el profesor Islam del tema que estamos discutiendo.

Entendemos que el documento describe en forma resumida el cuadro general de la producción, la oferta, la demanda, existencia y precios de alimentos, puntualizando los aspectos positivos y negativos de la situación actual. Constituye una descripción exacta de la compleja situación coyuntural de la producción de alimentos y, quizás por lo sintético del documento, impide que se haya incursionado en los aspectos estructurales de la problemática alimentaria mundial.

El documento no incorpora todos los diversos componentes de la seguridad alimentaria en su concepto ampliado y, a nuestro juicio, quizás no pondera adecuadamente todos los ingredientes que definen el nuevo concepto de seguridad alimentaria pero no por ello, señor Presidente, el diagnóstico es menos claro y casi obvio, Los problemas son de índole estructural y sus soluciones exigen cambios de fondo.

No hay duda que nos encontramos frente a la crisis económica más grave de los últimos cincuenta años y que la misma afecta a todos los países del mundo; pero también es indudable que son los países en desarrollo los que en forma más directa, más dramática sufren sus efectos.

Los países en desarrollo, en su gran mayoría, dependen de la venta de sus productos agrícolas y en general de los productos primarios para importar bienes de capital y todo aquello que necesitan para su desarrollo; sin embargo, algunos países industrializados han reaccionado frente a las dificultades de la crisis adoptando políticas proteccionistas totalmente desmedidas.

En la reciente reunión de Williamsburg se reconoció cuan nocivo resulta a la Comunidad Internacional la aplicación de estas medidas y hoy, con toda objetividad, nos lo fue claramente destacado por nuestro Director General en su brillante intervención.

En Williamsburg se coincidió en la necesidad de detener el proteccionismo y a medida que la reactivación se confirma, a suprimirlo eliminando los obstáculos al comercio. Confiamos en que tal reconocimiento no quede en otra mera expresión de deseos y que, por el contrario, con determinación política se comience a instrumentar los cambios que las circunstancias requieren.

En un mundo donde los recursos son cada vez más escasos es prioritario privilegiar las ventajas comparativas existentes. Muchos países en desarrollo cuentan con los recursos naturales, intelectuales, técnicos y económicos para desarrollar en forma eficiente la producción de alimentos. Es necesario terminar con las barreras comerciales, abrir los mercados para que este potencial pueda manifestarse.

Mi país, la Argentina, suma a su condición de ser excedentario de la producción de alimentos la de ser un país en desarrollo. A través de un sistema de producción extensivo, pero con una alta productividad y eficiencia, hemos logrado sostenidos y significativos aumentos de la producción, pero consideramos que hemos llegado a un punto en que resulta muy difícil competir con los países desarrollados que utilizan recursos de otros sectores de sus economías para subsidiar la producción y colocar sus excedentes.

El cuarto párrafo de la página 11 del documento español dice textualmente "Un problema que preocupa a los responsables de las políticas agrícolas de los países desarrollados es la reducción del margen entre los precios y los costos que han tenido que soportar los productores agrícolas, especialmente en aquellos países en donde la agricultura está más expuesta a las fluctuaciones del mercado". Y el documento menciona el caso de un país en especial, de uno de los principales productores mundiales. No dudamos que a los agricultores de ese gran país se les han reducido los márgenes de beneficio, inclusive creando situaciones de quebrantos en algunos casos; pero es necesario destacar ya que el documento no lo hace, que la situación es mucho más grave en países exportadores, como el mío, que no tienen posibilidad de financiar la venta de excedentes con créditos a tasas preferenciales ni ayudar a sus productores con programas especiales.

Por otra parte, y a título quizás informativo y de ejemplo, quiero referirme al cuadro número 2 de la página 5, siempre me refiero al documento en español, donde se ilustra con claridad la caída de los precios de exportación de trigo, arroz y maíz en los Estados Unidos. Se desprende del mismo que los precios f.o.b. Golfo de Méjico durante el mes de febrero de este año, en el caso del trigo y del maíz, fueron de un 10 y un 20 por ciento respectivamente más bajos que los vigentes en el período 80/81. Los precios f.o.b. Buenos Aires para los mismos productos en similar período han caído el 29 y 25 por ciento, respectivamente. Creo que esto es suficientemente elocuente para caracterizar la delicada situación de los países en desarrollo, productores y exportadores en que nos encontramos.

Por último, quisiéramos referirnos muy brevemente al último punto del documento que trata de los progresos y esfuerzos realizados para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Creemos que la ampliación conceptual de la seguridad alimentaria es la base más sólida para lograr progresos en ese sentido. Es por ello que nuestro país le ha dado su más firme apoyo. Argentina siempre ha sostenido que las políticas nacionales son la base indispensable para la mejora de la seguridad alimentaria, que no significa, en manera alguna, que desconozcamos la importancia del esfuerzo que en los distintos niveles se están realizando. Con ese criterio es con el que los países de la región latinoamericana hemos decidido apoyar el establecimiento de un sistema de seguridad alimentaria regional que coadyuve al abastecimiento estable, óptimo y eficiente de alimentos en la región mediante el fomento de la producción, el comercio y la cooperación política. Esta es la filosofía central de C.A.S.A.R., Comité de Acción del SELA para la seguridad alimentaria en América Latina. El Comité en el cual la región tiene depositadas grandes esperanzas y confía que la FAO seguirá brindando todo su apoyo. Eso es todo, muchísimas gracias señor Presidente.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de Haute-Volta saisit l'occasion qui lui est offerte pour remercier le Directeur général de la plaidoierie vivante et objective faite en faveur des pays en voie de développement.

Nous remercions le Dr. Islam pour la qualité du rapport que nous examinons présentement.

A propos de l'éclosion de foyers de peste bovine, la Haute-Volta est également concernée. Nous demandons à la FAO, qui a été saisie du problème, d'accélérer son aide pour nous permettre de circonscrire le foyer.

La délégation de Haute-Volta souscrit et appuie le projet d'organisation d'une campagne africaine de lutte contre la peste bovine, et souhaite que toutes les mesures soient prises pour rendre le projet opérationnel dans les meilleurs délais possibles. Cela permettra de sauvegarder un capital très important pour nos pays.

Concernant les capacités de stockage, il a été dit que des progrès ont été enregistrés, mais qu'ils restent insuffisants. De l'avis de la délégation de Haute-Volta pour mieux asseoir cette politique de sécurité alimentaire et augmenter la capacité de stockage dans les pays en voie de développement, un des moyens serait de stocker de plus en plus les produits dans les zones souvent victimes de déficits. Malheureusement nous constatons que les capacités de stockage sont faibles ou inexistantes là où le besoin est vivement ressenti.

A propos des prix de production, le rapport dit que les quotations sont en baisse, malheureusement cette baisse n'a pas encore eu de répercussions au niveau des producteurs voltaïques, au contraire on assiste à une augmentation du prix des engrais du fait de la suppression progressive d'une subvention gouvernementale faite en faveur des engrais, suppression rendue obligatoire suite à certaines contraintes parfois extérieures au pays.

M. le Président, il serait souhaitable que grâce à l'action de la FAO les pays en développement puissent bénéficier pour un certain temps encore d'une opération internationale de subvention pour les facteurs de production. Une telle action permettra un meilleur équipement de nos agriculteurs et augmentera leur capacité de production.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that brief and concise statement.

- I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)
- I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)
- I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)
2. Election of Three Vice-Chairmen and Designation of Chairman and Members of Drafting Committee (continued)
2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)
2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes, y nombramiento del Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Personalmente, lamento que se haya planteado en la Plenaria del Consejo alguna cuestión sobre la integración del Comité de Redacción. Como delegado de Colombia yo creo que no se trata de un miembro más o menos, de una región u otra, sino de actuar guiados por el espíritu de cooperación que debe prevalecer entre nosotros.

Como presidente del Grupo de los 77, mi tarea se limitó a solicitar a cada uno de los presidentes de las cuatro regiones de nuestro grupo sus respectivos candidatos para integrar el Comité de Redacción. Creo que usted, Sr. Presidente, y el Sr. Sylla, nuestro secretario, explicaron adecuadamente que no hay una regla fija sobre el número de miembros que debe tener el Comité de Redacción, y fue así como los latinoamericanos pensamos que el hecho de que el Relator fuera de nuestra región no impediría, y esto lo pensamos muy flexiblemente, como lo voy a comprobar al final de mi declaración, no impediría, repito, que hubieran otros dos latinoamericanos, miembros de ese Comité de Redacción, al considerar al Relator de forma independiente. Con ese ánimo flexible ofrecimos un nuevo miembro de nuestra región; pero yo no he estado en la sala, sin embargo, se me ha informado que particularmente los distinguidos colegas de África no aceptan esa propuesta del grupo latinoamericano; no entienden, pienso yo, ese sentido de cooperación que queremos ofrecerles nosotros. Después de conocer esos hechos, tuve ocasión de reunirme rápidamente con el Embajador de Nicaragua, presidente del grupo de América Latina y del Caribe, y con unos pocos colegas, miembros del Consejo, porque no esperaba que

se presentara un acto semejante, y a través de sus contactos brevísimos y superficiales hemos llegado a la conclusión de que quizás los distintos colegas de África no quieren que haya un Comité de Redacción; pues nosotros no tenemos ningún inconveniente en que por América Latina y Caribe haya un solo miembro: México.

Al hacer esta declaración quiero dejar una constancia, como delegado de Colombia, y es que los latinoamericanos no hemos actuado con ninguna ambición, actuamos siempre con espíritu de unidad, aun a costa de ceder y renunciar, en muchas oportunidades, a algunas de nuestras aspiraciones.

Finalmente, los latinoamericanos y del Caribe queremos reiterar a los distinguidos colegas y amigos de África nuestra simpatía, nuestra amistad y nuestra solidaridad.

CHAIRMAN: If so many of you want to speak, then I am afraid we must continue the debate tomorrow morning. Since Angola started the debate I will just give the floor to Angola.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): We are fully satisfied and we are deeply touched by the cooperation and understanding of Ambassador Bula Hoyos and our colleagues from the Latin American region.

TESSEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): I appreciate the lesson of cooperation that we are getting from the delegate of Colombia. It is not that Africa does not have a spirit of cooperation: it is simply that we asked for equitable representation. As for cooperation, I think the Ambassador of Colombia as Chairman of the Group of 77 knows very well that Africa is the first to abide by this spirit of cooperation.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): M. le Président, je voudrais également rendre hommage à l'esprit de coopération que vient de manifester l'ambassadeur de Colombie en rappelant toutefois que nous n'avons pas demandé à ce qu'un délégué soit retiré; nous avons simplement demandé à ce que, au sein du groupe de rédaction, une répartition équitable soit réservée à tous les groupes. Nous pensions, pour notre part, que deux représentants de chaque région devaient y figurer. Je sais également qu'il n'y a pas de règle là-dessus qui donne une répartition des membres mais d'après ce que venait de nous dire le Secrétaire général du Conseil, le nombre variait entre huit et onze. Or, si je regarde la liste qui nous est communiquée il semble que nous ayons 12 membres plus un président ce qui fait que cette session serait exceptionnelle.

C'est pour cette raison que, pour ma part, en rendant hommage au délégué de Colombie, je crois pouvoir appuyer la proposition qu'il vient de faire, et de toute façon lui, en tant que président du groupe des 77, comme l'a dit mon collègue d'Éthiopie, il sait que le groupe africain a toujours coopéré dans un esprit de collaboration suffisamment franche.

CHAIRMAN: I want to thank all the delegations - Angola, Ethiopia, Congo and Colombia. I hope that this spirit of cooperation and understanding will be the mechanism through which we will function for these two weeks.

I would request the delegates concerned - Congo, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Indonesia, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Mexico, Panama, Afghanistan, Iraq, the United States of America and New Zealand - to indicate to the Secretariat as soon as possible the names of the members of their delegation who will attend the Drafting Committee meetings. The Drafting Committee will probably start its work on Wednesday.

A.G. MGONGI MAMANGA (Cameroon): I am not sure if my hearing aid was failing but I think I heard three Latin American names again on the list of the Drafting Committee. I wish to be sure. I speak not to spoil the meeting, but I am representing the interests of the group. I think the Ambassador of Colombia offered to withdraw one name for Latin America and it was accepted. So I wish the Chairman to clarify the situation.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know who accepted it. My hearing was that whilst they appreciated the gesture there did not seem to be need and everyone talked about cooperation; therefore I thought that we had come to an understanding.

A. ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Panamá): Sí, Señor Presidente, para manifestarle y además concluir con esta situación de que solamente participará por Latinoamérica, con el Comité de Redacción, Cuba y México.

CHAIRMAN: So we will have only Cuba and Mexico. With that we will adjourn and meet tomorrow morning at 09.30.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(14 June 1983)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.30 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 30 sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.30 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Before we start, I wish to make an announcement. As you all know we are now in the period of Ramadan and we have many distinguished Islamic colleagues with us. In order to help our Islamic colleagues who would like to offer prayers during Ramadan, the Sudan Room, B327, has been reserved for the convenience of the Islamic delegates every day throughout the Council session. This room will be ready by about noontime today.

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)

SEÑORA DOÑA ETNA HERAZO DE VITI (Panamá) : Antes de todo la Delegación de Panamá desea felicitar muy calurosamente a los tres Vicepresidentes elegidos y al Presidente del Comité de Redacción, deseándoles mucho éxito en el delicado ejercicio de sus funciones.

El "sí" muy matizado como respuesta a la pregunta de si la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial es mejor ahora que hace un año, formulada en el párrafo primero del documento CL 83/2, la situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo, y el sentimiento de incertidumbre del cual nos habla el reciente documento distribuido que es Suplemento del CL 83/2, ha planteado a esta Delegación una preocupación, sin que queramos denotar con esto una posición negativa. Y esta preocupación es válida, Señor Presidente, porque el documento en la página 3 expresa que las grandes existencias de cereales que hay actualmente en el mundo proporcionan tan solo cierta protección frente a los efectos de posibles déficits de producción en 1983.

Con amplitud y profundidad se analizó este problema en el reciente pasado período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria del pasado abril, donde determinamos el hecho de que en sólo doce países se vienen a concentrar el 63 por ciento de las reservas mundiales de cereales. En el Documento CL 83/2, en el penúltimo párrafo, página 15, se señala que se prevé que los países desarrollados mantendrán el 70 por ciento de las existencias mundiales de cereales al final de sus campañas agrícolas para 1982/83.

Analizando el problema de la situación alimentaria mundial, a través de indicadores, como los de suministros dietéticos y precios de los alimentos, nuestras preocupaciones vienen a encontrar muchas más justificaciones. Esto, sin olvidar el problema concerniente al acceso y distribución de los alimentos. Si bien la producción alimentaria por habitante mejoró considerablemente en las economías asiáticas con planificaciones centralizadas de Asia y de nuestra región, América Latina y el Caribe, y moderadamente en las economías del mercado de desarrollo del Lejano Oriente, se produjo, sin embargo, por otra parte, una ligera disminución en Africa y el Cercano Oriente.

En cuanto a los precios, mientras que estos en los países en vías de desarrollo aumentan con más rapidez que otros precios para el consumidor, en los países desarrollados sucede lo contrario; el aumento del precio de los alimentos es menor que el aumento de otros precios para el consumidor. A estas tendencias generales, tenemos que agregar aspectos particulares y propios de cada país, como el nuestro por ejemplo, que recientemente ha sido afectado por una prolongada sequía en una de las dos regiones de mayor población ganadera, reduciendo esta población a un 50 por ciento. Esta situación, Señor Presidente, es la que ha motivado a mi Gobierno a solicitar una pronta asistencia por parte de las Operaciones de Urgencia del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, el PMA, así como de esta Organización, la FAO.

Otros países, incluyendo algunos de nuestra propia región latinoamericana, han tenido problemas de inundaciones y plagas con sus secuelas de situaciones difíciles de superar en las condiciones actuales. Paralelamente con estos señalamientos, esta Delegación no desea dejar pasar esta oportunidad para deplorar el hecho de que durante 1982, de las 68 operaciones de urgencia, FAO-PMA, por un costo de 191,5 millones de dólares, casi la mitad se destinó a las necesidades de los refugiados en distintas partes del mundo y que medidas estas operaciones en términos de costo, representan el 69 por ciento. Ojalá iniciemos pronto el camino que conducirá a que cese esta situación y puedan estos recursos ser empleados como agentes catalíticos del desarrollo.

En este debate de la situación actual de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, que efectúa este Consejo de la FAO, hay que ver estructuralmente el problema de la producción de alimentos y destacar que estamos frente al hecho de que los pequeños y moderados aumentos en la producción alimentaria se enfrentan a una escasa demanda de los mercados, especialmente de exportación, que viene a provocar una acumulación de existencias y el consiguiente descenso de los precios mientras que, por otra parte, escaseces temporales que se registran en ciertos productos, por razones climatológicas principalmente, dan lugar a alzas temporales de los precios, persistiendo el desequilibrio estructural básico entre la oferta y la demanda, como es el caso de Panamá que fue objeto de análisis hace dos semanas por parte del Grupo Intergubernamental de la FAO sobre este producto y que convino en acelerar los esfuerzos necesarios para llegar a la adopción formal de un convenio internacional sobre el banano.

Por otra parte, esta Delegación subraya la preocupación recogida en la última reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, por estancamiento en la capacidad de producción como resultado de los bajos precios y la tendencia a no invertir en nuevas fábricas de fertilizantes, con un consecuente aumento de los precios y reducción del consumo, previéndose una escasez de fertilizantes concretamente para 1985-1986. Situación ésta que debe llevar a los países en desarrollo a la proyección de empresas conjuntas con otros países integrantes en su propia región o área, para aprovechar disponibilidades de materia prima y de mercado para los fertilizantes producidos.

La materialización de aspectos como los dos últimos señalados, la adopción formal de acuerdos internacionales o productos básicos y creación de empresas conjuntas entre países de la misma región o área, contribuirán efectivamente a superar la actual situación imperante en el comercio agrícola y alimentario mundial que ha venido a significar para los países en desarrollo, considerados como grupo, el que por primera vez en 1981 pasaran a ser importadores netos de cultivos y productos pecuarios.

Sobre lo señalado en el documento correspondiente a las tendencias descendentes de la asistencia exterior a la agricultura y los bajos niveles de las asignaciones en comparación con las necesidades estimadas, la Delegación de Panamá quiere expresar a los representantes de los países desarrollados que la crisis que se les presenta al interno de sus propios países, se da dentro de un margen tal de bienestar, en crisis, muy superiores a las mejores condiciones por las que pueden pasar los países en vías de desarrollo. Este señalamiento es igualmente válido sobre el estancamiento de la ayuda alimentaria durante los últimos cinco años.

Para finalizar, Señor Presidente, conforme a lo que esta Delegación planteó en la pasada reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, expresamos en este Consejo de la FAO nuestro pleno apoyo al concepto ampliado sobre seguridad alimentaria propuesto en el informe del Director General con sus correspondientes medidas a nivel nacional, regional y mundial, y la realización por etapas, pero sin dilación, de las mismas.

G.J. NEWELL (United States of America): The United States delegation has studied with care the document on the Current World Food Situation. We also listened with attention to the comprehensive statement made yesterday by the Director-General. The paper before us, the Director-General's remarks and the observations made by Dr. Islam in introducing this item provide the setting for our deliberations. We believe that the report we are considering presents a fair and balanced picture of the current world food situation. The paper correctly points out that, unlike the situation a few years ago, we are not faced by a combination of widespread emergency relief needs and tight food supplies.

On the other hand, repeated and proper reference is made throughout the analysis to the plight of the developing countries whose fragile economies have suffered inordinately from the effects of the world-wide economic recession.

Since levels of official development assistance are unlikely to be increased in the short term due to the effects of the world-wide recession, it is essential that efforts be focused on how to achieve the most effective and efficient use of available resources. Each country must be responsible for carrying out programmes and policies which will increase its own food productivity. To this end, through our bilateral agricultural development assistance programmes and in international fora, the United States seeks to assist in food production and provide food assistance through a number of measures.

First and foremost among these is the priority we give to improving agricultural production, with an emphasis on increasing and sustaining the productivity, income and market participation of small farmers, with special attention to food production.

Second is the need to promote greater economic efficiency in the marketing and distribution of agricultural output and food production, exports and imports.

Third is to achieve improved food consumption through expansion of productive employment and incomes of men and women who at present lack the purchasing power to obtain adequate food.

Fourth is to promote a more effective system for direct distribution of food from domestic or external sources to those facing severe malnutrition and temporary food shortages.

We seek from countries where assistance is concentrated, commitments by their governments to the objectives that I have just outlined within an appropriate policy framework to achieve these objectives. Such a framework should include policies that seek to keep to an appropriate level intervention in the price-information and distribution systems, subsidization, public-sector production and distribution, and rationing, all of which tend to result in substantial reductions in efficiency and productivity with little or no benefit to the disadvantaged groups they are often supposed to help. In many cases, the benefits of these policies accrue, not to low-income groups, but to relatively well-off groups instead. Interim steps towards these long-term goals are necessary preconditions to establishing viable dynamic agriculture sectors.

Reference has been made to measures that my government is taking to adjust our agricultural policies. In 1981 and 1982 the United States had two consecutive years of record grain production. At the same time, demand for our products, including our exports, declined. This put American farmers in an unfavourable position, with large and growing stocks, depressed farm prices and income, and a rising number of bankruptcies within the farming community.

As the 1982-crop programmes were considered, it was apparent that the oversupply situation was unlikely to be temporary. Demand was growing very slowly. Other factors affecting United States exports were the financial positions of some of our customers, the strong US dollar and increased competition from other exporters. At home, lower meat consumption weakened the demand for feed grains.

Against this background, the United States decided to institute an acreage reduction programme for the 1982 crops. The purpose of this programme was to reduce production and allow some drawdown of stocks, thus preventing further price declines. However, a low level of participation in this voluntary programme, combined with unusually good weather, resulted in even greater production in 1982 than in 1981. Thus stocks rose and further depressed prices. In addition to the acreage reduction and land diversion programmes announced for the 1983 crops, President Reagan announced on January 11 a payments-in-kind programme.

The goals of this programme are to reduce excessive stocks while providing adequate supplies for domestic consumption and world trade and to maintain incentives for producers. Commodity prices may not increase significantly in the near terms, though they should strengthen somewhat. We expect the longer-term economic outlook to improve as a result of bringing supplies more into line with demand. In the short term, however, the United States has had to take measures to protect the integrity of the agricultural sector and its productive capacity.

Let me emphasize that the United States will continue to be a reliable supplier, and we will maintain adequate reserve stocks, but somewhat below our current excessive levels. We do not anticipate any reduction that would impair our ability to meet global demand for our farm products.

The United States has taken steps during this difficult period to maintain the level of food aid under P.L.480, despite large budget deficits and extreme pressure to reduce government spending. In addition, the President has requested expanded authority to donate government-owned commodities abroad. We are now donating dairy products overseas as well as other commodities. In so doing we are taking steps to insure that these programmes will not result in disincentives to farmers in the recipient countries. The expanded authority we are seeking will enable the government to donate other commodities.

We are confident that our policies of agricultural adjustment are in the long-run interest of world food security. Low prices, leading to low production and loss of long-term productive capacity, pose a far greater danger to world food security than do temporary reductions of excessive stocks. For the sake of both developed and developing countries it is critical that producer prices and incomes be maintained as an essential condition for the food security we all so earnestly seek.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Señor Presidente, le saludamos a usted y le felicitamos por el trabajo desempeñado en este Consejo y en los anteriores, y felicitamos también a los tres Vicepresidentes ayer electos.

Extendemos nuestro agradecimiento y felicitación al Director General de la FAO por su excelente análisis que nos da la dimensión de la problemática alimentaria inserta en el contexto económico y político mundial. Concordamos con esa presentación y la apoyamos; ese tipo de análisis integral nos gustaría verlo sintetizado y complementado en los documentos de trabajo de la FAO.

Respaldamos también todos los puntos tocados por nuestro Presidente del Grupo de los 77 en su discurso de entrada del día de ayer.

Agradecemos y felicitamos al doctor Islam por la magnífica introducción hecha al tema que nos ocupa. Debemos, sin embargo, profundizar en el análisis; solicitamos a la Secretaría que al describir la situación mundial de la alimentación pase de la descripción de los efectos al análisis de las causas y de los agentes y factores que la componen.

Sabemos que hay muchas circunstancias y muchas posibles convenciones para estudiar este problema, pero no podemos obviar aquello que cuantitativa y cualitativamente tiene un gran peso. Si los precios son importantes en nuestro diagnóstico, si las fuerzas de la oferta y la demanda lo son, igual peso deben tener aquellos pocos agentes que de manera abrumadora dominan el comercio y la industria de alimentos. Me refiero en este caso particular y de manera especial a las corporaciones transnacionales.

Simplemente para dar una muy rápida idea, y de ninguna manera exhaustiva ni completa en el campo del comercio de cereales, del comercio de semillas, de la industria alimentaria, de la industria cerealera, encontramos unas cuantas empresas que dominan fundamentalmente el mercado. En materia de comercio de cereales tenemos la Cargill, la Continental, la Bunge, la Dreyfus, la Carnac, y la Mitsui; en el comercio de semillas tenemos la Royal, la Dutch/Shell, la Sandoz, la Ciba-Geigy, la Kemanobel, la Elf-Aquitaine, la Rhone-Poulenc, la Cardo, la Agrigenetic, la Pfizer, la Upihon, la Cargill, la Continental, la KWS, la Pionner y la Dekalb; en la industria alimentaria tenemos a la Unilever, a la Nestle, a la Beatrice Foods, a la General Foods, al Ralston Purina, al Consolidated Food, y a la CPC Internacional; en la industria cerealera tenemos a la CPC Internacional, a la General Mills, a la Quaker Oats, a la Spillers, a la Kellog, a la Pillsvurg, a la Me. Malm, a la United Biscuit, a la International Multifoods, a la Nisshin Flour y a la Konin, etc.

Estas empresas tienen una participación fundamental en la determinación de la fuerza del mercado y, por tanto, de los precios y de la producción y comercio de alimentos. El 5,5 por ciento de las explotaciones de Estados Unidos controlan más del 50 por ciento de toda la tierra agrícola. Se estima que en 1985 el 75 por ciento de la producción de alimentos de Estados Unidos estará bajo la firma de contrato con las grandes corporaciones.

Seis grandes corporaciones "The big league", la Cargill, la Continental, etc. controlan el 85 por ciento de todas las exportaciones de cereales de ese país. Tan sólo el trigo, y excluyendo a la Mitsui, esta Liga domina más del 60 por ciento de las exportaciones de Estados Unidos, según información que tenemos y que nos gustaría ver confirmada.

En materia de comercio de semillas cuatro corporaciones controlan el 66 por ciento del mercado mundial del maíz, 8 el del trigo, 4 el de frijol, y 4 el de algodón.

Sólo 50 de 30 000 empresas agroindustriales controlan más de la mitad de las ventas de tal industria en Estados Unidos.

El Grupo de las 100 principales corporaciones transnacionales en el área agroindustrial es ampliamente dominado por empresas norteamericanas en más del 50 por ciento; el segundo grupo lo constituyen empresas inglesas, 22 en total, y también empresas francesas, 9, en este grupo de 100.

En fin, los datos, si los datos para esos países desarrollados son abrumadores, para América Latina, así como para otras regiones del mundo, son verdaderamente aterradores y creo que al analizarlos encontraremos las razones que explican en buena parte la aparente falta de una voluntad política más agresiva en materia alimentaria.

El mundo está ordenado de tal manera que los intereses de los poderosos se siguen imponiendo al argumento de los débiles, pero no por ello vamos a cerrar los ojos, a dejar de imputar responsabilidades y a claudicar de nuestros derechos y justas reclamaciones.

Demandamos de la FAO que en los próximos diagnósticos a nivel mundial sobre la situación alimentaria se incluya un estudio de cómo esos agentes transnacionales y otros factores de peso participan en la actividad alimentaria, tanto a nivel mundial como regional. No hay un análisis a fondo que encadene de una manera sistemática, comprensible, la situación económica internacional con la situación alimentaria, y menos una visión de país por país. Aquí apoyamos lo manifestado por Etiopía en el día de ayer y solicitamos a la FAO presente un análisis más comprensivo de esta situación, extendida a la situación de cada país.

En los últimos años, en efecto, la contracción de los flujos de financiamiento para el desarrollo, las altas tasas de interés, el peso de la deuda externa en los países en desarrollo, la caída de los precios de las materias primas, el uso de los alimentos como arma, el creciente proteccionismo en el comercio, las estructuras de concentración de la riqueza y de la propiedad agrícola y el incentivo al armamentismo en el mundo en desarrollo, para decir solamente algunas de las principales razones, se han traducido en uno de los grandes procesos de desempleo y erosión de la calidad y de la seguridad de vida en los países en desarrollo con sus consecuencias políticas e ideológicas.

Ante la crisis internacional muchos países se han visto obligados a manejar políticas contraccionistas o de estabilización que, finalmente, tienen como una consecuencia principal el encarecimiento real y una mayor inaccesibilidad a los alimentos por parte de las poblaciones de menores recursos en nuestros países. Esto es, como lo hemos dicho en otras ocasiones, un auténtico y trágico círculo vicioso del hambre: los que menos tienen, tienen cada vez menos.

Los países en desarrollo por sí mismos sus gobiernos son incapaces de resolver los problemas del hambre; por eso es indispensable pensar en la solución de los problemas alimentarios como uno que quiere de la revisión profunda del sistema financiero, comercial y económico internacional que ha propiciado esta situación; es decir, buscar y tender hacia un nuevo Orden Económico Internacional y un nuevo multilateralismo reforzado, renovado.

Por lo pronto, los países en desarrollo les estamos entregando recursos, fuerzas de trabajo, bienestar y hasta soberanía a las fuerzas del imperialismo galopante.

Reiteramos aquí, señor Presidente, nuestra solicitud de encuadrar el análisis de la situación alimentaria en su contexto económico y político a nivel internacional.

Otro punto que queremos destacar es lo relativo a la vinculación de producción, ingreso, consumo campesino, que es un imperativo y una condición del desarrollo agropecuario y alimentario y también condición para convertir las necesidades de la población en demandas en el mercado. Por eso vemos con preocupación que el peso específico que se da al desarrollo de las actividades técnicas, al financiamiento, a la reforma agraria, a la organización y, en fin, al desarrollo rural integral de la agricultura de temporal sea proporcionalmente inferior al de la agricultura moderna y comercial. Es en las zonas de temporal, o de secano, donde se pueden obtener los mayores incrementos en la producción y en el bienestar social y, por tanto, debe ponerse todo el énfasis en estudiarlas de manera integral, observando no sólo los aspectos productivos, sino los comerciales, tecnológicos e industriales.

P.W. McLEAN (United Kingdom): My delegation, as always, finds the Secretariat's review of the current world food situation a very useful and factual analysis providing a setting for the work of the Council which is required, as the note attached to the Agenda reminds us, to focus on those of its functions which relate to the general policy of the Organization, including obviously the world food and agricultural situation.

On the paper itself we do consider that its overall assessment is a little too pessimistic about the continuation of economic recession. No-one seriously questions the adverse effects of this in recent years, particularly for developing countries, but there are signs that economic recovery is at least on the way if not yet actually in sight, and this could and indeed should have a beneficial effect on both developing and developed countries alike. I think the delegate for New Zealand made the point yesterday rather better than I can probably do.

As I have indicated, we have no basic difficulty with the historical presentation in the paper although there are factors which in our view are given insufficient weight, for example the degree of instability in world grain markets caused by major cereal shortages in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, for example, which are hinted at in the table at paragraph 4, but not exactly spelled out. I think the most significant thing, as the Council has recognized already, are the factors which affect the situation in sub-Saharan Africa which, as the supplementary paper now shows, are exacerbated by the recent drought and animal disease, particularly in Southern Africa, and this must mean an under estimation of the seriousness of the situation which has developed in the continent. We look forward to seeing the first results of the Task Force which has been set up by the Director-General to review the needs in that part of the continent and we also look forward to concerted international action to help to alleviate what is becoming a very serious situation.

My delegation does not often intervene in discussions of this item. Listening to it, and I hope I will not be misunderstood, both in this forum, other fora of the FAO, and indeed other organizations in the field of food and agriculture, one sometimes has a sense of having been here before. The paper for all its merits does make a very broad overall assessment, and elaboration of some of the issues which contribute to the world food situation. I do feel that some more specific pointers would be useful to the Council and indeed to the members of FAO in determining what we as the international community can do to help relieve most immediate problems. For example, if the paper had an indication of how FAO staff would rate, say, the stocking of cereals in developing countries as against perhaps the provision of credit or other inputs to food production, which of these would be regarded as the most important factor in solving and dealing with the short term problems. In other words, it would be useful we think to have an indication of the major areas which are susceptible to assistance not only by FAO but by the donors generally, particularly perhaps in the field of technical assistance. If members of the Council think this is a way of reinforcing our views on the need for attention to real priorities then I would say certainly this is the case. While resources remain scarce it seems to us essential that every assessment or study or projection should keep in mind this very important aspect of resource allocation and indeed I echo the remarks made by the United States delegate in the introduction to his statement on this question.

This is all I wish to say on this point on this particular item.

A. NAGA (Japan): While the cereal production in 1982 marked in comparison with the previous year a high record, mainly due to the good crops in the major cereal producing countries, consequently world food cereal stocks are expected to reach a high level representing 21 percent of the annual world consumption by the end of 1982/83, therefore we could say that on the whole the world food situation has improved substantially as compared with a few years ago. However, the stocks are concentrated mainly in a few developed exporting countries. By contrast the food production in the sub-Saharan countries has been rather sluggish. This situation is an undesirable factor for world food security, as the Secretariat's document has pointed out. In this regard my delegation hopes that FAO will reinforce its activities of collecting and distributing the worldwide comprehensive food and agriculture information which could be useful for the effective and efficient assistance to suffering countries.

We also hope that FAO will provide technical and other appropriate assistance to developing countries in order to support their food production and rural development. My delegation feels that the first responsibility in solving the problems lies within the individual governments and the necessary steps should be taken to increase food self-reliance. In supporting the self-help efforts made by developing countries my government has been providing financial and technical cooperation through bilateral and multilateral channels and has the intention of continuing its support, giving priority to those low-income countries. In fact the share of food and agricultural cooperation in the Japanese ODA rose to 30 percent in 1981.

With regard to the food aid, which should be considered as a temporary measure until the developing countries can fully obtain self-reliance, Japan will contribute during 1983 an amount of about \$7 million to WFP and \$1.5 million to IEFR besides a contribution of 300 000 tonnes to FAO.

Finally, as far as supporting the developing countries in solving the food and agriculture problems, my government has been contributing to the FAO field projects since 1980 and in 1983 will increase its contribution from \$920 000 to \$1. 7 million. This additional amount will be utilized for two new projects concerning self-conservation and afforestation.

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): The awareness that the present food situation is far from good, and that the goals indicated by the World Food Conference nearly 10 years ago will not be achieved, is common. The authors of the document Current World Situation are evidently concerned about the lack of noticeable advance in fighting hunger and malnutrition. This concern is shown all over the document, but it is most striking in the summing up, which shows, in a concise way, the complexity of the present situation and the existing peril. The report of the Committee on World Food Security also expresses anxiety, and the statement of the Director-General of FAO at the April session of that Committee contains simply dramatic formulations.

The Polish delegation shares these worries also because in the past years no solution of a few key issues of hunger and malnutrition problems world wide was achieved.

Undoubtedly, the most important of those issues is the present food situation in many African countries. It is most alarming that in spite of significant financial and organizational efforts the necessary dynamics of agricultural development in that region has not been achieved. In effect, the food situation has not progressed much from that of some dozen years ago, the low-income food-deficit countries of that region still are in abject poverty, and, in some of them there appears aggravation of the situation. That is so in spite of the existence of the complex Lagos Plan of Action for implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, and of many detailed programmes.

One of the sources of the existing concern is the fact that in the recent years, in spite of great efforts, the mechanisms for strengthening the world food security have not been successfully developed. The Plan of Action of World Food Security is nearly four years old by now, and some problems mentioned in it have not been solved so far. One of such unsolved issues is the question of the new International Wheat Agreement. The present agreement is worthless as a regulator of the international grain market, as it does not contain any regulation mechanisms. The new agreement would be a vital element for strengthening world food security not only because the Food Aid Convention is linked with the International Wheat Agreement. Its significance results, primarily, from the key role, which the grains play in nutrition of world population. In consequence, the supply, demand and prices on the international grain market directly affect the food situation in the countries being in the most difficult food situation, as those countries cover a major part of their demand for imported grains by purchases on commercial bases.

The International Wheat Agreement is necessary also because the international grain market is one of the agricultural markets which easily goes over from an insufficient to an excessive supply, and viceversa.

The lack of adequate mechanisms, agreed by the international community, accounts for the fact that the exporting countries now tend to stabilize the market situation according to their own interests, which are not in accord with the interests of food security. Therefore, Poland shares the Director-General's concern that "these essentially short-term and uncoordinated remedies are bound in the long run to curtail food availability and could lead to destabilization of markets and a resumption of the surplus/shortage cycle evident over the past decade".

The third and last issue which I would like to discuss concerns some alarming evolution of consumption in some developing and medium developed countries. It has been noticed by FAO and discussed, among others, at the meeting of the intergovernmental group on meat but it has not been included in the submitted documents. This evolution was named "Westernization of diet" and it consists in abandoning the traditional diet even if the latter is sufficient from the point of view of food science. The new model of consumption often is an imitation of consumption patterns of highly developed countries and it sometimes requires a considerable increase of food imports.

The viewpoint seems to be correct that a rapid growth of international grain trade in the sixties and seventies is, among others, an effect of changes in consumption models, not necessarily justified from the viewpoint of food science, and sometimes bringing about a considerable rise in social costs. The food policy should counteract, in a more definite way than so far, the social pressure, the result of which is an evolution of consumption models in the direction not desirable from the social point of view. The interference of the state, which is too weak, can lead to a high dependence on imported food, which may consequently unfavourably affect the balance of payments.

The ex post acting, after the new consumption model has developed, is much more difficult and mostly less effective.

Therefore it seems that many developing countries should concentrate primarily on development of production of the kinds of food which can be produced locally.

A policy of a similar nature has been assumed by Polish authorities in the plans for the eighties, aiming at better use of the country's own resources, and ensuring in that way food selfsufficiency. That will be connected, of course, with some changes in consumption structure and with the necessary increase of investment outlays for the production fields which promise obtaining fast results.

M. GONZALEZ (Colombia): Señor Presidente, la evaluación general hecha en este documento nos conlleva a una situación muy relativa sobre la mejora de la situación alimentaria mundial, nos indica igualmente los problemas que subsisten en el marco de la recesión económica mundial, el proteccionismo creciente y la falta de voluntad política para iniciar negociaciones globales. La gran existencia de cereales en el mundo deberá proporcionar cierta protección frente a los posibles déficits de producción en este año, pero todo ello se encuentra falseado por el hecho de que esas reservas siguen concentrándose creciente y progresivamente en unos pocos países, productores y exportadores, mientras que hay inmensas deficiencias en los países en desarrollo, particularmente, en aquellos con bajos ingresos y déficit alimentarios.

La delegación de Colombia lamenta que la relativa recuperación de las existencias logradas en 1982 comiencen a disiparse en las perspectivas para 1983. Ojalá que no continúe esa tendencia negativa, sino que se fortalezca el buen signo del año pasado.

Al final de la evaluación general este documento se refiere a la interdependencia creciente entre las economías de muchos países en desarrollo y las del mundo desarrollado. Esto es evidente y hay que destacarlo en nuestro informe. Los hechos de los últimos años nos demuestran que cada vez existe una relación más estrecha entre todos los países del mundo.

Para terminar, la delegación de Colombia opina que en nuestro informe deberemos lamentar la difícil situación de los alimentos en el mundo, particularmente en los países más necesitados, e insiste en que es necesario intensificar la asistencia en favor de los estados menos adelantados, con bajos ingresos y déficit alimentarios, particularmente en Africa.

M. HAMDOON (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, since we are attending the Council Session here for the first time after our election as a Council Member during the last General Conference of FAO, we would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate you and also to express our gratitude to you for the excellent way in which you are leading our work. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Vice-Chairman who were elected yesterday in our first session, and we would also like to present our congratulations to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

We also wish to thank the Director-General for his comprehensive opening statement yesterday, and we fully support the content of his statement, especially with regard to the current food and agriculture situation in the world.

We also would like to address our thanks to Prof. Islam and congratulate him for the excellent introduction he made of this agenda item. We fully support the content of the statement made by Mr. Bula Hoyos on behalf of the Group of 77, and although we are members of the Group, we would like to support it because his statement reflected fully the aspirations of the developing world.

The world is facing a special situation with regard to production, consumption, marketing and distribution of food. Therefore, when we see that the production and offer for food production increases, especially in developed countries, we see that the food production of the majority of the developing countries has dropped and they are therefore forced to increase their imports so as to meet local requirements, but since they have difficulty in their balance of payments, these imports become more difficult and this has meant concentration of stocks in the developed producing countries.

These developed countries have formulated policies aiming at protectionism preventing the entrance of production from developing countries and also limiting the cultivated areas in some countries. This is quite clear from document CL 83/2, and this is going to influence the consumption and production of food in developing countries. Thus, matters are going to deteriorate especially in developing countries and we are going round in a vicious circle which is going to be difficult to come out of, but to do so, this vicious circle being a bottleneck in the developing countries, with a negative impact on the production and consumption of the developing countries, is not easy nor fast. It requires everyone's cooperation in order to reach a New International Economic Order which will be a just one and an order in which there will be an increase of assistance to the developing countries so as to have an increase of food production in developing countries for them to be able to emerge from the poverty in which they find themselves. This is why we are convinced that FAO, according to its Constitution and its own structure, is the appropriate organization to play a positive and concrete role in this field.

Mr. Chairman, you will note that in document CL 83/2, the production of food in the Far East is 120 percent of what it had been in 1974-1976 and this increase is due to efforts made by all countries in the region. I do not exaggerate when I say that all of the countries in the region feel that the increase in food production and rural development is the very milestone in economic development, and it goes without saying that Iraq has adopted this integral development approach and spares no efforts to reach concrete results. However, in spite of the efforts made in the Near-East region and in spite of the increase in food production in the region, still the per capita share of food production has dropped by 2 percent, vis-a-vis 1976. The ecological conditions, the social conditions and the climatic conditions are the cause of this, because when there is land there is no water, nor rain, and when land and water are available the climatic conditions are not appropriate, and when the latter are available we lack the infrastructure and skilled manpower. Therefore it is FAO's responsibility to undertake new types of programmes and projects suitable to the difficult production and climatic conditions of the region. Since FAO and the world community are concerned about the drop of external development assistance given to developing countries we want to give our full support to the Resolutions of the Conference of the non-aligned countries held in India where the accent is on cooperation between developing countries in the field of agriculture and food security. The Summit was also concerned with the use of food as a pressure means on the food deficit countries.

To conclude, we would like to express the hope that in the future we will be presented with the same excellent documents that were given to us now, because these documents pave the way to come out of this vicious circle. Once again we would like to stress our support of what was said by Mexico concerning the role of trans-nationals and multinationals. As an example, I mention that lately I read that one of the developing countries, so as to facilitate the transfer of hard currency accumulated by international aviation companies, had to pay these companies with coffee instead of currency and these aviation companies took this coffee and marketed it in developed countries at much higher prices than the developing country would have obtained. This is proof of the impossibility for developing countries to have access to the market of developed countries.

We would like FAO to present to us new perspectives in the field of agricultural development in the Near East, taking into account all the aspects that characterize this region. We are convinced that FAO is in a position to fulfill this task.

N. DIMITRIU (Roumanie): Prenant la parole pour la première fois, dans le cadre de notre session d'une importance particulière, veuillez me permettre, Monsieur le Président, de vous assurer de l'appui entier de la délégation roumaine pour que les travaux se déroulent avec succès. A l'occasion, je félicite les personnalités qui ont été élues et nommées: Monsieur le Professeur N. Islam et le Secrétariat qui ont réussi à nous présenter d'une façon synthétique et nette la situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale, situation qui doit nous faire réfléchir et nous obliger en même temps à faire des efforts concrets afin de résoudre, de la manière la plus urgente, la crise alimentaire qui sévit dans certaines zones du monde.

Permettez-moi d'apprécier comme très positive la brillante déclaration de notre Directeur général, Monsieur Edouard Saouma, qui a fait une analyse, nette et alarmante à la fois, de la situation, laquelle peut être caractérisée sous deux aspects principaux; d'une part, l'accentuation de la faim et de la sous-alimentation due aux calamités naturelles et aux restrictions imposées et, d'autre part, la baisse accentuée cette année de la production de céréales d'environ 90 millions de tonnes, ce qui n'est pas du tout négligeable.

La Roumanie prête une particulière importance à la solution de ces problèmes qu'elle retient comme étant les plus importants de notre époque et qui peuvent être solutionnés seulement à travers l'édification d'un nouvel ordre économique international sur la base de rapports fondés sur l'égalité et l'équité absolue entre les Etats.

La Roumanie, militant avec persévérance pour la solution de ces problèmes, déploie de nombreuses actions de coopération, avant tout avec les pays de l'Afrique où, avec les spécialistes de ces pays, elle réalise des projets pour la mise en valeur de grandes surfaces de terres, de complexes agro-zoo-industriels et des fermes de production agro-zoo-technique. De tels objectifs ont été réalisés en Libye, au Zaïre, au Congo, en Iraq, en Iran et dans d'autres pays qui, à présent, sont en train de mettre à exécution d'autres projets concernant l'aménagement et la prise en culture d'une surface de 400 000 hectares au Mozambique, de même que la réalisation d'un complexe agro-zoo-technique de 5 000 hectares en Somalie. De semblables activités se déroulent aussi avec la Mauritanie, l'Egypte, l'Algérie, etc. Je ne me propose pas de faire ici l'analyse de ce problème ni celle de l'activité de coopération que mon pays déploie avec les pays mentionnés plus haut et avec d'autres pays afin de redresser l'agriculture, mais j'apprécie que l'un des facteurs décisifs dans la réalisation de cet objectif soit représenté par les efforts faits par les pays en développement combinés avec une coopération internationale et avec l'appui des organisations internationales, lesquelles soutiennent ces efforts. Dans ce contexte, l'agriculture doit participer et s'intégrer intensément aux actions entreprises en vue de la mise en valeur des ressources propres afin d'éliminer la pauvreté.

Aujourd'hui plus que jamais, dans la situation de crise où l'économie mondiale se voit confrontée, la thèse concernant le développement des efforts propres est de la plus grande actualité. Par son contenu, elle suppose une collaboration et un échange d'expériences larges, une entraide et une solidarité militante.

Une pareille thèse, ainsi qu'elle est développée dans la doctrine du Président de la Roumanie Nicolae Ceausescu, présume la mobilisation de toutes les forces et des ressources de la nation pour l'accomplissement des programmes de développement socio-économiques, l'élaboration et la réalisation d'une stratégie nationale, dont la responsabilité concernant son élaboration et sa réalisation revient uniquement à l'Etat considéré. En pratique, cela signifie intensifier l'effort individuel afin de mettre en valeur au maximum les moyens et les ressources techniques et matériels de la société, pour la création d'une industrie moderne et le développement harmonieux de toute l'économie.

En ce sens, nous rappelons les propositions faites par la Roumanie lors de la dernière Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe, afin que soit élaboré, sous l'égide de la FAO, un programme de développement à long terme de l'agriculture des pays en développement, qui comprendrait les recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la Réforme agraire, du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation qui commencera ses travaux à New York dans quelques jours, de la Conférence de l'ONU pour les problèmes des pays les moins développés et de la Stratégie internationale pour la troisième décennie du développement.

Parmi les recommandations que proposera ce Programme, un accent spécial doit être posé sur la mise en pratique dans chaque pays de la propre stratégie du développement de l'agriculture, la réalisation dans les pays en développement d'une infrastructure appropriée, l'amélioration des systèmes agrotechniques en vue de l'obtention de récoltes abondantes, le développement de l'exportation des produits agricoles de la part des pays en développement.

En ce qui nous concerne, nous sommes décidés à agir dans le futur, dans la limite de nos possibilités, en vue de renforcer le rôle et les activités de la FAO pour qu'elle résolve, grâce à des efforts concertés, les problèmes majeurs qui se posent à l'agriculture.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Federal Republic of Germany): Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on the good, clear and informative document CL 83/2 and Suppl. 1 on the current world food situation. This document is particularly suited to provide quick information about the different components making up the food situation. It thus does not only serve as information for a limited group of persons whose task is to keep the world food situation under review, but it can also be used without major changes for the information of a broader public.

My delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for his assessment of the world food situation given us yesterday in his introductory statement in which he drew our attention to particularly striking issues. Delegations will most probably come back to these under different agenda items.

Referring to the three points singled out by M. Islam yesterday in his introductory statement, I should like to say that we fully agree that contributing to the solution of food problems in Africa without neglecting those of other regions is the most urgent task of the international community. We noted with satisfaction that many developing countries stressed so far that the key role for increasing food production and for strengthening food security primarily rests with the developing countries themselves.

With regard to the mentioned acreage reduction programmes pursued by some countries, my delegation holds the view that these programmes might lead to an overall decrease in cereal production but that these decreases would proportionally be much less than one would assume from the areas taken out of use. I think, Mr. Chairman, that the points made on this issue yesterday by Canada, and this morning by the United States, need no further comments.

With regard to the world recession and the direction that the world economy is taking, we agree that there are signs that the recession has bottomed out. My government shares the assessment made at the meeting in Williamsburg, mentioned here in the Council several times, that there are clear signs of recovery, but if this recovery should become more sustained my government feels that every country must spare no effort to first put in order its own house. The government of the Federal Republic of Germany has taken strong and even unpopular financial and other measures affecting almost all sectors of the population in order to foster further economic recovery. Similar plans, Mr. Chairman, -have already been outlined for 1984.

With regard to requests made with a view to extending the grain facility of the International Monetary Fund, my government holds the view that such consideration should take place in the competent forum.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, permit me to recall that the Federal Republic of Germany has since long given high priority to food, agriculture and rural development in its fruitful cooperation with many developing countries in all regions. Despite our economics and financial difficulties we increasingly supported developing countries' own efforts to increase their food production and to further rural development. We were, able, Mr. Chairman, to raise our official development aid to 0.48 percent of our gross national product in 1982. About 27 percent was given in support of agriculture in developing countries. In so doing the government of my country recognized the key role of agriculture for overall development in developing countries.

B. DJIBRIL (Benin): Monsieur le Président, puisque c'est la première fois que ma délégation prend la parole j'en profite pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la Présidence. Ma délégation se réjouit aussi de l'élection du Président du Comité de rédaction et des membres du Comité de rédaction. Elle félicite également le Directeur général de la FAO pour sa déclaration introductive, ainsi que le Prof. Islam pour la présentation de son document qui à notre avis, est très complet et très clair quant au diagnostic posé. Je voudrais souligner que ma délégation fait sien le contenu de ce document, ainsi que le contenu du discours du Directeur général.

Permettez-moi de parler très brièvement des problèmes agricoles qui se posent dans mon pays depuis bientôt six ans. Exportateur de maïs vers les pays limitrophes, mon pays a connu depuis 1976 une série de calamités, sécheresses suivies d'inondations. Heureusement, une accalmie est intervenue au cours de l'année 1981, favorisant une production agricole encourageante. Pour 1983, la production semble être très prometteuse, après un début de saison difficile dû au grand retard accusé par les pluies. Malheureusement, nous prévoyons pour la fin du mois en cours, ou au plus tard pour fin juillet, une attaque massive de sautériots, acridiens qui dévastent toutes les cultures dans la région septentrionale de notre pays.

A cet égard, nous remercions la FAO pour avoir répondu positivement à l'appel de mon pays qui demandait une assistance dans la lutte contre ce fléau.

Je voudrais souligner parallèlement que mon pays a déjà mis en place tous les moyens de lutte à sa disposition, compte tenu de ses ressources. Nous pensons néanmoins que si le fléau est jugulé de façon satisfaisante, la récolte de céréales sur l'ensemble de mon pays sera encourageante.

A. KOBIR SASRADIPOERA (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, it is a great pleasure for the Indonesian delegation to see you again in the Chair guiding the deliberations of the Session. My delegation would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on their election to their posts in the Council. Allow me further to express my delegation's appreciation for the excellent and inspiring statement of the Director-General in which the current world food situation is dealt with in its proper perspective. And finally, words of appreciation should be addressed to Dr. Islam for his brilliant introductory statement.

Having studied the two documents under discussion, we all know that the present world food situation is a complicated one indeed and we concur with the overall assessment contained in page 2 of the document CL 83/2. Allow me, Sir, to briefly present the views of my delegation.

The analysis made by the Secretariat that the food problems confronting the world, particularly the Third World, is of a very complex nature. We discussed the matter many times in the past in the various fora and arrived at general agreement that the long-lasting and primary approach to cope with the problem is in the form of efficient measures to increase food production in the Third World. It is equally true that the food problem cannot be solved through production efforts alone.

The document shows that the achievements in food production increase and building of large food stocks in some parts of the world have not been capable of solving the global food problem. This success in physical terms does not constitute a guarantee for the realisation of world food security.

There are still many difficult problems to be solved first, if hunger and malnutrition are to be eliminated from the world. Problems have also been found in the fields of trade, marketing, conservation, transportation and distribution of food. Under the present circumstances developing countries, in particular the LDC's, are in dire need of external assistance, financial as well as technical, in their desperate efforts to cope with their food problems. The rich countries and others in a position to do so should, in one way or another, render their assistance immediately. The fate of millions of human beings is at stake. The TCDC and ECDC which especially enhance the development of food and agriculture, should be further promoted.

I wish to reflect the sentiments of small farmers who happen to have at their disposal enough arable land. In order to produce food in adequate quantities they need farm inputs at the right time and in sufficient quantities. They need proper guidance on efficient and effective farming, and furthermore they need terms of trade of agricultural products in order to support and expand food and agricultural production.

From the documents we note with concern that the increase in food production has not yet reached the target of 4 percent per annum. The volume of external assistance to agriculture is still far from the internationally agreed estimated requirement of \$8 300 million at 1975 prices. The number of countries affected by abnormal shortages of food is still high. Food aid has basically stagnated during the past five years. The incidence of pests and diseases continues to pose serious problems for food production.

In his statement the Director-General summed up that the world's most urgent problems today are missiles, money and food. We believe that it is commendable to channel assistance and funds to the food and agriculture sector in the Third World to solve basic human problems rather than using the funds for missiles.

J. PEREIRA SILVA (Cap-Vert) : M. le Président, prenant la parole pour la première fois, je veux d'emblée vous féliciter. Nous sommes sûrs que sous votre clairvoyante direction nous trouverons vite les voies pour nous entendre sur l'essentiel de notre ordre du jour.

Ma délégation et moi-même tenons à remercier le Conseil pour la confiance qu'il m'a manifestée en me désignant pour occuper une des vice-présidences de notre Conseil. Mes remerciements sont spécialement adressés à Cuba, au Royaume-Uni et au Brésil. Nous voulons également féliciter ceux qui ont été élus avec nous, et le Président du Comité de rédaction. C'est aussi un devoir de féliciter et de remercier le Dr Saouma pour sa brillante communication d'hier.

La délégation du Cap-Vert a étudié avec la plus grande attention le document CL 83/2, et je dois féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du travail qui a été préparé pour nous, et en particulier le Dr Islam pour la présentation qu'il nous a faite hier.

Ma délégation est en mesure d'apporter son appui total aux vues exprimées dans ce document, puisqu'elles rejoignent de très près ces préoccupations. Nous aimerions néanmoins faire deux ou trois remarques pour renforcer ce qui est dit dans le document en question.

Le rapport nous donne une vision exacte de la situation absurde qui prévaut dans notre monde, où d'un côté les stocks s'accumulent et créent des problèmes à leurs gestionnaires, et de l'autre côté il existe une énorme demande non satisfaite. Nous sommes d'accord avec ceux qui affirment qu'il n'y aura pas de sécurité alimentaire mondiale tant que les pays qui ont faim aujourd'hui ne produiront pas suffisamment d'aliments ou de moyens d'en acheter. C'est-à-dire que pour résoudre le problème de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, il faut résoudre la question du développement, et cela passe par une meilleure redistribution, plus juste, des moyens et des résultats.

Il est absolument nécessaire de renverser les tendances actuelles en matière d'assistance technique, financière, de commerce, etc. Globalement, il faut avancer dans le sens d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial.

Le document nous donne aussi une vision très claire de la situation particulièrement grave que nous vivons en Afrique. Le Cap-Vert appartient à une de ces sous-régions d'Afrique qui souffrent le plus de cette situation difficile, le Sahel. Précisément, pour résoudre leurs problèmes de sécurité alimentaire, les pays du Sahel ont créé une organisation, le Comité inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel, dont la présidence est assurée en ce moment par mon pays.

Je voudrais, avant de terminer, réaffirmer la ferme volonté du Comité inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel de continuer, avec l'appui de la FAO et des divers gouvernements donateurs, à examiner les mesures à prendre pour réaliser notre projet de création de réserves alimentaires nationales et régionales dans le Sahel.

G. ARUBAKIR (Afghanistan): On behalf on my government and my delegation I wish to thank Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of FAO for his efforts and constant attention to those projects

implemented by FAO in my country. It is my duty to appreciate the task of FAO's staff for providing all kinds of help for the success of the projects.

It is quite obvious that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has been and will be a loyal and active member of FAO and of the United Nations. The resolutions and decisions of the FAO and of the United Nations have always been honoured by my country and put into action.

I should now like to describe the agriculture situation in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Afghanistan is a land-locked and agricultural country. Agriculture forms the backbone of our national economy, as 80 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture; 63 to 70 percent of our national income comes from this sector. Agricultural exports bring about 66 percent of our foreign exchange earnings.

Comrade Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and President of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, has stated in one of his recent statements that: "without extensive efforts and expansion in economy it is impossible to achieve better standards of living for the people. This must come from agriculture, industry, commerce, transport, exploitation and construction sector."

Our party and our Government has laid more stress on agriculture and has given topmost priority to it. Due to new operating plans and short-term projects, we have achieved a substantial increase in agricultural production recently. The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform has provided the following services for the farmers through extension services: supply of fertilisers, certified seed, farm machinery, insecticides, herbicides, vaccines and other agricultural services. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan either subsidizes or gives most of these items free. In case of fertilizer it is subsidized and vaccines and other medical treatment for livestock are given free of charge.

As a whole the situation of agriculture and livestock is considered normal and satisfactory throughout the country in 1982. The total food grains produced were 4.5 million tons, of which 2.860 million tons were wheat. A total of 912,000 tons of vegetables and 920,000 tons of fruit were produced. The position of livestock in the country constitutes: cattle and buffalo 3.74 million, sheep 18.9 million, poultry 6.6 million. Of these 4.5 million are Karakul sheep. The produce from livestock includes 848 000 tons of milk, 228,000 tons of meat, 1.5 million Karakul pelts and 54 million eggs.

A urea fertilizer factory with a capacity of 105,000 tons has been established in the northern part of the country by our friendly country, the Soviet Union. At present the application of fertilizers is about 12 percent of the irrigated land which is quite low. The use of fertilizer is increasing year after year. The farmers are getting more conscious about the advantages of the use of fertilizers. We import phosphate, potassium and some compound fertilizer. A total of 114,253 tons of different kinds of fertilizers were used last year. 11,498 tons of wheat seeds and at the value of US\$1.3 million, insecticides, pesticides and other drugs against animal diseases were distributed to the farmers and to the livestock owners, mostly on credit basis.

The Department of Agricultural Research of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform was elevated to the level of Institute of Agricultural Research last year. This institute has conducted 486 experiments in an area of 800 hectares of land on various crops, especially wheat. The Department of Agricultural Extension and Production has established 636 demonstration plots.

Twenty-two new cooperatives for the procurement of agricultural services was established in 1982 and another 16 old cooperatives have been rehabilitated in the country. The Government is providing more and more incentives such as seeds, fertilizer and technical help to this organization as a result of which the voluntary membership has increased considerably.

Our friendly countries, especially the Soviet Union, has taken active part in our agricultural development. For example, the Soviet Union has granted 10,000 tons of improved wheat seeds, 1,000 tons of cotton seeds and 5 tons of sugar beet seeds to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in 1982. Other help includes the Nangarhar Development Project, establishment of agricultural mechanized stations in five provinces, plant protection and helping the livestock and the veterinary departments.

The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan appreciates the FAO/UNDP assistance in financing and executing a number of the on-going projects. The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, being one of the least developed countries greatly needs the continuation of such projects, as well as sanction of new projects in the pipeline for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry in the country.

Once again we are grateful to Mr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of FAO, and his staff for their efforts for the implementation of the projects for the improvement of agriculture in my country.

A. T. KEITA (Observateur pour la Guinée) : M. le Président, je voudrais, à l'instar des distingués représentants qui sont déjà intervenus, exprimer, en tant qu'observateur, les sincères félicitations de mon pays, la République populaire révolutionnaire de Guinée, aux trois nouveaux vice-présidents pour leur élection ainsi que celle relative à la nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction, dont le concours et l'efficacité dans leur savoir-faire seront, j'en suis certain, d'une très grande utilité au bon déroulement de la présente session.

Il m'est aussi agréable de saluer M. le Directeur général de l'Organisation pour sa déclaration si claire et si riche d'informations, qui, j'en suis certain, a retenu de manière soutenue l'attention de toute cette auguste assemblée, tant sont nombreuses et éloquentes les louanges qui lui sont adressées à ce propos depuis hier.

Nous voudrions aussi exprimer notre vive satisfaction pour la qualité du rapport traité avec brio par le Dr Islam, auquel nous accordons notre soutien et notre plein accord.

Il n'est nouveau pour personne que le problème de la faim ne se pose plus tellement en termes de quantités globales disponibles, car de la nourriture il y en a en fait pour tout le monde, mais tout simplement en termes de volonté politique pour une répartition cohérente de ces biens vivriers.

Nous nous réjouissons beaucoup que dans sa dimension mondiale la sécurité alimentaire mondiale soit meilleure aujourd'hui qu'il y a deux ans, et notre désir est de voir s'augmenter plus encore la quote-part issue de l'Afrique en général et plus particulièrement de l'Afrique au sud du Sahara.

Mon pays, la République populaire révolutionnaire de Guinée, a accordé et continue toujours à accorder une place de choix à l'agriculture, considérée par elle comme la pierre angulaire de son développement, et c'est à juste raison que notre gouvernement fournit de grands efforts dans ce sens pour la création de fermes agropastorales d'arrondissement et de coopératives agricoles.

Concernant le choix d'un représentant du groupe africain, vous ne douterez pas, M. le Président, que mon pays fait siennes les déclarations du Président du Groupe africain ainsi que celles des distingués représentants de l'Angola, du Congo, de l'Ethiopie. Nous donnons notre plein soutien à cette très bonne initiative. Nous nous réjouissons beaucoup de ce repli stratégique dont a fait montre hier le groupe latino-américain, symbole d'une bonne volonté de coopération et de collaboration qui a toujours caractérisé l'Afrique.

S. P. MUKERJI (India): I think it a privilege to be able to be here to participate in the 83rd Session of the FAO Council. We are privileged to have an eminent scientist in the field of agriculture like you as Chairman. May I, on behalf of my country and delegation, congratulate Mr. Silva of Cape Verde, Minister of Rural Development, Mr. Hamdi of Egypt and Mr. Sorenson of the United States of America on their assuming the office of Vice-Chairmen of this Council.

I did not have the privilege of being able to be present yesterday to hear the impassioned statement of Dr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of FAO, but I could glance through his written statement today and I could again perceive the same sense of urgency and his earnestness for ameliorating the condition of distress of the developing countries, especially the least developed ones, his concern for food production and for making food that is available accessible to the poor countries, his concern for the extravagance and improvident expenditure that we on this small planet seem to be carrying on constructing engines of war at the cost of increasing food production. These are all known all over the world and Dr. Saouma's appeal to the world community to help the poor countries and by helping the poor helping the world community as such is very well taken and is very well timed at this critical juncture of the world food situation.

One is intrigued by the paradox of the present situation where the world is having the highest stocks of food grains which is assessed to be 21 percent of the world's annual consumption and yet there are many parts of the world where people are on the brink of starvation. I would not repeat the various statistics and figures which occur umpteen times on the pages of the various documents which have been circulated but suffice it to say that the condition in the developing countries, and particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries is going from bad to worse. It has been estimated that as many as 33 out of 69 low-income food-deficit countries have a situation where the per capita availability of food grain has declined. There are many countries where the food production has declined, not only in per capita terms but also in absolute terms. Apart from that the purchasing power of the developing countries in terms of foreign exchange to make up the deficit by importing food from other countries is also deteriorating because of the terms of trade going against them. The low income groups' export earnings during the last few years has dropped by 60 percent and to cap it all the policy of protectionism which is being followed by the developed countries is again acting against the developing countries. But, may I submit that this policy of protectionism that is being followed is ultimately counterproductive, not only for the developing countries, but for the developed countries themselves because if by this policy of protectionism the foreign exchange earnings and resources of the developing countries are reduced to that extent their capacity to import food grains from the developed countries is also reduced and like the boomerang this protectionist policy recoils on the developed countries themselves in terms of low exports because of the low purchasing power of the food importing countries.

Ultimately the farmers in the developed countries of the U.S.A. and Canada and other countries may suffer because the developing countries' purchasing power is being reduced gradually because of the low export performance. Therefore I feel that when we talk of food security for the developing countries we must take into account two main pillars of that policy. One is increasing production of the developing countries, as also of the developed countries. The other one, which is very important, is maintaining and stabilizing the purchasing power of the developing countries so that they are able to make good the shortfall in food production by importing foodgrains from the developed areas.

What is happening in a global scenario is being repeated even in a country scenario, where in a country like India there are pockets of productivity in foodgrains which in degree and excellence exceed the productivity level of some of the most agriculturally developed countries in the world, like Punjab, where the fertilizer consumption today is 120 kgs. per hectare, yet there are certain pockets of India where the fertilizer consumption is hardly 5-10 kgs. per hectare and food production is very low. Therefore people in these low-productivity areas will have to depend upon states like Punjab, Haryana and U.P., where productivity is high and the national governments' policy is not only to transfer foodgrains from the high productivity area to the low productivity area but also, what is very important, to inject purchasing power in the low production areas so that people are able to get employment and purchase foodgrains which are made available to them through the public distribution system. The same policy will have to be applied and adopted in a global situation - that is, the transfer of foodgrains from the developed to the developing areas will have to be accompanied by a method of increasing the purchasing power of the low productivity area by their export earnings.

The situation in the global scenario in so far as food production is concerned may be better, yet there are certain aspects which may cast a shadow on the situation of food availability to the developing areas. Therefore my delegation would very earnestly urge upon the international community through this forum and plead that the food aid target of 10 million tonnes should not only be attained but exceeded and kept at 20 million tonnes by 1985. Likewise the emergency food reserve target of 500,000 tonnes will have to be increased to at least 700,000 tonnes in order to meet the minimum requirements of the developing areas. For the World Food Programme, which is doing sterling service to the cause of the downtrodden and the poor, their biennial resources will also have to be increased from the present level of \$ 1200 million.

I will close with a few statements in so far as India's performance in the field of agriculture is concerned. 1982 was one of the severest drought years of the century. About 40 million hectares were affected by drought and more than 200 million people were affected and we lost during the last monsoon period about 8 to 10 million tonnes of foodgrains. But thanks to the efforts of the farmers and the government we launched what is known as a compensatory food production programme for the winter crop. If I may recall, Mr. Chairman, while you were Secretary to the Government of India a few years ago it was at your instance that this particular strategy, compensatory food production programme, was launched. This was repeated this year with great enthusiasm by the states. I am very happy to say that because of the conscious and deliberate programmes taken up we have been able to achieve in spite of the drought and untimely rains in April/May this year a record wheat production. Yesterday we estimated that our wheat production during this spring has excelled all previous records and we have harvested 41.5 million tonnes of wheat this year, which is 10 percent more than the highest production of last year of 37.8 million tonnes. This gives us the heart and the hope that with a deliberate and conscious attempt by the people and the government, no matter what may be the degree of calamity, we have the wherewithal through technology and efforts, to give strength and resilience to agriculture in various parts of the world.

It was at the instance of our Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and her 20-point programme that a great push on dryland farming and irrigated farming was given and as a result of that we could harvest a record wheat production this year in spite of very aberrant weather conditions. It was at her instance that a massive programme of assisting the small and marginal farmers in increasing agricultural production was launched with a governmental outlay of \$250 million in one year, which has to be supplemented by institutional finance, bank finance, of about \$500 million. The total outlay would be about \$750 million on agricultural production - an outlay which will be going to help the small and marginal farmers in developing their lands and helping to install irrigation pumps and so on. We feel that with such projects our productivity in agriculture will take long strides.

I will not take more of your time, Mr. Chairman, but what we are doing in India and what we have achieved in India gives us the hope that other developing countries also by their own efforts, by straining at their own bootstraps, and with collaboration amongst developing countries and with the cooperation of the developed countries I can make the future of world agriculture very bright. What is needed is determination and a sense of global cooperation and regional cooperation amongst all the countries of the world.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): We are very grateful to the delegates for their comments and suggestions on the Secretariat document on the World Food Situation. We have taken careful note of their comments and hope that these comments will be of great use to us in our future work. I will confine myself here to answering a few of the questions raised in the course of the debate.

One question was raised early in the debate as to what FAO is doing in implementing in terms of its own activities the WCARRD Programme of Action. I would like to point out here that the follow-up of the WCARRD Programme of Action is one of the main priority areas of activity in the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO both in the last biennium and in the current one.

Internally the Director-General has established an interdepartmental committee to oversee and stimulate and coordinate the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action in terms of FAO's own activities both at headquarters and in the field.

We have already established or formulated a set of operational guidelines which will help both FAO staff and the people in the field and also the member countries in applying the WCARRD principles and programmes in the formulation of programmes and projects.

Secondly, there is a continuous effort to reorient the staff of FAO towards the objectives of the Programme of Action. This year at the FAO Conference in November the Conference will have the first report on the progress of the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action at the country level as well as at the level of international community action, including FAO's activities. In order to prepare for this report we have already undertaken a large number of indepth studies at the country level in addition to various intercountry and interagency consultations held both at the headquarters and the regional levels. This is one of a series of reports which will be submitted to the FAO Conference every other biennium, as was decided by the WCARRD Conference.

A question was raised about a statement or analysis in the document about the fall in the world price of fertilizer and its impact on the domestic cost of production in developing countries. Several delegates have rightly emphasized, including Pakistan, that despite a fall in the world price of fertilizer, its effect on the domestic farm food producers is severely limited in those countries where fertilizer which was previously subsidized faced a reduction in subsidy; so the domestic price of fertilizers could in fact have risen while the world price might have fallen. But these are cases in which the impact in the fall of world prices could not be transmitted to the domestic producers. It is in this context that several suggestions were made that there is a greater need than ever before for the international fertilizer scheme to come to the assistance of low-income countries, especially in Africa.

A remark was made that in the analysis of per capita food supply a deeper analysis of population problems is needed. After all, the analysis of food supply and consumption could be elaborated and enriched relating it to and putting it in the context of population increase in developing countries.

Several years ago we published a number of documents relating to this particular problem. After all, the interrelationships of population and food supply do not change every year. We hope that in the near future we might be publishing, or including in the State of Food and Agriculture, a special chapter on population, urbanization and agriculture interrelationships.

Trans-national corporations : several delegates have referred to the role of trans-national corporations in the field of food production, distribution, processing and marketing. This is indeed a relevant field for investigation. The United Nations Centre for Trans-National Corporations does undertake studies of this kind. If I remember correctly, every five years the Centre publishes a comprehensive report of the activities of trans-national corporations sector by sector, including the sector food and agriculture. We will be getting in touch with them to explore how this analysis especially relating to food and agriculture could be further elaborated and strengthened or enlarged. As many of the delegates will be aware, this is an area in which access to data is a very basic problem. In addition to the UN centre UNCTAD as well as UNIDO to a certain amount of work, one relating to the transfer of technology and the other relating to agro-industry. So we will be in touch with them relating to studies in this area.

Suggestions have been made that in our report on the World Food Situation we should undertake country-by-country analyses of the food situation. This of course will be a very large undertaking. Apart from the fact that it cannot be accommodated within the limits of the documents that are submitted to the Council, it will involve a very high resource intensive activity to include an analysis of each of the countries in a document of this kind. But we do undertake country-by-country analyses in various other ways. First, we have our country reference files and these are used for our programming and project work at the country level.

Secondly, as a part of the study of Agriculture Towards 2000, we have done for each of the individual 90 developing countries very detailed country analysis, and we have sent a sort of computer printout of the data to each of the countries for their comments. But in our State of Food and Agriculture, the annual publication, we do cover the regional analysis in terms of analyses of food and agriculture problems, issues, the performance relating to each region, because analysis for each individual country in a document of this kind would also be an impossible exercise.

Of course, the appendix to the State of Food and Agriculture has data relating to individual countries but not comprehensive analysis of the type that is being suggested.

While commenting on the Secretariat analysis of the flow of external resources to agriculture, comments are made that detailed analyses should also be made on domestic resources invested in agriculture. As the distinguished delegates are aware, FAO is engaged in collecting and analyzing data on this particular subject, and I have explained on other occasions in the past how difficult, how time-consuming this exercise is, partly because the data at the country level in developing countries are very scarce, and the statistical system of these countries is not geared to generating this kind of data. It is a new statistical exercise by itself. We have over the years now made a systematic attempt to collect some amount of this data in cooperation with developing country governments and have obtained through joint efforts some comparable data on current and capital expenditures allocated in the government budget to agriculture during the five years 1978 to 1982. These data are now currently undergoing processing, and preliminary results will be finalized by the end of this year.

Out of the 93 countries contacted, 75 participated in this programme of data collecting on public expenditures in agriculture. We have limited ourselves to public expenditures in agriculture, since any attempt to collect private expenditure we realize will be only met with total failure. Data received covered nearly 57 countries, both general government and public sector expenditure. From preliminary findings, I can report to you that there have been wide variations in the expansion of public sector expenditures in agriculture during this period. This is based on 57 countries for which we could collect comparable data, in many of these countries there has been a growth in public sector expenditures in agriculture in the past 5 years in the period covered in the study.

Several delegates have urged the strengthening of FAO's work in assisting developing countries in their building of agricultural statistical and informational systems. This is indeed an important area of activity of FAO to assist developing countries in setting up statistical systems relating to food and agriculture.

In this context, I would like to mention to you that our recent effort to develop a system of socioeconomic indicators which is associated with our work for WCARRD follow-up. We have undertaken an 18-country pilot study on socio-economic indicators, and these studies are further discussed in four regional expert consultations. Now we have prepared a preliminary set of guidelines for use by Member countries in developing reports on socio-economic indicators relating to their countries. We are now engaged in developing in-depth programme guidelines for the development and implementation of country programmes for monitoring and evaluating agrarian reform and rural development using socio-economic indicators. This is in addition to the work we do for world census of agriculture, the next one in 1990, and also for collection of food and agriculture statistics through household service which emphasize the need for basic data required for socio-economic analysis.

This is all I have to say, Mr. Chairman, at this stage.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Prof. Islam. Is there any delegate who needs any further information from Prof. Islam at this stage? Of course, he will be introducing the next item also which is somewhat overlapping in terms of food security and the food situation, so if you have any other questions, you can always ask later.

Before we leave this item, may I add my own words to yours, my words of gratitude, appreciation to FAO, to the Director-General, to Prof. Islam and his colleagues for this exceedingly valuable service FAO is rendering, namely, to collect statistics. In spite of diverse viewpoints, I did not hear any dissenting voice in relation to the credibility of the information which was given and which is a very important contribution in having some statistics which will give us some guidelines for policy formulation and also an appreciation of the global situation. This is an exceedingly important service, and the two documents which have been given to us are precise, concise and pregnant with lots of ideas for further action.

From all the interventions made as well as Prof. Islam's introductory remarks, it is obvious as in any other field of human endeavour, there is in this area of food both darkness and light. Darkness and light always alternate in our lives, but here is darkness which we all abhor and which we would like to remove as soon as possible, namely, the darkness in the lives of millions of people who have to go to bed hungry. I agree with those who said that we have been talking about this but we have not been able to remove this darkness in spite of the very powerful light we see, and this document of Prof. Islam more than at any other time before brings out clearly the light we have open today, the great capacity to produce more food. We have seen what power science and technology have conferred on developed countries for converting their agricultural assets into agricultural products, their natural assets into agricultural products.

We heard several intervention today which show how the farmers, even though you reduce the area, are producing more. Whatever you may do, they produce more, and one has only to sustain their enthusiasm. As the delegate of China said, by combining production with payment, you try to sustain their interest in farming.

So then the challenge, I think, before FAO or before all national governments is how to use this light or the ability to produce more food fairly rapidly. I think it is not only the developed countries but many developing countries which have intervened today and yesterday which have shown how through an appropriate package of services, like input supply, and of public policies in terms of resource allocation, in terms of input-output pricing policies and in terms of agrarian reform and the stimulus given to farmers, how many developing countries have really achieved more than what was achieved for centuries. In fact, in Asia the farmers of China, India and many other countries are called farmers of 50 centuries. In other words, for 50 centuries they have been cultivating the land, but if you look at the statistics of Dr. Islam and others, you will find that the progress made in increasing production in the last 20 years in many of these countries transcends the progress made in the previous 5000 years. So herein is this light, herein is this hope, and I think in our subsequent deliberations, we do hope we can try to broaden this light, the circumference of this light and narrow the circumference of darkness, and if we can do this also by terms of statistics by trying to measure how far we have spread light and how far we have reduced darkness, it will be a great contribution.

I think all the interventions as well as the FAO document have pointed out that for achieving this, we require many things, but above all, three primary rules of action: one, of course, action to stimulate production, as Dr. Saouma said, and action to stimulate or facilitate or enable consumption by the rural or urban poor, and thirdly, steps to stabilize population at levels which can promote sustainable development in the respective countries. This again is a concept which will vary at what level we want to stabilize population, it will vary from country to country, but what is important is to have a population policy which will permit sustainable development over a period of time.

Among the factors which have been mentioned by Prof. Islam and many delegates here, I consider the most serious are two major factors impeding production or the desired growth rates in many developing countries. One is the growing scarcity of capital required for the modernization of agriculture. The modernization of agriculture means purchased inputs, the use of purchased inputs, land development and so on. This requires money, and it is rather unfortunate for reasons which have been mentioned here frequently that the resources required for the modernization of agriculture in many developing countries is tending to go down, become scarce, and I think something ought to be done.

The other aspect I think which requires much greater attention and which has been alluded to is this whole area of small farm management. The farm size is going down and down. In fact, in many countries of the Far East you will find that there is no difference today between cultivated area and cultivable area. In other words, they are practically the same. Hence, small farmers who face so many problems are unable to produce more from diminishing land resources. This then requires a considerable amount of effort in management, in small farm management, both in individual management, group management and so on, and this I think again is within the country's own competence to look into what kind of management policies they want to promote, in other words, to help farmers to help the country. That is really the task of trying to help to improve management.

Now I would only like to request Prof. Islam that in these documents it would be useful, taking a cue from his own analysis of Agriculture at 2000, to introduce a separate sub-heading on irrigation - there is something on fertilizer, there is something on inputs - because the FAO document on Agriculture at 2000 places a lot of emphasis on irrigation, and today we know all over the world developing countries in particular are making major investments in irrigation. One would like to know, what progress is made year after year in bringing more land under irrigation, and simultaneously, I would like the data not only in terms of more area under irrigation but also area lost as a result of salinisation, as a result of waterlogging, improper irrigation efforts, and also due to urbanization and industrialization. FAO has one of the best divisions in the world on land

and water and with the World Soil Charter we should be able to measure progress in land conservation for farming and water management. This document in my view will be of great value to policy makers because most of them do not realize the enormous amount of soil which we are losing all the time and also the land which is going out of cultivation due to lack of policies preventing good agricultural land being diverted for other purposes. We cannot have a rigid rule but nevertheless I think that every government can have a policy of safeguarding the land, because one thing that we have learned from all the space exploration is that as far as we know and as far as humankind exists, we will have to depend on Mother Earth for producing the food we require. In other words, then, with inelastic soil resources, it is important that we conserve them, and it would be useful to have this irrigation data, because irrigation also provides an opportunity for what the delegate from India said of compensatory programmes, drought management strategies, some kind of mitigation efforts become possible when we have a little water somewhere, whether conserved as a result of dry farming practices, through watershed management or by other methods. This then will make the early warning of FAO more meaningful. The early warning system of FAO is of very great service in the global food situation, but - and some of you might have heard me - I have repeatedly said what is the purpose of early warning? There is a saying that forewarned is forearmed. Now are we going to arm ourselves when there is a warning? Otherwise it becomes a piece of a document that goes round the world and the newspapers reproduce it. But I think it is important that while FAO has discussed this global service of early warning, national governments should give a corresponding service to their own public and farmers by timely action. In other words the capacity to analyze an early warning with reference to its implication and convert it into an action plan for timely action. This would then help us to convert a calamity into an opportunity, and I would hope that we would be growing in competence in terms of weather predications. I have seen a very close correspondence in the last few years between many predictions and what has really happened, and with the gaining in capacity to further techniques of forecasting it is important that we have in terms of global food scenario, we have this ability to combine early warning with timely action. Finally, I think it is important in our own deliberations as well as in strategies to make a distinction between steps to increase production and steps to eliminate hunger. We know that historians of famous famines over the centuries starting from Roman days have shown that in many famines - quite frequently I would say - most of the starvation deaths coming from lack of food are preventable and are largely under human control. As Professor Amartya Sen of Oxford who has made an analysis of the major famines of this century, again and again points out that had there been a will, hunger deaths could have been avoided. Therefore a hunger elimination strategy and a food production strategy are both of great importance to every country that is having a problem of hunger. It is my personal conviction that if there is a will to avoid hunger, there is a great opportunity to see that nobody goes to bed hungry, because the reserves are there in the world, and many statements have been made about them; there is a great opportunity. I recall the plea of President Kenneth Kaunda a couple of years ago when he delivered the McDougall lecture about the need for a hunger elimination treaty. I think in our deliberations this whole question of hunger avoidance and food production have to be discussed separately since the action needed at the political level will be different. Stepping up food production in poor countries may still take some time. But hunger can be avoided immediately through a global Food for Development Programme for able bodied persons and a Food for Nutrition Programme for young children, old and infirm persons and pregnant and nursing mothers.

I am glad that we have had this extensive discussion. Thirty-five countries - 34 Council members and one observer - have intervened in this debate yesterday and today. I think it has laid a sort of framework and I am glad so many delegates participated in this debate because this really provides the foundation for our further deliberations, particularly the next item on food security.

5. Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 13-20 April 1983)
5. Rapport de la huitième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 13-20 avril 1983)
5. Informe del octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 13-20 de abril de 1983)

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economie and Social Policy Department) : It gives me great pleasure to introduce the report of the Eight Session of the Committee on Food Security which was held in Rome in April under the chairmanship of Mr. Muir of Australia.

The Council will note on page 2 of the report that its attention is drawn in particular to three main items. First, the Committee's assessment of the world food security situation, (2) the Committee's review of the Director-General's report on the concepts and approaches to world food security, and (3) the Committee's consideration of the constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries of Africa.

As regards the assessment of the world food security situation the Committee has already examined these issues in detail under the item just completed. The Committee also reviewed the progress made in implementing the plan of action on world food security. It considered that this plan was still valid and important, and recognized that a number of national, regional and international measures had been taken. The Committee concluded however that the implementation of the principles of the plan of action remained partial and there has been only limited progress since the last session of the Committee.

The Committee welcomed however the recent action taken to foster further self-reliance in food security in line with Point V of the Plan of Action, and it appreciated the support provided by FAO to these efforts in a number of regions and sub-regions including CILSS, SADCC and SELA.

The main new policy matter before the Committee was however the Director-General's report on world food security. The members will recall that the Council at its Eighty-second Session had already welcomed his intention to prepare this report, which it considered was a timely initiative arising out of serious concern for the limited progress made relative to the magnitude of the world food security problem. I am sure I do not need to go into detail on the contents of the Director-General's report. Members will be aware that it proposed a revised concept of world food security and suggested a wide range of possible measures for improving the world food security system at national, regional and local levels, including measures to be taken by FAO,

As regards institutional implications, the report forecasts mainly on ways of strengthening and clarifying the role of the Committee on food security. The Committee felt that analyses corresponded both to the seriousness and complexity of the problem, and thus to the primary place given in the report to increased food production within the framework of national food security programmes, backed up by regional and global arrangements. The Committee however was not able to consider adequately at a single session all aspects of the report, and some delegates indicated they would take the opportunity to express their position on some points during future sessions.

In revealing developments since the world food crisis in 1974 the Committee was in total agreement with the Director-General's assessment. It concluded that although a number of measures had been taken which had strengthened world food security, the results fell far short of expectations and needs. Only a start had been made in building up the policies and the mechanisms in order to obtain world food security. The Committee recognized that the conceptual framework of world food security had been expanded over the past decade. It could thus include very broad issues relating to agricultural and rural development, food production, adequate access and international trade. It agreed that action should be directed towards three specific aims, (1) adequacy of food supplies and production, (2) stability in food supplies and markets, and (3) security of access to supplies. It also agreed that action should cover all basic foodstuffs necessary for health, including roots, tubers and pulses in addition to food grain. On this basis it adopted and revised in a broader concept of food security as viewed from a global perspective, and in a broad institutional context. The Committee on Food Security recognized that the new concept which is contained in paragraph 43 of the report did not of itself have the constitutional or the jurisdictional implications, nor prejudice possible measures to be adopted by CFS or other fora.

The Committee also reached agreement on measures that occurred at national and regional levels. It agreed that action at national levels provided an indispensable basis for increased food security, especially for low-income food-deficit countries. It agreed on the need for developing countries to evolve national food security programme systems or strategies. It also agreed the high priority for increasing food production would need to be backed up by allocation of sufficient resources to food crops, and underlined the need for external systems to supplement domestic resources.

It further emphasized the need for adequate incentives for farmers, with special emphasis on the small farmers, and on the need for national preparedness programmes to cope with year-to-year fluctuations in crops and disasters. The Committee considered that such national measures could be complemented by regional and sub-regional action within the framework of the guidelines which had been considered at its previous session.

In this connection the Committee welcomed the recent establishment of the Action Committee on Regional Food Security within the framework of the Latin American economic system. As regards measures at the global level the Committee gave a first reading to a number of wide-ranging proposals, and the views of delegations are noted in its report at some length. On some of these proposals there was general agreement. On several others there were diverging views with some delegates supporting the proposals and others opposing them. In a number of instances many delegates felt that the proposals should be further elaborated for future consideration by the Committee.

Turning to possible measures by FAO the Committee considered that all efforts should be made to bring the Organization's limited resources to bear efficiently on the food security problems of developing countries. There was considerable interest in the Director-General's proposal that the food security action programme could be established for this purpose. The delegates raised a number of questions and the Committee as a whole considered that the proposal needed further review and clarification. The Committee also took note of the Director-General's proposal for a special rural food security fund as well as for a world food security complex. Once again the views of delegates are noted in the report. There was, Mr. Chairman, an animated debate on ways to enhance the functions of the Committee on World Food Security. There was wide support for a range of strengthening of the CFS within the existing mandate. In particular, there was general agreement that the Committee should overview progress in accelerating food production and support ECDC and TCDC in food production and trade as well as regional and sub-regional cooperation.

On several other aspects, however, divergent views are expressed. The Committee nonetheless agreed on the need for closer cooperation, coordination and working relations between international organizations dealing with various aspects of world food security as well as on the desirability of establishing a fair understanding under the respective roles of the various bodies.

On the whole the Committee recalled that the Director-General's report should be followed up at subsequent sessions, and agreed to the approach set out in paragraph 90 of this report. The Director-General indicated that in a further report on this subject to the next session of CFS he would take into account the comments and suggestions made by the Committee members as well as the reaction of the Council and the Conference.

I now turn to the Committee's discussion on African food production problems. As decided at its Seventh Session, the Committee gave special consideration to the constraints in food production in low-income food-deficit countries in Africa. There was a frank and wide-ranging exchange of views on these problems. They were recognized complex and a number of positive suggestions were made for improving the situation, both on the national and international levels. I would not enter into this discussion in detail but stress that the Committee agreed that efforts to relieve the serious constraints on African food production should be based on zones of priorities by the African governments themselves. It was suggested that priorities should be grouped into four main areas, including training, research, delivery systems and institutional developments. It was unanimously agreed that African food production problems should be kept under review at future sessions, keeping in mind the responsibilities of other FAO technical bodies, especially the Committee on Agriculture. The Director-General was requested to prepare a second report on the subject for the Ninth Session of the CFS which would focus on some selected themes and would also outline possible follow-up action to be considered on a future occasion.

Finally, the Committee discussed ways of increasing the flow of resources for food security programmes. In this connection it confirmed its support for the activities of FAO Food Security Assistance Scheme. Also, it noted its concern that several projects developed under this Scheme remained to be financed. On the whole this Session of the Committee was an important function which reconsidered major policy issues affecting world food security and the way in which the international community could tackle these critical problems in the years to come. It agreed to a new and broader concept of food security. It began a detailed survey of production problems in Africa.

The Council will no doubt appreciate that in many aspects the Committee has not concluded its discussions. Several of the Director-General's proposals are of a preliminary nature which will need to be followed up in future sessions of the Committee. As the Director-General has mentioned in his opening statement, he thinks that the Committee on World Food Security has made a good start in reappraising the concepts and approaches to world food security. He hopes that the Council will approve the Report of the Committee and endorse the revised concepts and more generally provide guidance for further work on this important subject in the years to come.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for this very lucid statement, Professor Islam. We will start the discussion in the afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours.

La seance est levée à 12 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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CL

CL 83/PV/4

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(14 June 1983)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président
indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente
independiente 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 Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 13-20 April 1983) (continued)
- 5. Rapport de la huitième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 13-20 avril 1983)(suite)
- 5. Informe del octavo periodo de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 13-20 de abril de 1983)(continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We resume our debate on item 5.

Ms. M. RAVN (Norway): On this occasion I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, and I would like to thank Dr. Islam for his interesting introduction to this item this morning.

The last meeting of the Committee on World Food Security was an important meeting. Indeed, as the discussion under the previous item has shown, the food situation in a number of developing countries, especially in Africa, has become increasingly bleak and the problems to be solved are extremely complex. Against this background the Nordic delegations welcome the report on the Food Security and the fact that through compromise and good will the report was adopted by consensus.

As is rightly pointed out by the Director-General in his opening statement, the main item on the Committee's agenda was the report of the Director-General on World Food Security; a Reappraisal of the Concepts and Approaches. The Nordic delegations were pleased to join in the consensus of a broadened and revised concept of world food security with the ultimate objective of ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. The Committee also agreed on a wide range of specific measures on the national and regional levels in order to give the new concept a concrete form and which we fully support. Our delegations further supported the idea of gathering the different existing technical FAO programmes related to food security under the umbrella of our food security action programme.

On the wide range of proposals at global level the Committee however was not in a position to agree. Some delegations felt that a number of the proposals fell outside the scope of the Committee whereas others felt the need for further clarification. The FAO and the Director-General have been given the task of following up the various proposals of the subsequent meeting of the CFS and modifying them in the light of the comments made and suggestions made by the CFS.

The Nordic delegations would strongly support the Committee's recommendation that further efforts on the global level be concentrated on those areas where a consensus seemed feasible in the near future.

Our delegations would welcome the strengthening of the Committee on World Food Security in the technical field within the Committee's existing terms of reference which we feel are broad enough for the strengthening of the work of the Committee. We are ready to continue the discussion of all outstanding issues at further sessions of the CFS.

During the debate in the Committee on World Food Security many delegations raised the question of coordination and cooperation among the organizations in the UN system dealing with food and agriculture. This question has also been raised in recent meetings of other international organizations. The Nordic delegations are of the opinion that the terms of reference of these organizations constitute an adequate framework for a smooth functioning of inter-agency relations at headquarter level as well as in the field. We regret that valuable time has been spent on this issue in recent meetings, taking attention away from the substantial and serious problems of food and agriculture that we are all trying to solve. The Nordic delegations therefore urge all the agencies involved to cooperate and coordinate their activities so as to avoid duplication and maximize efforts and resources in our ultimate goal of securing food security for all.

Cooperation is always a two-way exercise. It needs mutual respect and willingness to compromise.

Before concluding my statement I would like to make a few brief comments on the Committee's discussion on the constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries of Africa. The Nordic delegations were most pleased with the very useful document which the Secretariat had prepared and it was well received by all members of the Committee. Our delegations fully support the priorities for follow-up activities at national regional levels in the field of training, research, delivery systems and institutional development, priorities which were proposed by the

African countries themselves and adopted by the Committee. We would encourage our African colleagues to continue to elaborate concrete follow-up measures to improve the food and agriculture situations in their countries, which could also form the basis for external assistance and cooperation.

TESSEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): Being a member of the CFS, and having fully participated in the deliberations of the Eighth Session of the Committee, my delegation fully supports the report as contained in the document before us - CL 83/10. While endorsing the report as a whole, we wish to highlight some of the points that we believe deserve further emphasis.

Although we cherish the current large increase of food supplies at the global level, latest food and agriculture information carries a warning signal that world food production and 1983/84 carry-over stocks could decline, falling below what is considered the minimum recommended safe level. This decline is attributed primarily to the steps taken by some developed nations to cut back in production under the pretext of "protecting their farmers against falling prices". This, coupled with heavily subsidized exports on the one hand and undue import restrictions on the other, simply aggravates the food security problem of developing food-deficit countries.

Cutbacks in production, export subsidies and import restrictions are nothing more than the reflection of introvert policies and directions, a trend which is contrary to the principle of global interdependence.

It is not a rare occurrence that developing countries face a very tight choice of whether to use their scarce foreign exchange to import food items to save the lives of the hungry and malnourished sector of their population, or import goods essential for development. Here it should be noted that one is as important as the other and the choice between the two alternatives is governed by the magnitude and extent of the prevailing problem in either case. Thus, if we had not made proper use of current surpluses it is due mainly to this obvious reason.

We thus call for a spirit of understanding and positive change in the policies of our development partners in order to contribute to a lasting and stable solution to the problem of food and agriculture in developing countries. Short of this, as put by the Director-General of FAO, and quoted this morning by a delegate, "These short-term and uncoordinated remedies are bound in the long run to curtail food availability and could lead to destabilization of markets and a resumption of the surplus/shortage cycle evident over the past decade."

There is every reason to believe that we are heading towards this surplus/shortage cycle. In response to the legislative measures and incentives introduced by the Government of the United States, wheat area to be harvested in 1983 is expected to fall by 7 million hectares or 23 percent. For coarse grains the official expectation is a decline by more than 11 million hectares or 26 percent. On top of this, according to FAO Global Information and Early Warning System, "Spring crops are less than satisfactory as progress in Canada and the United States and in some countries in Western Europe is hampered by excessive wet weather. In the southern hemisphere where the harvesting of coarse grains is in progress, most countries in southern Africa will have a sharply reduced output, due to drought, and are threatened by serious food shortages, whereas the recent disastrous floods in several South American countries are not expected to compromise cereal production prospects to a marked extent."

This clearly shows the fears indicated by the Director-General and the precarious situation of food supplies in the coming years.

In the same way the Ethiopian delegation wishes to re-emphasize the following points relevant to the problem of world food security.

1. In view of the critical situation of food and agriculture in developing countries, food aid remains an essential component of development aid. It provides a guarantee of survival and serves as an instrument for development. As outlined by various delegates in their interventions this morning and yesterday, while food imports by developing countries have escalated tremendously in the past few years, food aid has dwindled sharply. This is a very disconcerting trend, particularly in the face of ample supplies in the main donor countries. Can these surpluses not be mobilized for constructive use in promoting development, meeting emergency needs and building reserves against future shortages, instead of introducing legislative measures that would only further global food crises?

We do sympathize with the economic problems facing our development partners. We fully understand their position. But our appeal is based on the question of relativity. On our part, our ability to meet our escalating import needs is limited by growing financial constraints, particularly J foreign exchange. Our ability to achieve self-sufficiency through increased production is limited by a host of other factors. These are all clear to our development partners. It is with this clear understanding of each others' positions that we renew our appeal for improved food aid and

financial assistance in order to relieve, if not to alleviate, the food security problem of developing countries.

While discussing food aid, I would like to cite the example of Australia, a traditional surplus producer, who had to revert to purchases of food items from external sources in the face of unprecedented drought facing the country in order to meet their food aid commitment. We applaud with the highest of appreciation the positive steps taken by the government of Australia which we deem is worthy of emulation.

2. We refer to an agreement between the major grain producers and consumers to coordinate their action to build up national reserves during periods of ample supplies. As can be seen, such a cooperative action does not seem forthcoming. With regret, we again urge developed nations for a renewed determination to positively contribute towards this effort. We also reiterate our strong support for pre-positioning of stocks in strategic locations, as recommended by the World Food Conference. We urge that excessive concentration of stocks in a few geographical areas or countries be corrected, and request that they be placed in, or close to, where they are most needed. The reasons are obvious and I do not think I need to make any elaboration.

3. On the question of trade, most sources of global information indicate that developing countries are forced to carry an unfair burden of trade relations with developed countries. We are in a position where we will have to pay many times more for what we import compared to what we earn by exporting raw materials. To this must be added the negative effect of export subsidies, regulatory production control, import restrictions and steady fluctuation of currencies. We thus urge for a liberalization of trade, as presented in paragraph 64 of the document before us,

4. The continuous increase in the number of refugees necessitates special attention. People classified as refugees or those who are displaced from their normal abode due to natural disasters or man-made causes claim high doses of international assistance which would have otherwise been used for development purposes. Thus, noting a rapid increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons, we strongly support the establishment of a separate emergency reserve for refugees and/or displaced persons due to natural disasters or man-made causes.

5. We fully support the revised concept of world food security as outlined in the report of the Director-General, namely: ensuring adequacy of food supplies, maintaining supply stability, and ensuring access of supplies to all consumers.

6. While analysing the world food security situation I shall be failing in my duty if I fail to mention the important role of WFP in dealing with this global problem. The Programme has played a highly commendable role by assisting developing nations build national food reserves and meet emergency relief. Although we shall come to the details of the activities of the Programme later under a separate agenda item, I wish to put on record the appreciation of my delegation for the commendable job done by the World Food Programme in relation to world food security.

7. A large number of UN agencies deal with the problem of world food security. Although each has its own mandate and terms of reference, the ultimate objective and aspiration of all are to help the needy ones to achieve self-sufficiency in food and agriculture. As such, harmonious relations, coordinated actions and efforts should be expected. However, the present atmosphere of relations between some of these agencies does not seem healthy. We thus call upon all concerned for a closer cooperation and for coordination of activities so that they could effectively contribute to the causes of development.

8. At the last CFS meeting the African group, fully supported by other members of the Committee, had indicated priority areas that demand action to relieve Africa's current problem in food and agriculture as: training, research, delivery system and institutional development. In response to this call and in line with resolution 4/82 of the Regional Conference for Africa, held in Algiers, FAO had already taken a preliminary step to conduct a survey or assessment on the trained manpower needs of the region. Questionnaires have already been sent to the various capitals of Africa. The Director-General has formed a task-force to assist in compiling the necessary information.

This is a very gratifying step on the part of FAO, and I wish to convey my sincere appreciation for the prompt response given by the Director-General and his staff to the call made by the representatives of Africa. We look forward to seeing more tangible further steps and results.

The problem of food and agriculture in Africa has been given prominence and every emphasis that can be accorded in every agenda at all international fora. A lot has been written and dozens of resolutions and declarations passed urging for priority and special attention to the problem of Africa. But if we are to reconcile these resolutions and/or declarations with what actually comes out of them in real terms the results are rather saddening. That is why we tend to applaud positive steps and prompt actions like this one.

We request the Council to endorse these priority areas and commend the Director-General and his staff for the prompt action taken. We also request the Director-General to report periodically to the Council as well as to other relevant fora of FAO on the progress made and results achieved.

A.A. KHALIL (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): Our country gives great attention to this subject because food security has great incidence on the future of developing countries and of the relations between developing and developed countries. This matter also comes within FAO's concerns, and FAO is now analyzing all the proposals and guidelines to help Member Countries of this Organization.

First, in the name of my delegation I would like to congratulate the CFS on the document which we are studying, CL 83/10, and which deals with the subject and all its facets. We would also like to congratulate the Director-General on his document which was the basis for the Eighth Session of the Committee and which brings together all the basic proposals which we have here in the document before us. My delegation supports this concept unreservedly, that is, this broadened concept of food security and its general structure and the new ideas and approaches for analyzing this complex problem in order to ensure that all countries will have sufficient food according to their needs by the end of this century. These proposals which have been presented by the Director-General in order to help cope with these problems and all the proposals and relevant solutions are going, if they are well coordinated through a global food security system, to enable us to solve these problems which we are facing here and help FAO to solve the great problem of hunger and malnutrition and help bring it to an end.

The Director-General's report calls for great efforts within FAO too, with three objectives: first, food self-sufficiency; second, stability and distribution in marketing of food; and third, to establish the means for a stability in the food distribution in the world. My delegation fully supports this new concept of the Director-General for food security, and also the proposals to cope with this problem.

We also fully support and stress the fact that all of these activities should be aimed at first to those who have low food production and are suffering from scarcity in food production and within this new concept to food security, which is a global question which can affect poor and rich countries, which is closely linked with all facets with development and production and the problems of marketing and investment without mentioning, of course, the social and economic aspects of the problems faced by countries.

We would also like to express our satisfaction for the consensus given by the CFS to this concept. This means that the Council is encouraged to support this new concept and that it should urge all other bodies dealing with food in the world to do the same. There is no doubt that countries which have low food production will always need financial and technical assistance to implement their national programmes and projects, and here FAO has to play a very important role. This is assistance in planning these programmes, so that they will fit in with their objectives and also in order to give them access to bilateral and multilateral financial assistance.

The CFS at its previous meetings and at the last one, too, accepted the guidelines of the Organization at regional level, and it has also just accepted the plans suggested for activities at national level. The Committee therefore has supported the Director-General's plans at both the levels I just mentioned, and this helps the Council to draw attention to the importance of these plans and also to support the Committee in this regard.

Something we consider very important which I would like to draw attention to is the fact that the CFS is the ideal body for dealing with this problem, and the proof of this is the global nature of the precise analysis that the CFS arrived at after considering the Director-General's report. Therefore, the Council should put forward suitable proposals to enable the Committee to carry out its activities, since this is the most specialized body in these matters.

Finally, I would like to mention the problem of the difficulties affecting food production in Africa. I would like very strongly to support all priorities which have been suggested by the Committee i.e. the activities in the field of training, research, and development of country level institutions, and we would like to ask the Council to support the request of the Committee to the Organization to prepare a second report clarifying more these points.

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): We wish to first commend the work of the Eighth Session on the Committee on World Food Security. We are in general agreement with what is contained in the report and request the Council also to endorse the report. We note that the Committee discussed fundamental issues on world food security including a broader concept of world food security. In this connection we wish to express our effusive thanks to the Director-General for his paper on this subject which contained many fundamental issues and proposals of interest to us, and as he has promised further elaboration on this paper, we look forward to receiving this.

The Committee also discussed the constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries in Africa. Discussions in the Committee went to the extent of indicating possible actions and priority areas of action, something which my delegation commends very much.

African countries inherited an agricultural system which encouraged the production of cash crops to supply raw materials to foreign industries and gave no emphasis to food production, especially smallholder food production. Also most of the research tended to favour these crops, and food staples were left behind; so the record of research activities on food crops was much less useful. These historical errors can take a long time to correct. This becomes even more difficult when some external investment resources in agriculture have minimum focus on food crop development, especially those foods traditionally adapted, including those which are resistant to drought. Food strategies should help correct these errors. The problem of food insecurity is a problem of poverty, and food production efforts must go alongside measures to raise the purchasing power of rural and urban communities. There is need therefore to integrate farms and non-farm activities, and the productivity of the farm sector must increase in order to consume the outcome of these non-farm activities and help generate employment opportunities.

In the same vein, the implementation of WCARRD has got to integrate in the overall concept of food security. In this connection, we recognize the special role women and children play in food production and food administration in the households, particularly when family nutrition is considered. Children and the youth are the future farmers and should be made to understand the language of the soil and that farming is a viable business, a means of making a sound living.

Other aspects of WCARRD, such as land tenure systems, are also important considerations in food security issues. Policies on food security issues at national and regional levels have tended to favour cereals alone. Crops like roots and tubers and pulses should also be given sufficient attention. Food aid will remain an essential component of food security as long as food production continues to be unstable and inadequate in recipient countries. However, food aid should as far as possible be used to stimulate food production. It should therefore be integrated in national food development strategy, including nutritional improvement programmes.

We also urge the international community to support triangular transactions in food aid, as this not only stimulates food production in the region or sub-region and therefore strengthening regional food security, but also encourages trade in that particular region in the true spirit of economic cooperation among developing countries.

Of course, also food aid recipients have a chance to obtain the food they are used to without any social or dietary adjustment problems. For timely programmes on food aid projects, the resources of those organizations directly involved need to be replenished in time and targets set need to be attained. There is need to increase the level of the Food Aid Convention and to negotiate a new International Grains Agreement. Here also my delegation wishes to emphasize that international organizations dealing with food issues need to coordinate their efforts with a view to sharpening focus and integrating these efforts in food, hunger and malnutrition problems. We are against duplication of effort whether in food studies or in the preparation and implementation of food programmes.

As regards the flow of resources for food security programmes, we support FAO's continued review of actions taken by governments and international organizations to meet food security assistance needs of developing countries. These will identify gaps in aid requirements. In this connection, we support the idea of preparing country project portfolios as suggested in paragraph 121 of document CL 83/10. Guidelines for use in developing portfolios should be prepared in consultation with the recipient countries and with donors.

In connection with the FAO plan of action, we wish to comment on one aspect, namely stock policies. We believe stock policies, particularly in poor countries, must define and answer questions, like stock levels, how these will be achieved, how much will come from domestic production and how much from imports. The administration and management of these stocks must be clearly set out. Before policies in these areas and others are defined it will be difficult to run a successful stock policy, whether nationally or regionally. A sound stock policy will, for example, set out procedures for procuring funds well ahead of time, whether by borrowing or by domestic financing.

In the agenda that preceded this one, we argued that it is difficult for many countries to build reserve stocks even when external food market prices are low because of the scarcity of foreign exchange. This is an area where we welcome the support of the IMF facility and other similar facilities so that we take advantage of building our stocks from low prices of food on the market. We wish to observe here that even within some of our national boundaries it is sometimes difficult to buy our grain that our farmers are willing to sell because of lack of funds and insufficient storage facilities.

Let us now turn to the final section of our intervention, "Constraints on Food Production in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries of Africa". We must first thank FAO for providing an opportunity to discuss this matter once as a committee, both at the Committee on world Food Security and at this Council. We are extremely pleased to learn that future action is under plan to attack these constraints as forecast so that we free this area from persistent food problems, and I wish to endorse the remarks made by Ethiopia on this aspect. We endorse the fact that these constraints

need to be examined further and a programme developed to reduce them. We call upon other organizations and governments to join in these efforts to intensify existing activities. The Committee's report sets out main priority areas to be focused on, namely training, research, delivery systems and institutional development. We shall not debate these issues as they are clearly outlined in paragraph 111, page 15 of document CL 83/10. However we request the Council to report and reflect them fully. The Secretariat may do this by reproducing the whole paragraph 111.

The subsequent paragraph 112 has also an important message to communicate. We request the Council to endorse the decision of the Committee on Agriculture to continue to keep under review the problems of the low-income food-deficit countries in Africa, and particularly request the Director-General to prepare a second report on the subject for its Ninth Session which should focus on what is outlined in paragraph 111, and also provide an outline of possible follow-up action. We ask that other organizations including ECA, the African Development Bank and the OAU be involved in these approaches.

R. C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Ante todo quiero expresar nuestra felicitación y agradecimiento a la Secretaría por haber sintetizado, con tanta claridad y precisión, una cuestión tan compleja y delicada. A riesgo de ser repetitivos, queremos reiterar en este foro el apoyo de mi país al presente informe. Somos conscientes de que para poder solucionar un problema, primero, éste debe ser comprendido. En este orden de ideas, damos gran importancia al concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria mundial, ya que solo enfocándolo de esta manera es que podremos dar algún día a todos los hombres, en forma continua y permanente, acceso físico y económico a los alimentos básicos necesarios.

También queremos destacar que, a nuestro juicio, la última reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria constituye un verdadero hito en el desarrollo agrícola. A partir de lo acordado en dicha reunión, la situación del sector agrícola sólo podrá ser analizada desde el punto de vista de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Cualquier otro análisis sería incompleto y nos daría una versión fragmentada que no nos permitiría comprender la realidad y, por lo tanto, intentar una solución acertada.

También queremos demostrar nuestro entusiasmo por el resto de los párrafos aprobados que hacen las medidas de carácter regional y nacional, así como nuestro acuerdo con el rol central que le corresponde desempeñar al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Regional. Ha pasado poco tiempo entre esa reunión y este Consejo, por lo cual no podemos aportar todavía nuevos elementos acerca de la labor del Comité de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria Regional del Sistema Económico latinoamericano que tendrá su primera reunión ordinaria en los primeros días del mes de julio de este año; pero tenga la seguridad, señor Presidente, que los países miembros de América Latina tendrán en cuenta este informe para esa oportunidad. Queremos dar un total apoyo al enfoque que se da para aliviar las dificultades más grandes de la producción alimentaria en África. La Argentina en reiteradas oportunidades ha dado muestras, en la práctica, de apoyo y colaboración económica entre países en desarrollo, y es plenamente consciente de la importancia que tiene el logro de la autosuficiencia alimentaria en este caso. En tal sentido, y como resultado de la reunión ministerial del Grupo de los 77 en Buenos Aires, mi país ha comenzado acciones de cooperación con algunos países africanos, relacionados con los sectores de la capacitación e investigación, tal como se cita en el párrafo 111 de este documento.

Finalmente, queremos, nuevamente, reiterar la importancia de este tema, y que la Argentina en su acción de cooperación estuvo, está y estará siempre guiada por la implementación de los fines incluidos en el preámbulo de la FAO para contribuir así a la expansión económica mundial y a aliviar del hambre a la humanidad.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): My delegation which participated at the last session of the Committee on World Food Security as an observer would like to take this opportunity to offer some comments on the report contained in the document CL 83/10. The Eighth Session on the Committee on World Food Security had a very important item in its agenda and this was the Director-General's report. This report introduces a broader concept of world food security and proposes bold measures for an improved world food security system. The Brazilian delegation was happy to notice that the proposed concept was substantially similar to the idea that the Brazilian Government has been Provisionally supporting both in FAO and in other international fora where the subject has been discussed.

My delegation fully agrees that the three basic elements of food security are the production of adequate food supply, stability in the flow of supplies and the access of available supplies on the part of those who need them.

With respect to the measures suggested by the Director-General's report and discussed by the Committee on World Food Security, my delegation fully supports the proposal that at the national level the highest priority should be assigned to increasing food production in developing countries, particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries.

My delegation agrees with the corresponding paragraph contained in Section 3, small a., of the document CL 83/10. with respect to measures at the regional level, my delegation supports the idea that regional and sub-regional action to establish food security should complement national measures and should be consistent with its region's need. In this way the Brazilian Government considers as meaningful the following measures aimed at ensuring food security at the regional level : - to promote and increase in food production and productivity; to stimulate inter-regional trade; to include quality and price conditions of agricultural products in the developing countries; to strengthen national storage, transport and information facilities; to reinforce research and technological development; to establish a certain degree of coordinating of sub-regional, regional and global measures aimed at ensuring food security.

Those principles were adopted by the Action Committee on Regional Food Security recently established within the framework for the Latin American economic system. Brazil is proud to be one of the members of this Action Committee to which has been assigned the important task of effectively contributing to ensure food security in the Latin American Continent.

With respect to measures at global level the document CL 83/10 reflects divergent views expressed during the Eighth Session of the Committee. The Brazilian delegation supports the view that at the global level trade is one of the main components of food security. Accordingly the Brazilian Government urges the application of the GATT discipline to agricultural products as well as the application of the decision of the contracting parties taken in 1979, and concerning the differentiated and more favourable treatment to developing countries.

In addition to those measures relating specifically to international trade, the Brazilian Government also believes that the integrated programme of commodities and the common fund are to become relevant elements of world food security. Along the same lines of the global measures aimed at ensuring food security, my delegation thinks that a major role in the common efforts towards world food security belongs to FAO. My delegation favours an effective coordination of the action to be taken by the existing national organizations, and it believes that such coordinated effort will be a highly productive enterprise which will contribute decisively to world food security.

In concluding this topic, I would like to express the full agreement of my delegation with the Director-General's statement during the Sixth Session of UNCTAD now in force in Belgrade. Production and trade are two of the main components of world security. My delegation believes this is a succinct and effective definition of the concept which is at the centre of our discussion today.

I wish also to deal briefly with a subject of great concern to my delegation. This is the constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries in Africa. My delegation would like to join the developing countries in supporting the goal for increasing assistance for agricultural development of the poorer countries of Africa. Brazil has been active in sharing its experience and technical knowledge on agricultural development in Africa both on a bilateral basis and in cooperation with FAO.

Brazil is ready to extend its efforts in the present circumstances in order to help the poorer African countries to overcome the existing constraints on food production. My delegation supports the priorities suggested by the Committee on World Food Security regarding the immediate situation in Africa, and including training, research, delivery systems and institutional development.

My delegation also agrees that future sessions of the Committee of the Council continue to keep under review the problem of low-income food-deficit countries in Africa in the hope that measures proposed and discussed by the Committee may bear the fruit of a general improvement of food production in the African continent.

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): To start with I should like to thank the Director-General and compliment him for his special contribution in bringing broader concepts and offering thought-provoking proposals for achieving world food security. I should also like to thank Professor Islam for his brief but highly precise introduction on this subject. The Report of the 8th Session of the Committee on World Food Security brings into focus the paradox and anomalies, as also the iniquities of the existing situation, identifying many of the factors rendering the concept of world food security not only in its newly defined broader aspect but also in the narrower and more limited application a difficult proposition.

The Report in its studied details makes it imperative for the stronger members of the international community to pragmatically appreciate the potential danger to their own respective strengths inherent in the further weakening of the weaker members. The slow growth in the effective demand for food resulting in large carry-over stocks and prompting production cutbacks in major food-producing and exporting countries is clearly indicative of the weakness of the existing approach and calls for immediate remedial measures in the interests of not only the weak developing economies, but also in the ultimate long-term interests of the developed countries.

Just as it is difficult on the part of many developing countries at the national level to maintain a sustained level of growth in food production, even with the availability of requisite technology and resources where large sections of the people do not have access to food at all times, so also would it be difficult globally to find adequate markets for food as also other commodities, unless the developing weaker economies are assured of an equitable share of income by providing the requisite fair market for their exports.

A negative approach to the problem would not only be extremely myopic and counter-productive, but also a denial of the most basic of human values. While it is indisputable that actions at the national level are indispensable to ensure improved food security - as has been rightly observed by the Committee - it would at the same time be highly erroneous to ignore the unsettling effects of the global factors on the national economics of the intranational employment situation, and the acute vulnerability of the weaker economies to the stronger ones. In fact, in the process of transference of the burden, the same is magnified manifold when shifted to weaker shoulders.

The Committee has commented on the 'cost price squeeze on farmers', but I would like to emphasise that the farming communities in the developing agro-based economies are constantly facing a multiplicity of unbearable squeezes resulting in dangerous shrinking of productive employment opportunities.

It has been very correctly pointed out by the Director-General that unless the developing economies are at the present stage helped meaningfully in their efforts for agricultural development and attainment of food autarky through both bilateral and multilateral assistance and also providing and ensuring a favourable market for their exports by the developed countries, world food security may in all probability remain a distant dream. The revised concept of world food security and the possible range of measures suggested in the Director-General's Report for improving the world food security system at national, regional, and global levels, form the basis of this document CL 83/10.

Consensus was reached on a number of issues and measures. While my delegation agree with the conclusions and recommendations of the CFS, I would like to emphasise the paramount necessity of an efficient integration of national and regional food security systems with a more meaningful global system, without which the efforts at the national and regional or sub-regional levels may be seriously handicapped. Innovative approach such as developed by the WFP for Mali, and the WFP proposal for a developing country owned *réservoirs* strategies amongst others, deserve serious consideration within an "integrated framework of world food security macro system".

Improvement of market information systems and market intelligence at regional levels is also very important in helping developing countries in devising food security strategies in a situation of continued market fluctuations and uncertainties.

In fully acknowledging the pioneering role of FAO in strengthening world food security and endorsing the agreed decisions of the 8th Session of the CFS, my delegation would request the Director-General to initiate follow-up actions on the proposals on which a consensus has been reached in the Committee, and also to take action for further detailed examination of the other proposals and issues. We are confident that, given the will, it should not be difficult to find a way to the goal of world food security; and I would like to conclude by expressing again our confidence in the efforts of the FAO and the "role of the CFS in helping the world community find that way.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation du Congo, qui a activement participé aux débats de la dernière session du très important Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, voudrait réitérer ici tout le bien qu'il pense de ce Comité en raison des fructueux débats qu'il engage sur les problèmes de fond touchant la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous voudrions pour notre part apporter notre soutien aux résultats des travaux de la huitième session contenus dans le document CL 83/10. Nous sommes en particulier heureux de ce que le Comité a adopté unanimement la notion élargie de sécurité alimentaire mondiale proposée avec pertinence par le Directeur général de la FAO et, à ce sui et, le paragraphe 43 de ce document requiert tout notre appui. Il est essentiel qu'on ait reconnu la nécessité d'inscrire cette notion révisée dans un cadre de politique élargie englobant les trois composantes de la sécurité alimentaire, à savoir: assurer les disponibilités alimentaires suffisantes, maintenir la stabilité des approvisionnements et garantir à tous les consommateurs l'accès à ces approvisionnements. Mais ces objectifs ne seront atteints que si tout est mis en oeuvre pour privilégier l'accroissement de la production agricole et alimentaire dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire.

A cet égard, le paragraphe 44 mérite le soutien de ma délégation. Cependant, dans l'état actuel des choses ces mesures nationales sont insuffisantes et doivent nécessairement être épaulées par des actions régionales et mondiales telles qu'elles sont énumérées dans les paragraphes 54 et 55 et 56 à 71. La délégation de mon pays apporte également son appui aux mesures à prendre par la FAO. Au regard du débat que nous venons d'avoir sur le point 4 de notre ordre du jour, le chapitre 5 du document soumis à notre examen a retenu toute l'attention requise en raison de son importance puisqu'il évoque les facteurs limitant la production alimentaire dans une région qui focalise depuis un certain temps l'attention de l'opinion mondiale. Il est à notre avis encourageant de noter que les cultivateurs africains sont assez efficaces et qu'ils réagissent aux stimulants des prix et surtout aux possibilités d'investissement. Nous voudrions pour notre part insister sur ce dernier

aspect dans la mesure où il est susceptible de contribuer de manière décisive à l'accroissement de la production alimentaire, tout en abaissant le coût de production; car selon nous, l'on ne peut augmenter indéfiniment les prix à la production sans compromettre grandement la consommation vivrière parmi les populations pauvres. C'est pourquoi nous approuvons le renforcement du Programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais du PASA, du Programme de développement et d'amélioration des semences et du PCT de la FAO qui visent tous à accroître la capacité de production chez les paysans pauvres.

La délégation de mon pays se félicite de l'appui que le CSA a apporté aux pays d'Afrique au sud du Sahara qui souffrent de déficit vivrier chronique, en insistant sur les mesures préconisées à Alger l'année dernière au cours de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique. En effet, au cours de cette douzième session, l'Afrique a pu dégager ses priorités pour promouvoir un développement agricole et rural équilibré. Pour ce faire, la FAO et l'Afrique entière avec elle ont reconnu le rôle central de l'homme dans le développement de notre Région. C'est pourquoi la nécessité de développer les compétences qui font atrocement défaut à cette Région est apparue comme hautement souhaitable.

Il en est de même de la recherche et de la nécessité de créer des systèmes de prestations efficaces au service des petits exploitants, y compris les femmes.

Enfin, notre soutien au paragraphe 111 est total mais une fois de plus l'essentiel n'est pas d'énumérer les actions nécessaires à mener pour améliorer la situation actuelle, la volonté politique de la Communauté internationale est requise pour compléter les efforts actuellement en cours dans cette Région pour mettre en oeuvre les plans d'action de Lagos et pour ce faire plusieurs pays ont déjà mis au point des plans, programmes et stratégies nationaux de sécurité alimentaire.

A ce sujet, nous sommes particulièrement reconnaissants aux pays ou institutions qui d'ores et déjà aident ou s'apprêtent à aider les pays africains dans l'exécution de certains programmes nationaux, sous-régionaux et régionaux qui revêtent une importance capitale dans l'amélioration du niveau nutritionnel de l'Afrique. C'est le cas notamment des actions visant à améliorer le cheptel africain par la multiplication des races trypanotolérantes dans les zones infestées par la mouche tsé-tsé. De même, il est souhaitable de renforcer les programmes de lutte contre les maladies animales et, à cet égard, nous serons sensibles à tout ce qui sera fait pour enrayer ce fléau. Nous y reviendrons lorsque nous aurons à examiner le rapport du COAG.

En terminant mon intervention sur ce point de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais féliciter le CSA qui au cours de la septième session a unanimement confié au Directeur général le soin de préparer cette étude sur les facteurs limitant la production alimentaire en Afrique afin de mobiliser les ressources nécessaires pour inverser la tendance actuelle. Notre souhait est de voir se dessiner ici la même unanimité sur les mesures pratiques que les pays donateurs et les organisations internationales doivent désormais déployer pour mobiliser les ressources afin d'éliminer les principaux obstacles ~ qui se dressent sur le chemin d'une sécurité alimentaire durable dans cette Région.

Nous sommes certains que des institutions telles que le FMI, qui a probablement volé au secours du régime raciste d'Afrique du Sud pour lui donner les moyens de mener ses actions d'agression contre les paisibles peuples d'Afrique australe, sauront mobiliser davantage leurs ressources pour aider les peuples d'Afrique à surmonter leurs difficultés pour accroître la production alimentaire.

Bref, notre délégation apporte un appui global à ce rapport et attend avec beaucoup d'intérêt le rapport détaillé du Directeur général sur la question, rapport qui sera soumis à notre neuvième session du CSA.

LI CHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): We carefully studied the report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which reports to the Council about the latest developments on world food security. It helps the members of the Council to know better the world food situation. Paragraph 20 of the report especially draws the attention of the Council to the possible decline of world cereal production in 1983. This is a question worthy of the Council's concern.

The Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security discussed the food security situation in Africa, analyzed the unfavourable factors affecting the food production in the low-income, food-deficit countries of Africa, identifying four major areas of priorities on food production development in Africa. We fully endorse the views incorporated in the report. Our government has always attached great importance to economic and technical cooperation with African countries. In our bilateral cooperation programmes with them, agriculture has always been given high priority. We are deeply concerned with the difficulties encountered by the food-deficit countries in Africa. In the light of the principle of "equality and mutual benefit, diversity in forms, striving for effectiveness and seeking common development", we shall as ever continue to further strengthen our cooperation with African countries within our own capabilities, especially in the sphere of economic and technical cooperation concerning food and agriculture.

The new concept on food security put forth by the Director-General to the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security is to ensure both physical and economic access to basic food by all people. This is a more comprehensive concept on food security as compared with the one initiated in the past, which is also a summary of the practice over a decade. Indeed, we still have a great deal to accomplish before world food security can be brought into being under the new concept. Therefore, we think it is only right for FAO to strengthen its work on food security including the establishment of a food security action programme in order to coordinate with other FAO programmes.

Regarding the proposal for a special world food security fund, we feel if the source of funding could be found with the support by donor countries, along with the FAO action programmes, it will no doubt constitute a new impetus to FAO's food security work. However, in view of the current world economic situation, the establishment of the fund might encounter some difficulties for the time being. Nevertheless, it is a positive proposal worthy of our further consideration.

Concerning the proposal on "measures at the global level", the Director-General pointed out in his opening statement that there was still a divergence of opinions at present. So he said "we could thus pursue those suggestions which appear likely to achieve consensus in the near future". We support such an approach. We deem that the Council should adhere to the spirit of "seeking common ground while acknowledging differences" and encourage the Secretariat to take action for proposals on which a consensus has been reached. The difference of opinions should in no way prevent FAO from enhancing its endeavours to improve world food security. Of course, in carrying out these activities, it is necessary for FAO to seek and strengthen its cooperation with other relevant UN agencies.

Before I conclude my remarks, please allow me once again to express our appreciation for the efforts made by FAO for world food security.

M. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nuestra Delegación participa en el octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, siendo además miembro del Comité de Redacción; por este motivo se puede pensar que no tenemos elementos nuevos que añadir a lo ya convenido en dicho Comité; sin embargo, no es así, porque tenemos una condición de miembro de este Consejo que nos permite someter a discusión y aprobación este Documento.

Nosotros nos vamos a limitar a recalcar algunos aspectos que mi Delegación considera de sumo interés, porque la exposición hecha por el Dr. Islam fue una exposición que aunque breve, fue muy concisa y muy inteligente en cuanto a exponer de manera clara cuestiones fundamentales aprobadas por aquel evento.

Con referencia a ese octavo período de sesiones, nuestra Delegación apoya totalmente los resultados más importantes de ese Comité que fueron el consenso y lamentamos y no apoyamos, tenemos que expresarlo aquí, ya que no en nuestras funciones de miembro del Consejo, las pocas opiniones divergentes. Opiniones divergentes que nos hacen coincidir totalmente con lo expresado por el Director General en su intervención de ayer al referirse a que un consenso total en seguridad alimentaria era difícil por ser un campo minado por poderosos rivales, los intereses comerciales y financieros.

Consustancialmente con esa exposición y la exposición de la representación mexicana que esta mañana nos ofreció una relación muy importante de los consorcios que dominan la comercialización y por ende las finanzas, nos hacen lamentar que esos intereses no hayan redondeado totalmente lo que se consideró un documento audaz, nuevo y profundo sobre la seguridad alimentaria, que fue presentado en esa fecha por el Director General de la FAO. Y fue el tema principal analizado en esta discusión.

Este documento hace un análisis sobre los principios y métodos para adoptar un nuevo enfoque de la seguridad alimentaria, el cual intenta dar la amplitud adecuada e introducir las innovaciones necesarias en la dinámica que el desarrollo hace imprescindible. Consideramos un resultado muy importante de esas deliberaciones llevadas a cabo el hecho de que el Comité en su totalidad aprobó el concepto más amplio de seguridad alimentaria que fue propuesto; nos parece un logro importante, ya que este nuevo concepto tiene por objeto dar a toda la humanidad en todo momento el acceso material y económico a los alimentos básicos que necesita.

Apoyamos, pues, de manera expresa el contenido de los párrafos de las páginas 7 y 8 del documento CL 83/10, versión en español, referente al concepto de seguridad alimentaria y a las posibles medidas para mejorar el sistema de seguridad alimentaria mundial, respectivamente, y especialmente los párrafos 40 y 43 ya que del contenido de los mismos se derivan las medidas para mejorar el sistema de seguridad alimentaria.

En cuanto a las implicaciones institucionales, incluyendo el fortalecimiento de ese Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, apoyamos el párrafo 81, el cual consideramos decisivo al insistir en que es el único órgano intergubernamental del sistema de Naciones Unidas encargado exclusivamente de la vigilancia, la evaluación y consultas sobre la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

El Comité ofrecía, dice entre otras cosas, un foro consultivo -ofrece- apropiado para que los gobiernos analicen el problema de la seguridad alimentaria mundial en todos sus aspectos e hicieran recomendaciones sobre medidas de política teniendo en cuenta las funciones de otros órganos.

El párrafo 82, el 84 y el 86 de este documento, que estamos de acuerdo también con que se presente otro informe sobre este tema en el noveno período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que contenga ya las sugerencias hechas durante este octavo período de sesiones, así como en el Consejo y en la Conferencia.

Nuestra delegación dio también especial importancia a que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria dedicara un tema al análisis de las dificultades para el aumento de la producción alimentaria en los países africanos de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos. Estamos de acuerdo en que se desprende de los análisis presentados que el índice de crecimiento de la producción alimentaria en esa región, especialmente en los países de bajos ingresos y con déficits de alimentos, deberá duplicarse con creces para el final de este siglo si se aspira a satisfacer la demanda tal como se expresa en el párrafo 92, pero coincidimos, y así lo expresamos en el Comité, con las medidas destinadas a aliviar las dificultades más graves de ese continente y que las producciones alimentarias de África deberán basarse en las prioridades que elijan los propios gobiernos africanos, aunque nos parecen acertadas las sugerencias que hizo el Comité y que están contempladas en el párrafo 111. Repetimos, son los propios gobiernos africanos, conocedores de sus necesidades y posibilidades, los que deben elegir y decidir las prioridades para el incremento de su producción alimentaria y donde debe tenerse en cuenta de manera especial la ayuda externa procedente de las distintas vías posibles.

Para concluir, mi delegación quisiera reiterar su apoyo a las medidas propuestas para reforzar de manera eficiente el plan de asistencia para la seguridad alimentaria, pero queremos expresar una preocupación que nos surge por lo expuesto por dos delegaciones que han expresado, en términos más o menos similares, una situación no clara para nosotros, por eso creemos, ya que este órgano nos permite aclarar, discutir y analizar todos los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria, de la agricultura de nuestro continente, de nuestro mundo, nos parece que es lógico que nosotros expresemos nuestras dudas.

Dos delegaciones han hablado aquí de que la situación que padecen los países en desarrollo fundamentalmente debe resolverse en el marco de cada país, que es el esfuerzo interno de cada país quien debe resolver los problemas. No entendemos qué se pretende con eso, señor Presidente; porque la situación que padecen los países en desarrollo, o subdesarrollados, no es producto de sus problemas internos, es producto de una situación externa, y el desarrollo que tienen algunos países no es producto de su esfuerzo único, es producto también de su exportación de capital, de la materia prima que viene de fuera, de la tasa de los intereses, de unas relaciones económicas internacionales aceptadas desde hace muchos años como desiguales; entonces me parece muy fácil ahora decir que el problema del desarrollo es interno de cada país y que cada país debe resolverlo internamente con su esfuerzo.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert) : L'examen du rapport de la 8ème session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale constitue sans nul doute l'un des points culminants de notre Conseil. La pièce maîtresse de ce document est, bien entendu, le rapport du Directeur général sur la sécurité alimentaire. Je ne doute pas pour ma part que ce document fera date dans l'histoire de la FAO car il constitue sans doute un effort louable, et selon moi réussi, d'aborder la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale de manière à la fois intégrée et exhaustive.

Il était nécessaire à cet égard de commencer par dresser un bilan des principaux développements de la situation alimentaire mondiale au cours des dernières décennies et des tentatives effectuées pour renforcer la sécurité alimentaire.

Je me réjouis de ce que le Comité ait approuvé ce bilan en concluant qu'en dépit d'une meilleure perception par la communauté internationale des problèmes de sécurité alimentaire, la mise en place des mesures nécessaires à sa garantie venait à peine d'être esquissée.

Ainsi la première leçon à tirer du rapport du Directeur général est que l'absence de sécurité alimentaire mondiale résulte non pas d'une méconnaissance du problème mais seulement d'une volonté insuffisante de le résoudre.

Etablir un véritable système de sécurité alimentaire qui "assure en tout temps et à tous les hommes l'accès matériel et économique aux aliments de base dont ils ont besoin" constitue, en effet, un projet vaste et ambitieux et ce d'autant plus qu'il nécessite de procéder à de nombreuses et douloureuses remises en question que les gouvernements hésitent à entreprendre. Les débats qui ont eu lieu au sein du Comité le montrent bien.

Pourtant, aucun de ses membres ne semble avoir contesté la notion élargie de sécurité alimentaire telle que définie par le Directeur général.

Le concept élargi de sécurité alimentaire dépasse le cadre limitatif de la constitution de stocks de réserve et intègre tous les éléments relatifs à la production de denrées alimentaires, au fonctionnement des marchés nationaux et internationaux, à la libération des échanges et enfin à l'aide alimentaire. Tous ces éléments sont étroitement solidaires. Aussi la FAO a-t-elle le mérite de souligner que toute action sérieuse se doit de traiter le problème dans tous ses aspects spécifiques : assurer la production d'approvisionnements suffisants, établir au maximum le flux des approvisionnements, assurer à ceux qui en ont besoin l'accès aux approvisionnements disponibles. Ce troisième et dernier objectif est aux yeux de ma délégation à la fois le plus important et le plus délicat à satisfaire. Mais l'action de la FAO dans ce domaine a déjà été tracée par la CMRADR. Aussi je me réjouis que le rapport du Directeur général établisse clairement le lien entre sécurité alimentaire et développement rural.

J'en viens maintenant au troisième chapitre de ce rapport relatif aux mesures pouvant être prises pour améliorer le système de sécurité alimentaire. Ma délégation souhaite à cet égard donner son appui à trois suggestions du Directeur général qui lui semblent les plus importantes : d'abord associer la priorité accrue donnée à l'accélération de la production alimentaire à l'attribution de ressources suffisantes pour les cultures vivrières; deuxièmement, accroître l'efficacité de la RAIU en portant son objectif minimum à 2 millions de tonnes; troisièmement, améliorer la convention relative à l'aide alimentaire.

En ce qui concerne, par ailleurs, les mesures à prendre par la FAO, ma délégation se prononce sans réserve en faveur de la proposition du Directeur général visant à établir "un programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire" qui servirait à coordonner l'appui de la FAO et à mobiliser une assistance extérieure aux programmes nationaux de sécurité alimentaire.

Enfin, je souhaiterais pour terminer m'associer à la majorité des délégués ayant déclaré que le CSA avait un rôle central à jouer dans les efforts internationaux en vue d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. C'est la raison pour laquelle ma délégation se déclare en faveur de toutes mesures visant à renforcer le rôle du CSA.

Je suis bien loin d'avoir épuisé tous les points du rapport du Directeur général. Ce document est si dense qu'il m'était impossible de l'analyser exhaustivement dans le cadre de ma présente intervention, que j'ai limitée à quelques remarques. Mais je souhaiterais conclure en félicitant le Directeur général de ce rapport de très grande qualité grâce auquel la FAO a prouvé une fois de plus sa compétence et son expérience inégalées en matière de sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): The report of the Eighth Session of the CFS (CL 83/10) poses for the Council's decision issues of great importance. These are indeed at the heart of FAO's mandate and intimately bear on its pre-eminent role as a lead agency to oversee the entire range and complexity of the measures necessary for safeguarding world food security.

The centre-piece of the session was the Director-General's report reappraising the concept of world food security, re-evaluating its components and offering, within a broad institutional context, new approaches in order to realize the international community's goal to banish hunger and malnutrition by the end of the century.

Against the background of developments in the post-war period, the Director-General has proposed a broader concept of world food security with the ultimate objective of ensuring to all people at all times both physical and economic access to the basic food they need. The new conceptual framework calls for appropriate measures on a broad front, which, viewed in an integrated manner, would lead up to a composite world food security system. These wide-ranging measures to be taken at the national, regional and global levels, including those to be taken by FAO, are required to be directed towards three specific aims: adequacy of food supplies and production; stability in food supplies and markets; and security of access to supplies. The comprehensiveness and thoroughness of the framework and its scope can be gauged from the fact that the measures envisaged are more than a hundred in number, their principal focus being on low-income, food-deficit countries.

The feature that most distinguishes the revised concept is the recognition that food security is a universal problem which affects the vital interests of all countries, rich and poor alike. It is based on and responds to policies relating to agricultural and rural development, food production, availability of inputs, the functioning of national and international cereal markets, the foreign exchange needs of importing countries, trade liberalisation, export earnings, increasing the purchasing power of the poorest strata of the population, financial, material and technical assistance, flow of food aid and arrangements to meet emergency requirements. These are all ingredients of the total system, each acting and reacting on the other, and all cumulatively contributing to the strength of the system. A welcome refinement is the enlargement of the concept by the consideration of pulses, tubers, roots and complementary food (including livestock in some areas). This is of particular relevance to the situation in African countries.

The fact that the CFS has unanimously agreed to the revised concept is reason enough for the Council not only to give its own strong approval, but also to recommend that the new concept should henceforth be the governing criterion for action by food agencies. In regard to measures at the national level which, according to the CFS, are the indispensable basis for improved food security, especially for low-income, food-deficit countries, the Committee agreed on the need for developing countries to evolve national food security programmes, set in a broad policy framework, with clear-cut objectives, an appropriate policy-mix to achieve those objectives, and adequate resources to implement the policies which had been identified. The Committee also agreed that in designing and executing these programmes, many developing countries would need multilateral and/or bilateral aid in the form of financial resources, food aid and technical assistance. A noteworthy suggestion to emerge from the discussion was that these programmes could be planned from the beginning as a joint venture and that FAO should continue to serve as a catalyst for aid commitments and their coordination.

The Committee reiterated that the Secretariate guidelines for actions at regional level, considered at its previous session, was a useful framework.

Thus, the approaches indicated by the Director-General at the national and regional level have secured the endorsement of the Committee, and the Council should draw attention to their significance and extend its support to the Committee's recommendations.

The measures at the global level, and by FAO, proposed by the Director-General, were complex in nature and broke new ground in many aspects. The discussion was essentially aimed at setting out the lines along which further work could be undertaken taking account both of the comments and suggestions made in the CFS, and of the reactions of the Council and Conference. The emphasis should be on proposals on which a consensus appeared possible in the near future. Among these, of special interest to the Council are the proposals for a coordinated system of national food reserves, arrangements for meeting emergency needs, pre-positioning of stocks, food aid arrangements and formulation of a detailed Food Security Action Programme which attracted the most support in the CFS.

Although there were divergent views in the CFS on the initial steps proposed by the Director-General to strengthen CFS, a welcome conclusion was that FAO had a pioneering role in efforts to strengthen world food security and the recognition that the CFS was the most appropriate body to assume the main responsibility in dealing with food security issues in line with the broader and revised concept. The Council should encourage the formulation of proposals with a view to enabling the CFS to play a more central role and carry more authority as the specialized policy body bringing together all the elements in the food security system.

The other important part of the CFS report is its study on the constraints on African food production and its choice of measures that take into account priorities in the fields of training, research, delivery systems and institutional development. The Council should endorse the Committee's request to the Director-General for a second report which could form the basis for follow-up action by adopting a more substantive approach in regard to the priority areas identified by the CFS.

M. AHMED (Pakistan) : The report of the Food Security Committee is as comprehensive and commendable as its introduction by Prof. Islam is lucid and convincing. We welcome and in fact wholeheartedly endorse the broadened concept of food security to achieve an ultimate objective spelled out in para. 43 of this report, that is, to ensure that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the food they need. What is, however, required - and this is of vital significance - is the political will and determination in evolving and practically implementing a viable food security system not only at the national but particularly also at the regional and global levels.

We also agree to the strengthening of CFS within its existing mandate as and when possible to enable it to handle this multi-dimensional subject in a competent, professional manner. The imperative urgency of this need was very ably and convincingly highlighted by the Director-General in his opening statement, the keynote address.

We have, however, a few observations to make. We are happy to note that pulses have been included as one of the essential food items. We would particularly emphasize the importance in this connexion of grain, which in many countries serves the same purpose as meat for the common man. In addition to this, we would suggest the inclusion of edible oil, which is yet another essential item. In the broadened scope of food security, research on all levels, national, regional and global, also needs to be emphasized. This research should be specially focussed on increasing food productivity and production at the small and marginal farms and prevention of post-harvest losses right down to points of consumption.

I would also like to invite attention to the predicament currently being faced by some rice exporting countries, and this has arisen from the small volume of international trade in this commodity compared to its total production. For example, Pakistan, which ranks third in the category of rice exporting countries, is currently losing \$40 to \$50 per ton for each ton of rice exported. Corrective measures need to be evolved so that the contribution of such countries to world food security is not eroded.

At this stage, I would like to submit for the information of the Council an innovative approach being adopted by Pakistan for facilitating the access of the really poor to food supplies in accordance with the tenets of our religion, Islam, and this is the system of religious taxes on property and agricultural production if they exceed certain specified levels. It is as much a religious duty to collect them as it is to ensure that these are distributed to the really poor. Comprehensive lists have been prepared of such needy people by committees constituted at the grassroots level. I thought this may be of interest to the Council.

Finally, we are in sympathy with the problems being faced by our African brethren in meeting their food needs. My delegation fully supports the action plan given in para. III of the CFS report to relieve the most severe constraints that Africa is facing in food production. With many of the countries of Africa we are cooperating and will continue to cooperate within the limit of our resources and as an expression of our solidarity with them.

LEE CHENG YAN (Malaysia) : The Malaysian delegation is grateful for the opportunity given to express our views on the report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. We would like to extend our appreciation to the Committee for the very useful and constructive deliberation and we believe the report contains some very important conclusions and recommendations which should get the support of all of us. In particular, I refer to the Director-General's Report on World Food Security and the report on constraints on food production in the low-income food-deficit countries in Africa.

Turning now to the report on World Food Security, without having to go again into the discussion of the report, which gives a new perspective and possible measures to promote greater stability and security in the world food supply and its equitable distribution, my delegation would like to reiterate our support to the new and broader concepts of world food security and possible measures to be adopted at national, regional and international levels, and those of the FAO as proposed by the Director-General and accepted by the Committee.

We particularly welcome the various measures for the pooling of efforts and resources within and outside the Organization to ensure that the limited resources available for food security programmes and activities would be effectively and efficiently used. As mentioned in para. 72 of the report, FAO and many other international development organizations could do much to promote and support national food security systems. My delegation agrees fully with the Committee's conclusion on the need for close cooperation, coordination and working relations among all international organizations dealing with various aspects of food security to avoid duplication and overlapping of functions. Para. 86 emphasizes this issue very clearly.

As mentioned by the Director-General, the concept of world food security has to be revised to meet the need of changing times and conditions. This report has taken into consideration various factors which in his judgement are important for the improvement of the concept. His proposals for specific measures are based on these reflections. Some of these measures need immediate implementation, while others require further consideration and study. We do, however, agree that this report contains valuable and inexhaustible information and should be used as a base line document for future discussion on measures for food security. There are many proposals contained in the report on which the Committee had agreed and in which I am sure this Council will concur. It is hoped that the Secretariat would be able to prepare in detail various aspects of its operation for consideration by this Council and possible implementation now and in the future. On those proposals which did not get full approval of the Committee, it might be necessary and worthwhile to reconsider them during a more appropriate situation. My delegation would endorse the report as approved by the Committee.

With regard to the report on the constraints on food production and low-income food-deficit countries in Africa, we would like to congratulate the Secretariat for being able to prepare a report bringing to our attention the problems faced by the countries in the African continent with regard to food production. The situation in Africa should be the concern of all of us. The focus by international agencies on Africa should be welcomed, and in this respect the priority given by FAO in its Programme of Work and Budget to Africa should get our full support.

We welcome the increased commitments by international agencies and donors, but we hope that these firm commitments are converted into firm action if we hope to see the African continent emerge from what is now a full decade of dismay and suffering. Equally, the countries in the African region will no doubt play their respective roles to deploy their resources to complement the external assistance in order to achieve the goals of self-reliance in food. We support the suggestion that in view of the complexity of the situation prevailing in this region, food and agricultural development programmes would be maximized if they were concentrated on a few key priority areas, as mentioned in para. III, and that the delivery systems should be conducted on a sub-regional or regional basis.

The report on the review on the implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security indicated that while there is desire among developing countries to adopt and implement the Plan of Action, they are constrained by a number of factors resulting in them not able to have adequate stock and therefore subjected to the constant danger of being without food. Food aid and increased financial assistance will continue to be an important element in world food security.

However, we are happy to note that there have been some very concrete developments that have taken place to foster collective self-reliance in strengthening food security. This is an encouraging sign that we feel should be supported by all.

G. DESEQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne) : Sur ce point de l'ordre du jour : Rapport de la 8ème session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, je vous présente le point de vue de la Communauté économique européenne et de ses Etats membres.

L'amélioration de la situation alimentaire des pays en voie de développement ne pourra être vraiment efficace et avoir des effets durables que par une augmentation de la production alimentaire et par l'amélioration des systèmes de distribution dans ces pays. C'est pourquoi la Communauté européenne, depuis plusieurs années, attache une importance croissante à la coopération dans le domaine agricole avec les pays en voie de développement.

Dans ce contexte, comme vous le savez, le Conseil de la Communauté européenne a approuvé en novembre de l'année 1981 un plan d'action de lutte contre la faim dans le monde.

L'un des aspects principaux de ce plan concerne l'aide de la CEE à la mise en oeuvre des stratégies alimentaires des pays en voie de développement.

Il est évident que l'implication de la Communauté européenne et des Etats Membres doit se placer dans le cadre des orientations définies souverainement par les pays bénéficiaires dans leurs stratégies et dans la logique du développement sur laquelle elles reposent.

Le type de coopération envisagé suppose que les pays concernés, de même que la Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres, aient la volonté d'entrer dans un mécanisme de concertation et d'adaptation permanent pendant sa mise en oeuvre.

Si cette démarche est exigeante pour les pays mettant en oeuvre ces stratégies, elle l'est aussi pour la Communauté européenne et les Etats Membres qui devront toujours être prêts à trouver une réponse adéquate aux questions concrètes soulevées à chaque stade de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie alimentaire.

La Communauté est également convenue d'inviter d'autres organismes et pays donateurs qu'intéresserait la participation au même type d'action à se joindre à la Communauté européenne et à ses Etats Membres dans la réalisation de cette initiative, comme c'est déjà le cas pour le Mali.

Dans ce contexte nous accueillons favorablement la démarche entreprise par le Secrétariat de la FAO en ce qui concerne l'assistance technique aux pays en voie de développement pour la formulation et la réalisation de politiques alimentaires appropriées.

En ce qui concerne les aspects extérieurs, la Communauté a toujours insisté sur la nécessité d'un nouvel accord international sur les céréales comportant des dispositions économiques appropriées en vue de contribuer à stabiliser les marchés, d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire, et de mettre en place un système coordonné sur le plan international de réserves alimentaires nationales. Malheureusement les efforts faits dans le cadre du Conseil international du blé pour arriver à un nouvel accord n'ont pas pu aboutir. Ce manque de progrès a des effets pour la sécurité alimentaire des pays en voie de développement, et des plus pauvres en particulier.

En ce qui concerne plus particulièrement le rapport de la 8ème session du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la Communauté économique européenne tient à déclarer qu'elle peut marquer son accord sur le concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire proposé par le Directeur général, mais qu'elle a plusieurs réserves sur les propositions concrètes, comme elle l'a déjà exprimé lors du récent Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Ces propositions sont de nature préliminaire et il faudrait examiner les suites à leur donner lors de sessions ultérieures. A cet égard, la Communauté pourra préciser sa position sur les éléments détaillés au fur et à mesure qu'ils seront présentés par le Directeur général dans le cadre des prochaines réunions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire.

A ce stade la Communauté tient simplement à souligner qu'elle espère que les contributions à la RAIU augmenteront afin d'atteindre le niveau prévu. En ce qui la concerne, la Communauté a largement contribué à cet objectif mais aussi à l'aide alimentaire en général.

En conclusion, la Communauté économique européenne est disposée à continuer à prendre sa part de la responsabilité commune liée à la lutte contre la faim dans le monde. Nous savons que notre part doit être importante et nous sommes désireux de montrer l'exemple dans ce domaine afin qu'un consensus puisse se dégager, car la situation est urgente.

A. NTEZILYAYO (Rwanda): Je voudrais profiter de l'occasion qui m'est donnée pour exprimer à très haute voix combien le rapport de la huitième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est d'une grande qualité, surtout grâce aux nombreuses propositions constructives qu'il contient et que ma délégation appuie entièrement. La situation de la sécurité alimentaire apparaît comme très grave actuellement, même si certains progrès ont été réalisés ces derniers temps. Nous devons encore reconnaître que l'Afrique, à laquelle appartiennent les pays les moins avancés, est la plus menacée. Dans les forums internationaux on est actuellement sensibilisé, sur les problèmes des pays les moins avancés; on organise des tables rondes des bailleurs de fonds, on crée des comités spéciaux, on choisit des pays pilotes où l'aide est concentrée. Malheureusement, lors d'une nouvelle évaluation, on a eu l'occasion de constater que la situation de ces pays est encore plus dramatique. Aussi je pense que l'aide à ces groupes de pays auxquels appartient mon pays, le Rwanda, devrait dépasser le cadre des slogans et se traduire réellement dans les faits, la coopération internationale se mobilisant pour empêcher ces pays de mourir.

J'en profite toutefois pour remercier la FAO pour son intervention énergique dans le Programme de la sécurité alimentaire de mon pays, notamment pour la formulation et la recherche de financement d'un projet basé sur la définition d'une stratégie à long terme de la sécurité alimentaire, la recherche de technologies et de moyens de stockage des haricots sur des périodes longues sans perte de qualité, la mise en place d'un système de réserves alimentaires avec un stock initial de huit tonnes de céréales et de légumineuses. Cette action, à laquelle collaborent également d'autres coopérations manque encore malheureusement de l'essentiel, à savoir le financement du stock stratégique. Pourtant le Rwanda est un pays pauvre où des disettes dues à des conditions géographiques particulières sont devenues fréquentes, un pays très surpeuplé, bref un pays où la constitution d'une Réserve alimentaire d'urgence apparaît loin d'être un luxe. L'aide alimentaire intervient pour résoudre ponctuellement ces cas de disette et nous avons apprécié son efficacité dans plusieurs situations difficiles.

Néanmoins, nous pensons que nous avons encore des potentialités à mettre en valeur de telle manière que l'aide alimentaire puisse être réduite à très peu dans les années à venir. Il est d'ailleurs heureux de constater que le gouvernement a fait de la réduction de l'aide alimentaire un programme quinquennal. Nous comptons sur tout le monde pour nous aider à produire nous-mêmes notre nourriture. Nous croyons que la réussite des programmes de sécurité alimentaire passera d'abord par des stratégies nationales très réalistes. Nous voudrions à ce propos souligner notre appui aux propositions du rapport de la huitième session du CSA concernant notamment l'augmentation de la production agricole, le développement rural intégré basé sur le développement harmonieux du milieu rural depuis les infrastructures de communication sociale, les programmes de vulgarisation et de recherche jusqu'aux programmes à haute intensité de-main-d'oeuvre conçus spécialement pour les campagnes rurales, des mesures incitatives à la production, y compris notamment des prix aux producteurs assez rémunérateurs et une commercialisation très dynamique; une priorité aux cultures vivrières dont se nourrissent traditionnellement nos populations avec un accent particulier sur les légumineuses et les tubercules qui, jusqu'à présent, ont retenu beaucoup moins l'attention que les céréales. Il est urgent de les intégrer dans la chaîne de transformation de conservation et de commercialisation.

A ce propos, le Programme des farines composées enrichies en protéines et dont on parle tant devrait commencer à voir le jour dans nos pays. La FAO et les autres organisations internationales peuvent faire beaucoup pour soutenir les programmes nationaux. Nous pensons qu'au niveau de la FAO le renforcement des ressources du PASA pour que ces interventions soient plus consistantes serait souhaitable.

Quant à l'organe d'intervention appelé Programme d'action sur la sécurité alimentaire, nous sommes d'accord avec son principe, s'il devait contribuer à accroître l'efficacité dans la coordination des actions dirigées vers la sécurité alimentaire.

La constitution d'un fonds spécial de sécurité alimentaire mondiale, que propose le Directeur général de la FAO, apparaît être un instrument supplémentaire d'intervention au niveau des politiques et programmes nationaux de sécurité alimentaire, mais certaines inquiétudes sont effectivement permises au moment où la reconstitution des ressources du PNUD, de l'IDA et du FIDA pose des problèmes.

Quant au Pacte mondial de la sécurité alimentaire, il me semble acceptable et être à la hauteur des interventions de la FAO.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais souligner que le diagnostic de la situation de la production alimentaire dans les pays d'Afrique à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire qui est fait dans le présent rapport est très convenable. Par ailleurs, il est vrai que les mesures visant à réduire les obstacles et contraintes de la production alimentaire doivent passer par les priorités gouvernementales et nous pensons que la priorité doit être accordée aux changements structurels et institutionnels : crédit agricole, commercialisation, recherche, vulgarisation, formation et planification, même si les contraintes économico-financières sont également importantes.

Enfin, je voudrais appuyer encore une fois la nouvelle conception de stratégie alimentaire qui se veut plus détaillée, plus globale, plus proche de la préoccupation de beaucoup de nations en ce sens qu'elle parle de l'autosuffisance alimentaire collective et individuelle permanente.

S.P.MUKERJI (India): In the Declaration issued after the New Delhi meeting in March this year there were 101 members of the non-aligned movement representing almost two thirds of the nations of the world and half of mankind who collectively proclaimed that food was a fundamental and universal human right. The right to survive is obviously the first and indispensable condition for the enjoyment of any other right. If hundreds of millions are still to go to bed hungry and to live in dire want and despair, it is not because of the perversity of fate or the niggardliness of nature but because of human folly or callousness.

As we all know, hunger and malnutrition can be totally wiped out by the spread of modern technology and skills, and by the more equitable distribution of the world produce. What is lacking is an effort of will and a sense of common humanity. The non-aligned declaration on world food security combines a sublime spirit of universality with practical wisdom. The twelve point programme drawn up in New Delhi constitutes so to speak a bill of duties to ensure the right to survive for all humanity. The five point plan of action adopted by the FAO was endorsed as a key-stone, the other major blocks of the arch of world food security being a new better deal in respect of trade in agricultural commodities, aid, emergency food reserves, finances for food import, use of food surpluses for promoting development, pre-positioning of food stocks at strategic locations. The predominant role of FAO in the planning and realization of the role of world food security was fully acknowledged in the New Delhi Declaration. They also reaffirmed the need for increased resources through food aid conventions to the extent of 18.5 million tons.

At the same time the New Delhi message proclaimed on behalf of the entire non-aligned movement through the Prime Minister of India that in our shrinking and inter-dependent world, global problems had to be tackled globally in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation, and not in a spirit of anger, bitterness or hostility. It is gratifying that our Director-General's opening address to this Session of the Council was characteristically broad in its sweep and lucid and profound and noble in its content. It also sought to create a common basis for understanding and action. It is our good fortune that at this junction, when the dark clouds of global recession, which are pierced but by a few uncertain openings, have cast a deep shadow over the economic plight and prospects of the developing countries, in the most vital area of food and agriculture, we have as Head of the FAO Dr. Edouard Saouma, and Dr. Swaminathan as the Independent Chairman of the Council. I feel there cannot be any greater form of food security for the world than having Dr. Saouma as Director-General of FAO and Dr. Swaminathan as Chairman of the Council.

The Director-General has been a relentless fighter and a tireless advocate for those large sections of the human population who are going to bed hungry.

This morning you referred, Mr. Chairman, to darkness and light in the world food situation. Let me take the darkness first. Shadows are getting longer. Rising stockpiles of food concentrated in a few countries are casting cruel shadows on those millions, especially in Africa, who cannot have access to them. The invisible walls of trade and economic barriers have been created and are being raised higher and higher between the foodless and the food, between the hopeless and the hope, between the lifeless and life.

As these papers have indicated and as I referred to in the morning, as many as 43 countries in the world today are having a rate of growth of food production which is outpaced by the rate of growth population. It has been estimated that between January and April this year 35 countries faced serious food shortage, as compared to only 24 countries during the same period last year. Per capita output of food grains has been declining during the last five years, but what is more tragic is that the external assistance in the field of agriculture for increasing agricultural production has been coming down between 1981 and 1982. We are still in a condition where in most of the developing countries at least 10 percent of the food grains produced is being damaged by pests and 10 percent by disease. It is apprehended that at the end of 1983/84 world stock of food grains, even if it is higher than 17 to 18 percent now as indicated by the FAO world food security, will fall below 17 to 18 percent. The share of aid to the developing countries through imports of food grains by them declined from 25 percent in 1977/78 to 16 percent in 1982/83, insofar as the food-deficit countries are concerned.

But now I see light also; light in the Director-General's missionary spirit to light the torch of world conscience in helping the poor countries to get food, either by aid or by trade; and, what is most important, by productive and managerial efforts. I feel that the Director-General's report is an eye-opener, a conscience-rouser and a constructive document which must be taken literally and in the spirit in which it is written, and it should be adopted with unreserved sincerity by all of us.

I see also light in what India has achieved in the field of agriculture by its own genius and efforts. I indicated a few figures in the morning but let me say that ever since India attained independence, wheat production has gone up from 6 million tons in the 1950's to 41.5 million tons this year. In 1981/82 we had a record production on sugar-cane and in that year India became the largest sugar producing country in the world. But apart from production, India has been paying attention to giving incentive to the farmers by price support operation in case of cereals, pulses and oil-seeds, and it has also been injecting, through its employment generation schemes, purchasing powers in the rural areas; and, what has become a part of India's food scenario, we are maintaining our buffer stocks of 16 to 20 million tons of food grains and we are distributing every year, through 300 000 fair price shops, 14 million tons of food grains in every part of our country; and we are producing every year about 15 million tons of food grains through cooperatives and government channels.

The Indian delegation fully and strongly endorses the Director-General's Report and agrees that the Committee on food security, being the only agency in the United Nations system and in the world dedicated to food security, must be strengthened. Follow-up action, as indicated in paragraph 90 of this document, should be taken up. My delegation would request the Director-General to kindly take note of the various developments that have been taking place and, on the basis of the comments made in this forum, he may kindly report further to the Ninth Session of the CFS so that the foundation of a new order is laid where man's right to food for survival is vindicated, and that a new order is ensured whereby production of food grain in any part of the world will be rewarded and not discouraged. so long as there is a single mouth in any other part of the world which did not get its last meal of the day.

We welcome the Director-General of FAO to come up with a solid action programme which will enable us to go from rhetoric to reality, from feelings and thoughts to action and - what is most important -from darkness to light.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): We have read with interest the Report of the Committee on World Food Security. The Canadian delegation like many others in this room participated fully and, as a general framework, we can endorse the Report as well as the broadened concept being proposed for food security; and we would advocate continued attention to the national measures and to the extent that they are complementary to the regional measures. We continue to have some reservations on the many specific proposals made in the CFS in a preliminary fashion. We will look forward to more concrete proposals at subsequent meetings of the CFS.

In paragraph 6 of document CL 83/10 we are told that "The Committee assessed the world food security situation"; and in paragraph 7 that "The Committee recognized that while there had been a further increase in the food supplies at the global level, the food security situation in many low-income countries had deteriorated."

In document CL 83/4, the Report of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees we are told in paragraph 1,2 that: "The Committee fully agreed with the Director-General's assessment of the world situation and in particular the continued gravity of the world food situation."

We have some difficulty in accepting or endorsing this statement of the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committee, i.e. we would not agree with the assessment of the continued gravity of the world food situation. In document CL 83/10 it is stated, in paragraph 8, that: "The World cereal production had risen again in 1983." But then it says: "Regrettably, only in developed countries was there a large increase in output. World production was expected to exceed utilization for the second successive year" etc."

While it is regrettable that only the developed countries, and a few less-developed ones such as Pakistan and India, had large increases, it is still fortunate that at least they have had them. It is also worthy of note that many others did show small improvements, which is where we believe the stress should lie. The continued small increases in many less developed countries are to be complimented and encouraged and should not be glossed over or forgotten.

We also note in paragraph 8 that "a further sharp rise in carry-over stocks of cereals which were forecast to be equivalent to 21 percent of projected consumption in 1982/83, were above the 17-18 percent which is estimated by the FAO Secretariat as the minimum level necessary to ensure food security."

The world food security situation, then, has improved; it is not one of continued gravity. What is of major continuing concern to us all is noted in paragraph 9 of document CL 83/10, and that is that in some low-income food-deficit countries, production has again declined. This situation is particularly acute in Africa but there are other parts of the globe which - although on a smaller scale - have experienced similar declines.

Paragraph 10 states that:

"According to the FAO Early Warning System, 20 African countries were affected or threatened by food shortages due to poor crops, and the presence of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons had made the situation even more difficult for some of them."

As we all recognize, however, poor crops are not the reason or cause; it is a result. Poor crops are the result of environmental conditions such as drought, floods, hurricanes, etc., but also the result of poor management, low incentives, inadequate national priorities, inadequate production techniques, etc. These latter causes - i.e. the inadequate government priorities, low incentives - are rarely, however, given the emphasis we believe they deserve. At least, some of this emphasis is recognized in Section III under measures at National Level.

Paragraph 44 notes that: "The Committee considers that action at national level provided the indispensable basis for improved food security, especially for low-income food-deficit countries." It might have been rephrased in even stronger words to the effect that each individual country has a primary responsibility for ensuring that the highest priority is given to its own agriculture food production sector. Without this, we believe that we will be faced with a situation of ever-increasing dependence on others, a situation that no developing country, nor any other country for that matter, wants. We hear a great deal about basic human rights in this forum but we hear, we believe, little enough about basic human responsibilities. Inadequate priorities to food and agriculture, mismanagement, inner ministerial competition, whether this be in the developed countries or in developing countries are, as we all recognize, impediments to sound development. It therefore behoves us to support, indeed strongly support, the statements made by the Director-General to the delegations assembled at the Sixteenth Session of the FAO Conference for the Near East. In that Conference he said "Investment in agriculture has not so far been given the necessary priority by the countries of the region." He further said "If technical and administrative shortcomings are added to the inflationary factor the general picture of agricultural investment is not very encouraging. It shows on the contrary that the present trend towards increased dependency in feeding people of the region will continue and become worse in time unless governments become aware of the negative implications of such a trend and take action to mobilize their potential and their energies for agricultural investment." These are perhaps difficult choices to make for most countries but in fact we believe that there are no other choices and perhaps no other solutions. It is for this reason that we have given our support, both moral and financial, to the concept of food security strategies as we believe them to be a useful tool to assist in focussing attention and the scarce resources to the issues of highest priority. National measures are also the area we would advocate that the FAO concentrate its activities, given its limited resources, as these measures are those that will probably present the greatest potential impact, at least in the short and the medium term.

Turning to the section of the paper on Constraints on Food Production in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries of Africa, here we see the other side of the food security coin, that there is more to food security than consumption. It is fitting that the CFS and this Council continue to focus a substantial portion of its attention on the regions where food security problems are gravest. My Government intends to intensify its efforts towards attacking the African food problem in partnership with increased efforts on the part of the African countries themselves. Africa is already the primary regional focus for our official development assistance, it accounted for 40 percent of all Canadian bilateral assistance last year. As well the Canadian International Development Agency has clearly identified food and agriculture as the first priority for the 1980s aiming at an objective of 4.5 million in total assistance to that sector over the next five years. The second priority will be human resources development. Finally, we believe that in respect of this part of the report if follow-up action to the present debate takes the form of further analyses on constraints and their solutions we would hope that these analyses would refer to work by other institutions, notably the CIDA family and WFC and be prepared in consultation with the governments themselves.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de Haute-Volta a pris connaissance avec grande satisfaction du contenu du rapport sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Elle tient à exprimer ses félicitations au CSA pour l'analyse exhaustive des problèmes de sécurité alimentaire.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation de Haute-Volta approuve la proposition faite au sujet des structures de stockage aux niveaux national, régional et mondial. Nous voudrions, avec l'indulgence du Conseil, donner quelques informations sur les structures de stockage en Haute-Volta.

Elles comprennent un Office national des céréales, qui est présent dans la plupart des grandes régions du pays. Mais ces structures se sont révélées limitées dans la ventilation des vivres à temps auprès des populations nécessiteuses. Pour cette raison, la Haute-Volta a encouragé, et continue d'encourager, la constitution de banques de céréales par les organisations paysannes

sous forme de coopératives et de groupement villageois. Ce faisant, il est certain que ces vivres sont distribuées à temps, et cela aura pour conséquence l'intégration des populations dans la gestion des stocks de sécurité et réduira les gros dégâts imputables à la manipulation de grosses quantités dans un seul endroit.

Concernant la constitution de stocks au niveau régional, la Haute-Volta fait partie des pays du Sahel et a participé aux rencontres pour la mise en place de ces structures. L'espoir existe pour que ce projet voie le jour. Ma délégation serait très reconnaissante à la FAO des mesures qu'elle pourrait éventuellement prendre pour appuyer le CILSS dans la recherche de moyens en vue de réaliser le projet.

La délégation de Haute-Volta accorde son plein soutien au nouveau concept de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. En effet, un des moyens les plus sûrs d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire est l'organisation des producteurs en vue d'une augmentation de la productivité et de la production. Cela pourra se faire par une analyse des contraintes au développement de la production dans chaque pays, et en prenant toutes les mesures pour y remédier. D'une manière générale, ces contraintes se résument en un manque de formation dynamique des agriculteurs, une insuffisance des moyens de production, une structure de prix au producteur qui ne tient pas compte des prix de production, un manque de structures pour les problèmes fonciers, une recherche agronomique pas toujours en mesure de mettre à la disposition du producteur des variétés hautement productives, un manque de circuits de collecte et de commercialisation, etc.

Nous venons d'énumérer le manque de structures de l'agriculture voltaïque, et nous pensons que la mise en oeuvre du nouveau concept de la sécurité alimentaire nous aidera à résoudre ces difficultés et à progresser dans la voie d'une sécurité alimentaire.

Nous terminons en renouvelant notre adhésion au nouveau concept, parce qu'il renferme un espoir pour les pays à faible revenu avec déficit alimentaire, dans la résolution avec le maximum de succès de leurs problèmes alimentaires.

L. MOHAPELOA (Lesotho): The report is indeed a well written one with welcome additions within the expanded conceptual framework of food security. The recognition of the importance of relating production to distribution, storage and consumption represents an increased relevance of food security. We are therefore most satisfied to register our support for the report of the CFS.

Under the discussion of the extended framework we identify the problem and indeed the CFS itself has resolved to design further ways and means of effectively addressing the question of food.

It appears to me that the questions of additional strategies in line with the expanded concept, we could use, for reasons of economy, those findings of those that have looked into the matter and collaborate with them. By so doing we are probably leaving our hands free to address the problem of production that the FAO have done so well to this point.

Mention has been made of the inadequacy of production and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. It is to be noted that for the most part, without referring to the low production in this part of the world, it is the southern African states that are to be cited, mainly, of course, this is due to drought. The drought has been in the area for some time and indications are that it is to continue. Under the discussion of long-term strategies it seems appropriate therefore to address this problem by particularly thinking of harnessing the water resources that one still finds in the rivers. In this regard then I would wish to invite the FAO to consider and look into the possibility of irrigation in that area.

Next if you will allow me I will go on to the question of food aid. Admittedly this has its own place in the discussion of the CFA report, but I feel there is just one point which makes it relevant even if it is part of our discussion. The question of food aid as we look at it should be relevant to and related to the whole question of food strategies insofar as it assists directly increased production. In this regard food aid becomes an integral part of food security. This point is brought out in this report and we are happy to note that. Relating it therefore to some of our strategies I feel that FAO could look into the possibility of using food aid in the case of the southern African countries to support the irrigation that I have just referred to.

Mention has been made of the need to restructure the process of food production in order to overcome the problems of almost total dependence on imports and to satisfy the requirements of the developing countries in particular. The only addition to be made here by way of emphasis is the need to ensure complementarity and integration of all projects and programmes designed to improve the food security. This consistency is a task for all the participants - that is, the donors on the one side and the individual countries on the other. The point here is that the disintegrated nature of development that is brought about by approach oriented development plans warrants special attention.

Lastly on the question of food security I would like to point out that many countries of the southern African region would have advanced a great deal in food security were it not for the fact that they are forced to divert their scarce resources to defending their sovereignty. The Fascist regime in South Africa is an agent of destabilization. It is unfortunate that some of the powers that ought to give meaningful support to food security are the ones that are giving support to this agent of destabilization. This is another area that deserves special and urgent attention.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am grateful for this opportunity to add a few remarks at the end of your proceedings this afternoon, particularly as you are going on tomorrow and by adding these remarks I hope that discussions will be facilitated tomorrow. I have in mind particularly some comments that have been made about the suggested tendency of the Secretariat, the Committee on Food Security and even the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees to deplore or appear to deplore the fact that increase in food production tends to be concentrated in a few developed countries, in particular the North American producers. I am not here to defend the Committee on Food Security, or for that matter the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees, on which incidentally some of the speakers have representatives who have agreed their reports. Those committees, which means you, can defend themselves. But insofar as Secretariat documents and speeches are concerned I think I ought to explain that it is never the intention to suggest that increased food production, particularly by the larger producers, is a bad thing. The governments themselves apparently think sometimes that there can be too much of a good thing because they do take measures to restrict production. But we are not saying that increased production in developed countries is a bad thing. On the contrary, the Director-General in the document and in his speeches always draws attention to that as a positive element in the situation, and if I remember aright that is what the Director-General said in his opening statement to this Session this week. He began with the positive aspects. What is significant is not that they produce more but that such increase as there is is not coming on an overall basis, and as the Committee on Food Security says, the food security situation in many low-income countries has deteriorated. If it deteriorated in high-income countries that would be bad, but if it deteriorates in low-income countries it is much worse because they do not have the means of cushioning either themselves or their neighbours against the food shortages which result and because they are low-income countries they cannot afford to purchase supplies on the market and become more dependent on food imports and food aid. That is what we are emphasising, You can say, "Forget that, be optimistic, emphasise the positive, make people feel happy", but unfortunately no one is here to make people feel happy, we have to reveal the facts as they are.

The same applies to a lesser extent to the question of stocks. Of course it is a very good thing that stocks have risen above the acknowledged minimum level. But the same point applies, unfortunately stocks are not evenly spread over all countries, they are concentrated, and again the same problem applies.

So I hope-we can get away from the idea that the Secretariat is being overpessimistic or that some countries think we should be overpessimistic. We are trying to present the facts in a sober way so that measures can be taken. Here I do not think there is any basic difference between any members of this Council because I think most of you accept that there has to be increased emphasis on food production at the national level, and if some of you, many of you, feel that food sector strategies, whatever you call them, may be an important way of achieving this, well and good, FAO will play its part in assisting countries with their strategies, with their plans, with their priorities and programmes to achieve the same end.

The feeling I got from some interventions was that somehow there was a difference between this part of the hall and parts of that part of the hall, and there is no difference as far as I can see. We are trying to present the facts as they are, realizing the positive and the negative and concentrating our efforts where we can get the best results, which is developing food production in the low-income countries as well as on a general basis and encouraging the largest producers and the largest stockers to continue to be such and to continue to be generous in helping the less fortunate countries.

CHAIRMAN: With that we will come to a close this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours.

La seance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 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 83/PV/5

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(15 June 1983)

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45 sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I am happy that the Director-General has given his valuable time to be here with us this morning.

- 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 Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 13-20 April 1983) (continued)
- 5. Rapport de la huitième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 13-20 avril 1983) (suite)
- 5. Informe del octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 13-20 de abril de 1983) (continuación)

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The position of my delegation concerning the agenda item before us has been covered largely by the Representative of the European Economic Community. I can therefore be brief and limit myself to a few remarks.

Firstly, the broad concept to world food security set out in the Director-General's Report with the decisive element in it, namely, the increase of food production in developing countries, is in line with my Government's policy paper for its cooperation with developing countries. Agriculture and rural development is given therein highest priority.

Secondly, more attention should, in our view, be given to non-cereal food crops in an effort to strengthen food security. The delegate of Kenya yesterday referred to tubers, roots and pulses.

Thirdly, in view of the broad and detailed concept of food security, it is not surprising that the Committee on Food Security could not lend its support to quite a number of concrete operational and organizational proposals, either because quite contrary positions were held, or because there was not sufficient time to discuss the problems in detail. Taking into account this state of affairs, my delegation finds itself in agreement with paragraph 90 of the report, document CL 83/10, before us, in which the Secretariat is asked, when preparing the documents for the next session of the

Committee on World Food Security, to concentrate more on such areas and proposals for which a consensus seems to be possible in the near future - a point which was yesterday particularly stressed also by the delegate of Norway.

Fourthly and finally, I should like to ask again for an as early as possible dispatch of the documents for the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security because prior to the discussion of the integrated concept for an improvement of food security and the proposals contained in, a thorough examination and coordination within my country's Government, as well as with other EEC Member States, will be necessary.

H.F. NAJEB (Iraq) (original language Arabic): This document CL 83/10 is practically a report from the CFS that has been submitted to us for adoption. I would be very pleased if the Chairman of the CFS had submitted this report to us, notwithstanding, of course, the excellent introduction made by Prof. Islam. The reason for this is that this is a report of the Committee even at this stage of its discussions. I think we need to use the same procedure for all committees which are within the Council's ambit. Therefore I believe a follow-up committee should be set up for each Council Committee. This follow-up committee would consist of members of the Council and of the FAO's Secretariat, so that it can follow up the execution of decisions taken by the Committee and adopted by the Council. This would be done at the organizations or at Member Countries of the organizations.

This is a proposal I would like to make. Hoping that this Council would support it, since it makes Member Countries share the responsibilities of following up the decisions they take.

Turning now to the Report itself, we would like to make the following comments: as regards the IEF, the commitments are 365,000 tons for 1983 and 177,000 tons for 1984. The number of donor countries has dropped from 20 in 1980 to 18 in 1982. We believe that this is not a very good result and we trust that things will improve in the future. Second, as regards food-aid needs, the Organization has evaluated these as above 20 million tons of cereals for 1985 of which 3 million for emergency situations. However, the Committee has not agreed to increase the level of the food aid fixed at 10 million tons in 1974. Even though the Committee considered this target as a good indicator, we would like to see more positive results in this field.

Third, the resources of the World Food Programme: the Committee on Food Aid has suggested a target of \$1,350 million. This is 10 percent lower than the Executive Director suggested. However, we are quite pleased with this result and we hope that it will be put into effect so that the WFP can maintain its activities.

Fourth, as regards the Director-General's new proposals on world food security we believe that the CFS has taken on board its responsibilities here as regards this broadened concept of food security which has been muted by the Director-General. The idea is that developing countries and needy countries should be taken into account as regards providing substance for their populations. The three objectives are made very clear and explicit in the proposal: sufficient food production, Stability of supply and access to stocks. We believe that this could be a good foundation for a steady and strong system of food security. The Committee reached consensus on the measures to be taken at national and regional levels, and this can be considered, *inter alia*, as a clear indication of the international community's support for the excellent proposals made by the Director-General. As for the measures to be taken at a global and international level, it is natural that they be influenced by the narrow interests of certain countries. The same thing happened for the action plan proposed for food security. It would be appropriate for us to stress before this Council the need for FAO to continue working on the details of these proposals so as they be clear to all parties concerned and in all fora so as to secure the continuity of dialogue and discussions in order to reach a common understanding. This should go parallel to the strengthening of the CFS.

Regarding the countries of the Middle East, we are all very aware of the need for food security and we realize that production has to be stepped up. This has been reflected in all our development plans in the region and these countries realize what importance is attached to such a programme for their very survival. We need to have the necessary infrastructure in the countries which need it. We believe that this is vital for agricultural development, for improving health and for improving living standards. Ten percent to 20 percent of development budget is earmarked to this sector and 20 percent to 30 percent is needed for agriculture specifically so that you can see that up to 50 percent of the total of the budget allocations needs to be considered for agriculture. In Iraq we allocate to the agriculture and irrigation sectors the lion's share of our development plan. This is done by giving emphasis to training, health, education and transport because those are the necessary supports that agriculture needs. But as we said yesterday, the climatic conditions are very difficult in this area. The political situation forced the region to be on the defensive: to defend our land, our homes and our children, so large amounts of money were diverted from buying food supplies for our people, to buying defensive equipment to defend our land and our lives.

To conclude, we would like to state before the Council that we very much support the review done by the Organization regarding the 30 studies and the short- and long-term objectives which should be given priority in the African countries. We believe that we need to increase food production before the year 2000 so that our brethren in Africa can satisfy their requirements. We realize that we have to work to a given goal and our African brothers must also work towards that end. This is going to require a lot of aid and investment so that the necessary infrastructure can be put in place. There is also a danger which does not only affect Africa but all those who are producers of raw materials. This, of course, is not directly linked to food security but there is an indirect link, there is a scientific imbalance between these countries and developed countries. Developed countries are able to find industrial substitutes for the goods produced by developing countries, particularly for their commodities. There are technological developments and there are substitutes which are competing with the products of developing countries. We do not really know how to respond to this. All we can do is to reaffirm what has been said by a number of developed countries' statesmen themselves: what is in the interest of the developing countries is also, in the long term, in the interest of the developed countries.

G.J. BOXALL (New Zealand): Council members have been asked to consider three matters arising from the report of the Committee on World Food Security as presented to us in document CL 83/10. These are; assessment of the world food security situation and adequacy of stock; the Director-General's report on world food security and the consideration of the constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries of Africa and measures to overcome them.

The Eighth Session of the CFS was held just two months ago. The assessment made then of the world food security situation has not changed. Delegations have already given this matter good coverage in discussion under the previous item. We shall not comment further.

The Director-General's report to the CFS is an important document. Our delegation recognizes it as a constructive attempt in opening up international dialogue on the important matter of food security. Its presentation in April was indeed timely. The New Zealand delegation appreciates the need for a dependable system of world food security with effective economic prescriptions which would safeguard the interests of both developing and developed countries alike. Testimony to the importance of food security and the interest which the Director-General's paper invoked is the fact that the vast majority of delegates at the open CFS session participated in this item.

It is not our intention in this debate at Council to delve into the intricacies of the Director-General's report. The report of the Committee on World Food Security is an accurate summary of the discussions that take place and the directions given to the Director-General for follow-up action are clear. We would merely like briefly to comment on some basic issues. Like many delegations there is much in the Director-General's report that we can agree with and we did agree with. Certainly the broader concept of food security we are happy to accept and we are happy to share in the endorsement of the Director-General's proposed measures at the national level. We also welcome the trade aspects which came out of the report as identified in para 64 of CL 83/10.

The Director-General raised many issues and he himself recognized that some of his proposals were of a preliminary nature and by definition for long-term consideration and possible implementation. It is in the areas where consensus was achieved, or likely to be achieved in the near future, that the New Zealand delegation considered emphasis should be placed and efforts intensified. The other proposals on which there was no consensus, or where consensus did not appear possible in the near future, are matters for further elaboration, examination and long-term consideration and we look forward to further reports by the Director-General on these matters. It may be useful to continue a dialogue informally with the Secretariat to enable the member countries to explain their constraints outside the formal Committee proceedings. In this way it may be possible to develop greater understanding of the issues involved.

In concluding our comments on the Director-General's report we would like to endorse the call made by others for cooperation among the various agencies involved in this vital question and in this regard we support the Director-General's approach as outlined in para 164 of document CFS 83/4.

The third matter Council members are asked to examine is the consideration of constraints of food production in low-income food-deficit countries of Africa and methods to overcome them. The New Zealand delegation recognizes the precarious food problem faced by these countries. We are hopeful that an international economic recovery will also help to reduce these tendencies towards increased agricultural protectionism with the result that a real increase in world trade will help reverse the disturbing development in the terms of trade in many developing countries.

We of course support FAO's designation of Africa as a priority area, given the major urgent problems faced by the region. We look forward to the Director-General's second Report which in particular will focus on how to overcome, where practicable, the physical constraints surrounding the development of adequate security faced by many countries in the African region.

Y.A. HAMDI (fcgypt)(original language Arabic): I would first on behalf of my delegation thank Professor Nurul Islam for his introduction to this document. My delegation has already taken part in the 8th Session of the Committee on World Food Security and at that time we made various comments and adopted the report. I would like to recall some of the comments that we made at that time on certain specific parts of the report.

In the third section of the document, which reviews the implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security, my delegation would like to congratulate the organization on the efforts made in the setting up of a regional Committee for Asia and the Indian Ocean for food security, in this way helping to consolidate the efforts at collective self-reliance that are made in these areas and strengthening food security in general. My delegation would be very interested in having a similar office established for the Near East region. We would also very much like to support all efforts that have been made to strengthen food security in the Sahelian region, in southern Africa and Latin America.

We would also like to go along with the conclusions of the experts of the Group of 77 who met in regard to the questions of food security and their inclusion in national and regional plans.

The fourth section of the document deals with the Director-General's report on world food security, and here allow me to say that my delegation especially appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General in the preparation of his report. This is a very exhaustive and complete report which identifies the problems related to food security at national, regional and international levels.

We would also support the new concept on food security and we would support the proposals which have been made at national, regional and international levels, which are the 3 basic pillars of world food security.

My delegation would also support the activities for implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security as well as any efforts at strengthening the national and regional plans and programmes so that food security can actually be achieved through these activities.

My delegation would also like to subscribe to the idea of the establishment of an international fund for world food security but we would suggest that a more detailed study should be carried out on this matter, particularly in regard to the relations between this new fund with the existing funds.

My delegation would also like to support everything that has been said in regard to the strengthening of the role of the Committee on World Food Security, because its role is of utmost importance in this area and it is really a leader in all activities in this field. We also feel that some of the proposals made should be gone into in further detail and I think it would be useful to have a more extensive and thorough dialogue on these principles within the Committee on World Food Security.

The fifth part of the document deals with the factors which limit production in the low-income food-deficit countries of Africa. My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for its review of the studies that covers over thirty countries in Africa and we would like to support all activities which are being carried out in regard to the elimination of barriers to food production in Africa and we also would support the priorities which can be found in paragraph 111 of the document - training, research, delivery systems, institutional development etc. We would also be very interested in seeing the follow-up report which is going to be prepared by the Director-General for the next session.

The sixth part of the document deals with increasing the flow of resources for food security programmes. My delegation feels that all projects dealing with food security are of the utmost importance but we would hope that the implementation of the food security assistance scheme projects could be more rapid and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the countries participating in these projects and appeal to them to continue and increase their support for these projects.

Ms. J.S. WALLACE (United States of America): The topic of world food security is foremost in the minds of all of us. We believe that the Report of the Committee on World Food Security as contained in document CL 83/10 generally reflects the various views expressed in the Committee. In our view the revised concept of food security must be interpreted in a broad institutional context which cuts across the activities and responsibilities of all international agencies concerned with food and with food security problems. Because of the importance that all Member Nations attach to this topic it is essential to avoid duplication of our efforts in other international fora and that we encourage greater harmony and cooperation between those organizations engaged in this important humanitarian endeavour.

Other speakers, particularly those from Africa, have recognized that the ultimate responsibility for achieving an adequate availability of foodstuffs rests with each national government. It is essential therefore that all governments work towards greater self-reliance and devote a larger share of their national resources to food and agricultural development. In this context we encourage all countries to make greater use of the immense resources of the private sector, particularly in financing activities with the various international development agencies. This will not only increase the level of resources available for investment but also provide the technology needed to modernize farm production methods and food processing and marketing systems. While we believe that national food reserve policies and programmes are essential elements to food security the success of these policies and programmes requires a fundamental commitment, a determined political will, on the part of each government.

As stated in the Committee's Report, effective national food security programmes and strategies require clear-cut objectives and pursuit of appropriate policies in addition to adequate resources to implement these policies and achieve these objectives. Thus we urge greater attention to be given to the identification and articulation of national policies which will provide adequate economic incentives, such as credit and marketing systems to farmers, especially the small landholders, in order to induce them to increase their food production.

The United States continues to support the Lagos Plan of Action, because we believe it will help African nations forge their own paths towards greater self-reliance and a higher standard of living for their people.

My government's commitments to development in sub-Sahara Africa, where food needs are greatest, is underscored by the fact that we propose to provide a total of \$766 million to support the economic development in fiscal year 1984. In addition we are requesting authority to provide \$204 million in food assistance through the Public Law 480 Programme. This magnitude of assistance is unprecedented in that continent and when combined with the resources of other donor nations and international agencies such as the African Development Bank, in which we also participate, this should go a considerable distance towards meeting the priority agricultural and other development requirements of this important region.

We strongly agree with the choices of priorities made by the African governments themselves which will help improve the prospects for increased food production, particularly of indigenous products such as tubers and legumes.

The United States Agency for International Development is also giving equally high priority to training, agricultural research, institutional development and the creation of effective delivery systems in programmes in Africa. One particular activity which we believe should be given greater emphasis and which would substantially increase the amount of available food is in reducing pre-and post-harvest food losses.

We are working closely with the FAO and other Member Governments in the Sahel region in the design and implementation of the second phase of a major programme in this important area. These and other similar initiatives would substantially alleviate the problems in food-deficit countries as well as ensure a greater degree of national self-reliance.

In conclusion, the United States remains committed to work with this Organization and its Members to achieve food security wherever there is a strong commitment to succeed. I wish to reassure you that we will continue to maintain adequate food reserve stocks and remain a reliable supplier in response to global demand for our farm products. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts to solve the problems which afflict so many poor people in the areas of the world.

Ms. M.C. WENNER (United Kingdom): The last session in April of the Committee on World Food Security proved to be a particularly important one, firstly, because the presentation of the Director-General's report gave the Committee a good deal of food for thought, and secondly, because it began to address in a more positive form the very real problems facing the low-income food-deficit countries in Africa.

As we stated at the first meeting of CFS, we are grateful to the Director-General for preparing a comprehensive and thought-provoking review. He has put forward a great number of proposals, and as he has said himself, the report is ambitious in scope. We therefore fully support the Director-General's own suggestion that we approach the details of the report in a cautious and pragmatic manner. As many delegations here have already observed, the new concept of food security received widespread support. This formalizes the practical situation at present, as observed by China, and is a valuable start in the process of revising our ideas.

Equally, it has been stated that real food security lies in the promotion of food production at the national level. We heartily agree. Action at the regional and sub-regional level can also be valuable if sensibly and sensitively directed.

As has been noted, the Committee has some difficulty in agreeing on suitable action at the international level, and we look forward to the continuation of the debate on this matter at future sessions of the CFS.

While we believe that the present system for dealing with global foods security needs rationalization, we must repeat our doubts about a number of the Director-General's proposals, particularly on a new fund and a compact which would in our view duplicate work already being done by, for example, the development banks, the World Food Council and the World Food Programme. However, deeper consideration can be given to these proposals once they have been elaborated in more detail. Similarly, more attention should be devoted to the role of FAO whose field resources could undoubtedly be harnessed to advantage in the development of national food strategies. We had understood that it was not the intention of the CFS meeting to look into the question of institutional implications. However, it was probably inevitable that they should have been looked into, and they were, in considerable detail. We must therefore reiterate our point of view now. A review of this kind does impinge on the area of competence of other bodies, in particular the International Wheat Council, the WFP and the WFC. We agree that the CFS can look at these questions, and we certainly raised no objections when the Director-General's report was under discussion. However, decisions affecting the mandates of other institutions will have to be taken by their own governing bodies. Like Norway, we regret that valuable time must be spent on fruitless debate on this kind of matter drawing attention away from the vital and substantive issues of food security. The report of the CFS meeting had a long and difficult birth. We were not actually members of the Drafting Committee but we did receive reports. We do now, however, have a baby which needs careful nurturing. While we recommend that the Council adopt the child, we do not think it would be right to accelerate its development beyond the natural course of events. If we do that, we may foster deformity and have brought a child into the world to no good purpose.

Turning now to the report on Constraints on Food Production in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries in Africa, we are particularly pleased to see the welcome given to this by the Committee on World Food Security. The African countries have themselves taken the lead in proposing practical follow-up action, and we wholeheartedly support this initiative. We hope that the CFS will continue to keep this vital issue in the forefront of its work at future sessions, and we look forward to seeing practical proposals for action in the future, as promised in paragraph 112 of the CFS report.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je vous remercie, M. le Président, pour m'avoir donné l'occasion de prendre la parole sur un point tellement important, à savoir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, question qui préoccupe mon gouvernement, le Gouvernement du Liban, qui a toujours participé aux actions visant à résoudre les problèmes auxquels fait face l'homme où qu'il se trouve.

Ce thème est considéré par la FAO comme l'une de ses tâches primordiales, et il est lié étroitement à son message, à savoir l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde: Je dis ceci et j'ai encore à l'esprit les prises de position du Directeur général de la FAO face à ce problème et les différentes instances où il a tiré la sonnette d'alarme devant la crise alimentaire et l'impossibilité de faire face aux catastrophes naturelles et humaines, surtout en ces moments où l'aide alimentaire est de plus en plus nécessaire. Le Directeur général a, à plus d'une reprise, et dans les réunions aussi bien de la FAO que d'autres forums, attiré l'attention sur ce problème et sur la nécessité de le résoudre d'une façon objective et rapide. Il n'a ménagé aucun effort, en ce sens jusqu'au moment où il a élaboré son rapport qu'il a soumis au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire au cours de sa huitième session, rapport figurant dans le document CL 83/10.

Le rapport du Directeur général a passé à nouveau en revue la notion élargie de sécurité alimentaire et ses composantes et, dans un cadre d'organisation globale, il a proposé de nouvelles approches pour résoudre la sécurité alimentaire qui va de pair avec l'engagement pris par la communauté internationale pour l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde pour la fin de ce siècle.

Le Directeur général a donc proposé une notion élargie de la sécurité alimentaire visant à mettre en oeuvre toutes les mesures pratiques et économiques pour que les populations du monde entier puissent satisfaire à tout moment leurs besoins alimentaires. La nouvelle notion qu'il propose pour résoudre ce problème nécessite l'élaboration de toutes approches nécessaires dans ce sens. Donc une fois que des efforts conjoints sont consentis dans ce sens nous arriverons à un système de sécurité alimentaire mondiale globale.

Donc, les propositions de la FAO doivent s'orienter vers trois objectifs principaux, à savoir: une production suffisante des produits alimentaires, une meilleure commercialisation et une meilleure distribution de la production alimentaire.

Ma délégation appuie pleinement cette notion élargie de sécurité alimentaire proposée par le Directeur général, surtout que la plupart des activités à entreprendre seront centrées principalement dans les pays à faible production alimentaire, et donc pays à bas revenu et à déficit alimentaire. Ma délégation appuie pleinement cette nouvelle approche de sécurité alimentaire et estime que la sécurité alimentaire est une question mondiale globale qui touche les intérêts de tous les pays, qu'ils soient riches ou pauvres. Cette vue découle d'un proverbe qui dit: "si ton voisin est à l'aise tu le seras aussi et vice-versa". Il faut également voir ce problème comme étant un fléau qui découle des politiques adoptées dans le domaine du développement, de la production et de la commercialisation.

Le fait que le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale ait adopté par consensus cette notion élargie de sécurité alimentaire est une base suffisante pour que le Conseil non seulement adopte cette nouvelle notion mais également pour qu'il recommande à toutes les instances s'occupant de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture de prendre cette nouvelle notion comme base de leurs activités dans ce domaine.

Ma délégation, donc, partage pleinement le point de vue du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, à savoir que tous les efforts consentis dans ce domaine au niveau national sont primordiaux pour apporter une solution à la sécurité alimentaire, surtout dans les pays à bas revenu et à déficit alimentaire.

Ma délégation partage également le point de vue estimant que c'est à ces pays d'élaborer des programmes de développement nationaux fondés sur des objectifs clairs et précis, et les politiques nécessaires à atteindre ces objectifs.

Ma délégation partage entièrement le point de vue du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, à savoir que ces mêmes pays ont besoin d'une aide financière, bilatérale ou multilatérale, pour mettre en oeuvre ces programmes. Néanmoins nous voulons à ce propos mettre l'accent sur le conseil découlant de la discussion de ce thème par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire à savoir que ces programmes nationaux peuvent être planifiés en collaboration avec la FAO, qui doit s'acquitter de sa tâche; essayer de fournir l'aide nécessaire à ces pays et en coordonner l'utilisation.

D'autre part le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale a réitéré son appui aux lignes d'orientation adoptées précédemment et proposées par le Secrétariat de la FAO, relatives aux activités dans ce domaine au plan régional. Il a considéré que c'est là un cadre approprié de travail. Ainsi les propositions du Directeur général au plan national et régional ont bénéficié de l'appui du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Il ne reste plus au Conseil qu'à attirer l'attention sur l'importance capitale de ces propositions et à adopter les recommandations du Comité. Permettez-moi, M. le Président, de remercier les membres du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire pour le consensus auquel ils ont abouti relatif au rôle de chef de file de la FAO dans la consolidation de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

Nous voulons également appuyer le point suivant à savoir que c'est le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire qui est l'instance appropriée pour assumer la responsabilité de la sécurité alimentaire dans le cadre de la notion élargie proposée par le Directeur général. Donc nous proposons que le Conseil élabore des propositions permettant au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire de jouer un rôle primordial et que le mandat de ce Comité soit élargi puisque ce serait là l'organe spécialisé qui s'occuperait de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

Enfin, je suis heureux d'appuyer le résultat des discussions qui ont eu lieu au sein de la huitième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, surtout concernant les facteurs limitant la production alimentaire dans les pays d'Afrique et également la priorité accordée à la formation, à la recherche et au développement des entreprises. Le Conseil devrait donc appuyer la proposition du CSA relative à un deuxième rapport qui serait élaboré par le Directeur général sur le suivi de cette question et qui déterminerait les priorités dans ce domaine.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): Thailand also sends congratulations to the 8th session of the Committee on World Food Security.

However, on this occasion my delegation would like to reiterate our position regarding the work of this Committee. First we fully agree with the new concept on world food security as agreed by the Committee and as shown in paragraph 43 of this report. Secondly we also support that the Committee on World Food Security is the most appropriate body to assume the main responsibility in dealing with food security in cooperation with other bodies. Thirdly we accept that there is a need to strengthen the Committee on World Food Security within its existing mandate, especially its role to promote regional and subregional cooperation in food security matters, since we believe that we cannot solve food security problems at the country level unless we can do it at the regional level first.

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Estamos muy complacidos, señor Presidente, por la magnífica exposición que llevo a cabo el Sr. Islam, así como por la calidad del informe del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Es el concepto y estrategia de la seguridad alimentaria propuesto por el Director General un paso transcendental que promueve un renovado multilateralismo y un enfoque global de las relaciones económicas internacionales lo que obliga a fortalecer al sistema de las Naciones Unidas, y aumentar su coordinación y eficacia. Sin embargo, nos preocupa que la inercia de las circunstancias y el peso de los intereses de los poderosos hagan de estos esfuerzos lo que ocurría con la tela de Penélope: "lo que tejía de día, de noche destejía".

El desorden económico internacional amenaza con destruir la tela de todo progreso. Pronto, si las cosas no cambian, los países en desarrollo dejarán de serlo; es decir, serán sólo países sin desarrollo. La recuperación económica de las naciones del Sur depende casi exclusivamente de la reactivación económica de los países desarrollados y, fundamentalmente, de la supervisión de situaciones de grave desequilibrio e inequidad en materia monetaria, financiera, comercial, etc.

Las soluciones o acuerdos propuestos recientemente, si así se les puede llamar, como los Williamsburg, lo son exclusivamente de y para los países desarrollados. Las negociaciones globales no han avanzado, y los intereses de los poderosos se siguen imponiendo a los argumentos de los países débiles. En este contexto, la concepción y la estrategia de seguridad alimentaria deberá abrirse paso con los esfuerzos decididos de la mayoría de los países del mundo.

México reafirma su apoyo a dicha concepción y estrategia, como lo proponía el Documento CFS/83/4 en sus capítulos 1, 2 y 3, así como el fortalecimiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Observamos, sin embargo, que el concepto debería incluir además un mayor acento en la producción nacional de alimentos; el que los cereales no sean el foco de interés principal o exclusivo, sino que se incluyan con la misma importancia alimentos básicos tales como leguminosas, raíces, tubérculos, productos del mar y otros que conforman las dietas principales de pueblos de países en desarrollo. También la necesidad de controlar u orientar los intereses privados y extranacionales, involucrados de manera muy importante en la producción y distribución de alimentos.

Con relación a la estrategia, destacamos la necesidad de aumentar sostenidamente la producción interna de los países en desarrollo, como condición para lograr la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Se debería considerar más el papel de naciones de desarrollo intermedio y otras con grandes potencialidades agrícolas; la alimentación en general para que se logren excedentes alimenticios que se pudieran orientar a fortalecer el intercambio Sur/Sur.

Enfatizamos que el propósito de esta sugerencia es buscar una colaboración que permita la reactivación económica y la mayor estabilidad de los mercados de los países en desarrollo.

Insistimos en poner más énfasis a la necesidad de regular el mercado alimentario y evitar las negativas implicaciones de dejar todo al libre juego de las fuerzas del mercado.

Reiteramos que México no está de acuerdo con el principio de las ventajas comparativas en el contexto de un orden económico internacional que no es justo ni es eficiente. El recurso de importar alimentos debe condicionarse a una política de producción alimentaria nacional, tomando en cuenta la inestabilidad del mercado alimentario mundial y el posible uso de los alimentos como instrumento de presión política. El autoabastecimiento alimentario debe y puede ser un objetivo vital y alcanzable para muchos países del mundo en desarrollo. Sin embargo, estamos convencidos de que los Gobiernos y las Naciones del Sur, no podremos avanzar en forma aislada y sin políticas de reactivación económica, global y nacional que permitan asegurar una demanda real y efectiva de alimentos y la elevación del ingreso real. Esa es la única manera de romper el ciclo vicioso del hambre.

El esfuerzo de seguridad alimentaria nacional debe garantizar la adecuada alimentación que cubran los requerimientos nutricionales (calóricos y proteicos), de toda la población que bien podrían expresarse en un grupo o canastas de alimentos que consideren los hábitos alimenticios de la población y la diversidad regional y que se traduzcan en metas de consumo que rijan a su vez a las de producción.

La seguridad alimentaria nacional debe basarse fundamentalmente en la capacidad de producción interna y en su fortalecimiento para lograr prioritariamente que la población de menores ingresos eleve su capacidad adquisitiva y tenga acceso a una adecuada nutrición.

Esa política deberá combinarse con una educación nutricional para enfrentar los nocivos patrones de consumo de los alimentos chatarra, y rescatar aquellos alimentos tradicionales, nutritivos que son productos de siglos de evolución adaptativos de la comunidad a sus requerimientos alimenticios según su actividad y medio ambiente.

El logro de la seguridad alimentaria nacional de la mayor parte de los países del mundo es un prerrequisito para lograr la seguridad alimentaria mundial estable y creciente.

A nivel regional deberá enfatizarse la idea de complementar actividades alimentarias a partir de criterios de equidad en el usufructo de dichas actividades. Priorizar aquellas que tiendan al fortalecimiento de la producción en la región y la consecuente formación de reservas con esa producción.

Reiteramos que la FAO debe seguir apoyando con el máximo entusiasmo iniciativas como CASAR dentro del SELA, porque representan los pilares para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria de la región latinoamericana.

A nivel mundial, el énfasis debe ponerse en liberar a los países de la creciente dependencia alimentaria pensando en la reivindicación de la producción interna de todos y cada uno de los países del mundo. Los países en desarrollo no hemos agotado nuestras potencialidades productivas.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, queremos insistir en que los países africanos merecen todo nuestro apoyo, un mayor apoyo, por ser éstos los que más necesidades y carencias tienen. Respaldamos plenamente las propuestas que al respecto se han considerado en el Informe y se han manejado en este Consejo.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, Mr. Chairman, we would like to say that we are happy to see you chairing this Council session again with great ability and a profound grasp for the issues being deliberated upon. We would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairman on their election.

At this stage of the debate we can afford to be brief and to the point. The Philippine delegation endorses the report as approved by the Committee on World Food Security. We endorse the broad

concept on world food security that was unanimously approved by the CFS. We likewise strongly endorse the measures to improve world food security at the national and the regional levels. We also support the appropriate measures at the international level recommended by the Director-General in his report, as we do, not only in the CFS and in this Council but elsewhere where these are being taken up.

We would also like to reiterate our support for a gradual strengthening of the activities of the Committee on World Food Security under its present terms of reference in line with the recommendations of the Director General in his opening speech to this Council, while respecting the responsibilities of other bodies. Mr. Chairman, we believe this is indeed possible with goodwill and understanding on the part of all.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Philippines delegation would like to stress the need for a better and adequate cooperation among the UN bodies dealing with food security. Mr. Chairman, the very acceptance of the wider concept of world food security means, among other things, that the number of institutions involved with world food security has also increased. It means that all institutions concerned with - and I quote from paragraph 60 of the Director-General's report - "the factors that have a bearing on the capacity of the countries and of people to produce or purchase food" have acquired key roles to play in the action needed to ensure world food security; that is all institutions involved with food production, distribution, consumption, trade, as well as employment and resource flows have now important roles to play in improving of food security.

Since no organization is or can become big enough to handle effectively all these aspects of food security, there is a greater need - more than ever before - for a better and adequate coordination among institutions involved in food security. We believe no efforts should be spared to achieve such coordination in order to help realize the goal desired by all of us of an adequate, and lasting food security for all peoples and nations, particularly developing countries.

Señora E. HERAZO DE VITI (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá le concedió la justa dimensión e importancia al redente pasado período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial de abril pasado; y esta importancia estuvo plenamente justificada por el trascendental tema tratado en este 8º período de sesiones, como lo fue el informe del Director General sobre la reconsideración de los conceptos y métodos de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, así como otros temas abordados, tales como el de la evaluación de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial y el de la suficiencia de las existencias, lo mismo que el referente a las dificultades para el aumento de la producción alimentaria en los países africanos de bajos ingresos y con déficits de alimentos.

Sobre el determinado aspecto de la evaluación constante y oportuna de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial estamos de acuerdo con lo señalado por el CSA en el sentido de que se mantenga una actitud de permanente vigilancia por parte de este Consejo sobre la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Esta delegación reitera su apoyo al nuevo concepto revisado y ampliado de la seguridad alimentaria mundial contenido en el informe del Director General sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial que mereció la principal atención del pasado período de sesiones y está de acuerdo con todas aquellas medidas que efectivamente fortalezcan el CSA como las detalladas en los párrafos 148 y 149 del mencionado informe del Director General.

Importante a nuestro juicio es la creación de un fondo especial para la seguridad alimentaria mundial, como pidió la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina; la adopción de un fondo así debe conllevar la creación de un programa de acción ágil y actualizado para hacer frente a los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Aceptamos que la acción a nivel nacional es indispensable para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria y que frente a la insuficiencia de los países para alcanzar niveles autosuficientes completos en alimentos básicos es necesario alcanzar la misma mediante un aumento de los ingresos por exportaciones que les permitirá pagar sus importaciones de alimentos.

En cuanto a las medidas que se tomen a nivel nacional es necesario tener muy en cuenta la importancia de las medidas aceptadas que están enunciadas en la declaración de principios y programas de acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural celebrada en esta sede en julio de 1979.

Por lo que concierne a las medidas a nivel regional y subregional en materia de seguridad alimentaria hay creciente conciencia, así como el deseo de materializar acciones pese a los innumerables y variados problemas que se presentan por parte de nuestros países, como lo ha demostrado en este caso la reciente creación del Comité de Acción sobre Seguridad Alimentaria regional en el marco del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano, el SELA, y nosotros esperamos y confiamos en la valiosa cooperación y apoyo que la FAO brindará a estas acciones que tienden a la solución de los problemas complejos de carácter regional, subregional y de áreas.

Apoyamos lo acordado por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en su pasada reunión sobre el logro de un comercio de explotación libre y en crecimiento como aspecto importante para establecer la seguridad alimentaria mundial, actuando preferentemente tanto en esta Organización como en otras que examinan cuestiones comerciales, como la UNCTAD y el GATT; y a este respecto cabe subrayar lo expresado por el Director General en su declaración inicial en el sentido de que la interdependencia no es producto de la fantasía de un grupo de presión idealista que propugna la ayuda, sino una realidad que va en interés de todos.

Esta delegación se manifestó en el último período de reunión del CSA y se manifiesta en este Consejo de la FAO en el sentido de que quede claramente establecido que las numerosas propuestas del completo informe del Director General deben alcanzarse gradualmente y por etapas por lo que cabe al estudio en profundidad de las mismas, tanto en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria como en este órgano, sin que este estudio se dilate por lustros; es por esto que esperamos el próximo informe del Director General para el nuevo período de sesiones del CSA con la esperanza de que iniciemos acuerdos concretos sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Y para terminar, Señor Presidente, la delegación de Panamá cree oportuno, en el debate de este tema, destacar y reconocer el liderazgo mundial positivo que la búsqueda de soluciones para el logro de una seguridad alimentaria estable ha tenido y tiene el Director General de la FAO, el Doctor Saouma, a quien reconocemos sus denodados esfuerzos en esta acusada lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, no defraudándonos en la confianza que los Estados Miembros hemos depositado en él y le exhortamos, e igualmente le ofrecemos todo nuestro apoyo para que continúe por este camino.

M. BENNIS (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais d'abord me joindre à ceux qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter le Prof. Islam de son introduction concise et précise du rapport relatif aux travaux du dernier Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Mon pays, comme il l'a souligné au cours de ses interventions au niveau du Comité, soutient le Directeur général pour les efforts inlassables qu'il déploie pour mettre en place un système de sécurité alimentaire mondiale efficace et tenant compte de tous les aspects de la sécurité alimentaire.

Mon pays est en effet très inquiet de l'inégalité d'accès aux disponibilités alimentaires existantes, dont le niveau est cependant susceptible de faire face à toute la demande potentielle partout dans le monde. Cette situation montre clairement qu'il ne suffit pas de produire, mais encore faut-il permettre à tous, notamment aux populations des pays en développement, d'acquiescer les denrées dont ils ont besoin.

A ce propos, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de réitérer avec insistance mon appel pour que les pays développés cessent de multiplier le nombre de barrières entravant le développement des exportations agricoles des pays en développement, sachant que les recettes, que ces exportations génèrent, couvrent une quote-part importante et parfois prédominante des importations des pays concernés.

Mon pays apporte un appui total à l'idée d'encourager la production de toutes les denrées alimentaires susceptibles d'aider à l'amélioration de l'alimentation et de la nutrition dans les pays en développement, car cette action est de nature à permettre une meilleure exploitation des potentialités qu'offrent les différents écosystèmes de production alimentaire à travers le monde.

Monsieur le Président, il est évident que nous sommes tous d'accord que la question de la sécurité alimentaire est complexe. Aussi devons-nous appuyer sans réserve toute action visant à assurer une étroite collaboration et une plus grande coordination des activités de tous les organismes internationaux, régionaux et nationaux qui s'occupent de l'alimentation, en marquant cependant la prédominance de la FAO dans ce domaine.

Nous sommes convaincus que la FAO ne ménage pas ses efforts pour apporter toute l'assistance aux pays qui en ont besoin. Mais nous voudrions demander, à cette occasion, que notre Organisation renforce ses moyens d'intervention pour drainer l'aide alimentaire dans de bonnes conditions. Mais à nous tous incombe la responsabilité de lui fournir les moyens suffisants.

Monsieur le Président, mon pays appuie par ailleurs l'orientation selon laquelle les pays en développement doivent constituer des réserves alimentaires. Mais il faudra, pour que cela puisse être fait, qu'un renforcement de l'aide dans ce domaine soit réalisé, aussi bien pour financer les équipements à installer que les stocks à gérer.

En définitive, ma délégation estime que la question de la sécurité alimentaire est un problème qui incombe à l'humanité entière, et non à tel ou tel Etat à déficit alimentaire, à l'exclusion de tel ou tel Etat gros producteur ou gros stockeur. Aussi la solidarité internationale s'impose-t-elle d'office par la morale humanitaire sans qu'il soit nécessaire de réitérer les sollicitations en faveur des populations défavorisées. Puissions-nous donc faire appel à la conscience de l'homme pour l'homme.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia),: May I thank Dr. Nurul Islam for his excellent introductory statement on the item under discussion. World food security without hesitation can be referred to as one of the most important problems to be dealt with in an international gathering. With reference to the report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, the Indonesian delegation, while endorsing it entirely, would like to make some comments and to underline several points which it considers of vital importance.

The Indonesian delegation endorses the broad concept of world food security which meets the present conditions, efforts and long-term objectives or ultimate goals of the entire food sector. The Government and people of Indonesia have been making strenuous efforts for many years to develop agriculture and priority is being given to the increase of food production. The results achieved in the last few years have been very encouraging indeed. In fact, the Government and the people of Indonesia are now aiming at the ultimate goal of the achievement of world food security.

As regards measures at national level, we concur with the views expressed by the Committee on World Food Security as set out in paragraphs A4 through 53 of the document. It is true that the achievement of food security at national level is the primary responsibility of the nation concerned, through the production increase. Measures at regional and local levels have to be considered as supplementary.

Referring to the Director-General's suggestion to establish world food security funds, my delegation finds that that is indeed a positive proposal. However, it must be treated with the greatest care, taking into account the present world economic recession. There are still several positive points in favour of achieving world food security and strengthening the Committee on World Food Security projected by the Secretariat which have not been fully supported by some members of the CFS. This point should be reexamined at the forthcoming session of the CFS.

In conclusion my delegation is in full agreement with paragraph 111 with the hope that the constraints on food production in Africa can soon be eliminated.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): The Barbados delegation believes that this document CL 83/10 is one of the most important documents before the Council for consideration. This is so since the matter of world food security, a naturally complex subject, presents a continuing challenge which cannot be avoided and the FAO, we believe, is the appropriate body to make a success of the matter.

Allow me to join with previous speakers who have expressed appreciation of the diligent work that has been put into the production of this document. Special thanks no doubt are due to the Director-General for his comprehensive report both in background and outlook which provides the Committee with invaluable information and direction on the subject of world food security. It is somewhat disheartening to see the bottom line of the balance sheet at paragraph 38 which says that "Food security in the broad sense ... could hardly be said to have made substantial advances" but whatever the explanations are for this state of affairs the fact remains that the 1980s should not allow this situation to persist. We feel, therefore, very encouraged with the present development of an expanded concept of world food security as set out in paragraph 43 embracing objectives of constant physical and economic access to basic food for all people.

My delegation fully supports the three specific aims involving production of adequate food supplies, maintaining stability in their flow and securing access to these supplies by those who need them. The three-tier approach of national, regional and international efforts suggested for an improved world food security situation when effectively coordinated should ensure that food security at the national level becomes a meaningful exercise.

Specifically the Barbados delegation considers that the emphasis being placed on world food security continues to acknowledge the need for increasing national production. We believe that world food security can be improved by placing greater stress on solving national food production problems. This means that good workable plans for national food production, including storage and post harvest losses and plans to improve human nutritional levels based on local production are mandatory. We share the view that action at the regional level is a natural sequel to action at the national level and planners and implementers at both levels must therefore secure that all activities are supportive of each other with duplication and frustration eliminated or kept to the barest minimum. This is of crucial importance because the cost of maintaining both regional and national organizations comes from one national purse and it makes poor sense for the same country to pay for one service twice. In this regard our recent experience in the Caribbean with some of our sub-regional organizations who were making inadequate or no meaningful impact on the efforts of the region as a whole has led us to serious reorganization of the institution to make them sensitive to their role at mobilizing efforts at greater food production for the Caribbean region. I mention this to make the point that food security cannot be taken lightly at any level and particularly at the regional level and when systems do not work to the benefit of participants no time should be lost in correcting them.

Turning to the international level my delegation sees the need for programmes to be coordinated to deal with shortfalls in national production. International food aid is necessary as a temporary measure but in all circumstances it should support national production efforts. We feel that through market policies major food exporting countries should treat access to food as fundamental and not as a matter for political advantage.

As regards IEFRR, we would like to emphasize the importance of strengthening this with measures that improve procurement and disbursement of resources. The point of a free and growing export trade in agricultural products as one of the important foundations for establishing food security has the support of my delegation. However, we wish to suggest that care has to be taken by developing countries not to allow themselves to be dropped into a policy of mono-cropping at the expense of diversification because this situation would tend to undermine the real efforts at increasing national production.

Finally my delegation supports the outline and actions designed to relieve the most severe constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries of Africa. We hold the view that the areas of training, research, delivery systems and institutional strengthening embrace all the vital components required for proper natural resources management and we look forward to the second report on this subject which we hope will reveal an improving picture.

D.C.W. KAMBAUWA (Malawi): Since this is our first time to intervene in these discussions we would like to start by congratulating you on your continued able Chairmanship in this Council and also by congratulating the three Vice-chairmen on their election. We also want to thank the Director-General and Professor Islam for their excellent survey of the world food situation and introduction of both those and the preceeding items on the agenda, respectively. My delegation wishes to say at the outset that we attach great importance to the question of food security and therefore have studied with keen interest the report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. By the same token my delegation has noted with considerable disquiet that despite overall global improvement in food production and stocks data for some regions indicate a rather stagnant, if not negative, trend. This trend is reflected in either increased aggregate food imports or in continued food shortages. My delegation wishes to place on record that we appreciate the efforts of both bilateral and multilateral agencies aimed at narrowing the gap between food requirements and supply. The initiatives of FAO are no doubt particularly noteworthy in this regard and we would like to assure you that our country will remain responsive to any constructive recommendations aimed at stimulating increased food production. Of particular relevance to us is the substance of paragraph 111 of the document under discussion at this moment. The causes of food shortages, and hence of social instability, are of course diverse and it would probably be unfair to single out one as the major causes. In some parts of the world, such as Southern Africa, it has been noted that natural causes such as drought have had a telling impact on food production. My delegation wishes to observe nevertheless that whenever the forces of nature are favourable every attempt should be made at both the national as well as the regional level, and definitely at the national level in particular, to stimulate increased food production. It is in fact in line with this belief that my country has embarked on a number of rural development programmes, of which the FAO is no doubt fully aware, thanks to the generosity of various bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and it is no wonder that we can modestly claim having achieved self-efficiency in basic foodstuffs. My delegation therefore urges the adoption of policies conducive to increasing food production in the food-deficit countries. It is definitely no longer a question that given a favourable agricultural environment small farmers will respond to calls for increased agricultural production.

One of the problems that hampers the attainment of food security, especially in some parts of Africa, is the constant outbreak of disease among livestock. Right now there is a threat of rinderpest disease in a number of African countries.

My delegation wishes to say that we have followed with keen interest the joint discussions held elsewhere aimed at checking the spread of this dangerous disease and of eradicating it. We would however say that the momentum of those discussions should not be lost, rather they should be sustained. We urge FAO and the Director-General to follow up those discussions to ensure that the decisions and recommendations made are implemented. It is only by concerted effort that we see hope of checking and eradicating this disease.

I would like to conclude by saying that we welcome the efforts of the FAO aimed at achieving global food security and we endorse the Report of the Committee on World Food Security.

A. PEREZ-MARSA HERNANDEZ (España): En primer lugar quisiera felicitar al Profesor Islam por su brillante exposición y a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento CL 83/10.

Mi delegación se reitera en la importancia del concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria mundial para cumplir con la situación actual y futura en este campo; adoptando, por consiguiente, las medidas necesarias en todos los niveles. Asimismo, vemos con satisfacción el amplio consenso que manifiestan, en torno a este tema, las distintas delegaciones. La necesidad de políticas nacionales que tengan por finalidad el aumento de la productividad agraria es la base para la solidaridad alimentaria junto a la armonización de políticas regionales y globales. Esta armonización de políticas es necesaria para que cada país pueda ir saliendo de la crisis en el marco de la cooperación internacional.

Mi delegación desea que la FAO llegue a concretar en medidas todas las dimensiones que se exponen en los conceptos que estamos comentando, así como la idea de un programa de acción para la seguridad alimentaria. Es evidente que entre las medidas destinadas a aliviar las dificultades más graves de la producción alimentaria en Africa ocupa un lugar prioritario la capacitación. Los recursos humanos son escasos y, por consiguiente, deben tener la posibilidad para acceder a las tecnologías necesarias que les permita aumentar sus producciones. En la misma línea de prioridades la investigación agraria debería ser fuente de inspiración en una clara comprensión de los sistemas económicos y sociales del lugar. En fin, es necesario prestar atención a la creación de sistemas eficaces de actuación al servicio de pequeños agricultores, mujeres inclusive, teniendo en cuenta el papel primordial que desempeñan en el desarrollo agrícola.

Quiero terminar esta breve intervención con el ánimo de que al final seremos capaces de encontrar entre todos, el camino adecuado que permita resolver los problemas por los que atraviesa la humanidad en este esencial tema de la seguridad alimentaria.

A.Y. BUKHARI Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of)(original language Arabic): We recall that quite some time ago we had warned the developing countries that being dependent on others was something they should try to eliminate and rather it was best to depend on oneself, depending on one's own population, and this we feel is the primary objective which all developing countries should try to achieve. This would be a way of building a solid basis for more extended production in their own countries and in this way to meet the basic needs of their populations. But we have seen that unfortunately our warning has not been heeded. We find that the shoulders on which we have been resting have been stooping and now they seem to be weakening.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind that the international community, the whole community, and most particularly the producing countries, have a great responsibility in giving the material and financial assistance which is necessary to the developing countries in a more effective way and on the basis of a full awareness of the situation which low-income food-deficit countries are living through. This we feel would help to establish a more generalised stability throughout the whole international community.

We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute - and this is something which we have already said many times - to the role which has been played by international institutions. Their work is of the utmost importance, especially in regard to all the measures which need to be taken and implemented to help these self-same countries, those with low income and food deficits, so as to solve these very serious problems that they are faced with in regard to the establishment of food security.

Here we are referring to the advice and guidance which has been given by these international organizations, and their effective support to these countries in elaborating their agricultural policies, even on the basis of in-depth and very complete studies of agricultural plans and programmes aimed at the increase of production and productivity. We feel that this should not be just an intermediate remedy or a temporary solution to the problem whose results would not be as far-reaching as we would wish, to then find that the problem comes up once again.

We all know that to establish food security in those countries where it is lacking is not an easy task, but we feel that this is not impossible. Of course we realise that this is a very complex problem, there are political and social aspects which are all very closely linked one to another, and we realise that quite often it is on the basis of agricultural policies that we can or cannot achieve true food security. Therefore it is up to each individual country to be aware of its own problems and make all the necessary efforts to solve these problems in a very honest and straightforward fashion so as to make it possible for those countries who are not able to do so alone to receive the necessary assistance for achieving food security. We must realise that food security is a very dangerous problem, and this is something which affects all mankind and which without doubt influences and has an effect on the vital interests of all countries.

His Excellency the Director-General of FAO has recently undertaken an objective and in-depth analysis of the very notion of world food security in developing countries and he has based his analysis on the existing situation and on very carefully thought-out elements as well as a clear concept of what world food security should be.

The Director-General has presented his report to us and it has been studied in depth by the Committee on World Food Security. Though we ourselves are not members of this Committee we are nonetheless aware of how serious the problem is and how much the low-income food-deficit countries are suffering. So we have given our support, to all the basic elements which can be found in the Director-General's report, particularly in regard to the measures aimed at the implementation of the new extended concept of world food security - I repeat, all measures at the national, regional and global levels.

We had then asked that the door remain open for a further and a more in-depth discussion of this report. We hoped that this door would not be closed. We feel that the report which has been presented to us by the Director-General is the key to this door. It is the key which will make it possible for us to achieve a true awareness of this problem, and we feel that the international community will have to know how best to make use of this key and to open this door and to establish a true and secure basis for world food security where it does not already exist.

So, we appeal to the Council to adopt a Resolution which would approve the Director-General's report so that both the Council and the Committee on World Food Security will be able to continue to study the contents of the Director-General's report in order that we can achieve the goal established by this report.

We would like to give our most complete support to the content of document CL 83/10 and particularly paragraphs 44, 48, 49 and 51 which we feel are the basic foundation for all activities in the developing world. I repeat: paragraphs 44, 48, 49 and 51, those paragraphs which deal with measures at the national level.

Now, if we look at the measures which are suggested at the regional level, we would like to give our full support once again to the paragraphs of the Director-General's report which deal with the regional level.

In regard to the measures at the global level, I would like to reiterate that my delegation gives its total support to all activities aimed at strengthening and consolidating the existing activities of low-income food-deficit countries so that they are able to establish a solid base of food security.

Lastly, we would like to support the contents of paragraphs 72 and 73 of the document which were adopted by the Committee on World Food Security at its Eighth Session. I think that the ideas included here are really self-evident, and this is something which the FAO has already carried out. We realize that if the road before us is full of obstacles, it may be difficult to follow it. Therefore, we must try to support this organization and all international organizations so that they may fulfill the aspirations of the low-income food-deficit countries.

Finally, I would like to say that the proposal for the establishment of an independent emergency reserve for refugees is an idea which should be carefully studied by the Council.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Permettez-moi, puisque je prends la parole pour la première fois dans cette session du Conseil et aussi dans ma nouvelle tâche de Représentant permanent de l'Italie auprès de l'Organisation, de rendre hommage aux éminentes qualités du Conseil et de lui souhaiter un plein succès dans ses travaux.

Je voudrais aussi féliciter nos vice-présidents qui ont été nommés ainsi que les membres du Comité de rédaction.

Avant d'attaquer le point spécifique qui nous occupe aujourd'hui, je voudrais aussi dire au Directeur général combien j'ai été impressionné par son introduction sur la situation alimentaire mondiale. Cette déclaration passionnée, mais aussi réaliste et très objective, nous l'avons beaucoup appréciée.

J'en viens maintenant au point de l'ordre du jour qui nous occupe et qui nous a été présenté d'une façon excellente, concise et très claire par le Prof. Islam. Les autorités italiennes ont considéré attentivement le rapport du CSA. Nous sommes préoccupés par la situation très difficile dans laquelle continuent de se trouver les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire. Le Gouvernement italien partage sans réserve les considérations du paragraphe 40 du document CL 83/10, à savoir que l'accroissement de la production locale dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire représente une nécessité fondamentale, je dirais stratégique; sans doute l'aide alimentaire directe jouera un rôle important dans la situation actuelle et même dans un proche avenir parce qu'il s'agit de résoudre des problèmes très difficiles, mais ce rôle quand même devrait être conçu comme temporaire, à caractère exceptionnel.

Quant aux paragraphes du rapport qui traitent du plan d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, je ne peux que manifester notre appréciation et notre accord pour les initiatives adoptées au niveau régional par un certain nombre de pays dans le but de réaliser collectivement la sécurité alimentaire.

Je voudrais aussi analyser très brièvement les paragraphes 30 à 90 du document CL 83/10 qui se réfèrent au rapport du Directeur général sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Je vais aussi saisir cette occasion pour dire combien nous avons apprécié ce rapport du Directeur général qui a permis au Comité de développer un travail très utile et très documenté. L'Italie partage sans réserve l'analyse développée dans ces paragraphes sur la situation alimentaire mondiale. En effet, nous sommes convaincus de la nécessité d'accomplir un effort soutenu dans trois directions : développement de la production locale ou régionale; stabilité des ressources et des marchés, garanties d'accès aux denrées de base.

Au sujet des initiatives spécifiques proposées au niveau international, nous sommes favorables à l'élargissement des ressources financières de la Réserve internationale d'urgence. Nous sommes aussi prêts à participer aux négociations sur la Convention pour l'aide alimentaire sans que ces négociations soient nécessairement liées à celles pour un nouvel accord international sur le blé.

Pour conclure, je voudrais manifester la préoccupation de mon pays au regard de la situation alimentaire dans les pays africains à bas revenu qui continue à nouveau à se détériorer. Je désire souligner à ce sujet que l'Italie, à la suite de négociations au plus haut niveau avec les représentants du Comité inter-Etats de la lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel, est en train d'accorder une contribution remarquable au développement de la région. Je voudrais aussi rappeler, dans le contexte des paragraphes 114 et 98 du rapport du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la participation de l'Italie au programme d'assistance à la sécurité alimentaire et au programme pour la réduction des pertes des produits agricoles avant et après récolte en Afrique.

F.RIBADENEIRA (Ecuador) : En esta nuestra primera intervención deseamos expresar a usted Señor Presidente la más calurosa felicitación de la Delegación del Ecuador, así como a los tres señores Vicepresidentes y al Dr. Islam por su valiosa introducción.

La Delegación del Ecuador, Señor Presidente, ha seguido con especial interés este tema, pues considera que la Comunidad Internacional enfrenta en las actuales circunstancias una enorme responsabilidad ante el hambre que aniquila día a día a grandes sectores de los países en desarrollo y en una contradicción malévola ante el dispendio de grandes recursos en otros campos improductivos. Las tensiones originadas por la escasez de alimentos exige a los países económicamente más poderosos su solidaridad en la búsqueda colectiva de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Una estrategia a nivel internacional debe considerar tanto la escasez de alimentos como el desarrollo del agro, que tome en cuenta la producción y la productividad agrícola y la promoción campesina, estrato de la población en la que incide con mayor fuerza el hambre y la malnutrición.

Se debe eliminar este mal y promover un incremento sustancial de la producción agropecuaria en el Tercer Mundo, principalmente en países con gran déficit y aquellos cuyas condiciones naturales les permiten ventajas comparativas por ofrecer mayor potencial para ampliar su producción y sus exportaciones.

Sin embargo, el uso eficiente de los recursos nacionales tanto humanos como naturales, impone la presencia de la cooperación internacional, tanto en materia financiera y de asistencia técnica, así como de alguna estabilización dinámica de precios internacionales y de un acceso seguro a los mercados para los productos de los países en desarrollo y mejorar así la contribución del comercio en la solución de los problemas alimentarios.

Los países en desarrollo como el mío, comprometidos con los postulados del Plan de Acción sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, impulsan sus esfuerzos para la solución de los problemas alimentarios. Mi Gobierno creó la Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural Integral enmarcada en la filosofía humanista que sitúa al ser humano como el fin de toda organización económica, social, política y cultural de la sociedad.

Mi Delegación insiste en que como complemento de los esfuerzos nacionales para solucionar los problemas alimentarios, la cooperación internacional debe ser integral en sus acciones a través de financiamiento, de la ayuda alimentaria, la transferencia de tecnologías y una política comercial que responda a los compromisos asumidos en la Declaración de Tokio.

Por ello, Señor Director General de la FAO, compartimos su reciente pronunciamiento en el sexto periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo, en el sentido de que el objetivo final de la seguridad alimentaria mundial es que todos los seres humanos en todo momento tengan acceso material y económico a los alimentos básicos que necesitan y que para ello la producción y el comercio son dos de los componentes fundamentales.

Mi delegación estima que el informe presentado en el VIII período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial por el Señor Director General, contiene un enfoque nuevo y constructivo sobre las orientaciones destinadas a lograr ese objetivo a nivel universal, por lo que le damos nuestro mayor respaldo. Creemos que la FAO ha demostrado especial capacidad para enfrentar este problema y que es el marco más adecuado, garantizado por su valiosa experiencia, para enfrentar la situación y encontrar las mejores soluciones en beneficio de toda la humanidad.

L. FAGBOHOUN (Bénin) : La délégation du Bénin remercie tous ceux qui ont participé à l'élaboration de ce document et donne son accord aux différentes recommandations qui y sont présentées. La délégation du Bénin était présente à cette huitième session et n'a donc pas d'objections à formuler quant aux différentes propositions contenues dans le document. Elle est très sensible aux bonnes volontés qui se sont manifestées jusqu'ici et qui se manifesteront également pour aider les pays en voie de développement, particulièrement les pays africains, à sortir de la situation de déficit alimentaire à laquelle ils se trouvent confrontés.

Nous pensons, cependant qu'il est essentiel de revenir sur un point capital qui consiste à mettre l'accent sur la production nationale et, comme l'ont déjà souligné plusieurs intervenants, la délégation du Bénin pense également que c'est là que se trouve la principale solution aux problèmes qui se posent et ceci suppose qu'il faudrait faire une réévaluation des différentes actions déjà menées dans chacun de ces pays et de voir également les différents goulots d'étranglement qui bloquent la production dans ces différents pays, car il existe certainement des initiatives qui ont été déjà prises et les faibles moyens dont disposent ces pays les ont certainement handicapés.

Donc il est essentiel selon nous que la FAO joue pleinement son rôle dans ce domaine en procédant à une réévaluation en vue de déterminer les domaines dans lesquels on peut aider efficacement les pays pour augmenter leur production nationale. Ceci est d'autant plus important que lorsqu'on suit actuellement la discussion en cours sur le plan international en ce qui concerne le commerce, on se rend compte que ce n'est pas demain que les pays en voie de développement et particulièrement les pays africains, actuellement confrontés aux problèmes du déficit alimentaire, auront à bénéficier des effets positifs de cette reprise économique dont on parle dans les pays développés et quand bien même il y aurait surproduction dans ces pays développés nous pensons que les effets positifs ne se feront pas sentir immédiatement dans les pays en voie de développement.

C'est pour cela que nous insistons sur l'urgence qu'il y a à réévaluer les différentes actions déjà menées dans ces pays à déficit alimentaire en vue de les aider efficacement à augmenter la production.

La délégation béninoise pense également qu'il faudrait, au cours des prochaines réunions du Conseil, que l'on nous donne des informations sur la situation des autres éléments qui interviennent dans l'alimentation parce qu'ici on a parlé surtout des céréales et un peu de l'élevage, mais il y a aussi d'autres éléments qui interviennent dans l'alimentation et qui contribuent à l'équilibre alimentaire, par exemple, les produits de pêche et autres. Telle est la situation dans ces différents domaines. Si nous en étions informés cela pourrait nous aider à voir globalement le problème.

La délégation du Bénin pense également qu'il ne serait pas superflu que la FAO à travers ses représentations dans chacun des pays en voie de développement, et particulièrement dans les pays africains, organise des sortes de séances de sensibilisation pour motiver un peu plus les populations elles-mêmes et leur présenter la situation qui se dessine pour elles si vraiment on ne prend pas en main le développement de la production agricole. Je pense que ce serait une contribution efficace de la FAO qui facilitera son intervention dans chacun de nos pays par la suite.

La délégation du Bénin donne son plein appui aux différentes propositions contenues dans le document. Elle pense que la FAO est l'organisme le mieux placé pour jouer un rôle principal en vue de garantir la sécurité alimentaire. Une fois encore, nous renouvelons nos encouragements aux représentants de la FAO, et principalement au Directeur général, pour avoir su captiver l'assistance par le contenu de ce document qui est en quelque sorte une sonnette d'alarme.

B. N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): Mr. Chairman, first of all, since this is the first time we take the floor on a substantive issue, we wish to add our congratulations to those delegates who spoke before us to the newly elected officers. For historical reasons we are deeply pleased to see that Mr. Joao Pereira di Silva, the Minister of Rural Development of Cape Verde, is the second Vice-Chairman of this Session of the Council. Mr. Chairman, with three highly experienced members of the Council helping you, we shall easily get through this agenda and obtain the best recommendations. We listened with interest to the opening statement of the Director-General which is comprehensive and penetrating, and we fully agree with the Director-General's assertion that today's most urgent problems can be summed up in three words: armament, finance and supply. In a nutshell, the problems stemming from the mismanagement of these three areas have a negative far-reaching effect on the world, especially in the "developing" countries where they provoke acute problems in the structure of food production, supply and consumption.

Mr. Chairman, as members we took part in the 8th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. Personally we think that the major issues of that session were:

1. The Director-General's report on World Food Security
2. Constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries of Africa.

The Director-General's report is a far-reaching and thought-provoking document which deserves the support of my delegation because the present situation of the agricultural sector should be perceived in terms of world food security. We also agree that: "the ultimate objective of world food security is to ensure that all people, at all times, have both physical and economic access to the basic food that they need."

The Director-General has promised further elaboration on this report and we look forward to it.

Coming to the second issue, that is constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries of Africa, we believe that these constraints can be removed in the not-too-long future with the harmonization of the terms of trade between developing and developed countries. Countries of Africa, and for that effect all developing countries, cannot continue paying for one tractor and an ever increasing quantity of raw material.'

Mr. Chairman, we have reason to believe that given the right political will, "war and civil strife" as mentioned in paragraph 106 of document CL 83/10, could stop being constraints on food production. Therefore we request the distinguished delegates of major developed countries to take practical steps in other international fora which enhance peace everywhere, especially in southern Africa. We also wish to request the Director-General to take into consideration paragraph 106 when, as requested in paragraph 112, he will be preparing a second report on the subject under discussion for the 9th Session of the CFS.

Mr. Chairman, we argued earlier that "war and civil strife", being constraints to food production and the major cause of refugees in Africa, could rapidly be removed. Accordingly we requested some delegations to take practical steps which enhance Peace. However we are deeply shocked, to put it mildly, that on the one hand FAO, WFP, IFAD and other international organizations, which are striving to eradicate hunger, do not obtain sufficient funds for their humanitarian activities towards increased food production which can in a practical and visible way strengthen food security. However, on the other hand some member states which are represented in this Council, have allowed the IMF to lend a large sum of money to the most unrepresentative government on earth, that is the racist kakistocracy of South Africa which is daily engaged in destabilizing and aggressive acts against the independent states of southern Africa by destroying dams, water supply systems, cattle, crops and other economic targets so as to increase dependence on South Africa and her allies in the IMF.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia opina que la forma unanime de consenso como el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial adopto los párrafos 30 a 90 del documento que estudiamos y la actitud de este Consejo en forma también generalmente unánime representan el mínimo reconocimiento que se podía hacer al valioso informe del Director General.

Pensamos que el Director General elaboro un documento de excepcional importancia a través del cual tuvo el valor y la decisión de referirse a numerosas cuestiones que vienen afectando la seguridad alimentaria mundial y que antes nadie había querido, o se había atrevido, a plantear. Uno de los méritos de ese informe es el de que trata de definir las respectivas responsabilidades que corresponden a los distintos organismos de las Naciones Unidas que se ocupan de la seguridad alimentaria.

Estamos agradecidos al Director General al ofrecernos esta oportunidad por que, sin duda, ese proceso desordenado viene afectando los efectos de la asistencia con perjuicio notorio para los países beneficiarios especialmente. Creemos que también los países donantes, que a veces tienen buena voluntad, y hasta voluntad política, se encuentran un poco desconcertados por esa serie de propuestas diversas que crean ilusiones en los países en desarrollo, como la propuesta de reservas, propiedad de cada uno de nuestros estados y, naturalmente, todo ello afecta a nuestros planes nacionales.

Dentro de ese orden de inquietudes debiéramos preguntarnos como es posible que representantes de los mismos gobiernos y en muchos casos nosotros, las mismas personas, hayamos atendido dos reuniones de organismos de las Naciones Unidas en cada una de las cuales se hayan discutido dos documentos sobre los mismos temas sin que en ninguno de esos documentos se hubiera hecho referencia al otro; nos referimos a los documentos sobre seguridad alimentaria y problemas africanos, y que todo ello se haya cumplido aquí, en Roma, a tres semanas de tiempo entre el final de una reunión y el principio de la otra y a 3,5 metros que es la distancia que separa la sala roja, donde se reunió el CSA, de la sala verde donde se llevo a cabo la reunión preparatoria del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación.

No vamos a extendernos sobre este punto porque compartimos la opinión de la distinguida delegada de Noruega, quien inició este tema brillantemente, en el sentido de que no conviene perder tiempo sobre estos aspectos, sino concentrarnos en asuntos más fundamentales. Pero sobre esa falta de cooperación creo yo que este informe del CSA nos ofrece justamente la oportunidad de poner fin a ese desorden.

Creo que el CSA ha producido un veredicto definitivo e inapelable que este Consejo debe apoyar y transmitir a la Conferencia. Será necesario decir en nuestro informe que el Consejo reconoce a la FAO su carácter de foco central, su rol esencial e insustituible en la consideración y en las posibles soluciones de los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Nuestra Organización tiene 38 años de experiencia, a través de los cuales ha acumulado conocimientos valiosos y ha demostrado que efectivamente puede trabajar de manera eficaz en esa labor, por lo tanto consideramos que debe de respetarse ese carácter especializado de la FAO y no duplicarse sus actividades.

Esta afirmación no está dirigida a menoscabar la función de cualquier otro organismo porque, entre otras cosas, Colombia es miembro también de otro importante organismo de las Naciones Unidas que se ocupa de la seguridad alimentaria mundial y cuyos trabajos estamos apoyando y consideramos positivo y creemos que pueden dar resultados eficaces, pero a través de la racionalización, de la definición de responsabilidades para que, por fin, el famoso mecanismo de coordinación concebido en el marco de la FAO en los términos de la Resolución XXII de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación pueda re~ presentar el mayor apoyo político, la promoción de mayor y constante asistencia financiera y técnica para esa labor de seguridad alimentaria mundial en un contexto organizado, serio, y razonable.

Si estoy en lo cierto al afirmar que a través del debate celebrado aquí todos estamos de acuerdo en que es necesario establecer esa cooperación, una recomendación a la Conferencia en el sentido en que lo acabamos de plantear y que corresponde a la opinión del CSA, sin duda contribuirá a que en adelante se trabaje mejor y en más adecuada cooperación.

Una de las conclusiones del informe del CSA sin duda ha sido el apoyo a las medidas a nivel nacional; sobre la función de nuestros propios países, en esas labores a nivel nacional no quisiéramos ser polémicos a estas alturas de nuestros debates, aunque después de que ayer tarde nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador de Cuba se refirió a las actitudes de algunas delegaciones; otras distinguidas representaciones, a las cuales nosotros respetamos y admiramos, han insistido en un concepto que nosotros no podemos aceptar, que rechazamos con toda firmeza porque es inaceptable y es injusto afirmar que nosotros, los países en desarrollo, somos los culpables del estado en que nos encontramos actualmente. Es fácil para aquellos representantes de países que tienen todos los medios y todos los recursos lavarse las manos como Pilatos y pretender que nosotros somos masoquistas, convencidos, y estamos felices de encontrarnos en el subdesarrollo actual, cuando en realidad la situación es otra. Cuando se presentan, raramente, conyunturas favorables como la que tuvimos hasta el año pasado, cuando crecieron las reservas porque aumentaron las cosechas y al mismo tiempo bajaron los precios, no pudimos nosotros aprovechar esa situación porque, entre otros factores negativos, se produjo la revaluación del dólar de los Estados Unidos frente a nuestras monedas, el alza de las tasas de interés, el incremento de nuestra deuda externa y el peso del servicio de esa deuda y ahora estamos de nuevo declinando, volviendo a la etapa anterior de manera que esa situación de injusticia y de desigualdad que padecemos se prolonga al infinito.

Esta mañana oímos con atención el consejo paternal que nos dio una distinguida delegación en el sentido de que convenía recurrir a los créditos que podrían ofrecernos el sector privado. Creemos en la buena fe de ese consejo que se nos dio esta mañana, pero a lo mejor hay algún fondo de ironía en ello, señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, porque todos conocemos cuál es esa situación de los recursos externos, cómo es de enorme la deuda exterior de nuestros países y cuánto pesa sobre nuestras economías el servicio de esa deuda.

Tampoco podemos aceptar que trate de imponerse a la FAO el incumplimiento del deber y de la responsabilidad que tiene nuestra Organización de señalarnos de manera franca, clara y precisa cuál es la situación de la agricultura y de la alimentación en el mundo. Por ello apoyamos lo que ayer tarde dijo el señor West, nuestro Director General Adjunto a nombre del Director General de la FAO, y creemos que nuestra Organización debe de seguir cumpliendo ese deber y esa obligación porque es el real y mejor servicio que presta a todos los Estados Miembros.

Habíamos dicho, señor Presidente, que no queremos ser polémicos y en realidad nuestro ánimo se ha ido tranquilizando a medida que hacemos estas manifestaciones, pero basados en la amistad y en la simpatía que nos une a los colegas que aquí han hecho las declaraciones que nos han inquietado, quisiéramos pedirles por lo menos tres cosas, señor Presidente con su venia: primera, que no insistan en que en el informe de esta reunión del Consejo aparezcan esas referencias al desorden administrativo, a la desorganización entre nuestros ministerios, a la falta de prioridad de nuestros planes de desarrollo, a la carente asignación de recursos de nuestros presupuestos. Ojalá que eso no aparezca en nuestro informe, señor Presidente.

Segunda, que esos distinguidos colegas ordenen que se cancelen de las actas esas referencias desobligantes, porque si aparecieran en esos documentos nos crearía una situación difícil a quienes aquí representamos a gobiernos soberanos y no podemos aceptar que se nos falte al respeto, que se nos insulte y que se nos coloque en esa situación injusta, que rechazamos una vez más.

Y tercera, tal vez convendría que esos distinguidos colegas que representan países tan poderosos hicieran un examen interno, profundo, sereno y reflexivo de sus actitudes y se impusieran la autopenitencia de prometernos que en adelante van a seguirnos ofreciendo mayor asistencia, más constante y más adecuada asistencia en todos los órdenes para los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que las medidas a nivel regional fueron también adoptadas por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial; dentro de ese orden de ideas apoyamos lo que han dicho aquí nuestros colegas de Argentina, Brasil y México sobre la función importante del Comité de Acción de Seguridad Alimentaria Regional, CASAR, que acaba de crearse en el seno del SELA, el Sistema Económico Latinoamericano en América Latina; creemos que las medidas a nivel mundial propuestas por el Director General tienen un vasto alcance, como se afirma en el párrafo 56; debido a la solidez, a la claridad y a la profundidad de esas propuestas era apenas elemental que el CSA no pudiera evaluarlas en una sesión y sobre las cuales pretendemos seguir una consideración en el futuro.

Dentro de las medidas a nivel mundial la delegación de Colombia desea hacer referencia al párrafo 58 sobre la función del Consejo Internacional del Trigo. Nosotros hicimos críticas en relación a las labores del CIT, a la lentitud y a la vacilación con que ese Consejo viene considerando la posibilidad de reiniciar negociaciones para elaborar un nuevo convenio comercial con cláusulas económicas, como precios y constitución de reservas.

Afortunadamente el Director General de la FAO concibió su plan de cinco puntos de acción que ha contrarrestado esa lentitud y esa ineficiencia del Consejo Internacional del Trigo.

Quisiéramos, acaso, proponer, si los demás miembros del Consejo estuvieran de acuerdo, incluir en nuestro informe que se haga un llamado al Consejo Internacional del Trigo para que aproveche los tres años de prórroga que se han otorgado al convenio de 1971, aún en su forma inútil actual, a fin de que durante ese interregno puedan tener ocasión de reiniciar esas negociaciones.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que no podrá hablarse de seguridad alimentaria mundial basados en el solo hecho de que hay existencias mientras que esas existencias se hallen progresiva y crecientemente concentradas en unos pocos países productores y exportadores, porque la experiencia nos enseña y sabemos que no están en esas condiciones, que no estarán nunca a la verdadera disposición de aquellos países que lo necesiten. Esto se observa en el párrafo 63 del documento.

Diez años después por fin será necesario dar cumplimiento a la Resolución XVII de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. Hay ideas controvertidas sobre la conveniencia o inconveniencia, los costos mayores o menores de conservar y administrar esas reservas o de trasladarlas a las regiones que las necesitan. Para ventilar toda acción de controversia estamos muy de acuerdo en que se presente un informe detallado sobre la situación, propiedad, administración, criterios para el empleo y la reposición de reservas a fin de que el CSA pueda estudiar con mayor conocimiento toda esa situación.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que este Consejo debe apoyar el concepto fundamental de que el comercio internacional es parte integrante, inseparable, de la seguridad alimentaria. Todo el Comité, así consta en el párrafo 64, estuvo de acuerdo en que un comercio de exportación libre y en crecimiento era una de las bases importantes para establecer la seguridad alimentaria. La delegación de Colombia opina también que deben incluirse en nuestro informe todos los conceptos fundamentales que aparecen en el párrafo 64. Debemos, particularmente, pedir una vez más que se elimine toda apariencia proteccionista de todo orden y que, como lo dice el informe, también todas las decisiones políticas, en materia de agricultura, de todos los países y tengan en cuenta sus repercusiones negativas sobre los países en desarrollo.

A este respecto me preocupa también una parte de la declaración que sobre el tema 4 hizo una importante delegación al anunciar reducciones en su producción. Ojalá que los buenos principios, que según esa declaración orientaban a esa reducción, se hagan realidad y no tenga consecuencias negativas sobre la situación alimentaria mundial.

Los delegados de Colombia seguimos felices en nuestra luna de miel con los representantes de la Comunidad Económica Europea en espera de que se firme, como parece que tendrá lugar en Bogotá, capital de Colombia, dentro de poco el acuerdo entre el Grupo Andino y la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Al final del párrafo 64 aparece la solicitud que se ha dirigido a la Comunidad Económica Europea para aumentar los recursos del STABEX con el fin de incrementar el número de productos incluidos, de los 10 actuales a los 18 que aparecen en el Programa Integrado de Productos Básicos de la UNCTAD que extiende los beneficios de ese sistema a todos los países en desarrollo.

Ayer tarde, el distinguido representante de la CEE no hizo referencia al diálogo que habíamos iniciado en otras reuniones, y cuando sea posible, si fuera oportuno, nos gustaría saber cuál es la situación sobre esa propuesta en el seno de los órganos comunitarios. Sobre las implicaciones institucionales contenidas en el informe del Director General es natural que haya existido controversia por el carácter innovador, renovador y realista de la propuesta del Director General.

El CSA, en particular, consideró el fortalecimiento de sus propias funciones, y queremos que ese Comité, creado por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, advierta a todos los miembros de Naciones Unidas que es el órgano más adecuado para ocuparse de la seguridad alimentaria mundial y que su función política debe ser reforzada como lo ha propuesto el Director General. El CSA se ocupa también de otro importante documento del Director General de la FAO, sobre las dificultades para el aumento de la producción alimentaria en los países africanos de bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos.

La delegación de Colombia opina que el CSA, en la primera frase del párrafo 111, como dijo el distinguido Embajador de Cuba, sentó un principio que debe ser guía insustituible para la consideración y solución de los problemas en África. Todas las medidas destinadas a aliviar las dificultades más graves de la producción alimentaria en África deben basarse en las propias responsabilidades y en las prioridades que elijan los gobiernos africanos.

La delegación de Colombia apoya el llamado que se hace en el párrafo 111 para que se aumente la asistencia externa en el desarrollo agrícola a los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos en África. Apoyamos plenamente las prioridades fijadas por los gobiernos africanos que aparecen particularmente en el párrafo 111 y consideramos que esas prioridades deben respetarse e implementarse siempre de acuerdo con los representantes de África.

Señor Director General, al final del debate sobre este tema, la delegación de Colombia piensa que usted debe sentir la íntima satisfacción del deber cumplido, acompañado por la gratitud y el reconocimiento de toda la comunidad internacional. La elaboración de estos dos importantes informes sobre seguridad alimentaria y sobre los problemas africanos de que se ocupa este documento, conforman y reafirman su calidad incuestionable de un verdadero líder del desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia desea destacar un aspecto fundamental dentro de esa decidida actuación suya, Sr. Director General, y es el de que usted, si bien en sus actividades constantes, en su trabajo infatigable, en su vocación permanente de servicio, se orienta, se guía siempre hacia el beneficio de los países en desarrollo, usted ha logrado todo eso como lo ha demostrado en el debate sobre este tema, en una forma equilibrada dentro de un espíritu de consenso que recoge igualmente el apoyo de los representantes de todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO.

A juicio de la delegación de Colombia, esa característica reafirma el prestigio y el respeto con que usted viene cumpliendo sus más altas funciones. Digo esto, Sr. Presidente, porque, si bien algunos distinguidos miembros del Consejo han hecho observaciones marginales, en el fondo, todos hemos contribuido en apoyar sobre todo el nuevo enfoque, revisado y ampliado, con que usted se enfrenta ahora a los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Es así como la delegación de Colombia se siente muy complacida de que este Consejo haya refrendado y apoyado las conclusiones del CSA para transmitir las a la Conferencia, nuestro máximo organismo, el cual, sin duda, recibirá también e igualmente ese apoyo para que siga en esa buena dirección, y nos presente un nuevo informe en el nuevo período de sesiones del Comité.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Observer for Cameroon): I have been here only a few years but I think that : this Council session is probably the most important I have witnessed since I came here. Although my experience does not go back as far as some delegations who have been coming here for two decades or more, I think this session has very many important matters to discuss. First of all in discussing this report of the Committee on World Food Security, which includes the comments of the Committee on the Director-General's report on world food security. It also includes the recommendations of that Committee on the paper on the African food situation, the constraints on Africa. It will also be discussing the reorganization of this Organization and on top of that it will be discussing the Programme of Work and Budget. So I think all of us are looking forward to a very useful session under your distinguished chairmanship and the assistance of the vice-Chairmen that have been elected to assist you.

On the document before us, my delegation participated in the last session of the Committee on World Food Security and we therefore had the opportunity to make detailed comments on the various documents which were submitted, so at this session we will be merely making comments on the document submitted to the Committee on World Food Security but I would like to say at the outset that the Director-General presented a forthright and far-reaching document which stimulated far-reaching discussions in the last session of the Committee on World Food Security and I think in the opinion of this delegation, and I think paragraph 43 is testimony to it, the Committee on World Food Security adopted the broadened concept of world food security as proposed by the Director-General. This in itself, for one session of the Committee on World Food Security, was a great achievement. Several measures which were proposed at the national level were approved by the Committee on World Food Security as specified in the document before us. Measures at the regional level were supported. At the global level there were some exchanges and difference in views but the Director-General was requested to present more detailed studies on the aspects in which he found he could reach broad agreement and I think that this Council, in endorsing this report, will be calling upon the Director-General to elaborate on these areas which he finds this Council and the Conference and members of FAO should reach agreement in order to include world food security. The Committee generally supported increasing its own role, its strength, in carrying out its activities on world food security and various options will be discussed in the forthcoming session.

The Committee on World Food Security discussed a paper on the constraints of food in Africa. I would guess that coming from Africa also, I would hold that that paper was a very well written document, very stimulating and I think it brought out the essentials that will be seen in paragraph 111, which is the embodiment, I would guess, of the debate in the Committee on that paper.

We feel that this Organization has gone a long step forward in addressing itself to the problems of Africa and it is no secret that in the last few years this Organization has done a lot in terms of reorganizing its own activities and in terms of re-shaping priorities to tackle the matters of urgent need in Africa.

The Committee calls upon the Director-General and the Secretariat to prepare a follow-up study which will elaborate on the areas identified in paragraph 111 with a view to presenting a more detailed paper in 1984 at the regional conferences and at the FAO Conference maybe in 1985. But the essential is that in this document major constraints of Africa were identified with the full participation of the African members who attended the CFS. We had the benefit of an exchange of views with other regions which have already experienced such difficulties and have made some strides in overcoming them. We are therefore looking forward to the next paper which will be presented to the CFS.

Being an Observer I do not wish to take up too much time, but I would like to associate the voice of my Observer delegation with the position raised by the Ambassador of Congo and supported by Lesotho and Angola.

In Africa we can go on speaking about world food security ad infinitum. As long as we have these continuing disturbances and external aggression which has been perpetrated by the Republic of South Africa we will not solve many of the problems. Clearly the international community has to come to bear on the conscience of South Africa to relieve the weak and suffering republics of Southern Africa, and especially the front-line states which are always being put under constant pressure. I think the external assistance given to the Republic of South Africa is greatly unjustified.

H. BENATTALLAH (Observateur pour l'Algérie): Nous n'allongerons pas le débat davantage. Qu'il nous soit simplement permis de rappeler que la délégation algérienne au cours de la huitième session du CSA a, sans équivoque, apporté son appui à l'évaluation faite dans le rapport du Directeur général de la FAO proposant un concept approfondi de la notion de sécurité alimentaire mondiale y compris son volet institutionnel. Que l'on nous concède aussi d'avancer deux observations portant sur l'opportunité et sur la portée de cette approche. La délégation algérienne estime que l'approche globalisante du rapport a enfin rejoint des préoccupations anciennes des pays en voie de développement exprimées dans d'autres instances internationales et revendiquant un développement conditionné par la restructuration des relations nord-sud; que la revendication d'une sécurité alimentaire moins aléatoire soit recentrée dans le sens de la correction d'un déséquilibre structurel selon les termes du Secrétariat de la CNUCED est parfaitement légitime et opportune car la donnée la plus constante dans la situation alimentaire mondiale actuelle est l'insécurité alimentaire, que les ressources alimentaires soient disponibles ou ne le soient pas, que la conjoncture soit favorable ou ne le soit pas.

Les oppositions, qui s'agitent contre la prise en charge des revendications des pays en voie de développement dans les négociations globales, se projettent naturellement sur la question de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et notamment sur les deux objectifs liés aux mesures à l'échelle mondiale, c'est-à-dire la stabilité des approvisionnements et des marchés et les garanties d'accès aux approvisionnements. Ces deux objectifs heurtent sans nul doute des intérêts commerciaux agissant à l'échelle mondiale et pour lesquels, dans un contexte de fléchissement des échanges de produits vivriers et agricoles, la relance des échanges et des ressources alimentaires domine les questions de l'aide alimentaire et de l'aide à l'agriculture.

Quant à la portée de cette approche, la délégation algérienne estime qu'elle ne doit pas être atténuée ou affaiblie par des spéculations de conjoncture alors que des tendances inverses poussent au mûrissement rapide de la question. Lorsque la conjoncture actuelle a été évoquée, certaines délégations l'ont intégrée dans une perception optimiste de l'avenir qui pourrait ne pas se justifier du point de vue d'un pays en voie de développement. Peut-on interpréter en effet les résultats de Williamsburg autrement que comme la volonté de certains pays de relancer d'abord et en priorité leur économie à la suite de quoi les pays en voie de développement pourraient en attendre les effets d'entraînement. Globalement, c'est le scénario qui s'est déroulé au cours de la sixième CNUCED à Belgrade où les pays développés, à économie de marché, semblaient disposés à prendre davantage en compte les mesures de caractère commercial propres à relancer leur économie, les mesures de restructuration impliquant les problèmes monétaires ou le financement des accords de produits en attente d'être marginalisés. La délégation algérienne estime que ce type de réserves qui raccorderait le destin du concept de sécurité alimentaire à l'hypothèse ou à la relance ou à l'issue de la relance mondiale, aggraverait l'incertitude actuelle et hypothéquerait l'évolution de cette question alors que des indices plus évidents fondent les mesures préconisées à l'échelle mondiale. Il s'agit par exemple de la diminution de l'aide extérieure à l'agriculture, et le volume modeste, par rapport aux besoins des engagements d'assistance, particulièrement pour les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire, pour lesquels le niveau est tombé de 24 pour cent en 1977 à 18 pour cent en 1980/81 et probablement aussi en 1982, la baisse des engagements publics d'aide alimentaire, la baisse des engagements à des conditions de faveur, l'aide alimentaire qui se réduit sans cesse dans les importations céréalières des pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire et enfin le durcissement général des conditions de l'aide. Il est plausible que d'autres indices tels que l'accumulation des stocks, leur concentration et le rapport inégal entre l'offre et la demande tendront à détériorer la situation pour les pays en voie de développement dont les besoins ne sont pas satisfaits.

La délégation algérienne estime que la volonté qui consiste à réduire le profit du concept de sécurité alimentaire mondiale, tel qu'il est proposé c'est-à-dire avec ses implications mondiales et institutionnelles, tend sur le fond à maintenir la vulnérabilité des pays en voie de développement face aux forces connues et méconnues du marché. Dans ce sens la délégation algérienne approuve l'importance qui sera désormais accordée dans l'évaluation de la situation alimentaire mondiale au rôle des transnationales dans ce secteur.

A.T. KEITA (Observateur pour la Guinée): Je ne serai pas très long car les différents délégués qui sont intervenus avant moi ont, chacun à leur manière, apprécié la qualité de cet excellent rapport que nous a présenté le Prof. N. Islam et son staff. Loin de m'en dissocier au contraire je l'approuve à plus d'un titre et estime que c'est là la justesse du choix combien rationnel et mérité qu'en a fait le Directeur général en lui confiant cet important poste.

Concernant le rapport qui nous a été présenté, ma délégation l'approuve dans ses grandes lignes et voudrait plus particulièrement renchérir sur l'alinéa relatif à la formation car c'est là pour nous la condition sine qua non de tout développement et de tout progrès. Il est certain que l'aide véritable est celle qui permet aux pays en développement de se passer de l'aide et, parmi toutes ces formes d'aide, la formation de l'homme revêt à nos yeux une importance capitale. Cela, je n'ai jamais cessé de le répéter chaque fois que l'occasion m'en a été donnée.

Les difficultés des pays en voie de développement sont dues aussi à leur incapacité relative à maîtriser la nature, ce qui se traduit par des calamités que connaît la majeure partie de l'humanité.

Aussi, ma délégation accorde son plein soutien à cet alinéa qui est d'ailleurs repris avec beaucoup de détails dans le document CL 80/9 traitant de la formation sur le tas et plus particulièrement de l'émancipation des femmes.

T.E.C. PALMER (Observer for Sierra Leone): There are one or two comments that I would like to make. I have listened to the interventions of delegations on this subject and I was a little disturbed when some delegations tried to throw some damp water on the points in the document, including particularly the assessment of the current world food situation. To us it is a situation of the good, the bad and the ugly. The good - that was the surpluses - this was reflected. The bad was the shortage. That was relating to the developing countries who were incapable of procuring the food requirements for the respective countries primarily due to the lack of foreign exchange and other economic problems. The ugly is what many delegations did not realise, or failed to bring up, and that is the reaction of the countries who are capable of creating surpluses. What would be the reaction to the present situation of surpluses, that is the medium-term situation, when policies will be adopted to arrest these surpluses and then we enter a stage of shortages and then higher prices and then we find that we have inaccessibility to food supplies? This is the crux of the matter which the Council should address itself to more cautiously. There I believe delegations should have urged the Council to put countries into a position to create surpluses of stocks or surpluses of commodities, to refrain from adopting policies which will affect in the medium term the situation of food stocks and food commodities which in the long run might affect world food security. So this is one point that we would have liked to have suggested if we were taking the floor as a member of the Council.

The second point is on the Director-General's report. We believe that the report should not be treated with a casual feeling of having been addressed to in the last session of the Committee on World Food Security. The Council should endorse not only the conclusions of the report wherever they appear but should highlight one or two issues which should be thoroughly dealt with in world food security sessions in the very near future.

In this connection the following points come to mind, and primarily strengthening the Committee's role in world food security, not only in technical and operational fields but also in the coordination of activities relating to food security. We believe that if this point could be stressed much more by the Council it could lend more weight to the support already given to the Director-General's report which has been discussed in document CL 83/10.

In particular on this point I invite the attention of the Council to paragraphs 86 and 87 of the document. This might assist Council members to see exactly the point I am trying to raise.

In general my delegation associates itself with many others who have requested the Council to endorse the considerations of the Committee as contained in paragraph 90 of the document.

The third and last point, and that is on the African food problem, we want to associate ourselves with the comments already raised by the delegations not only from the African region but also from other regions. We express our thanks to all these delegations. We would like this Council to endorse the conclusions of the Committee and in particular paragraphs 111 and 112 as clearly set out in the document.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Director-General, I wish to express our appreciation and deep thanks for the very constructive debate which the Council had on this subject this morning, and for the very helpful and

positive suggestions made by many distinguished delegates. We are also very glad to note that the interval since the last CFS session has not only enabled the Council to confirm its findings but also to contribute to the process of reaching consensus and to indicate possibilities of further progress in the future in this vital area of world food security.

As far as the Director-General's report on World Food Security is concerned, as the Council endorses it, the Director-General will follow up his proposals in subsequent sessions of the CFS, since many proposals as the Council recognizes, are of a preliminary nature. This would involve clarification and elaboration of several proposals contained in the report, some of which could be followed up over the medium and longer term, whereas some other consensus may appear feasible in the near future.

In the subsequent reports along these lines, the Director-General will certainly carefully take into account the comments and suggestions made in the course of the current debate. The Council endorses the revised and expanded concept of food security adopted by the Committee in paragraph 43, concentrating on three components: expansion of production and supplies, stability and availability of food and security of access. The Council reached agreement on measures required at regional and national levels, as outlined in the report. It agreed on the need for developing countries to evolve national food security programmes strategies assistance with emphasis, as emphasized this morning, on food crops, including also non-cereal crops, such as roots, tubers, pulses and edible oils, which in some countries constitute basic food staples, as well as incentives for small farmers, national preparedness for dealing with year-to-year fluctuations and direct measures for alleviation of poverty as outlined in the WCARRD Programme of Action.

While emphasis was placed on the responsibility of the developing countries to undertake appropriate policies and programmes to allocate higher priority and resources to the agricultural sector, the need for external assistance, financial and technical, was recognized as an inevitable supplement to domestic efforts.

As indicated earlier in the debate on the first item on the agenda, there are already strong trends in the developing countries in recent years for adopting not only more appropriate policies but also for increasing public expenditure on agriculture.

We have taken careful note of the various references made by the distinguished delegates for measures for regional cooperation as well as the possible establishment of regional commissions in other regions following the example of the Asian region.

Regarding measures at regional and sub-regional levels, the Council recognized their role as important in supplementing national measures. It considered that such measures be taken within the framework of the guidelines which had already been approved by the CFS at its earlier session.

We have taken note of the suggestions regarding promotion of South-South cooperation in trade. Later this year an expert consultation on trade expansion among developing countries is planned in Rome. At the regional level we have a meeting scheduled in Santiago on South-South trade relating to Latin America. It was recognized, however, by the Council that national and regional efforts are handicapped by the absence of an effective global system. External factors are often a basic cause of food insecurity. Several delegates stressed the importance of trade as a component of food security, while some others considered access as the most crucial issue.

In respect of several global measures, divergent opinions were expressed on some of them. On some others, further clarification and elaboration were sought for consideration by the Committee in its later session. Even countries which had some reservations regarding some of the global measures were prepared to consider more concrete ideas in subsequent sessions. Among the measures to be adopted by FAO, considerable interest was expressed on the Food Security Action Programme. This proposal, however, needed further elaboration and review. Many members expressed interest in proposals relating to the Food Security Fund and Compact, even though the present economic and financial situation constrained the possibility of their implementation in the immediate future. There is wide support for gradually strengthening the Committee on World Food Security with an existing mandate. The need for closer cooperation and coordination between international bodies in the field of food security was generally stressed.

As regards the review of constraints on increasing food production in low-income food-deficit countries in Africa, we noted a strong endorsement given by the delegates to follow up in the four priority areas which were proposed by the African countries themselves during the debate on the Committee on Food Security and was agreed upon by the Committee. They related to technology, resources, delivery systems and institutional development. The Director-General has already initiated action in this respect in preparation of the second report to the Committee which had focussed on some selected themes with the outline of the possible action to be considered on a future occasion.

On the whole, the positive reaction of the Council should give impetus to further work, and your report, Mr. Chairman, will be very helpful to the FAO Conference when it has its own debate later this year on this very subject.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Just one word, Mr. Chairman, to assure the Latin American countries that, as requested, FAO will give full support to the Action Committee on Regional Food Security which has been established under SELA. The Committee will meet very soon in Buenos Aires in July. FAO will attend the meeting. I recall also that I have decided to associate the Committee in the preparation of a paper which will review the food security situation in Latin America and which will be presented to the forthcoming FAO Regional Conference for Latin America which will also be held in Buenos Aires in 1984.

CHAIRMAN: You may recall last November during our Council meeting, the Director-General was good enough to say that he is undertaking a detailed reappraisal of approaches, concepts and programmes and that he will come to us through the CFS, the Committee on World Food Security, with a comprehensive report. We all agree, Mr. Director-General, that you have not only kept your word

that you will prepare a report that is worthy to be taken into consideration, but you have certainly stimulated an enormous amount of thought, and I hope action, in the whole area of food security. As the Director-General said in his opening remarks, what he expected was not outright acceptance or condemnation but progress step by step by consensus. I think that is how it can be done, because I was reading last night, in preparation of what I wanted to say today, the proceedings of the meeting held in 1943, the meeting convened by President Roosevelt at Hot Springs, Virginia, and, interestingly enough, it ended on June 3, 1943, when the words of the famous quotation, which is also in this building, were said, that "the goal of freedom from want of food suitable and adequate for the health and strength of all peoples can be achieved" This was adopted on June 3, 1943, and I was very impressed that many comments made by the delegates then, are similar to what many delegates have said yesterday and today. In other words, then, since the food problem is eternal, I think the sentiments and the suggestions seem to be eternal, and we have a common wavelength. It is true that we are making good progress, and I think that this particular meeting of the CFS and the report marks a significant landmark in this progress. I thought that there are three major issues involved in the CFS report: the concept of food security, the consensus on action and the coordinating machinery, and of course there is the other aspect of stepping up the pace of agricultural progress in the low-income food-deficit countries on Africa.

I think it is a good thing now that we all accept the concept. It is the systems approach proposed by the Director-General - of a total system from sowing to consumption - and a plan which will try to help in achieving the desired rates of agricultural growth, coupled with evenness of distribution and equity in terms of availability of food. I am glad at least there is this unanimity in terms of the concept.

Then we go to the consensus in terms of action programmes. Here also there is one consensus which has clearly emerged, namely about the ultimate magic wand. The magic wand which will remove hunger lies by and large with the countries concerned, with the political leadership of their country. Self-reliance and self-help have been frequently emphasized, and I believe that there are the three combinations which go to make a successful magic wand: the political will of the country, the peasants' participation, because ultimately they produce the food, and the professional skill of the people who will guide both the politicians and the peasants. These three are important ingredients of the magic wand.

I have not heard much about peasants, there were some remarks about them, but I want to remind my own colleagues from developing countries which are largely having small farms, that quite frequently in all our deliberations we forget the fact that the man who produces the food, he has to have motivation. It is easy for a developing country if it has the resources, if it has the raw materials and if it has got the money to put up a million-ton steel plant without difficulty, with the help of suitable expertise, but to produce a million-tons of food grains in many developing countries will require the participation of at least 2 million farming families. One must ask why should they participate, and therefore I think it is always important to keep them in view. I have felt that we frequently forget this fact because the peasants are slaves to the crops. We are slaves to the clock. We are clockwatchers, they are cropwatchers. There is a basic difference many times between policy makers and the peasants, and I am glad that several speakers have reiterated this crucial importance of keeping the peasant, who is the instrument of converting our food security dream into reality, always in the forefront in national programmes. We have had ample experiences in the last 20 years. I think several of our delegates have given many examples and some who have not spoken about their own countries - Indonesia I know has trebled its rice production in the last 20 years from 8 million-tons to 23 million-tons - all did this by supporting their farmers. The Philippines was a food-importing country; it is now a rice-exporting nation, all by an integrated action plan, but it was yield-come income-guarantee schemes which helped the peasant to help the country.

I think in terms of consensus of action programmes whether bilateral, multilateral and so on, we do hope that in this forum of the Council we keep this in view. We live as the guests of the green plants and of the farmers and the fishermen who convert sunlight through plants and animals into something which we can eat. The third aspect of coordination is one which is very important and here I believe that there have been a number of views which have been expressed. My own personal

view is that we must go back to the basic principles. I think when this Council was established, on the basis of the Viscount Bruce Commission Report in 1947, when it was clearly stated that the FAO Council's main duty is "to keep under review the state of food and agriculture in the world". We should have multiplicity of fora for discussion but there has to be some mechanism of coordination, because the dictionary meaning of coordination is organized cooperation, particularly when there are a number of units then there has to be some one single unit which is not subordinating others, but is helping to promote organized cooperation; coordination is organized cooperation. We must have a mechanism for the goal that we all desire, namely there must be interagency-coordination, intergovernmental non-governmental coordination and so on. Obviously a coordination mechanism already exists in the United Nations system, because under the chapter the FAO is in charge of food and agricultural problems, and it is my personal view that while we should encourage a large number of fora, intergovernmental and non-governmental, for discussions, I am all for ministers, particularly at the higher political level, getting together, because the more regional ministerial consultations there are, I find the number of personal friendships grow, and ultimately in life, whatever we may write on paper, it is understanding and friendship which ultimately grow into cohesive action. Hence the more fora which exist to bring top policy makers together so as to generate understanding and cooperation and friendship, the better it will be. Nevertheless when we want to go into real concrete action there has to be one coordinating mechanism which can put all pieces together and see that the various sentiments are converted into action. This is why my personal conviction is that the FAO Council assisted by the Committee on World Food Security is an appropriate mechanism to try to assume this coordinative character.

May I say one word about the other constraints to food production in low-income food deficit countries of Africa. I share the view expressed by several African delegates that African countries are on the march. There is a tremendous scope for progress; the untapped yield reservoir is high in many of these countries. The problems are also very many. There has been mention of various kinds - economic, social and political - but given the type of goodwill and great deal of endeavour which is now going on I do hope again that at the country level there will be a clear-cut strategy which could utilize whatever help that comes in a proper flow.

I therefore want to conclude with what Mahatma Gandhi said in my country once when talking about rural development and agriculture. Gandhi said - this was to administrators and political leaders - "Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any help to him. Will we gain anything by it? Will it help him to gain control over his own life and destiny?" In other words, will it lead to freedom for the the hungry and starving millions? But having asked that question of the administrators, he talked about the pathways of achieving this. He identified the provision of education and employment through a marriage of brain and brawn as the pathway to freedom coupled with human dignity. In other words the villagers have brawn and energy; they put in a lot of physical labour. You have to marry brain and technology with this, and now we know that a blend of brawn brain and bank (i.e. financial resources) is essential for generating gainful employment. Those countries which are developed today are developed because of centuries of evolution in education and technology and technical skills. And after World War II the explosion of science and technology has certainly widened the capacity of different farming countries to produce more. Therefore I think the wisdom -always the old wisdom- you all know the Chinese saying which is of course present in many languages in different ways - "If you are thinking one year ahead plant seed; if you are thinking 10 years ahead plant trees; if you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people"- and I think that is what we need at a fora like this: to educate ourselves. It takes time to make progress, but nothing succeeds like success, and what is important is, as some delegates have expressed, the will to succeed. For the will to succeed the first requisite is self-confidence, and therefore I think self-confidence and self-reliance are the twin traits which we should promote.

I once again thank the Director-General for producing such a valuable report. This is certainly a most significant contribution for making the dream of food security into reality.

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours.

La seance est levée à 13 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 13,15 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 83/PV/6

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEXTA SESIO PLENARIA

(15 June 1983)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours,

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 00, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 15.00 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

6. Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 21-30 March 1983) (including the follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81 on Plant Genetic Resources)

6. Rapport de la septième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 21-30 mars 1983) (y compris les suites données à la Résolution 6/81 de la Conférence sur les phytogénétiques)

6. Informe del séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (Roma, 21-30 de marzo 1983) (Incluidas las actividades complementarias a la Resolución de la Conferencia 6/81 sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos)

CHAIRMAN: This afternoon we will go on to item 6, the Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture. For this Session we will have the privilege of having His Excellency Pereira Silva, the Honourable Minister for Rural Development of Cape Verde who is our Vice-Chairman, in the Chair. Mr. Silva has to leave tomorrow so he was good enough to readjust his programme so that we can have the privilege of having him in the Chair. Many of you know about him. He has been the Minister for Rural Development which includes agriculture, as a total concept, since 1977. He was a freedom fighter, an important leader of the liberation movement in his country and holds an agronomy degree from Lisbon. This morning I said farmers are crop watchers but Mr. Silva watches the interests of farmers. He is a very important man and I now request him to take the Chair and conduct the proceedings for this afternoon's session.

J. Pereira Silva, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

J. Pereira Silva, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia J. Pereira Silva, Vicepresidente del Consejo.

LE PRESIDENT: Avant de passer à notre prochain point de l'ordre du jour, je voudrais, une fois de plus, vous remercier pour l'honneur que vous me faites en me confiant ce poste important. C'est une tâche très lourde pour moi, qui représente un petit pays, un pays qui en plus de sa petite taille, de sa petite population, est situé dans une des régions les plus difficiles du point de vue alimentaire, le Sahel, membre du CILSS. Notre pays dit qu'une des raisons de son existence est de pouvoir être utile aux autres, et de cette approche dérive l'importance que nous attachons aux organisations du système des Nations Unies, particulièrement à la FAO. C'est une raison de plus pour nous de nous réjouir d'avoir à exercer ces fonctions ne serait-ce que pour quelques instants.

Ceci étant je passe la parole à M. Bommer qui doit introduire le point suivant de l'ordre du jour.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I am introducing the Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture contained in document CL 83/9.

As you are aware the Agenda of the Committee on Agriculture traditionally consists of three main parts: firstly, Review of FAO's Programme of Work in the Food and Agriculture Sector; secondly, Food and Nutrition, and thirdly, Selected Development Problems.

This year's session included a further major item, namely the Proposals for the Establishment of an International Genebank and the preparation of a Draft International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources.

Following its review of the implementation of the activities during 1980-83 by the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments and the joint activities with the Regional Offices and Joint Divisions which fall under Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture, the Committee had expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive overview of the Organization's work. It welcomed that under this major programme extra-budgetary funds for field programmes had been mobilized to the extent of four times its regular programme allocation. The Committee also supported the considerable rise in technical support of field projects by experts and consultants and new shifts in emphasis whereby Headquarters staff increasingly provided direct support to Member Countries.

As in the past the Committee discussed jointly the medium- and long-term outlook for food and agricultural development and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85. It agreed that the long-term goals and medium-term objectives and strategies as presented by FAO fully reflected the serious problems of the food and agriculture sector. As a result the Organization's activities were

geared towards supporting developing countries' efforts to achieve satisfactory growth rate in food production.

The Committee was in full agreement with the priorities embodied in the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the 1984-85 biennium and broadly agreed with the thrust and balance of the different programmes.

There were a large number of observations on each of the eight Programmes which are contained in the report available to delegates. The Committee fully endorsed the Natural Resources programme. In particular, it supported the increased efforts towards increasing irrigation efficiency through improved on-farm water management, and on integrated plant nutrition through the combined use of mineral fertilizers, better exploitation of organic material and application of biological nitrogen fixation. It also agreed with the importance of farming system development in small-holder areas, through a multi-disciplinary systems approach, in the context of agro-ecologically adapted farming systems.

The Committee reaffirmed the overriding importance of the Crops Programme, with special emphasis on food crop and horticultural production and similarly it supported the activities related to seed production and distribution, farm mechanisation and improved storage, conservation and processing. It also endorsed the proposed action on crop protection, including the strengthening of national and regional plant protection services and organizations. Full support was also given to the activities under the Special Action Programmes for Fertilizer, Seed Improvement and Development and on the Prevention of Food Losses.

Regarding the Livestock programme, the Committee confirmed the key role of animal production in rural development and expressed satisfaction that it was directed at small farmers and addressed all aspects of animal production and health, animal products processing and training at all levels. The Committee emphasized the contribution of the International Meat Development Scheme, the comparable Dairy Development Scheme and the Programme for the Control of African Animal Trypanosomiasis and Related Development in promoting integrated agricultural development and as effective mechanisms for channelling financial resources into such development.

The Committee furthermore reiterated the importance of Research and Technology for development and agreed with the Director-General that FAO's capacity in this field needed to be enhanced through the provision of additional resources to assist national research institutions.

In this connection the Committee endorsed the proposal to group four existing units into a new Research and Technology Development Division reporting to the Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department. It stressed that this would strengthen FAO's role in support of agricultural research and the application of technology.

The Committee reaffirmed the fundamental aims of the Rural Development programme carried out by the FAO Secretariat in the light of the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action adopted by WCARRD. It stressed, in particular, the need to strengthen extension and training systems both at the level of small producers and at the management level, with particular reference to African countries. It renewed its support to improved marketing as well as agricultural credit and banking systems and to strengthening farmers' cooperatives and other organizations which would enable better participation by small farmers and other disadvantaged rural people in development activities.

The Committee fully endorsed the Nutrition programme and devoted to the related issues a fuller discussion under the standing agenda item on nutrition, to which I shall refer later.

The Committee also reaffirmed the fundamental importance of the collection, analysis and dissemination of Information on Food and Agriculture, one of the mandatory tasks of FAO as stated in Article I of its own Constitution. It encouraged the Secretariat to further strengthen its statistical data base and Early Warning System by also making use of modern computer developments, remote sensing techniques and satellite information, and to pursue the development of its situation and outlook work, its system of social indicators and its analysis of the behaviour of relevant economic aggregates affecting food and agricultural development.

It supported the multifarious activity carried out in the area of Food and Agricultural Policy, including planning assistance, project analysis, work on commodity trade and, especially food security. In this latter respect the Committee noted that the Committee on World Food Security would undertake a reconsideration of the concepts and instruments of world food security based on proposals presented by the Director-General. This report has just been discussed extensively.

Under the item Selected Development Problems the Committee reviewed the important role of Plant Protection and agreed on the need for priority action in three main areas: the improved forward planning to reduce and better control pest and disease emergencies; an accelerated rate of transfer of plant protection technology, and a wider mobilization of international resources.

It endorsed the proposal for a new global strategy in plant protection providing for Cooperative Action for Plant Health, aiming at concerted action at international level to overcome serious outbreaks of pest and disease emergencies through the improvement of national and regional plant protection infrastructures. The Committee also recommended increased emphasis on the further development and application of integrated pest control, more effective plant sanitation for the production and distribution of healthy propagation material, and improved weed management systems especially at small farmer's level.

Following its in-depth review of National and International Strategy for Animal Health the Committee stressed FAO's essential role both in emergency disease control as well as in long-term disease control campaigns particularly in view of the beneficial impact of animal production and the requirements of active inter-country trade.

The Committee noted the success of the establishment of a buffer zone in south-eastern Europe in preventing the spread of exotic types of Foot and Mouth Disease virus to European countries and appreciated the initiatives taken by FAO for the emergency control of animal diseases particularly in regard to the eradication of African swine fever.

It expressed serious concern over the resurgence of rinderpest not only in Africa but also in the Near East and Asia and fully supported the initiative taken by FAO, together with OIE, OAU and EEC, to mobilize support for the launching of a Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

The Committee also emphasized the need for strengthening veterinary services for small farmers and recommended that research should be concentrated on specific needs of the small farmers and appropriate related technology.

Under its deliberations under the item WCARRD - Follow-up, the Committee appreciated the Secretariat's document on "The Role of Women in Agricultural Production" covering all the important issues related to the productive work of rural women in agricultural and rural development. It endorsed the proposed action for the medium-term and also made several additional important recommendations in respect to reaching rural women more effectively. In order to carry out effective programme planning and implementation, the Committee requested that FAO's assistance be provided to the countries in developing or strengthening the existing data base related to the participation of rural women in agricultural and rural development activities.

Under the standing item Nutrition, the Committee discussed "Malnutrition: Its Nature, Magnitude and Policy Implications", emphasizing that the level of malnutrition was the most important development indicator. Therefore nutritional considerations should be an integral part of agricultural and rural development policy. It stressed in this context the importance of targetting of agricultural production and income generating programmes towards the rural poor, especially women, encouragement of indigenous crops, management of food aid, crop breeding, improving technology and manpower training. Moreover, it agreed to the need to include aspects of seasonality of production and consumption in the solution of malnutrition problems.

The most extensive discussion by COAG was on the proposals for the establishment of an international genebank and the preparation of a draft international convention for plant genetic resources. The Committee appreciated FAO's efforts to raise the awareness of the international community to the need to collect and conserve crop genetic resources which in the words of the Committee were "a heritage of mankind and should be freely exchanged between countries and their respective institutions for scientific purposes and use in national crop-breeding programmes".

The Committee stressed the urgent need for developing countries to strengthen their national capabilities in plant genetic resources, plant breeding and seed multiplication. It appealed to the Director-General and countries with advanced expertise for assistance in these areas.

A wide range of views were expressed on both the proposals for an international convention as well as on the international genebank.

The Committee concluded its debate by requesting that the Director-General should be assisted by a working party of Member Nations which would help him prepare his report to the November Session of the Council when the proposals would be further elaborated before being submitted to the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference. The first meeting of this working party was held on 10 June 1983. It was a very constructive meeting which had resulted in clarifying a number of issues with regard to the scope and contents of the report to be prepared by the Director-General. A further meeting is scheduled to be held on 21 - 22 July 1983.

Before concluding, I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished representatives to the specific development topics which the Committee selected for possible inclusion in the agenda of the next COAG Session in the spring of 1985. These are given in paragraph 241 on page 30 of the English version of the report.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci M. Bommer pour cette introduction exhaustive. Pour ceux qui desiderontprendre la parole la discussion est ouverte.

Y. A. HAMDI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): My country's delegation has participated in the work of COAG and approved its report and we wish to present the following remarks:

First, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the period 1984-85; I wish here to express the appreciation of our country for the DG's efforts to reduce administrative costs to the minimum and to concentrate on the support of all vital programmes and projects. We shall be referring to this subject later on. We also agree on the importance of the research and technology sectors and their contribution to agricultural development.

To this effect the Arab Republic of Egypt is making great efforts for the expansion of agricultural research and linking it with extension. We also agree with the suggestion for the setting up of a special department for the development of technology and research, which will clearly support FAO's role in the strengthening of research and the application of technology.

Second, malnutrition: Malnutrition is due to interrelated factors which are numerous and usually of an economic and social character. My delegation shares in the Committee's concern for the magnitude of malnutrition problems resulting from lack of proteins, energy, anaemic xerophthalmia and we agree with the basic recommendations which are set out in the report and which summarize the various activities undertaken by FAO as to the role it should play in assisting developing countries at various levels, such as the formulation of national policies for food and nutrition, the inclusion of nutrition considerations in the formulation of agricultural and rural development programmes, the expansion of national and regional training activities and its support of training in nutrition. We also agree with the particular recommendation contained in paragraph 163 calling upon all nations to devote their efforts for the implementation of such strategies as were contained in the report.

Third, follow-up to WCARRD: We support FAO's strategy to reach rural women and its continued intensive endeavour for sending high level missions by WCARRD in order to highlight attention on the interrelationships between the objectives of development and justice and women's contributions. We also welcome the forthcoming Consultation on Women and Food Staples which will be organized by FAO. We also agree on the middle-term programme. In the Arab Republic of Egypt we emphasize the vital role of women in rural development. There is a number of programmes to improve the standard of women, affording them opportunities for education and improvement of their health and life standards. Hence we do look forward to FAO's assistance in this field.

Fourth, plant protection: Plant protection occupies an important role considering that it is a basic factor for increasing agricultural production.

Here my delegation agrees with FAO's proposal for merging plant protection in an overall programme of agricultural development. We also support the integrated protection programmes to combat pests and diseases biologically, chemically and mechanically. We should of course pay attention to insecticides and their harmful effects on man, animals, plants and soil. This of course requires a closer control of the varieties of these insecticides by special research laboratories. We should also pay attention to biological protection and the development thereof. We also should be very careful in the use of herbicides which are indispensable in the developing countries, in particular where weeding requires long time and effort. We attach particular attention to plant protection in Egypt, be it in the area of insects, plant diseases and pests. We are on our way to establishing a centre for research on seed diseases and we hope that this will be given attention by FAO. We also agree with what the report contains on the necessity of expanding bilateral and multilateral assistance to national plant protection programmes. We also support the proposal for the setting up of a data bank and we support the international strategy for plant protection and the priorities established.

Fifth, animal health: My delegation agrees that all extension services should be merged for those of animal protection and animal health at the farm level. We also support the priority given for manpower development in veterinary services as well as an increased support to training at all levels. My delegation wishes to pay tribute, on this occasion, to FAO's direct and immediate response to control accidental animal disease through the Programme of Technical Cooperation, as happened with the Rift Valley disease, rinderpest, and all such other diseases which have recently reached our country. My delegation also attaches importance to vaccine production and control and special storage and distribution systems, which will help us to vaccinate cattle as a main and essential function of control. The UAR attaches considerable importance to vaccine production and we look forward to FAO's effective assistance in this field. We also welcome friendly countries to cooperate in order to produce vaccines which will serve both UAR and the neighbouring countries.

Sixth, the establishment of a genebank: I wish to summarize here my country's view in two points. We agree on the establishment of the International Genebank and we imagine it as a network of storage, and UAR welcomes the idea of one of the branches of this network. We also welcome an International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources and look forward to the decision of the working party which the Director-General was authorized to set up.

A. F. M. de FREITAS (Brazil) : The report of COAG VII in front of us is, in the view of my delegation, a balanced document which faithfully reflects the fruitful discussions held by the Committee on Agriculture during its March session. My delegation was an active participant of the last session of the Committee, where it expressed the view of the Brazilian Government on the main topics of the agenda. Accordingly it sees no difficulty in reiterating its support of the conclusions and remarks contained in the report. So I will limit myself now to making a few brief comments on some of the topics contained in document CL 83/9.

With respect to the implementation of the Programme of Work 1982-83, I wish to stress the need for the Secretariat to give a more precise information regarding the implementation of the different subprogrammes, even in spite of the natural constraints which the vastness of the subjects imposes. While commending the effort done in this area, my delegation believes that some progress can still be obtained in that direction. As to the question of priority setting and programming, my delegation recognizes the difficult economic framework of the present times, and its negative reflexes on the international cooperation, particularly on the cooperation towards economic development in general, and on the agricultural development in special. This situation imposes an increased attention on the definition of priorities and the allocation of resources. In fact, we believe that some measures contribute more than others to increases in agricultural production and to improvements in agricultural productivity. It is the task of the Governing bodies of the Organization, especially of the Council, to see to it that the right priorities are adopted, and the best allocation of resources is obtained, especially in times of scarcity of resources, as those we are now living. My delegation favours the constant debate on the validity of any proposal and the continuous scrutiny on the implementation of the decisions taken.

Coming now to the eight programmes contained in the major Programme, Agriculture, I would like to express the full endorsement of my delegation to the priorities adopted. I would only emphasize the particular importance my government attributes to the programme of research. While acknowledging the fact that the magnitude of research support activities are bigger than what appears from the published documents, the Brazilian delegation would like to see a strengthening of the resources allocated to agricultural research in general, and to agricultural research in Latin America in particular.

As regards the Medium-and-Long-Term Outlook for Food and Agricultural Development, my delegation is in full agreement with the view that the corresponding document prepared by the Secretariat defines the objectives of the agricultural programmes in consonance with FAO's study "Agriculture : Toward 2000", and with the targets contained in the International Development Strategy for the Third UN Development Decade. With respect to the Programme of Work for 1984-85, for the Major Programme Agriculture, my delegation concurs with the view that it reflects the recommendations and resolutions of the several Governing bodies of the Organization. We also subscribe to the priority attributed to food production, food security, research and technology development and training. My delegation particularly commends the effort done by the Secretariat to reduce administrative expenditure in order to offset an increase in the substantive programme for Agriculture.

As regards the individual programmes, I would like to single out the programme for Research and Technology Development, and express the support of my delegation to the proposal to establish a new division, which would group the four units which until now deal with matters pertaining to research and technology. My delegation favours an increasing role for FAO in these areas, and it hopes that the new division may become a useful tool to accelerate agricultural development in the developing countries.

With respect to the proposals for the establishment of an International genebank and the preparation of a Draft Convention for Plant Genetic Resources, my delegation wishes to acknowledge the results of the working party which assisted the Director-General in the preparation of the proposals to be submitted to the 22nd session of the Conference. My delegation is looking forward to reading these results as soon as possible.

My delegation would like on this occasion to reiterate its belief that the genetic resources constitute a common heritage of all mankind and that access to those resources should be open to all interested parties. I wish to express the hope that the efforts of the Director-General and of the working party may meet with success in the not too distant future.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to give its thanks to Professor Bommer for his lucid introduction given to us on the agenda item before us reflecting briefly the proceedings which took place in the Committee on Agriculture and complimenting in such a way document CL 83/9 before us. Thus, the report and the introduction facilitate our work and allow us to be brief.

Our assessment of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture is positive. It had a good participation, and the great majority of its members took an active part in the discussions. The documentation was on the whole sent out in time, allowing for discussion at national level prior to the session. The future Programme of Work for 1984-85 and in particular its priorities regarding plant production, animal production, rural development, research, training and extension were broadly supported without prejudice to financial implications. The result of this discussion is being regarded by my delegation as an important element for the shaping of FAO's overall Programme of Work.

This is also valid for the discussion of the very well-prepared documents of sectorial areas such as malnutrition, follow-up to WCARRD, plant production and animal health.

Concerning the discussions about an International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources and the eventual setting up of an International Genebank, an item on which, as the Director-General also stated in his introduction, controversial positions were voiced, my delegation notes with satisfaction the action taken in the meantime by the Director-General and looks forward with interest to the report which he will present to the forthcoming Twenty-Second Conference.

As regards the future sessions of the Committee on Agriculture, my delegation feels that the custom of in-depth discussions on specific areas should also be continued. In our view, this discussion could perhaps even be improved by concentrating on a more limited number of items. Non-cereal food plant production and irrigation could for example be items for the next session.

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Agradecemos al doctor Bommer su presentación que, en verdad, mejora y aclara muchos aspectos confusos del documento CL 83/9.

Por la trascendencia del tema y las limitaciones de tiempo nos referiremos en esta ocasión exclusivamente al punto relativo al Convenio del Banco General de Genes.

Felicitamos al Director General por el interés que en todo momento ha puesto en relación a la Resolución 6/81; el Director General ha mostrado a los largo de sus intervenciones un interés especial por los asuntos de fondo de la agricultura y la alimentación; por eso nos complace mucho que presida las reuniones del grupo de trabajo que le asiste en la preparación de su informe en la parte relativa al Banco y Convenio de Genes.

Estamos satisfechos porque también estamos seguros que con su talento y capacidad de síntesis podrá sacar el mejor provecho de ese grupo.

El espíritu de la Resolución 6/81 es tan añejo como la lucha por reivindicar el valor de los recursos con que cuentan los débiles y por darles un uso justo y útil en función de los intereses de toda la humanidad.

Muchos países desde hace años han manifestado la necesidad de garantizar la conservación y justa utilización de los recursos genéticos en beneficio de todos. Tan solo, para citar algunos ejemplos, hacemos referencia a lo que la distinguida primer ministro de la India, la señora Indira Gandhi manifestó en la Conferencia de la FAO de 1981. Decía ella: "Los recursos genéticos vegetales y animales constituyen un patrimonio común y vale la pena cooperar en su conservación y su utilización". "Es necesario -decía la señora Indira Gandhi en otra ocasión- que cuanto antes los países eviten la dependencia en cuestión de germoplasma, y en ese sentido la India se está moviendo y se moverá para conseguir la creación de un Banco Internacional al servicio de todos los pueblos".

Asimismo en la reunión sobre recursos fitogenéticos del sudoeste asiático los representantes de Afganistán, Irán, Iraq, Turquía, Pakistán y Siria manifestaron en aquella ocasión el interés por establecer un Banco de Recursos Fitogenéticos bajo la custodia de la FAO.

También en una reunión celebrada en Lima, Perú, los representantes de Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Venezuela acordaron la conveniencia de establecer un Banco de Genes bajo la custodia de la FAO.

Sabemos también que importantes grupos de preeminentes científicos de países desarrollados coinciden plenamente con la necesidad de garantizar la libre disponibilidad, preservación y justo uso de todos los recursos genéticos para evitar la pérdida de material o retrasar la mejora de materiales cuando están sujetos casi en exclusiva a los intereses privados.

Queremos destacar también, de manera muy especial, la forma y autoridad moral con que un país desarrollado ha venido apoyando desde sus orígenes el concepto y realización del mandato de la Resolución 6/81.

Debemos agradecer a España su leal y solidaria participación en un asunto fundamental, en el rescate de los principios y la dignidad de los países en desarrollo. España ha ofrecido al mundo un ejemplo estimulante al poner a disposición del sistema de Naciones Unidas su Banco Nacional, con lo que se da un paso adelante en la concretización de la voluntad internacional.

En fin, los ejemplos son muchos, la filosofía y la proposición de instrumentos tales como el Banco Internacional de Genes y los elementos para un convenio no son nuevos. Ciertamente existe actualmente un sistema o red de Bancos que de acuerdo a sus intereses y patrones de evaluación es altamente eficaz, pero los sistemas, las acciones, las cosas no son buenas o malas por sí mismas, sino depende del patrón axiológico con que las evaluemos.

La casi totalidad de los estados libres y soberanos del mundo representados en FAO hemos coincidido en reconocer ciertos principios de objetivos en materia genética; primero, los recursos genéticos son un patrimonio universal y la forma de garantizarlos es poniéndolos bajo soberanía y custodia internacional.

Segundo, debe establecerse un instrumento que garantice la preservación, el libre intercambio y la plena disponibilidad de los recursos genéticos y la información científica correspondiente.

Señor Presidente, queremos subrayar que el sistema existente no contempla resolver los problemas legales y políticos que permitirían cumplir cabalmente con el principio y objetivos señalados. La existencia de la red de Bancos nacionales regidos por leyes nacionales los hace susceptibles a cambios a voluntad de los gobiernos y por tanto pueden pasar por alto cualquier convenio internacional, y aún las propias recomendaciones de FAO.

Por otro lado, el grupo consultivo de investigación agrícola internacional y el CIRF pueden perfectamente mejorarse, pero la FAO no puede responsabilizarse por ello ni tampoco plantear como solución alternativa al cumplimiento de la Resolución 6/81 actuar en un campo totalmente fuera de su responsabilidad y su capacidad de acción. Ciertamente la FAO puede hacer sugerencias, recomendaciones, auscultaciones, pero eso no puede ser considerado como alternativa del estudio sobre el establecimiento bajo los auspicios de la FAO de un Banco Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos y del examen y preparación de los elementos de un proyecto de convenio internacional, como lo indica la resolución 6/81; y no queremos, como bien lo mencionó el Director General en su estupendo discurso ante la UNCTAD, que las resoluciones de los organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas se consideren más como obras de arte que como normas de conducta.

Hemos planteado esto porque consideramos que es fundamental y porque creemos que orienta muchos los trabajos de este Consejo y que próximamente la Conferencia deberá desarrollar en la discusión del tema.

Existen, sin embargo, todavía algunas cuestiones de principio y de política en materia del Banco y del Convenio sobre las que no se ha discutido; me refiero en términos generales a la necesidad de incluir la información científica y el material genético ya procesado o en proceso para ser usado como materia prima de interés económico y considerado como parte inseparable del concepto de recursos genéticos.

Otro punto fundamental consiste en la disponibilidad y uso de la información genética existente y la necesidad de organizar programas de capacitación para el uso de germoplasma y su información.

Otro tema es el relativo a la forma en que participa la FAO y el CIRF, el papel del Grupo Constructivo y del TAC en la determinación de las políticas de recolección, evaluación, documentación, conservación, uso, etc. de los recursos de manera que respondan al interés general de los países miembros de la FAO.

En fin, el grupo de trabajo se está reuniendo eficazmente bajo la presidencia de nuestro Director General y está ayudándole a preparar los criterios que le permitirán presentar el informe correspondiente. Tenemos toda la confianza en que en el seno de la FAO sabremos resolver estas cuestiones de principio y también darle salida a un sistema multilateral que respete y asegure los intereses de todos en materia de germoplasma. Sería muy penoso, como en algunas ocasiones ha acontecido, que los países o las regiones se cerraran al intercambio del material genético que es estratégico para garantizar la alimentación de hoy y de mañana.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci de ce vibrant plaidoyer qui va dans le sens du point le plus important sur lequel la présente session devra se prononcer.

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Cyprus): The report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) covers a wide but important range of subjects in FAO's efforts towards improving agricultural production. My delegation is in broad agreement with the Committee's conclusions and recommendations.

We would only like to highlight certain aspects which in our view need particular attention. We note, and we do welcome in the 1982/83 Programme the substantial increase in training courses, in workshops and study tours. We believe that these are important components in the process of development and we fully support the emphasis being given in concentrating FAO's resources to the poorer countries and to the small farmers. We believe that this commendable thrust on behalf of FAO should

be strengthened considerably at the national levels to appropriate incentives aimed at the smaller farmers. These should be tied up amongst others with the availability of inputs and credits as well as marketing facilities etc. Such action would remove the measure of constraints now being faced by the small farmers. In this connection we agree that urgent priority needs to be given to the availability of improved seeds, to fertilizers and water, as well as the development of small scale water measurement systems. Plant protection, pre- and post-harvest, is applicable. It is also important, and we welcome FAO's efforts towards the promotion of safe and effective use of pesticides.

We would like to draw particular attention to the need of strengthening the capability of developing countries in monitoring pesticide quality, perhaps through the establishment of a regional quality control authorities. Any plans towards the implementation of quality control authorities should

of course be considerably strengthened through increased inputs into training and extension in plant protection, since failures in pest control, even after pesticide application, can very often be traced back to their inefficient use by farmers themselves in the first place.

In the field of animal health, my delegation strongly supports the extension of the buffer zone in south-eastern Europe in order to prevent the spread of exotic types of foot-and-mouth disease virus into Europe.

We would also like to highlight the significance of livestock insurance schemes. We cannot really expect the small livestock keeper to adopt improved breeds of animals or to make available increased purchase inputs to his herds unless he does carry insurance against losses. To urge him to adopt improved packages aimed at improving the productivity and enhancing his income should in our view be tied up with an insurance scheme which would fairly compensate him against losses.

Mr. Chairman, in the field of research support we must also stress that the resources available are clearly insufficient in view of the requirements. Nevertheless the CGIAR does provide additional resource support and training, often in association with FAO and other international agencies to most developing countries. Undoubtedly ISNAR would play an increasingly important role in this field.

We particularly welcome, Mr. Chairman, FAO's active role in the forthcoming FAO/Islamic Conference, meeting aimed at determining the priority needs in the field of agricultural research in the Near-East and the North Africa region.

With reference to the suggestion for conventional plant genetic resources and the proposition for the establishment of an international gene bank, my delegation gives full support to the recommendations of the Committee and the steps followed by the Director-General in establishing a working party to assist him to prepare his report for the November session of the Council.

We would also like to stress the main issues associated with this item, namely the preservation of plant genetic resources engaged in this field which should be clearly available to all countries without restrictions now and in the future for the benefit of mankind.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation finally wishes to support the Committee's recommendation on the choice of selected development items which could be included in the provisional agenda for the next session of the COAG as indicated in paragraph 241 of the document before us. They are all important and relevant and will enable the Committee to continue its investigation of serious professional as well as political commitment to the problems which affect the food and agricultural sector of member countries, but especially of the developing ones.

We also are especially pleased at the Director-General's decision to initiate a measure study on agricultural price policies, and look forward to the report which will be submitted to the Committee on Agriculture in 1985 and which will no doubt offer the Committee the opportunity for an interesting and fruitful debate on this very important subject.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci honorable délégué de Chypre.

Avant de passer la parole au prochain orateur inscrit, et puisque, en raison d'autres engagements, je dois m'absenter, je vais maintenant laisser la place à notre Président indépendant.

Je vous remercie tous de votre compréhension et vous souhaite bon travail et plein succès.

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): In the discussion of item 6 now under consideration, my delegation wishes to limit its comments to three subjects, namely to the international gene bank, to research networks and to the importance of forest management for agriculture.

As it appears from the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture, opinions on setting up the international gene bank and international convention for plant genetic resources are very differentiated. The differences of views confirm not only problems of a technical nature. Some of the Member countries maintain that the present organization in the forms of international cooperation in this field, developed by FAO/IBPGR, are completely satisfactory and there is no need for setting up a new organization.

The implementation of different international undertakings, particularly those involving many countries, requires great patience and calm in action. Only then a compromise can be achieved and a standpoint agreed. In this situation the suggestion of the Committee on Agriculture seems correct, that further work on these problems be continued by a working group as an advisory body of the Director-General.

Mr. Chairman, the question which, according to the Polish delegation, has not been sufficiently emphasized in the section "Research Major Programme Agriculture" are the research networks. For the past few years they have been organized in the European region. Although it is too early yet for their full evaluation, this form of cooperation seems to be very effective. That is why it seems advisable to expand this type of research cooperation to other regions and, in some cases, setting up inter-regional cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, problems of forest management only apparently are not connected with agriculture. The role of forests in developing the environment, agricultural area included, is generally known. Therefore serious problems of forest management, which have the character of elementary disasters in a vast area, cannot remain without unfavourable influence on agriculture. This is the situation found in Polish forests now. An outbreak of nun moth population has occurred on an unprecedented scale in recent years. This year the fighting is expected to cover about 1.5 million hectares. Fighting of the nun moth, considering of the scale of occurrence and of danger, stops being the problem of Poland only. The nun moth moves gradually from east to west. If its gradation is not checked it can become dangerous also for coniferous forests of other European countries.

In a wider aspect, the problems of forest damages and endangering of forest existence become of such high importance that they should be taken into account in the work programmes to a much higher degree than so far by international organizations, FAO included.

J.M. BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): Deseamos comenzar por referirnos al tema de los Recursos Fitogenéticos.

En la séptima sesión del COAG, celebrada en marzo, la delegación española expuso su convencimiento de que era necesario un Convenio Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos que estableciera el marco jurídico para asegurar la libre disponibilidad de estos recursos, dentro del espíritu de la Resolución 6/81 de la Conferencia General de la FAO. Asimismo, considera nuestra delegación que dicho Convenio debería estar respaldado por la asistencia duplicada de las colecciones más importantes puestas bajo la soberanía internacional.

La posición española pretende ser conciliadora y realista en un tema tan debatido; pretende apoyar una solución viable. Pensamos que una solución inmediata definitiva y total no es posible hoy. Habrá que llegar a ella por soluciones parciales y aproximaciones sucesivas mediante el esfuerzo compartido y la buena voluntad de las partes.

Para ello, un primer paso es considerar únicamente las semillas ortodoxas, cuyas especies representan una gran mayoría de las plantas utilizadas por el hombre. Y para garantizar la libre disponibilidad de las mismas proponemos un sistema global que conste de tres elementos básicos y complementarios, que reconozca e integre los esfuerzos ya realizados y las estructuras existentes.

Un primer elemento, que es el que existe, es la red de bancos y centros bajo soberanías nacionales y los pertenecientes al CGIAR que están coordinados y apoyados por el CIRF en sus funciones de recolección, conservación, multiplicación, evaluación, documentación y distribución de germoplasmas.

Un segundo elemento, la existencia de duplicados, debidamente documentados de las colecciones más importantes bajo soberanía internacional, con el fin de garantizar la libre disponibilidad del germoplasma y su documentación por encima de cualquier barrera política o económica que exista o pueda existir en el futuro.

Y un tercer elemento, un Convenio Internacional que regule y establezca el marco jurídico de este sistema global, así como el apoyo tecnológico de los países desarrollados a los países en desarrollo, para utilización del germoplasma en la producción de nuevas variedades.

El sistema global enunciado sería a los recursos fitogenéticos lo que la ley del mar a los recursos marinos.

El primer elemento, la red de bancos, garantiza a cada país su soberanía nacional sobre el germoplasma que posee, y contribuye a su salvaguardia, utilización e intercambio mediante su cooperación con el CIRF. El uso y disfrute de este material cae, sin embargo, bajo leyes nacionales que pueden ser modificadas por el gobierno o el Parlamento del país correspondiente. Esto hace que un sistema basado en solo este elemento sea muy vulnerable, principalmente en épocas de conflictos o tensiones internacionales, y justifica la necesidad del segundo y tercer elementos mencionados y que desarrollamos a continuación.

El segundo elemento, o sea la duplicación de las correcciones más importantes y de su documentación bajo soberanía internacional y bajo la bandera de las Naciones Unidas evitará la creación de monopolios u oligopolios nacionales de la materia prima esencial para la alimentación humana, porque es evidente que el material vegetal puede ser utilizado como elemento estratégico y de poder ante las necesidades alimentarias de una población creciente. Esto no duplicaría las actividades de la red de bancos nacionales coordinada por el CIRF o de aquellas que puedan crearse, sino que las completaría, ya que el propio CIRF recomienda que todas las colecciones estén triplicadas o al menos duplicadas.

Para minimizar los gastos de funcionamiento estos duplicados, bajo soberanía internacional tendrían el carácter de colecciones base, dejando a la red de bancos nacionales del CIRF las funciones de recolección, multiplicación, evaluación e intercambio, como se ha venido haciendo hasta ahora bajo el sistema de bona fide. Sólo en casos específicos en que la bona fide se viese traicionada, sería precisa la utilización directa de estos duplicados internacionales.

En otras palabras, creemos que la existencia de estos duplicados de propiedad internacional es la mejor garantía de que el sistema bona fide del CIRF continuará funcionando en el futuro.

Para minimizar los gastos de instalación, este segundo elemento podría implementarse:

- a) con la utilización de bancos nacionales ya existentes, dispuestos a colocar su germoplasma bajo soberanía internacional, renunciando a su propiedad sobre el mismo. España ofreció durante la reunión del COAG poner su banco bajo esta soberanía internacional y reitera su ofrecimiento.
- b) Con la utilización de los bancos ya existentes en los centros internacionales del Grupo Consultivo, si éste acepta el establecimiento de un status legal que reconozca la soberanía internacional a través de las Naciones Unidas del germoplasma almacenado. España, como país donante del Grupo Consultivo, considera que esto es posible y deseable.
- c) La creación de otros bancos bajo soberanía internacional en lugares técnicamente apropiados para los cultivos que no estén suficientemente cubiertos. Si para ello fuese posible contar con la asistencia económica del CIRF, España, como país donante del mismo, estaría dispuesta a incrementar sustancialmente su aportación.

El tercer elemento, el Convenio Internacional, proporcionaría el marco jurídico legal en el que se moverían las relaciones entre los países y de éstas con las Organizaciones Internacionales en materia de recursos genéticos. El Convenio debería de tener en cuenta los precedentes establecidos en una línea similar por la Ley del Mar para los recursos marinos e incluir normas que regulasen la asistencia tecnológica de los países desarrollados a los países en desarrollo, para la utilización de sus recursos fitogenéticos y creación de nuevas variedades mejor adaptadas a sus necesidades.

Finalmente, lo que desearía la Delegación Española es que se llegase a un acuerdo sobre la conveniencia de establecer un sistema global basado en los principios expuestos y, consecuentemente, que el Grupo de Trabajo ya constituido para asistir al Director General, estudie la estrategia, fases, financiación y formulación concreta para hacer operativa esta propuesta.

A. PEREZ-MARSA HERNANDEZ: (España): Como continuación a la intervención de nuestro compañero de la delegación española, queríamos agradecer al Sr. Bommer y felicitarle por su magnífica introducción del documento CL 83/9, que nos ha aclarado algunos asuntos y puntos de importancia esencial.

En primer lugar, Señor Presidente, mi Delegación apoya el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984/85, deseando vayan encaminados a las prioridades de mayor interés y urgencia. Asimismo, apoyamos el Programa de Actividades Complementarias en lo que se refiere a mejorar la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo rural. Entendemos que estas acciones pueden ir encaminadas a información y capacitación que ayuden a paliar la falta de oportunidades laborales para la mujer, permitiendo así su mejor contribución al desarrollo. En nuestro país, esta capacitación adopta las modalidades de la formación agraria en producción, gestión económica y manipulación de productos y formación extraagraria, industria y artesanía, muchas veces en forma de cooperativa asociada, así como turismo rural.

Todas las actividades que se propongan en las políticas locales, siempre serán bien aceptadas para posibilitar la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo rural.

Por último, Señor Presidente, dada la importancia de la protección vegetal en el desarrollo agrícola como base esencial para aumentar la producción alimentaria, nos obliga a la elaboración de una estrategia mundial al objeto de integrar la protección fitosanitaria en un enfoque más amplio.

Mi delegación ha estudiado detenidamente los párrafos 183 al 201, del documento en cuestión, y está completamente de acuerdo con el contenido de los mismos; pero queremos resaltar algunos puntos que consideramos de esencial importancia.

En primer lugar, con relación al párrafo 188, tal como reflejábamos en nuestra intervención de marzo pasado, creemos es urgente que el código de conducta sobre la distribución y empleo de plaguicidas que está elaborando la FAO, quede terminado cuanto antes.

Por la trascendencia del tema, queremos poner de relieve con especial interés, la potenciación de programas de lucha integrada y de manejo de plagas, como base para evitar desequilibrios biológicos y ecológicos y posibles efectos nocivos para los seres humanos.

Tal como indica el punto 196 del Documento, señalamos el interés de potenciar en cada país los Servicios Nacionales de Protección Fitosanitaria y de Inspección Fitopatológica.

Para terminar, Señor Presidente, quiero destacar la gran importancia que tendría la creación propuesta, tal como se señala en el párrafo 197, de un banco de datos, en estas materias, junto con una mayor y mejor difusión de la información y si fuera necesario con la transferencia de tecnología apropiada a través de asistencias bilaterales o multilaterales.

Ms. G. DÅNMARK (Norway): On this occasion my delegation has the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. The Nordic countries consider the discussion at the last COAG meeting to be of great importance in the field of food and agriculture development. They also consider the agriculture sector to play a crucial role in the general economic development, especially in the developing countries. Seventy to eighty percent of the population in developing countries live in rural areas. Many of these earn their living from agriculture. Increased productivity and improved economy of these groups would lead to increased demand from other sectors of the economy. This in turn would mean these other sectors are given the possibility of expanding and that new employment opportunities are created.

Increased emphasis on the agriculture sector would therefore in the long run form the basis for increased economic growth" and a higher standard of living in the developing countries.

As stated on previous occasions, the Nordic countries are of the opinion that agricultural research is vital with regard to production increases, improvement of technologies, etc. Research in these areas would lead to economies and better utilization of limited resources.

It is therefore important that the developing countries give higher priority to agricultural research. Many developing countries do not have the infrastructure nor the resources to establish independent research activities. Assistance from international organizations and institutions is therefore still necessary. Furthermore, it is, in our view, important that national agriculture research give priority to crops and technology that are essential for low income groups and small-scale farmers. However, it is not, in our opinion, sufficient only to concentrate on and give priority to agricultural research. Marketing of food and measures to stimulate the use of new techniques are also essential. Stable and incentive prices are in this connexion vital in order to stimulate increasing food production, also taking into account the problems and interests of low-income groups.

The Nordic countries are very pleased to note FAO's initiatives to strengthen its activities with regard to the analytical studies of the effects on national price policies of increased production and consumption of food. Studies of this kind could assist many developing countries when elaborating an adequate price policy in accordance with a country's own objectives, economic/systems and capabilities. The nordic countries feel that there is, both within FAO and elsewhere, a general need for increased emphasis to activities in the area of food and agricultural policy. We think that the initiative taken is a step in the right direction and that it will result in further increased priorities to agro-economic and agriculture policy aspects.

As mentioned earlier, agriculture plays a crucial role in economic development. One of the many important questions facing us in the present difficult world economic situation is what effect a more cautious and increased emphasis on the agricultural sector will have for the general economic growth. In order to study this question further it will be necessary to examine the economic interaction between the agricultural and the other sectors of the economy. Through the study Agriculture Towards 2000 FAO has made a valuable analysis of the conditions for and the consequence of an increased priority of the agricultural sector. The work done is most useful. As mentioned by the Nordic countries at the COAG meeting this work could be broadened.

In the long-term perspective we also want to draw special attention to the UNEP/FAO report regarding the alarming problems of desertification. In view of the problematic situation, especially in many African countries, it might also be an idea to take up the discussion with effected countries to reintroduce studies on the country level.

During the COAG meeting the Nordic countries gave special attention to malnutrition and the follow-up of WCARRD. The Nordic countries want to take this opportunity to stress once more that the WCARRD principles, the situation of women and nutrition aspects, should be integrated into all activities of FAO.

At the COAG meeting we were pleased to note the increased interest for WCARRD projects but at the same time we were informed that funds were lacking for their implementation. The Nordic countries would like to take this opportunity to urge other donor countries to make pledges to this important programme. A common feature of the follow-up activities to WCARRD is that they must be based on acceptance and understanding by governments, technical experts and the rural populations. In this connection we want to draw attention to the role of farmers' organizations. These organizations must also be involved in the process of WCARRD follow-up. This is especially important in the case of the subsistence farmer. It is in the subsistence sector that a great potential for increased food production and for improving the standard of rural areas lies.

Finally, we have noted with satisfaction that the working party regarding plant genetic resources has been established and that it has had its first meeting. We are looking forward to the report from the Director-General and the further discussion of this question at the next Council meeting.

N. DIMITRIÛ (Roumanie): La delegation roumaine apprécie comme positive l'activité déployée par le Comité surtout pour ce qui concerne la mise en pratique des programmes de terrain et d'assistance technique, l'échange important de matériel à semer, la propagation de la production de nouvelles plantes cultivées, la prévention et la lutte contre les maladies, les insectes et les animaux nuisibles.

Eu égard à ce qui a été présenté ci-dessus, nous exprimons notre accord sur le rapport de la septième session du Comité.

Quant à la création d'une banque internationale de gènes concernant les ressources phytogénétiques, nous désirons quand même informer le Conseil que la Roumanie peut apporter une contribution notable à l'organisation de cette banque parce qu'elle a une riche expérience dans cette direction et dispose d'un matériel phytogénétique abondant. La position géographique de notre pays peut faciliter l'échange international de matériel génétique et les spécialistes roumains pourraient participer à l'organisation d'expéditions de collectes.

Au cas où serait soulevé le problème relatif au siège de cette organisation, ou celui d'une filiale, dans la zone balkanique, la Roumanie pourrait examiner la possibilité de l'installer auprès de l'Institut de recherche pour les céréales et les plantes industrielles de Fundulea et de faire connaître ces considérations avant la Conférence générale du mois de novembre 1983.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Firstly on behalf of my delegation I would like to congratulate Dr Bommer for his excellent presentation of the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We feel this presentation has set the scene very clearly for the Council's consideration of the wide range of issues which the Committee has reported for our consideration at this session.

As one of the participants in the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture New Zealand sees the document before us, CL 83/9 as setting out very clearly the practical activities of FAO at the front end of agriculture, as it were. These activities are, of course, vitally important to developing countries, including those small developing countries located in the South Pacific. We are encouraged that the criteria used for priority setting and programmes established by FAO in implementing the 1982/83 programme of work which was considered by the Committee. Building on this approach we would like to see, as resources permit, the Committee on Agriculture become even more involved in evaluation of major programmes, given the technical expertise that is available to that Committee. Indeed, the Committee in its consideration of the implementation of the 1982/83 work programme recommended that the impact of activities on a selective or illustrative basis be reported on in the future and thus depending on the work of such selective programmes, extending the major evaluation programme generally perhaps might be considered.

New Zealand has stressed traditionally the need to place great emphasis on FAO's work in the field. Indeed, from time to time we are able to provide technicians and other experts to help FAO's field programmes and other programmes. We are therefore pleased to note, and support fully, the clear emphasis given to field programmes, to training and to research in the programme of work and agriculture for 1984/84 and I can assure the Council, New Zealand will continue to do its best to give on-the-ground support to FAO's activities in these areas, particularly in the South Pacific region.

New Zealand supports the proposal to establish a research and technology development division in the agricultural directorate with a consequent rearrangement of staff resources and we feel the higher priority now being recorded to agricultural research by FAO is to be commended highly. This proposal can be seen in the context of the recognized importance of research to agricultural development and indeed reflects developing countries' own priorities. From New Zealand's own experience the results we have had from the extensive research we continue to undertake in many areas of agriculture provide ample evidence why research needs to retain the high priority accorded to it by FAO.

My delegation would also like to comment briefly on the topics that the Committee on Agriculture recommended be considered at its next session under the heading of Selected Development Problems, this is referred to in paragraph 241, document CL 83/9. We support generally the topics recommended but if the work could perhaps be concentrated in areas where perhaps the Committee might be able to recommend specific action by FAO given the present pressure on Secretariat resources. Of the four topics set out in paragraph 241, my delegation has, of course, already endorsed action under agricultural research and of the other three items there suggested it seems to us that the last item listed is probably capable of the more immediate practical application.

The New Zealand delegation supports the conclusion of the Committee that the Director-General be assisted by a working group of member nations to help him prepare his report to the Council on the International Gene Bank proposal. We are pleased to learn that the working party has met already, which is indicative of the Director-General's concern that the matter be progressed. We hope that the working party will be able to come to a mutually workable recommendation for the Council.

New Zealand, at the meeting of the Committee on Agriculture, suggested in the discussion on plant protection, the establishment of a panel on integrated weed management. As Council members are well aware, farmers in developing countries spend a large amount of their time on land clearing and weeding and we feel this area needs more attention. We were gratified with the attention the proposal received at the Committee and in due course my delegation looks forward to hearing how the suggestion is proceeding.

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): First, my delegation would like to congratulate Dr Bommer on his excellent presentation of the report on the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

The Bangladesh delegation has carefully studied the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture in which my country was also a participant. The report is quite comprehensive, for which we congratulate the COAG and the FAO.

Amongst other subjects the Committee has studied in detail the problems relating to animal health but apparently adequate attention has not been given to the serious problem of animal food in some developing countries like Bangladesh. Under Bangladesh conditions, with scanty land resources the pressing need for producing more human food has resulted in almost the complete disappearance of grazing land in most rural communities. Moreover, with the introduction of H. Y. V. cultivation of paddy, the supply of straw is diminishing and whatever straw is produced is also being used to a substantial degree as thatching material and some is also being diverted to packaging of industrial and other goods. Even the stubble is largely being used as cooking fuel in a situation of acute domestic energy crisis in rural Bangladesh. Moreover, the supply of cereal processing byproducts, such as brand, has become commercialized following the large-scale introduction of community level husking mills and have gone beyond the reach of the average farming household.

In my country breeding of livestock and poultry has been traditional at the homestead level directly related to other agricultural activities, providing draft power, protein nutrients and also a degree of organic recycling. The developments over the last decades have grossly disturbed the traditional system, resulting in a considerable decline in the livestock population and a deterioration of their health. In fact in rural Bangladesh the nutritional status of a farming family almost always corresponds with the nutritional status of its livestock holdings. The aggravating situation is therefore causing serious concern and needs immediate attention.

At the national level we are trying to find and adopt remedial measures. However, we feel that this is an area which needs more detailed study and the sharing of experiences amongst countries with similar problems, which are not many.

My delegation would therefore request that the FAO should give a higher priority to the problem of animal and poultry feed in developing countries simultaneously with its programme on animal health.

With the above observation my delegation generally finds itself in full agreement with the contents, conclusions and recommendations of the Committee and notes with appreciation that the Committee while reviewing the Programme of Work for 1982/83 have given the right stress on the need for the Programme to concentrate on the poorer communities, lower income and handicapped groups, small farmers, landless labour and women.

Regarding the summary Programme of Work and Budget my delegation agrees with the priorities accorded to different programmes and sub-programmes of the major programme 2.1 Agriculture. These priorities reflect the wishes of the member countries and recommendations and resolutions of the Council and the Conference as also regional conferences and inter-governmental bodies. My delegation fully supports these priorities, particularly in areas of food production, food security, research and technology development, and follow-up on WCARRD, including the role of women. My delegation also fully endorses the overall priorities given to the problems of the low-income food-deficit African countries.

On the subject of plant genetic resources and the two proposals, my delegation, subscribing to the basic concepts that crop genetic resources are a heritage of mankind and that they should be freely exchanged between countries, thinks that all related technical, political and legal issues should be addressed fully and we are confident that the Director-General with his sustained interest in the field would be able to help elaborate the proposals for the consideration of the November session of the Conference.

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho) : From the outset as a member of the Committee on Agriculture who took an active part in the deliberations of the March COAG session we fully support the contents of document CL 83/9. We endorse the emphasis that has been given to training in this document, particularly as it relates to Africa. Attempts to take corrective action on education and skills have brought a series of disappointments, especially in regard to trained African women in agriculture and nutrition. Well qualified African personnel have been employed by our Organization, but the bulk of technically competent African women in the service of our Organization are not lucky enough to remain in their posts for a long time. Some are given very short terms of service. How can these women gain the skills and the competence which document CL 83/9 talks about if their contracts last for a maximum of six months? Indeed we realize that these women must work in their countries of origin to have a lasting impact. However if their academic training permits them to work with an international organization like FAO they should be given the chance to prove themselves both at FAO Headquarters and in the field. Here I am addressing myself to the nine or more paragraphs which refer to training in Africa especially for women.

On trade we recognize that the exports of the developing countries face much fiercer competition from advanced countries than these countries did when they themselves were developing. Expansion of these exports is further handicapped by policies of protection pursued by the rich countries.

On mechanization, we recognize the utility of mechanization in ironing out seasonable bottlenecks which occur in planting, weeding, harvesting, resulting in expanded cultivable acreage. However, mechanization has not proved economic in African agriculture and it therefore needs to be applied judiciously. The precondition of mechanization is that the physical and social conditions should permit the use of appropriate machines, taking into account the most optimum combination of crops, livestock and farming activities. We agree that the backbone of agricultural production in the African continent is the smallholder rather than the estates or plantations. Unfortunately the economic development of many African countries has been tied to the introduction and production of cash crops. In consequence food production for home consumption has declined. Thus it is important to examine in more detail the differences in the marketable surplus per head of population in those countries which depend on small farms for their livelihood.

With regard to the indigenous crops a tendency does exist to underestimate the importance of non-marketed food production in the agriculture of developing countries, and more so in African agriculture, and to over-emphasise that of cash crops. Increasing the quantity and variety of food produced in this part of the world is important.

On questions of policy we realize that there are problems with concepts like economies of scale in agriculture and the relative efficiency of large and small farms. But what we think should be developed are policies to assist farmers to effect an increase in what they have as resources available to them and therefore try all possible ways of minimizing the incidence of inequality.

On the issue of research we fully support the efforts that are described in the document. However, we realize that there still is a case where agricultural researchers and officers attempt to transfer the superior technical methods employed by agricultural research stations to small farmers without recognizing the resource availabilities to those farmers. Therefore we suggest that the research support should take action to avoid repetition of this technical error.

Referring again to what we said in our intervention relating to world food security on irrigation assistance to sub-Saharan Africa we wish to request the Director-General to marshal international intervention in the provision of an infrastructure which will make use of cheap irrigation techniques like gravity irrigation, combined with partial pumping to ensure popular participation in the efforts to eliminate the effects of the imminent drought. Efforts are already under way to enlist participatory action through the formation of cooperative societies in southern Africa. This effort should be launched within the SADCC and we hope that the Council will adopt this recommendation.

We commend the efforts of FAO in the livestock area and we support its livestock programme. Nevertheless, we want to indicate that those pastoral people of Africa may be considered poor herd managers who overgraze pastures, mainly because their programmes are not really well understood. It must however be recognized that nomadism has been forced upon them by ecological circumstances which compel them to move their livestock around in search of tufts of grass nurtured by erratic rainfall. So far the measures taken to assist them have neglected this fact and endeavoured to confine nomads to areas too small to guarantee water and pasture availability throughout the year. In this connection we wish to request the Director-General to contact donors and potential donors with a view to raising funds for a Pan-African campaign to control and eventually eradicate rinderpest. This programme should be launched by FAO/OIE/OAE. We look forward to the endorsement and adoption of a recommendation to this effect by this Council.

Lastly, we support the conclusion of the Committee on the Establishment of the International Genebank.

P.M.AMUKOA (Kenya): My delegation participated in the deliberations of the 7th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and was party to the consensus which was reached at that successful session. In our view the Council should endorse what is contained in the Committee's report.

We wish however on this occasion to emphasise some areas very briefly and in some cases in a point form.

The focus of the agricultural programme on small farmers, women, the rural poor and pastoralists is a correct one considering that agriculture has an important role to play in employment and income generation and in rural development as a whole.

The emphasis on training, especially in Africa, is also in the right direction. The agricultural sector needs to be adequately supplied with necessary knowledge, skills and experience for it to play this significant role in development.

Intensification of soil and water conservation measures, irrigation activities and environmental management are urgently needed.

We support the development of smallscale agro-industries as these help to create employment opportunities and raise the income levels of the poor.

We welcome the emphasis on farming and farm systems approach elaborated in this document. We support the development of sound marketing strategies, delivery systems and the building of institutions relevant to rural development, especially in Africa.

It is encouraging to see in the report some innovative approaches in rural savings and credits. Conventional banking systems have not served the rural farmers, as some of their requirements for credit have almost always ignored the realities of smallholder farming.

My delegation supports the idea of programme evaluation to see if they have had an impact. This should apply to all programmes whenever possible, including animal health programmes in Africa, such as the rinderpest control programme. In this connexion, the development of the necessary evaluation indicators becomes very important.

The agricultural programme emphasis on indigenous food crops, including roots and tubers, is in the right direction and we commend FAO for this. We wish, however, to endorse the fact stressed in paragraph 80 of the COAG report, the last sentence of which states: "In this connexion the Committee urged the reorganization and strengthening of the Plant Production and Protection Division in order to give food crops a higher priority". Actually, this sentence should have fitted better as a last sentence of paragraph 81 under Programme 2.1.2, Crops, as it has a direct bearing on crop priority. In fact, the report of the 44th Session of the Programme Committee, which we shall discuss later, conveys the same idea under paragraph 2.1.2, Crops. We would for example wish to see some of the proposed forty FAO staff reduction posts shifted and filled with staff who will handle activities of indigenous crops, including roots and tubers, sorghum and millets.

As regards livestock, we need also increased emphasis on the development of animal breeding, nutrition and management and also the production of small animals, such as sheep and goats.

We welcome the emphasis given on research and urge that research activities should focus on problems of small farmers.

As regards nutrition, we support the fact that rural development projects should contain nutrition intervention components. There is also need for nutrition education among school children, adults and pre-service front-line agricultural extension agents, both men and women.

We request the Council to endorse what is expressed in paragraph 125 on National Liberation Movements in southern Africa which are fighting for noble goals of liberating their countries, and compliment FAO for its continued assistance to these movements.

As regards the role of women in agricultural production, we wish to emphasize (a) the role of community forestry in fuel wood energy supply to rural households; (b) the need to bring water closer to these households to save women from going long distances to collect water for their families and, in some cases, for their livestock and (c) the development of tools and technology which will make farming more productive and less time-consuming.

Many rural women in the developing countries live and work in socio-economic environments where their roles are defined by society, and any programmes directed at women in such communities must understand these societies and the roles they give to women before the implementation stage.

Regarding plant protection activities, we believe (a) that activities in this area should be integrated with those of crop production; (b) in the development of more efficient tools for hand weeding and weed management; (c) that methods of estimating crop losses be made simple and more applicable by extension agents, and (d) in increased training activities in this area, especially in Africa.

Animal health strategies should (a) give priority action to Africa's serious animal health problems; (b) develop veterinary manpower especially in sub-Saharan Africa; (c) integrate livestock activities and systems within the total farm system concept.

On the question of the International Gene bank, proposals for its establishment and a preparation of the Draft International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources, we have no comment at the moment except to say that we look forward to the next Director-General's report on this subject.

Finally, we endorse what is contained in paragraph 241 on selected development problems for consideration in the near future.

JIN XIANGYUN (China) (original language Chinese): As a member of COAG, China attended the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture in March this year. We endorse the Committee's report submitted to the Council. However, we wish to make the following remarks:

First, the item concerning an international convention for plant genetic resources and the establishment of an international gene bank is an important one for the Seventh Session of COAG which attracted attention of the delegates. The views expressed by various delegates have been fully reflected in paragraphs 219-238 of the report. We don't wish to repeat what we said at the 7th Session of COAG. The Committee decided to set up a working party. We voiced our support for the proposal and we hope that the working party will draw from ideas of all sides and assist the Director-General in the preparation of a report to be submitted to the November Council Session.

Second, paragraphs 241-242 of the report list the items suggested by the delegates for consideration at the next session. We deem that all the suggestions are constructive and so we hope that the Director-General and the Chairman of COAG will give them full consideration when finalizing the agenda for the Eighth Session. It is usual practice that every COAG session will discuss the implementation of the Programme of Work, the chapter "Agriculture" in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget of the following biennium as well as the medium-and long-term Outlook for Food and Agriculture Development and Nutrition. These are major items on the agenda for all COAG sessions. However, due to time constraint, prolonged deliberations of other items will inevitably affect the effectiveness of meetings. Besides, agriculture is a multi-disciplinary science with each part covering a specialized field. Therefore, in mounting delegations for COAG, member nations have to designate experts in the corresponding professions. As a result, if there are more items, there are bound to be more delegates, which will impose a heavy burden on member nations. Thus, we suggest that the number of selected specialized items be limited within an appropriate scope. In making this proposal, we have no other intention, but hope to ensure the practical result of the discussions and the quality of the sessions.

ABDUL WAHID bin ABDUL JALIL (Malaysia) : From both the Director-General's opening speech and Dr. Bommer's complete and clear introduction on the report of the Seventh Session of the COAG, we can conclude that the Committee on Agriculture had had a successful session in which many issues were well received and commented. The Committee was also able to gather and put before us a number of issues and matters requiring the attention of this Council. My delegation, while fully endorsing the various conclusions and recommendations put forward by the Committee in the report would, however, like to make some further observations.

As this delegation had indicated before, meeting increased demand for food required a variety of measures tailored to the specific needs of the individual countries. Basically, all countries must improve their agricultural technology. This involves higher and more efficient use of inputs, increased research and extension, better organization and management of farms, incentives to producers to innovate, improved disease and pest control, better roads and other rural infrastructures and reduction of post-harvest losses. These are no doubt some of the priority areas in food and agricultural development which should be given due consideration. Few countries in the developing world will be able to implement these activities on their own under the present constraints faced by many of them. Much therefore remains to be done through the assistance of international agencies involved with the development of food production in the developing countries. FAO, being the lead agency in the matter related to food and agricultural development, will have a tremendous task to perform to provide a catalyst for developing countries to meet their food needs. Through its programmes and activities, FAO had helped to bring about significant improvement in the food and agricultural situation in these countries.

We have no problem in following the activities of the Organization in the past. The Organization had been receptive to the suggestions and ideas for improvement of its activities and it responded effectively to the needs of developing countries. The FAO had gathered a tremendous amount of experience in the various fields of food and agricultural development, and it is hoped that this experience could be transferred to the countries through its publications and programmes. Development agencies must be sensitive to the needs of these countries for these programmes and activities to be effective. It is therefore with satisfaction that my delegation noted that FAO had taken into consideration the various factors necessary and useful in the drawing up of its medium and long-term programmes. In view of the differences in priorities to be assigned to the various regions and countries within the regions, the task of the Director-General to give his programme thrust and balance is not an easy one, particularly under the present tight financial constraints. We therefore must congratulate the Director-General on the manner in which he has drawn up the priority programme in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for Agriculture, and based on the reality of the situation this Summary Programme should get the support of all of us.

With regard to the role of women in agricultural production we agree fully that more attention should be given to ensure the effective participation in the economic development of the countries. Many agricultural studies have shown the significant role of the rural women in the decision-making process of their families and in the economic activities of their community. National development strategies should therefore include the improvement of this very important sector of the population. However, we also agree with the view that the strategy for the development of rural women should not be carried out in isolation. It should be carried out within the context that women's activities are closely related to that of men. More generally, these strategies should focus on lightening the burden and the task that rural women are engaging in now.

We are also in full agreement with the various national and global strategies of action from malnutrition, plant protection and animal health. Mr. Chairman, while the issue of the Establishment of an International Genebank and the formation of an International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources is important for the conservation of genetic material from being eroded, but, in view of the differences of opinion expressed on the subject during the Committee's session we agree fully with the decision of the Committee to recommend that the Director-General be assisted by a working group of Member Nations to help him prepare his report to the Council. We hope the Director-General's report that he is making based on the advice of the members of the working group will be the basis for the development and improvement of future activities in this important aspect of agricultural development which has not gained our full attention before.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation endorses the new areas of study to be undertaken by FAO as suggested in paragraph 241. We feel and hope the findings and discussions on the issues will be useful in the determination of factors needed to enhance food and agricultural development now and in the future.

D. WHITE (Argentina): Ante todo, mi delegación quisiera agradecer al Dr. Bommer su muy clara y precisa presentación del documento CL 83/9. Somos sumamente conscientes de lo difícil que es efectuar un orden de prioridades en un marco de necesidades y urgencias tan amplio. Mi país reconoce los esfuerzos que realiza la FAO en este aspecto, detectando las prioridades y actuando en consecuencia. Es absolutamente lógico que cada región, cada país, presente necesidades distintas, por lo menos de diferente intensidad, y es por ello por lo que nos parece natural que sean las propias naciones las que determinen los sectores donde las necesidades de apoyo sean más importantes.

Estamos de acuerdo, como principio general, que en la realización de planes y acciones deben primar las urgencias. Y en este sentido nos parece sumamente lógico que el mayor énfasis de los programas esté dirigido a las regiones y/o países con déficit alimentarios más acentuados. Consideramos también que para el logro de objetivos de mediano y largo plazo debe prestarse particular atención a aquellos programas con efectos multiplicadores en las economías de los países en desarrollo. Es decir, que coadyuven al crecimiento integral de los mismos. Tampoco debemos olvidar, en la fijación de programas, metas y acciones el sano principio de las ventajas comparativas. Con recursos cada vez más escasos debe ponerse énfasis, a nuestro criterio, en aquellos aspectos que con menor dosis de inversión se logren incrementos de producción mayores.

Nuestra delegación está de acuerdo, en líneas generales, con lo expresado en el documento COAG 83/4 referente a las perspectivas a medio y largo plazo para el desarrollo de la agricultura, así como aprueba el resumen del programa de labores y presupuesto para 1984-85. Nos parece muy atinado el equilibrio proyectado para los diferentes programas, dado el insignificante crecimiento presupuestario que se nos propone.

Quisiera referirme a continuación, brevemente, a algunos aspectos del programa. Consecuentes a las ideas expresadas anteriormente, mi delegación apoya enfáticamente el contenido del capítulo 2.1.4, referente al fomento de la investigación y la tecnología. Consideramos que toda iniciativa que tienda a incrementar los esfuerzos en la investigación es la mejor manera de asegurar una tendencia positiva de la productividad. La investigación debe estar apoyada sobre bases realistas, lo que es sinónimo de responder a esas necesidades del sector agropecuario y reunir condiciones de economía. Mejorar los sistemas y métodos de extensión y transferencia tecnológica es, a nuestro juicio, realmente importante, pues de ello depende, en gran medida, la adopción de las nuevas técnicas por parte del productor.

Dentro de los planes de investigación, le damos gran importancia a la labor que realiza la FAO en el campo de la energía, sobre todo, en los aspectos relativos a la fijación biológica de nitrógeno y al mejor aprovechamiento de fuentes de energía nuevas y renovables como se menciona en los párrafos 76 y 111.

En este sentido, nuestro país ha desarrollado un sistema de producción altamente eficiente, en términos energéticos, basado en la rotación de leguminosas y nuestra experiencia en ese campo, que es larga y completa, está permanentemente a disposición de quien la solicite.

Nos parece importante, a su vez, insistir en la necesidad de una mayor cooperación entre los países para realizar actividades de investigación mediante programas de colaboración entre instituciones especializadas. Dentro del programa de actividades, del reciente creado Comité de Acción sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Regional (CASAR) en el marco del SELA, se le ha dado una particular importancia a la cooperación técnica entre las naciones latinoamericanas.

También nos parece particularmente importante y por ende apoyamos todos los esfuerzos que puedan realizarse en la capacitación del personal rural. La mano de obra capacitada es un recurso escaso en los países en vías de desarrollo; es realmente un cuello de botella muy notorio que puede frenar los esfuerzos que se realicen en otros sectores.

Por último, Sr. Presidente, quisiera referirme a la propuesta para el establecimiento de un banco internacional de genes y la preparación de un convenio sobre recursos fitogenéticos.

Mi delegación quisiera agradecer y felicitar a la Secretaría nuevamente por la elaboración del documento que nos fue presentado en su oportunidad y que nos ilustró en un tema tan complejo y especializado. Mi país le ha dado una particular importancia a la genética, tanto en lo que hace a la investigación, a la experimentación, como a la difusión del material genético mejorado, y es consciente de que es el instrumento tecnológico más contundente y económico de que el hombre hoy dispone para incrementar la productividad de los cultivos.

Nuestra delegación considera indiscutible el principio de que los recursos fitogenéticos son patrimonio de la humanidad y que deben buscarse los mecanismos para asegurar el libre intercambio entre los países y sus respectivas instituciones para fines científicos y para su utilización en programas nacionales de mejoramiento genético de cultivos.

Mi país es consciente de la importancia y la complejidad del tema que estamos abordando y aprueba la formación del Grupo de Trabajo que asesora al Director General en la formación de su informe y espera ansiosamente sus resultados.

En Argentina se ha formado un grupo interdisciplinario de especialistas del más alto nivel para estudiar el tema en su conjunto, así como para analizar y formular mecanismos que faciliten alcanzar los objetivos propuestos.

A.A. KHALIL (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Mr. Chairman, I am starting to speak at a time when everybody is a bit tired, but I would like to comment on the report of the Seventh Session of COAG, a document which we have before us under CL 83/9 on behalf of my delegation. First of all I would like to thank COAG for the efforts which have been made in the course of the Seventh Session in order to present such a report. Furthermore, the Committee has given its support to the Director-General's proposal to limit administrative costs and to strengthen the technical and economical activities in the Organization's Programme for 1984-85, and we believe that this deserves our congratulations. We would like to congratulate the Director-General and his staff on the excellent orientation they have selected, and the priorities which they have adopted for the Organization.

We would also like to say that we agree with the results of the Committee in discussing the different programmes it had before it. We also agree with the priority which has been given to certain development projects, in particular those concerning the control of malnutrition at the national level, and the strengthening also of resolutions and follow-up of WCARRD, and in particular the role of women in rural development and the increase of production. Also we support too the recommendations concerning plant protection and animal protection, especially with regard to the harmful effect of the extension of FMD.

We would also like to give our support to the emphasis given by the COAG to direct these activities to help small farmers.

With regard to the setting up of an International Genebank . and an International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources, we fully agree with the setting up of a working party to deal with this subject, and we are impatiently expecting the report which will be presented by this working party in November.

Mr. Chairman, the problems of development which were chosen by the Committee for review at the next session are problems of the greatest importance, and this proves that the Committee is going to make all its technical and political qualifications available in order to help solving agricultural problems in all countries especially in the developing countries which are encountering many difficulties in food and agriculture. In this connection, Mr. Chairman, I would like to record that the work of the Committee on these lines facilitates the activity of FAO in the assistance which it gives to the needy countries in order to solve their development problems and increase their food production.

I. would also like to say that my delegation is greatly interested in the. global study concerning the policies of agricultural products prices which the Director-General has decided upon and which is going to be reviewed by COAG in 1985. This study will be very important and I think that the Organization should give it all the attention which is due to it.

And finally, without wishing to take too much time, I should like to say that rinderpest is a threat to our health, especially in the African countries; a threat with which we are familiar and with which FAO is familiar, because of the great number of Experts in agriculture and animal husbandry attending its meetings.

Mr. Chairman, we consider that FAO with its Division of Animal Production and Health, its large complement of field experts operating in many affected countries, its network of FAO Representatives, its Regional Office with specialized staff in this field is the logical and indispensable organization to support the Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources of the Organization of African Unity (OAU/IBAR) which has been charged with the task of executing the large-scale field actions required in the campaign. The African countries give a great importance and a high priority to these activities which will save its resources of livestock from the extension of this disease. The support from FAO should cover not only technical assistance for OAU/IBAR but should include responsibility for the backstopping, monitoring the progress of the campaign as well as coordination of the very substantial bilateral and multilateral donor inputs. We also request the Director-General to pursue his efforts with the donor countries and regional organizations in view of supporting the African rinderpest campaign. We also hope that the Director-General will find it possible to approve the use of additional TCP resources, in response to the urgent requests of governments for assistance.

We would request, Mr. Chairman, that the Council formally agree on this matter and that the Council's Views be conveyed to the Directorate-General of the European Economic Community.

And finally, we would like to request the Council to endorse this request and to transmit this opinion to the responsible in the EEC and in all other organizations which participate in the funding of this control campaign. I hope the Director-General will be able to present a report to the next Session of the Council on the efforts he will have made.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your valuable suggestions. With this we come to a close for this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 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 83/PV/7

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(16 June 1983)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours.

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, 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 Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 21-30 March 1983) (including the follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81 on Plant Genetic Resources) (continued)
- 6. Rapport de la septième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 21-30 mars 1983) (y compris les suites données à la Résolution 6/81 de la Conférence sur les ressources phytogénétiques) (suite)
- 6. Informe del séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (Roma, 21-30 de marzo de 1983) (Incluidas las actividades complementarias a la Resolución de la Conferencia 6/81 sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos) (continuación)

S.P. MUKERJI (India): As directed by you I would be brief but having come from one of the largest agricultural countries of the world I will not be very brief.

This morning we have the first Roman rainfall during the 83rd Session of the Council. It has been raining in the morning and in my country in the field of agriculture rainfall is always considered very auspicious so I am very hopeful that the deliberations of the Committee on Agriculture, on agriculture as such, will be very fruitful and will be a milestone in the FAO's activities of this very important field. I consider this Committee on Agriculture as one of the most important committees, if not the most important committee of FAO.

I will be forgiven if I say that to my light food comes after agriculture; nutrition comes after agriculture and I would not be very wrong to say that even rural development comes after agriculture, especially in the developing countries. In our countries agriculture is the backbone of national economy and I suppose it is the backbone of the world economy also. The happiness and quality of life in the world will depend upon the rate of growth of agricultural production. In developing countries, as you all know, 70 percent of the working population and 50 percent of the national output, depend upon agriculture. Unfortunately, however, in the present-day world 67 percent of the people who live in the developing countries are producing only 38 percent of the world's cereals.

The fertilizer consumption in the developing countries is 9 kg per hectare as against more than 40 kg in the developed countries. You will be surprised to know that the production per agricultural worker in the developing countries is as low as 550 kg, as against 5220 kg per agricultural worker in the developed countries. I say all this to bring home the point that we cannot sweep the problems of agricultural production in the developing countries under the carpet.

The need for increasing production and productivity in the developing countries insofar as agriculture is concerned is a matter of life and death for most of the world's population.

The slogan 'Produce or perish' has not been more relevant than it is today. I would add to this slogan another slogan, 'Reproduce and be ruined'. Checking the unbridled growth of the population on the one hand and produce per unit of land, per unit of water, per unit of capital more than we are doing so far as agricultural production is concerned is the call of the day and the call of the world.

My delegation is very happy that the Committee on Agriculture has stressed increasing agricultural production. It has particularly drawn our attention to the problems of small and marginal farmers, the need for international and regional cooperation. It has expressed its righteous concern on low fertilizer use. It has advocated research. It has supported the activities of seed improvement in the development programme. It has recommended a code of conduct in pesticide trade. It has welcomed the expansion of the special programme on prevention of food losses. It has supported the animal health projects. It has supported also the establishment of a research and technology division in FAO. The Committee has expressed concern on the need to have a data bank. It has elaborated on rural development, ameliorating the conditions of women in the agricultural sector and the rural sector. It has dilated on nutrition. All these are unexceptionable. The Indian delegation fully supports these recommendations. But my delegation feels that the basic elements of increasing agricultural production should receive in future much more action-oriented attention at the hands of the Committee than is evident from this Report.

I might mention very briefly that India has observed a national agricultural inputs fortnight from 1 June to 15 June this year for the first time because we feel that inputs are the determinant of agricultural production. Crops do not come like rabbits out of the magician's hat. We have to do our homework and very hard work and preparatory work for making certain vital inputs available to the farmers. We have identified for this national agricultural inputs fortnight that we observed until yesterday, from 1 to 15 June, seven vital inputs and I would seek your indulgence to let me indicate these seven inputs, which are to our mind very important.

The first is technology. We are not talking in terms of high, sophisticated fundamental research in agricultural science, but the fruits of research which have come out but are still in the hothouse of the laboratory. We want that proven technology and methods be dragged out of the laboratory and transferred to the farmers. That is technology. I do not know whether you will consider technology as an input but I consider technology as one of the vital inputs for increasing agriculture production.

The second is seeds. In the matter of seeds we have to ensure the quality of seeds, the diversity of seeds, the availability of seeds, and location specificity of seeds. We have to develop seeds which are suitable for particular agro-climatic conditions.

The third input is fertilizer. Here also we have to take action to ensure its quality, timely availability, efficient use, so that the farmer gets maximum mileage out of every grain of fertilizer he uses. Only recently when I was in India and had discussions with agricultural scientists and state agricultural commissioners we found that the use of urea in the case of paddy, especially irrigated paddy, was very inefficient because of nitrification and other chemical actions that take place. I was told that if we can mix one unit of urea with four or five units of moist soil and incubate that urea for 24 hours and then apply that incubated urea mixed with soil to paddy under irrigated conditions the efficiency of nitrogen in urea is increased 25 to 50 times. This simple matter, which is home-grown, of mixing urea with soil, which can be done very easily by the farmers, is something which can give a 20 to 25 percent more yield to the farmers and it is a matter which can easily be transmitted to the farmers. So this simple what I call grammar of agriculture will have to be demonstrated and made available to the farmers.

The fourth input is pesticides, its quality, timely availability and regulated use. In certain areas in India what I call "overkill" of pests and diseases is being resorted to. That means not only more money to be spent by the farmers but also more danger to which the farmers and the consumers of agricultural produce are exposed. So we have to be very careful to instruct our farmers about the regulated and limited use of pesticides.

One of the most important inputs in the case of agriculture is irrigation. It is not merely bringing water to the farmer but also ensuring that the water is brought to the farmer when the farmer and his crops need the water most. There are various stages of the life-cycle of crops when the need for water is very urgent. We have to ensure that there is orchestration between the irrigation engineers and agriculture so that water is released in the canals or electricity is released for working the pumping sets only when the crops need water most. Then we have also to ensure that there is equitable distribution of water. It happens that those who are at the tail end of the canals do not get water. The small farmers do not get water. The management of water in the public distribution system is very important.

Cropping pattern: Paddy is one of the most extravagant crops in the world so far as water is concerned. I am told that for producing one ton of paddy about 1 800 tons of water is used. If the big farmers grow paddy they deprive large numbers of farmers at the tailend from growing other crops. Therefore some sort of cropping pattern and cropping discipline will have to be ensured in the interests of the irrigation system, and of course the efficient use of water so that the loss of water, which is about 50 to 60 percent is reduced. So many aspects of this input will have to be tied up together.

The sixth input is agricultural implements. I am not talking of tractors and combine harvesters. I am talking of simple bullock-driven seed-cum-fertilizer drills which can improve the productivity of even rainfed agriculture by 50 percent by putting the fertilizer and seed together at different depths in the soil. So we are very much concerned about the promotion of agricultural implements amongst the poor farmers. In many parts of the world, especially in Africa, if I am not mistaken, the need for introducing simple agricultural implements which can give a quantum jump in agricultural production is very urgent indeed.

The last, but not the least, of the seven inputs is agricultural credit. It is not merely the rate of interest but the recycling of the rural deposits linking agricultural credit with agricultural inputs. The farmer gets fertilizers on credit from the cooperative society, let us say, and that cooperative society gets back the output, that is the agricultural produce, from the farmer, part of which is used for liquidating the debt, and the remaining part is sold by the cooperative society and the farmer gets the money. So the linking of agricultural credit with agricultural inputs and also marketing is very important.

Then the question of overdues. I might bring to the notice of this august forum a grave problem which a number of countries, especially India, is facing so far as the overdues position is concerned. Because of the falling recovery the overdues have increased and as a result of the discipline imposed by certain international financing organizations a large number of rural banks and even commercial banks in the rural sector have become partially or fully disqualified from advancing loans even to those who have paid back their previous debts. This is going to paralyse the credit network in the rural sector in a very severe manner. In India recent analysis has shown that in the case of the

cooperative banks about 60 percent of the cooperative banks under the discipline imposed by the international financial organizations are fully or partially disqualified from giving any loan even to non-defaulters. This is something to which the FAO, and this Committee in particular, should address itself and react as to how we can reduce overdues and yet also prevail upon the international agencies not to become so harsh as to debar even the non-defaulting farmers from getting loans from the banks in their villages.

Then the question of earmarking a certain proportion of agricultural credit for small and marginal farmers. The procedure of the banking system is more attuned to the urban society than to the rural society. I am told that in certain cases to get a petty amount of loan the farmer has to fill up a 40 page form and get a number of items verified by umpteen organizations and it takes him months and months going from pillar to post to get a small agricultural loan sanctioned. What are we doing to simplify the procedure to make our rural banks more oriented towards the farmers' problem than to have a style which is more attuned to cater for the urban society than the rural one?

These are the seven inputs which I thought should receive more attention by the Committee on Agriculture - technology, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, agricultural implements and agricultural credit.

Having said that, I would also state that what we do for the farmer after he harvests the crop, the post-harvest management, the question of incentive prices, the question of processing and marketing the agricultural produce, is also very vital for the farmers. As you indicated yesterday, Mr. Chairman, to produce one million tons of foodgrains we have to motivate one million farmers and the one million farmers cannot be motivated merely by our asking them to do so. They will have to be given some price incentive to reduce the risk of their marketing so that they are able to produce more and more. These are the vital components in the agricultural scenario, and my delegation would have liked to see more of these aspects of agricultural production in the report of the Council. Out of the 243 paragraphs in the Council's report, I have very roughly counted that just 70 paragraphs are devoted to review, 26 paragraphs are devoted to rural development, 25 paragraphs are devoted to livestock, 21 paragraphs are devoted to nutrition, but only three paragraphs are devoted to seeds, one and a half paragraphs to irrigation, two to three very short paragraphs on fertilizer, two paragraphs on agricultural credit, one paragraph on agricultural prices, one or two paragraphs on agricultural marketing and no paragraph at all on agricultural cooperatives which I think is one of the main pillars of agricultural production, agricultural processing and agricultural marketing in the developing countries.

I would have loved to see some reference to agro-meteorological services in the developing countries that need to have weather forecasting and crop weather analysis and the marriage between cropping patterns and weather patterns which is very important so far as our situations are concerned.

I will not dilate further on this, but I am very much concerned that we should do something immediately to see that agricultural production per se - and I repeat: agricultural production - receives undivided attention at the hands of the Committee on Agriculture - not only undivided but continuous attention. Therefore, I would suggest for the consideration of the Council that we could have or think in terms of having a separate committee on rural development that would concern itself on very vital aspects of land reforms, employment generation, nutrition, women in agriculture, landless and the problem of rural industries. They are very vital matters, but let these matters not be mixed up with the other vital aspects of agricultural production, because then the whole scenario, the whole canvas becomes difocused, and the type of attention that agricultural production and the elements it should receive is lost.

I would also suggest for your consideration that we have a separate committee on livestock, poultry and fisheries. Livestock and poultry and fisheries are a different kettle of fish as distinguished from agriculture, and mixing them up together in one committee's report may again blur the focus on agriculture.

I would also suggest that the Committee on Agriculture should have in future a few standing items which can be included, and they could have sub-committees on agricultural credit, they could have a sub-committee on irrigation, they could have one sub-committee on agricultural inputs, a sub-committee on agricultural research and one sub-committee on forestry. I repeat: Sub-committees on credit, irrigation, agricultural inputs, agricultural research and forestry, and if they have these sub-committees, in every report of the Committee, due attention will be paid to these vital dimensions of agricultural production.

I would also suggest for your consideration that this Committee on Agriculture should strive to formulate a model policy on agricultural production, a charter on agricultural production, as we have done in the case of soil and soil conservation and land management. Why can we not have some sort of model policy on agricultural production? A variance on this policy could be had, one for the African region and another for the Asian region, one for the over-populated areas, another for under-populated areas and so on. The Committee could also think in terms of having location-specific and country-specific manuals on agricultural implements, on seeds, production, processing, diversity and so on, fertilizer; not only production input but also the logistical part of moving fertilizers at the right time and the right place; a manual on irrigation and water management, and still a

small handbook on agricultural pricing and marketing, depending upon the experience and lessons of other countries. I would suggest that standing items on agricultural credit, agricultural inputs, agricultural research, land management, irrigation and water management could be recommended to the Committee.

In this paper, it has been mentioned that some items, like agricultural research, food and agriculture price policy, processing of food and strategies for improvement of marketing are to be taken up in the next meeting. This is very well taken, but I would suggest that not only at the next meeting but continuously that meeting after meeting these important aspects of agriculture must form a group of standing items for the Council, because agriculture is a dynamic system. You cannot say that for the next six months we will concentrate only on agricultural marketing and after that we will consider the question of fertilizers or seeds. They have to be considered simultaneously.

I will close my intervention by fully endorsing and supporting the Director-General's very praiseworthy initiative in convening a working party for considering the Establishment of an International Genebank and formulating an International Convention for Plan Genetic Resources. He has been trying his best to harmonize the various interests, especially of the poor countries. We and our delegation eagerly look forward to his report in the next Council and Conference meeting.

M. AHMED (Pakistan): We have read the report of the Committee on Agriculture with great interest; in fact, we are happy to have been associated with the deliberations of this Committee. Dr. Bommer has done a highly commendable job in introducing this excellent document. The Pakistan delegation is in full agreement with the views expressed by the Committee on the priorities to be followed and shares the emphasis placed by it on several items. We have also noted with a keen sense of appreciation the need to concentrate FAO's programmes, inter alia, on low-income groups, small farmers, landless peasants and women. We also support the creation of a new research and technology development division by merger of four existing groups to strengthen FAO's role in promoting agricultural research and application of technology in the field. The need for sound food and agricultural policies has been well highlighted in this document. We also greatly appreciate the leadership role played by FAO under the dynamic guidance of the Director-General in raising the awareness of the world community to the urgent need to collect and conserve crop genetic resources and the equally pressing imperative for setting up an International Genebank as soon as the necessary feasibility studies have been completed and financial implications are realistically assessed. It can be a phased effort in coordination and collaboration with FAO, IBPGR programme and national gene pools.

We are also strongly in favour of a suitable international convention so that the plant genetic resources which are the common heritage of mankind are freely available to all countries. In this context we wish to convey our appreciation for the setting-up of a 12-member working party to help the Director-General of FAO in the preparation of a comprehensive report for the Council. We are looking forward to this report with eagerness.

After having said all this, we have a few suggestions to make in line with our agreed objectives that the needs of small and marginal farmers and producers should be given special attention. The first concerns crop insurance, not so much an arrangement to compensate farmers in the event of a natural catastrophe or other disasters but as an instrument-and we believe as a powerful instrument-to break the reluctance of small farmers to adopt modern production technology. Crop insurance will thus serve not merely as a safety net but as a strong stimulus for development. We would therefore recommend that study of problems and procedures for introducing crop insurance should be included in FAO's programme.

Another suggestion relates to dairies. The main emphasis in the present programme is on dairy training. In many countries, as it is in Pakistan, milk is produced generally by small farmers and the landless. The collection of this milk and handling it all the way to main centres of consumption or major dairy plants pose many problems. The technology of overcoming these problems, including the setting up of rural chilling units and proper transport arrangements, should also be given proper emphasis.

Yet another area on which inadequate emphasis in our view, has been placed is marketing, especially of perishable commodities and particularly of vegetables, which are usually produced by small farmers. The need for small-scale grading, processing and packaging units in the producing centres therefore becomes at once apparent. The technology involved in such facilities therefore deserves to be included in FAO's programme.

Finally, we agree to the agenda topics listed in paragraph 243 for discussions in future meetings but hope that, as I have submitted earlier, crop insurance will also be added to the list. It is presumed that credit will be discussed as part of the strategies for improvement of marketing and input delivery systems of small farms. Many other countries like Pakistan may have adopted innovative approaches in the supply and delivery of credit. Sharing of experience on this vital input would be a highly profitable exercise.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation a participé avec beaucoup d'intérêt aux travaux de la septième session de notre Comité de l'agriculture, le COAG. C'est pour cela que ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour féliciter le Secrétariat de la qualité du document CL 83/9; pour également féliciter M. Bommer de la façon remarquable dont il a fait la présentation de ce document.

Tout en étant bref, nous voulons concentrer notre intervention sur quelques problèmes qui, à nos yeux, nous semblent prioritaires. D'abord la santé animale: ma délégation attache beaucoup d'importance aux paragraphes 202 à 218 de ce document, particulièrement au contenu des paragraphes 206 et 207. Le Comité s'est déclaré sérieusement préoccupé de la répartition de la peste bovine non seulement en Afrique mais également au Proche-Orient et en Asie. Il a aussi noté avec satisfaction la proposition du Directeur général concernant l'aide d'urgence à fournir aux pays africains pour renforcer la lutte contre la peste bovine, telle qu'elle figure au paragraphe 206. Nous voudrions à ce propos demander au Directeur général de lancer un appel aux pays donateurs afin de constituer un fonds pour une campagne panafricaine contre la peste bovine, que cette campagne soit organisée conjointement et en étroite collaboration avec la FAO, l'OIE, l'OUA, que le Conseil adopte une recommandation dans ce sens, que le Directeur général fasse rapport à la prochaine session du Conseil sur la suite donnée. La recherche agricole devrait sûrement être soutenue, mais la vulgarisation des résultats de recherche, surtout au niveau des petits paysans doit en constituer la pierre angulaire.

De même nous pensons que les pays en voie de développement doivent coopérer très étroitement en vue de stimuler les échanges d'expériences en ce qui concerne surtout la formation des cadres nationaux.

Nous appuyons une stratégie globale pour la protection des végétaux et le renforcement au niveau régional des services de la protection des végétaux tel que cela a été dit par les délégations de Chypre et d'Egypte. Nous pensons qu'une priorité plus grande devrait être donnée au développement des systèmes de lutte intégrée contre les ennemis des cultures et des mauvaises herbes. Là, la FAO devrait jouer son rôle, surtout en ce qui concerne la favorisation des échanges d'expériences acquises dans les pays et dans les régions.

Egalement, nous souhaiterions qu'une coopération plus accrue entre les pays en voie de développement soit amenée dans ce secteur.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): First of all as we have said before we strongly support COAG as one of the major committees of FAO, especially as adviser to the Council on the Programme of Work in relation to agriculture, food and nutrition, and as the body to conduct reviews and appraisals in this field.

Dr. Bommer's valuable introduction to the report here has shown a degree of professional and technical expertise implied in the exercise of these functions. We think it is important therefore that as many member nations as are in a position to do so should send delegates to COAG with full technical qualifications in the areas to be discussed. We appreciate the point made by the distinguished delegate of China yesterday about the burden this places on member nations and accept that some matters can be covered by careful briefing from home capitals, but we regard these as very much a second best to actual attendance and personal participation by experts.

We ourselves always endeavour to send to COAG fully qualified delegations in recognition of the importance of this function, and believe that only in this way can the papers for COAG, which are of high quality, be given the kind of consideration they deserve.

The agenda for its recent meeting covered the two major elements in COAG's remit, first a general review of current activities and an examination of the proposals in the PWB for the next biennium. It also reviews a number of specific problems in the field of agriculture, malnutrition, the role of women, plant protection and animal health, and this is welcomed. Indeed the Committee certainly covered the ground. We were given I think 87 points to note at the start of CL 83/9. Mr Chairman, we have noted them all, but among this welter of points for this Council it is clear that the major item of interest, to us at least, is the development of the Proposal for the Establishment of an International Genebank and the Preparation of a Draft International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources. This is a very technical area on which many delegates have spoken. Just how technical emerged in particular from the very expert interventions from the delegates of Mexico and Spain. We were happy therefore to be able to assist in the setting up of a Working Party now engaged in preparing a proposal to go to the 22nd Session of the Conference. Like Brazil, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sudan and Pakistan, we look forward to seeing the report of the working party, and I am glad to hear from Dr. Bommer of the success of its first meeting.

On the timing of COAG meetings, we would like to repeat our earlier suggestion that there is a case for a meeting of COAG in the inter-conference years when the programme from the previous biennium will have been completed and evaluation will be possible.

Finally on a more detailed point, our delegation at COAG was particularly impressed by the quality of the paper on malnutrition, but a little concerned that malnutrition might become absorbed into the agricultural programme and not be given sufficient attention to warrant reattendance of efficient specialists or professionals. We would welcome the use of the Secretariat on this point.

We also agree with the studies on nutritional programmes proposed on page 19 of the paper.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. West has asked for the floor to make a clarification.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Perhaps inadvertently the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom just referred to a report of the Working Party. There is no report of the Working Party; there will be none. There will be the report of the Director-General to the Conference.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de Haute-Volta apporte une haute appréciation au rapport de la septième session du COAG. Ce rapport a fait un inventaire de l'ensemble des problèmes et a indiqué des esquisses de solutions. Nous pensons que la prise en compte réelle de ces facteurs par les différents gouvernements nous ferait faire un pas important dans la voie du développement. Notre délégation approuve et appuie toutes les recommandations contenues dans le document parce qu'elles correspondent bien aux préoccupations de notre pays.

Pour la délégation de Haute-Volta, tous les éléments du rapport sont très importants et ne souffrent pas d'ambiguïté. Cependant, nous voudrions insister sur quelques points.

A propos de l'élaboration d'une stratégie globale en matière de protection des végétaux la délégation de Haute-Volta souhaite que des mesures urgentes soient prises pour le contrôle des insecticides afin de préserver la santé compromise par les effets toxiques à long terme de quelques insecticides; que la FAO aide tous les pays à se doter d'une législation et d'une réglementation phyto-sanitaire efficace; que la FAO appuie des projets de création d'usines, de fabrication d'insecticides dans les régions qui sont appelées à les utiliser car, pour l'instant, les insecticides utilisés par nos pays sont fabriqués dans les pays écologiquement différents des nôtres, ce qui peut être un élément d'abaissement de la qualité des produits, sans oublier la diminution éventuelle des coûts de production.

A propos de la santé animale, comme nous l'avons déjà souligné dans notre première intervention, nous réitérons notre vœu de voir organiser une campagne africaine de lutte contre la peste bovine, ceci à cause de nombreux foyers signalés dans les différentes régions de l'Afrique. Nous proposons qu'une telle campagne soit organisée conjointement par la FAO, l'OIE et l'OUA. La délégation de Haute-Volta se joint à d'autres délégations pour préconiser qu'une recommandation soit faite dans ce sens par le Conseil.

Au sujet de l'aide alimentaire, nous appuyons la perception du rôle de l'aide définie par le Comité. Effectivement, les effets pervers de cette aide ont été soulignés plus d'une fois par les pays du Sahel qui en sont les principaux bénéficiaires.

Concernant la participation de la femme au développement, notre délégation estime qu'il est des pays où la participation de la femme est supérieure à celle de l'homme si on comptabilise tous les moments passés à la production et aux travaux domestiques qui à eux seuls accaparent un temps considérable des femmes des pays en voie de développement, du fait que très peu d'améliorations ont été réalisées dans le domaine domestique.

La délégation de Haute-Volta, tout en marquant son soutien pour qu'il y ait plus de projets en faveur des femmes, souhaite que la FAO initie ou appuie tout projet visant à améliorer les technologies traditionnelles dans le domaine domestique.

A propos des statistiques agricoles, notre délégation soutient l'importance accordée par le Comité aux statistiques qui, dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement, sont d'un degré de fiabilité faible. Par conséquent, pour une meilleure connaissance des situations dans les différents pays, il est indispensable que la FAO continue à apporter son assistance aux pays pour la mise en place de services de statistiques qui soient en mesure de fournir des données réelles et fiables.

Au sujet des fruits et légumes, la délégation de Haute-Volta soutient l'importance donnée aux fruits et légumes. Ces spéculations constituent une source de revenus très importante pour les pays qui connaissent une longue période de saison sèche au cours de laquelle les activités des paysans restent très limitées, en dehors des zones où il existe des retenues pouvant permettre l'exploitation des cultures maraîchères. Cela nous conduit tout naturellement à demander la création de retenues d'eau et de barrages là où cela est possible et que cela soit soutenu par la FAO.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Le document CL 83/9 constitue à nos yeux un rapport fort équilibré, résultat du travail remarquable réalisé par le COAG en sa septième session. Nous nous déclarons satisfaits de la manière dont les résultats des travaux auxquels nous avons pris part sont rendus dans ce rapport. Aussi nos remarques seront-elles brèves puisque nous n'avons aucune peine à nous rallier aux principales conclusions qui se dégagent de ce rapport.

En particulier la délégation du Congo voudrait apporter son soutien aux priorités définies par le Comité afin que les programmes de la FAO se concentrent sur les pays pauvres et les groupes à faible revenu, tels les petits agriculteurs et travailleurs sans terres ainsi que les femmes qui sont somme toute les plus motivées pour accroître la production agricole, seule source de leurs revenus.

Nous marquons notre appui à la réduction des dépenses administratives au profit des programmes techniques et économiques qui ont un impact réel et palpable sur les populations rurales.

Ma délégation partage les préoccupations du COAG sur la diminution de l'utilisation des engrais malgré la baisse des cours mondiaux. C'est là une situation prévisible lorsqu'on sait que les pays en développement ont de plus en plus de mal à faire face aux importations en raison de l'insuffisance des devises disponibles. C'est pourquoi elle pense que tout en accordant une attention accrue au système de nutrition intégrée des plantes, et tout en approuvant les efforts visant à promouvoir la fixation biologique de l'azote en vue d'une productivité améliorée des sols, elle s'associe à l'appel qui est lancé en direction des donateurs pour qu'ils accroissent leur soutien au programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais.

L'attention accordée à la conservation des sols et des eaux, ainsi qu'à la recherche des pratiques agricoles susceptibles de se substituer à l'agriculture itinérante, devrait recevoir l'appui de notre Conseil. La délégation de mon pays, tout en reconnaissant que la FAO accorde une contribution importante à l'augmentation de la production vivrière, souhaite que cet effort s'oriente désormais vers des cultures jusqu'ici négligées, y compris dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Je veux parler des plantains, des légumineuses, des racines et tubercules tels que le manioc, la pomme de terre, qui sont d'importants aliments de base dans notre sous-région d'Afrique centrale.

Cette même attention, la FAO devrait la porter également sur les cultures fruitières et légumières, produits qui concourent à l'obtention d'une alimentation équilibrée de l'homme.

Nous souscrivons à l'idée d'étendre le programme de prévention des pertes alimentaires à tous les produits alimentaires de base, ainsi qu'aux fruits et légumes.

Nous nous rallions à l'idée de voir la FAO continuer d'accorder toute son importance à un secteur aussi vital que l'élevage et nous sommes d'avis qu'ici aussi la priorité doit être donnée à la formation. Le cheptel des pays en développement est à la merci de nombre d'épizooties. A ce sujet, on peut remercier la FAO des initiatives qu'elle a prises et devra promouvoir pour lutter contre certaines maladies comme la peste porcine et la peste bovine. S'agissant de cette dernière, qui semble prendre de l'ampleur en Afrique, il convient de lancer une nouvelle fois un appel aux donateurs, pour que, de concert avec l'OUA, la FAO et tout autre organisme approprié mettent en place un programme hardi de lutte contre la peste bovine. Nous appuyons l'idée déjà exprimée ici de voir adopter une recommandation dans ce sens par notre Conseil.

Ma délégation, qui appuie le paragraphe 37 sur le programme de lutte contre la trypanosomiase, voudrait réitérer son soutien sans réserve à l'amélioration et la multiplication du bétail trypano-tolérant. C'est un moyen fort indiqué de contourner cet obstacle majeur au développement de l'élevage.

Le soutien à la recherche, et notamment le besoin de formation, tel que les stages de gestion de la recherche demandés par les directeurs de recherche en Afrique, doit requérir l'attention de notre Conseil qui mesure toute l'importance des ressources humaines dans un domaine aussi fondamental de la politique agricole qui vise des performances au moyen d'investissements peu coûteux mais ayant cependant une productivité élevée.

Ma délégation voudrait exprimer sa satisfaction sur l'intérêt suscité par l'examen du document relatif aux études réalisées par la FAO en réponse à la Résolution 6/81 à la 21ème session de la Conférence, et se rallie à la conclusion à laquelle a abouti le COAG. Elle attend avec le plus grand intérêt le rapport du Directeur général qui nous sera présenté à la session de novembre de notre Conseil. Nous pensons nous aussi que l'amélioration et la conservation du matériel phyto-génétique doivent être l'affaire de tous, car il constitue un patrimoine dont l'humanité entière devrait pouvoir tirer le plus grand bénéfice.

Pour terminer, ma délégation se réjouit sincèrement de constater que ce rapport indique une inclinaison assez marquée vers l'action. C'est pour cette raison que, sans repousser les évaluations parfois nécessaires pour faciliter les corrections utiles au progrès, je partage le point de vue de ceux qui pensent qu'il est indispensable d'économiser les ressources de l'Organisation pour les orienter vers des actions ayant un impact direct sur l'accroissement de la production et l'amélioration des revenus des paysans pauvres.

A. GUEDIRA (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, je tiens tout d'abord à rendre hommage au secrétariat de la FAO pour l'excellence du rapport qui nous est présenté à propos des travaux de la septième session du Comité de l'agriculture et que nous appuyons dans ses grandes lignes.

Je voudrais également féliciter M. Bommer pour son brillant exposé introductif de nos débats.

Sans vouloir évoquer tous les points qui figurent dans le rapport, et combien ils sont nombreux, et qui revêtent tous un caractère certainement important dans le développement de l'agriculture, permettez-moi de relever quatre points qui me paraissent comme revêtant un caractère prioritaire:

Premièrement, le développement agricole intégré revêt, du point de vue de la délégation de mon pays, une importance capitale pour la promotion de l'homme rural et du monde rural. En effet, le développement intégré permet non seulement d'atteindre des objectifs d'amélioration de la production alimentaire mais également d'offrir au producteur des conditions de vie acceptables, comparables dans une certaine mesure à celles qui régnent dans les villes, le décourageant ainsi de quitter sa terre et d'alimenter l'exode rural. Ces conditions de vie acceptables par lui consisteront parti culièrement en l'implantation d'infrastructures socio-économiques de base telles que l'habitat, la santé, l'éducation, l'eau potable, l'électricité, etc.

Deuxièmement, l'exploitation de toutes les potentialités agricoles, compte tenu de son caractère déterminant pour l'accroissement de la production alimentaire, est à notre sens encourageable. Tous les moyens devront être mobilisés à cet effet, parmi lesquels les équipements hydro-agricoles dans la mesure ou la maîtrise de l'eau qu'ils permettent est de nature à favoriser l'introduction de cultures nouvelles dont a besoin le pays concerné, l'amélioration de la productivité agricole, l'atténuation des effets des sécheresses, etc. La recherche agricole pourrait jouer particulièrement un rôle important dans ce domaine.

Troisièmement, la planification agricole doit être renforcée dans tous les pays; la FAO devra apporter tout le soutien nécessaire aux pays qui la demandent dans ce domaine.

Quatrièmement, le financement de l'agriculture revêt un caractère fondamental pour encourager l'investissement privé dans ce domaine. A ce propos, je voudrais insister pour que notre Organisation apporte tout le concours nécessaire pour renforcer les systèmes nationaux de distribution de crédit agricole.

Mrs. J.S. WALLACE (United States of America): The United States participated actively in the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture and generally endorses its report as contained in document CL 83/9. In our view the COAG session was worthwhile and productive. The agenda included a number of important and timely issues. The discussions were pertinent and constructive and the recommendations of the Committee were largely reasonable and supportive.

Since the Committee's terms of reference are limited to issues falling within the scope of major Programme 2.1, Agriculture, the discussions at COAG were largely technical and did not include discussions of forestry, fisheries or the overall level of the budget proposed for 1984/85. In that context, however, the United States was generally supportive of the priorities, the strategies and the plans of work for the coming biennium.

As pointed out by the Director-General and others, the only real controversial item on COAG's agenda was the proposal concerning an international genebank and convention. The United States pointed out at the COAG session that the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources already had a fully functional global network of 38 institutions in 99 countries, that the commitment of participating institutions seemed adequate and obviated the need for a more binding convention; that the IBPGR network constitutes an international genebank from which germplasm is freely available and that the assumption that a new and duplicative genebank under FAO auspices would overcome difficulties in obtaining plant genetic resources was open to question and/or was outweighed by the positive features of the present system and the exceedingly high cost of trying to duplicate it.

The United States does, however, recognize the concerns of governments favouring the proposal and is a member of the Working Party addressing the problem. We trust that the Director-General, with the help of the Working Party, will develop a report to the Conference that is satisfactory to all members of the Organization.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos primeramente felicitar al doctor Bommer por su presentación Objetiva de los resultados del Comité de Agricultura que a nuestro juicio fue muy profundo en el análisis de la problemática de la situación de la agricultura en el mundo, incluyendo los párrafos de otros asuntos que someten a este 83° Consejo de la FAO 243 párrafos, que nos deparan la necesidad de trabajo que se ha propuesto la FAO.

Nosotros reiteramos nuestro apoyo a este documento en toda su amplitud y específicamente al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado.

Creemos que con la inteligente distribución de los pocos recursos de que dispone la FAO, la labor más delicada que es las prioridades en las cuales tenemos total confianza para que la FAO, en la misma medida que lo ha hecho hasta ahora, sepa llevar adelante los objetivos como centro mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Específicamente nuestra delegación quiere referirse a lo que considera la cosa más importante para los países en cuanto a nuestro desarrollo agrícola: la capacitación en todas sus esferas; la investigación integrada al desarrollo; el fomentar la participación popular en las estrategias de desarrollo agrícola y rural; la integración de la protección animal y Vegetal en un enfoque más amplio; que la FAO siga haciendo todo lo posible para promover el empleo seguro y eficaz de plaguicidas, así como la elaboración de un código de conducta sobre la distribución y empleo de los mismos; apoyamos el fomento de los sistemas de alerta para vigilar y evaluar mejor las importantes plagas y enfermedades que azotan el mundo; apoyamos plenamente las actividades de extensión en la producción y sanidad pecuaria a nivel de las explotaciones agrícolas; apoyamos, asimismo, a la FAO en todas las labores de erradicación y prevención de las plagas y enfermedades, y sobre el desarrollo de las vacunas; apoyamos la creación del Banco de Genes y el Convenio que regule su tratamiento bajo la supervisión de la FAO como órgano central de Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura; apoyamos las estrategias de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural para la integración de la mujer al desarrollo rural; hacemos nuestro todo lo aprobado sobre la malnutrición por el interés y esfuerzo que este evento supuso por darle un poco de cauce a esta situación de la malnutrición.

Queremos sucintamente, después de exponer todo lo que consideramos de profundo del trabajo del Comité, exponer algunas ideas de cómo vemos la situación de la agricultura en el mundo hoy.

Según las cifras del Departamento de Agricultura del Gobierno Norteamericano, el crecimiento de la producción agrícola per cápita en los países desarrollados fue del 8 por ciento en 1980, con relación a los niveles promedio de 1969-1971, mientras que en el Tercer Mundo no se registró crecimiento alguno.

La situación resultante de las tendencias actuales adquiere caracteres de verdadero desastre colectivo en Africa, donde el promedio para ese continente indica que la disponibilidad de alimentos por habitante es hoy inferior a la de 1960 y donde el crecimiento de la producción alimentaria es aproximadamente la mitad del crecimiento poblacional.

Una clara expresión de esta negativa situación lo constituye el hecho de que, lo reflejan las estadísticas de FAO que son nuestros instrumentos de trabajo, que a mediados de la década de 1970 los países subdesarrollados, con más del 65 por ciento de la población mundial, producían el 38 por ciento de los alimentos, en tanto que la producción por trabajador agrícola, valorada a precios de 1975, era de 550 dólares anuales, mientras que en los países desarrollados alcanzaba 5 220 dólares.

En 1979-1980 se produjeron en el mundo un total de 118,7 millones de toneladas métricas de fertilizantes químicos, de las cuales el consumo representó 111,7 millones. Esta cifra significó un incremento de un 3,4 por ciento con relación al año anterior. Europa produjo el 30 por ciento, América del Norte el 27 por ciento y la Unión de Repúblicas Soviéticas el 18 por ciento, es decir, en su conjunto, el 75 por ciento del total mundial. Estos mismos grupos de países consumieron el 66 por ciento del total. Mientras el consumo per capita de fertilizantes ascendió a 63,6 kilogramos en los países desarrollados, en los subdesarrollados el consumo fue de 9,5 kilogramos, y en Africa, particularmente, de 3,2 kilogramos.

La superficie cultivable por trabajador agrícola, indicador que expresa el desarrollo tecnológico en la medida en que un trabajador es capaz de atender mayor extensión de tierra, aumentó en los países desarrollados de menos de 6 a 9 hectáreas, mientras que en el Tercer Mundo, excepto un ligero aumento en América Latina, descendió a niveles que promediaron 1,3 hectáreas.

Igualmente, el grado de mecanización, otro factor que indica el desarrollo de la agricultura, existente en la agricultura del Tercer Mundo es una clara expresión de su extrema debilidad tecnológica. En efecto, en 1977 el 88,4 por ciento del total mundial de tractores se encontraban en países desarrollados; de ellos, el 61,5 por ciento en América del Norte y Europa Occidental, regiones éstas que disponían tan sólo del 22,4 por ciento de la tierra cultivada en el mundo. El Tercer Mundo sólo contaba con el 11,6 del total de tractores, y Africa en particular, con sus dramáticos problemas alimentarios, sólo disponía del 1,0 por ciento de los tractores. Por otro lado, en los países subdesarrollados se encuentra sólo el 5,2 por ciento del total mundial de cosechadoras.

Según las estadísticas de FAO en 1980 la extensión de tierras de cultivo de regadío en los países subdesarrollados alcanzaba los 105 millones de hectáreas, y representaba alrededor del 14 por ciento del total de tierras cultivables en esos países. De esas tierras, sólo el 60 por ciento estaba plenamente equipado.

La proyección de tierras de regadío para el año 2000 en esos países prevé una ampliación de un 40 por ciento sobre las cifras actuales, para alcanzar los 148 millones de hectáreas y un 16 por ciento del total de tierras de cultivo. Tendría así un ritmo de crecimiento del 1,7 por ciento anual. Se

prevé llegar a un 73 por ciento de equipamiento de esas áreas. Teniendo en cuenta el costo medio de unos 2 380 dólares por hectárea, la inversión total que se requerirá será superior a los 100 mil millones de dólares.

Esas áreas bajo riego, explotadas de manera eficiente, podrían llegar a proporcionar el 50 por ciento de la producción agrícola del mundo subdesarrollado.

Sin embargo, no será así. Para fines de siglo, aún el 84 por ciento de las tierras de cultivo de los países del Tercer Mundo carecerán de riego y suministrarán el 59 por ciento de toda su producción agrícola. Las Naciones Unidas han estimado que las necesidades de agua para el riego, que a fines de la década de 1970 significaban el 70 por ciento del total de agua utilizada por el hombre, se duplicarían para el año 2000.

Los años transcurridos y las experiencias recogidas han disipado las esperanzas en una solución a los problemas agrícolas y alimentarios que hicieron concebir algunos espectaculares resultados de la llamada Revolución Verde.

La modernización de la agricultura en ciertas áreas del Tercer Mundo, basada en la aplicación de avances científicos sin alterar las estructuras socioeconómicas internas y externas que constituyen la base del atraso agrícola, fue una clara manifestación de triunfo científico técnico, y a la vez, fracaso económico social, y evidenció que los problemas agrícolas y del hambre no sólo son de índole técnico-productiva, sino en primera instancia se derivan de las estructuras sociales y de las relaciones de dominación.

Los resultados han sido la sustitución masiva de los cultivos tradicionales que contribuían a la alimentación popular, muchas veces efectuados por pequeños productores, para implantar cultivos con fines de exportación que no satisfacen necesidades de consumo ni se adaptan a los patrones histórico-culturales de los países receptores. Los países tradicionalmente exportadores y consumidores de maíz y frijoles, importan hoy decenas de millones de dólares de esos productos como resultado de la masiva destrucción de esos cultivos para sembrar otros de elevados márgenes de rentabilidad para las transnacionales.

Resultados enfrentados a un déficit apreciable en su producción alimentaria con relación al aumento poblacional, los países subdesarrollados se han visto, globalmente, en la necesidad de incrementar sus importaciones de alimentos.

La superficie total de tierra en el mundo es de 13 500 millones de hectáreas. De ellas el 59 por ciento, 8 000 millones, son desiertos, tierras con alta salinidad, tierras heladas y montañas. Existen bajo cultivo aproximadamente 1 500 millones de hectáreas, el 11 por ciento de la superficie total, el máximo de la tierra cultivable disponible asciende a 2 425 millones de hectáreas.

Con los actuales niveles de productividad en los países subdesarrollados, se necesitarían 0,9 hectáreas por persona para alcanzar los niveles de consumo de los países desarrollados. En los países subdesarrollados serán cada día más los seres humanos que dependerán hipotéticamente de una hectárea de tierra cultivada. Sin embargo, ¿estarán esos países en condiciones económicas y tecnológicas de elevar el rendimiento de la tierra a los niveles adecuados para mantener una producción suficiente?

El factor de no poca importancia en los problemas agrícolas que presenta el Tercer Mundo lo constituyen sus arcaicas estructuras de la propiedad agraria. Latifundio y minifundio, actuando en un complejo contexto de herencia colonial y dependencia neocolonial, y a veces entrelazados con la subsistencia de formas de producción incluso anteriores a la economía de mercado, contribuyen a explicar el desastroso estado de la agricultura en el Tercer Mundo.

La reforma agraria supone una más justa, equitativa y racional redistribución de la tierra, pero supone mucho más : posibilita el desarrollo de formas superiores de organización de la producción agrícola, como pueden ser las cooperativas y los complejos agroindustriales de propiedad social, y la aplicación de modernas tecnologías capaces de multiplicar varias veces los menguados resultados de la agricultura tradicional. Por tanto, al tiempo que implicaría una profunda medida de justicia social, la reforma agraria representaría un notable aporte a la solución de los problemas alimentarios del Tercer Mundo, al ampliar la producción agrícola y propiciar una distribución más equitativa de los ingresos.

Cabría preguntarse, sin embargo, qué significado puede tener la definición de ecosistema, estabilidad biológica, contaminación, degradación del medio, etc., para las inmensas masas analfabetas y hambrientas del mundo subdesarrollado, cuya lucha cotidiana sólo persigue la mera subsistencia. ¿Cómo podremos llegar a ello?

La FAO, considera que existen 2 000 millones de hectáreas de tierras de cultivo en Asia, Africa y América Latina, que presentan un riesgo alto, muy alto de desertificación, es decir, corre el peligro más o menos directo y grave de convertirse en tierra árida no apta para el cultivo en un futuro no muy lejano.

Una cuarta parte de la superficie terrestre estaba cubierta de bosques a mediados del presente siglo. Ya en 1978, el área boscosa total se había reducido a poco más de 2 500 millones de hectáreas, esto es el 20 por ciento de la superficie total.

Cada año desaparecen cerca de 20 millones de hectáreas de bosques, en casi su totalidad en los países subdesarrollados. Quiere esto decir que cada minuto en nuestro países se talan, queman o destruyen más de 20 hectáreas de bosques. A este ritmo, las selvas tropicales del planeta serán aniquiladas en un lapso de apenas 35 años. A fines del siglo solamente la mitad de la superficie actual de los bosques tropicales productivos no explotados quedará en pie.

Esta es la situación que tenemos que enfrentar; esta es la situación que tiene que enfrentar la FAO con un modestísimo presupuesto para representar ante la comunidad internacional a la agricultura y la alimentación.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian delegation I would like to thank Dr. Bommer for his enlightening statement on the work of the Committee on Agriculture, the achievements of which are contained in the report of its Seventh Session. While endorsing the report my delegation would like to make some comments and to lay stress on points which deserve greater attention and allow me to start with the matter of plant protection, the importance of which cannot be underestimated. The food and agricultural production to a large extent is also dependent on effective plant protection measures, especially in cases of outbreak of plant diseases and pests. For this reason my delegation joins other members of the COAG in their proposal that FAO consider the establishment of a pesticide programme.

My delegation is also in agreement with the Committee in requesting the Director-General to consider the establishment of an expert panel to advise him on improved wheat management, as mentioned in paragraph 193 of the document.

In the field of animal protection the Committee stressed the need to integrate fully extension activities in animal protection and health at the farm level. In many developing countries cattle also provide power and it is needed for tilling the soil. Improvement of animal health, therefore, is of the greatest importance.

As regards Conference Resolution 6/81 concerning the Proposals for the Establishment of an International Genebank and the preparation of a Draft International Convention for Plant Genetic Resources, my delegation appreciates very much the effort made by both the Organization and COAG towards the realization of the proposal.

With regard to the follow-up of WCARRD, my delegation endorses the view expressed in the report to the effect that the process of agrarian reform should give greater attention to the role of rural women, to the importance of credit and to the employment of opportunity and also activities involving the involvement of women to be developed on a regional basis. While recognizing the differences which exist in the condition of women in a wide variety of the communities throughout the world, one thing is certain, namely that women play a most important role in the development of rural communities. Rural development plays a major role in the efforts made at elimination of poverty and the success of rural development projects is to a very large extent dependent on the active participation of rural people, including women and young people, in planning and programming and logically in the implementation of the projects.

Finally we would like to see that the topics contained in paragraph 241 of the report be included in the provisional agenda of the Eighth Committee Session. At least the coming committee session will discuss strategy for the improvement of marketing and input delivery systems for small farmers.

Sra. Doña E. HERAZO de VITI (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá desea felicitar al Dr. Bommer por su brillante, completa y aclaratoria presentación del tema 6. Sobre los distintos aspectos que nos plantea el documento CL 83/9, queremos expresar lo siguiente: Durante la discusión del tema 3 del COAG sobre la Ejecución del programa de labores de 1982-83, destacamos positivamente el hecho de que durante este bienio se haya producido un incremento a los precios corrientes del orden del 15 por ciento en los gastos extrapresupuestarios para proyectos de campo en relación al bienio anterior, así como que el número de proyectos hubiese aumentado debido a la tendencia a realizar proyectos catalizadores y a utilizar más a las instituciones y consultores nacionales.

Sobre el tema resultante de la participación de la mujer en reuniones, consideramos que es todavía baja la participación de ésta en términos generales, específicamente en lo referente a cursillos de capacitación, talleres y giras de estudio; y por otra parte, aceptamos la importancia e interés de las publicaciones por parte de la FAO, de manuales de capacitación y de investigación.

Igualmente, es razonable y correcto que el programa principal de agricultura de la FAO se concentre en los países más pobres, en los grupos de ingresos más bajos, así como en los pequeños agricultores, en los trabajadores sin tierra y en las mujeres.

Las perspectivas a medio y largo plazo para el desarrollo de la agricultura y de la alimentación, y el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 del programa principal 2,1 Agricultura, recogen los deseos de los Estados Miembros expresados en las recomendaciones de la Conferencia y del Consejo, las conferencias regionales, así como de otros órganos intergubernamentales. Sobre el tema de la malnutrición, discutido por el COAG en su pasado período de sesiones, es de particular interés y aceptación las cuatro actividades recomendadas, tanto a la FAO como a los gobiernos de los Estados Miembros y que aparecen puntualizados en los párrafos 162 y 163 del documento CL 83/9.

Vemos y aceptamos el plan de acción a plazo medio que recoge el documento COAG 83/7 : Actividades complementarias de CMRADR: función de la mujer en la producción agrícola que se enmarca dentro de la estrategia aceptada a este respecto por la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural; debiéndose destacar cada vez más todo lo referente a capacitación y extensión, considerando los corrientes programas nacionales de alfabetización como medio realmente eficaz de incorporación y participación de la mujer en el desarrollo. Sobre las prioridades en materia de protección fito-sanitaria, así como la estrategia propuesta para atender estas prioridades, debemos expresar a este Consejo que el debate de este tema en el último COAG demostró que son el producto tanto de las realidades y necesidades de los Estados Miembros, así como la experiencia de tres décadas que tiene la FAO en la atención de estos problemas.

Sobre el importante tema relacionado con la propuesta para la concertación de un Convenio Internacional para los Recursos Fitogenéticos, así como el establecimiento de un Banco Internacional de Genes, consideramos que debe concertarse tanto un Convenio que establezca regulaciones internacionales como el establecimiento del Banco Internacional de Genes, como instrumento necesario bajo la égida de la FAO. Esto último consideramos que no viene a entrar en contradicción con el mejoramiento del actual sistema CIRF, y consideramos necesaria la creación del Banco Internacional de Genes, bajo la égida de la FAO, porque el depender sólo de bancos nacionales puede ocasionar conflictos con las legislaciones nacionales que regulan el funcionamiento de estos bancos, como muy claramente fue expuesto durante el día de ayer por la distinguida delegación de España. Como ejemplo de la necesidad de que los recursos fitogenéticos estén al servicio de la humanidad y no de personas naturales y jurídicas, está el ejemplo del abandono de una estación experimental de banano por parte de una compañía transnacional, y la necesidad que se plantea de que esta estación sea atendida por la Unión de Países Exportadores de Banano (UPEB); y para esto el UPEB ha solicitado y ha obtenido la asistencia y apoyo de la FAO.

Bien podría pensarse en el mediano plazo en que estas instalaciones fuesen incorporadas a un futuro banco de genes bajo soberanía internacional.

Para finalizar, la delegación de Panamá confía en que el informe que presentará el Director General a la 22ª Conferencia de la FAO sobre la concertación de un Convenio Internacional y el establecimiento de un Banco Internacional de Genes contendrá las recomendaciones más adecuadas en respuesta a los mejores intereses de todos.

B. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Ma délégation appuie le rapport présenté et fait siennes les recommandations contenues dans le document CL 83/9. Elle voudrait mettre l'accent sur quelques points qui la préoccupent.

En matière de recherches agricoles, on a constaté parfois - et même souvent - la concurrence déloyale entre la recherche fondamentale et ce que j'appellerai "la recherche appliquée". Il y a en effet, dans nos pays en voie de développement, surtout les moins avancés, des besoins en matière de vulgarisation agricole qui sont pressants sinon urgents, et auxquels la recherche doit trouver une solution adéquate presque à court terme, dans l'intérêt bien compris de la production nationale et des producteurs. Nous pensons que ces besoins devraient être classés par ordre de priorité pour être à la base d'objets de recherche dans nos pays les moins avancés.

Il est souvent reproché à la recherche de ne proposer en fin de compte que des techniques trop avancées par rapport au niveau actuel du paysan. Il se crée parfois un blocage involontaire au niveau de la production nationale, parce que le paysan n'est pas en mesure de franchir brutalement le grand bond qualitatif qui lui est demandé. Il n'est donc pas superflu d'insister sur le fait que la recherche devrait procéder par approches, en tenant compte des priorités et surtout des disponibilités techniques, morales et financières des producteurs.

En matière de malnutrition, on peut effectivement noter avec satisfaction que bon nombre de pays sous-développés ont compris l'ampleur et la complexité de ce problème, ainsi que la nécessité de le résoudre. Dans ce domaine, la FAO a joué et devra jouer encore pour longtemps un rôle très important.

Certains pays envisagent déjà et presque systématiquement un important volet nutritionnel dans le cadre du développement rural intégré.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le rôle de la femme dans la production, la délégation de la République populaire du Bénin apprécie à sa juste valeur la qualité du document. Elle approuve les efforts déployés par la FAO pour mettre en oeuvre le programme d'action de la CMRADR, et l'assure d'avance de son soutien dans toute action qu'elle mènerait tendant au renforcement des moyens dont dispose le pays pour atteindre effectivement les femmes rurales pauvres.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia participo en el Séptimo Período de Sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y consideramos que este Documento refleja adecuadamente las conclusiones de nuestros trabajos. Pensamos que en esa reunion los Representantes de Gobiernos tuvieron un nivel satisfactorio y fueron competentes; sin embargo, compartimos el punto de vista del colega y amigo del Reino Unido, en el sentido de que nos esforcemos porque la participación en esas reuniones esté a cargo de un personal calificado, que podría garantizar el buen éxito progresivo que todos deseamos para el COAG, que es uno de los más importantes órganos asesores de nuestro Consejo.

En particular, deseamos referirnos a la propuesta para el establecimiento de un Banco Internacional de Genes y la preparación de un Convenio Internacional para los Recursos Fitogenéticos. La Delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente la declaración hecha ayer tarde por nuestro distinguido colega y amigo de México. La actitud de México en esta materia tanto en el COAG, como aquí en el Consejo, facilita la posición de la Delegación Colombiana que es plenamente solidaria con la mexicana. Queremos reiterar que compartimos plenamente esa posición y que estamos agradecidos a nuestro distinguido colega de México por la valiosa y reiterada contribución que ellos vienen haciendo en estas materias.

Colombia, como país de América Latina y el Caribe, se siente muy bien representada por los distinguidos colegas de El Salvador y México en el Grupo de Trabajo que se ha creado para asesorar al Director General. Estamos dispuestos a seguir apoyando las actitudes que en el seno de ese Grupo de Trabajo sigan tomando los representantes de El Salvador y México. Sabemos que este Grupo celebró ya una primera reunión el pasado día 10 de los corrientes y que tendrá otra reunión el próximo mes de julio; es así como todos confiamos en que ese asesoramiento que se está otorgando al Director General nos permitirá ocuparnos a fondo de este asunto en la próxima Conferencia.

Ayer tarde, Señor Presidente, la Delegación de Colombia oyó, igualmente con mucha atención y todo respeto, la presentación que sobre este tema hizo la distinguida Delegación de España. Consideramos que los amigos y colegas de España hicieron una declaración enjundiosa y competente a través de la cual demostraron un completo dominio del tema. Confiamos en que, no obstante España no sea parte del Grupo de Trabajo, sus representantes podrán seguir ofreciendo valiosa contribución para la consideración de estos asuntos.

La Delegación de Colombia piensa que el objetivo principal de todas estas actividades debe ser la consagración del principio de que los recursos fitogenéticos son patrimonio inalienable de toda la humanidad y deben estar a la completa libre disposición de todos quienes los necesiten. Este Consejo debe refrendar ese concepto que aparece en el Informe del COAG y que dice: Sólo la égida de las Naciones Unidas podrá garantizar la absoluta independencia y disponibilidades de esos recursos. Esto hay que reflejarlo también en nuestro informe; por ello la Delegación de Colombia reitera su apoyo entusiasta y decidido a la propuesta de crear el Banco Internacional de Genes y de elaborar un acuerdo eficaz para preservar los recursos fitogenéticos.

Como siempre, oímos hace poco en esta Sala con atención la declaración que hizo la distinguida representación de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica. Estamos agradecidos a los colegas de los Estados Unidos por las referencias muy útiles que hicieron el CIRF, a las redes que sirven al CIRF, y al papel que desempeña toda esa gama de actividades. En el período de sesiones del COAG que comentamos ahora, la Delegación de Colombia hizo serias reservas a la presentación que hizo en ese Comité el Presidente del CIRF; y no lo hicimos basados en el hecho de que consideramos que no obstante el CIRF esté llevando a cabo una labor meritoria y científica que nadie discute. Toda esa tarea carece en primer lugar de la amplitud y extensión suficientes y deseadas y, en segundo lugar, de la garantía política indispensable.

Nosotros queremos, una vez más, agradecer a la Delegación de los Estados Unidos la actitud comprensiva y flexible con que actuó en el COAG y que ha confirmado también esta mañana. Creemos, que tal como lo manifestaron esta mañana, tratan de entender las razones y los argumentos que sostienen nuestros puntos de vista; por eso confiamos en que también, como lo han dicho los colegas de Estados Unidos, su participación en el Grupo de Trabajo va a ser muy importante y va a contribuir, junto con los demás miembros de este Grupo, a ofrecer un asesoramiento muy válido al Señor Director General de la FAO.

La distinguida colega Embajadora de Panamá coincidió, afortunadamente, con mi distinguido vecino de la derecha el Embajador del Congo en dos aspectos fundamentales que la Delegación de Colombia quiere apoyar, como son los relativos a la mayor participación de la mujer, al estímulo que hay que dar a esa mayor y más activa participación y a la necesidad de que la FAO intensifique su orientación social y humana en este importante programa en favor de los pequeños y medianos campesinos.

La Delegación de Colombia, Señor Presidente, quiere reconocer la actitud positiva asumida por todos los miembros del COAG, en particular en el párrafo 226, donde el Comité se mostró de acuerdo en que no era moralmente correcto, es el texto, digo, del párrafo 226, que no era moralmente correcto que se explotaran los recursos hallados en países en desarrollo, en detrimento de nuestros países. Pensamos que éste debe ser otro pilar básico de nuestros actos en el campo de preservar los recursos genéticos. Hay que proteger esos recursos y no permitir que se despoje de ellos a los países en desarrollo que por carencia de recursos o cualquier otro motivo no pueden utilizarlos debidamente. Es un patrimonio sagrado; la naturaleza pródiga en nuestras tierras no debe estar sometida a saqueo, sobre todo si ello tiene fines comerciales y de explotación.

Sería necesario, por lo tanto, lograr estos acuerdos, crear el Banco y buscar todos los medios para que los países en desarrollo puedan conservar, utilizar y explotar como lo deseen sus propios recursos fitogenéticos que deben estar a disposición de toda la comunidad internacional.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, la Delegación de Colombia coincide una vez más, con nuestro colega y vecino el Embajador del Congo y con el distinguido Representante de Benin en el hecho de que tal como lo recoge el informe del COAG, es necesario reconocer la valiosa labor que la FAO viene adelantando en estos campos. El interés práctico y realista de nuestra Organización en la consideración de estos asuntos podrá estar confirmado por el hecho de que nuestro propio Director General, al igual que el Director General Adjunto, Señor West, y el Señor Bommer, Subdirector Jefe del Departamento de Agricultura, han participado activamente en la primera reunión del Grupo de Trabajo y espero que recibirán la contribución que ellos han solicitado y los miembros de este Consejo continuarán redoblando esos esfuerzos para que el resultado de toda esta labor sea benéfico para todos los Estados Miembros de esta Organización.

La Delegación de Colombia, Señor Presidente, confía plenamente en que el Director General va a presentar un buen informe a la Conferencia de noviembre entrante y estamos seguros de que será un informe objetivo, pragmático y realista, que va a permitir a la Conferencia tomar una decisión adecuada.

J. LADAN (Nigeria): Having participated fully in the deliberations of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture, my delegation fully endorses the recommendations as contained in the document CL 83/9. We would therefore make only a few comments in the way of making emphasis on some of the points presented in the document. Firstly, Dr. Bommer and Professor Islam briefed the Council on the latest situation regarding the rinderpest resurgence in Africa. This resurgence turned out to be more serious in Nigeria and in some other countries than anticipated. We therefore fully endorse the efforts of the FAO to draw up a proposal for the Pan-African rinderpest campaign. However, in drawing up this proposal, we would like the FAO to note a very important development that emerged during the course of the recent outbreak. The rinderpest outbreak extended to the wildlife, especially buffalo and other bovine animals. Not much could be done to save these animals, as all efforts were directed to the domestic cattle, and also due to lack of expertise to deal with the situation. This situation should not be allowed to repeat itself. We therefore call on FAO and other international organizations to note this development and to include wildlife in the control programmes through vaccinating and training in wildlife management.

Secondly, experience has shown that in the face of large outbreaks the vaccines available are not sufficient to cover the emergency control programmes. Supplies have to be sought from various sources. As a result, different types of vaccines were therefore used. This trend posed a lot of problems in the field. In view of this, my delegation fully endorses the contents of paragraph 214. We feel there is a need for quality control and standardization of vaccines. There is also a need for regional or sub-regional vaccine banks to deal more effectively with emergencies.

Lastly, the losses sustained through the recent rinderpest outbreak were enormous. Many livestock owners may never, be able to rebuild their lost stocks and may therefore be forced out of production. Solutions to this type of unfortunate situation should be carefully studied. In this connection, we strongly endorse the contents of paragraph 217 on livestock insurance scheme and paragraph 203 on the need to integrate fully extension activities in animal production and animal health at farm level.

H. F. NAJEB (Iraq) (original language Arabic): Looking at the COAG report, it is clear that this Committee deals with different questions and problems of the utmost importance. We feel that COAG constitutes the backbone of the role of the Organization in assisting developing countries to develop the various aspects of agriculture, and as an honest and genuine intermediary in the transfer of knowledge and technology from the developed to the developing countries. We are fortunate to have at the head of this Department Dr. Bommer, the Assistant Director-General for Agriculture, supported by an excellent group of experts in the various disciplines. We would also like to say that we welcome the proposed establishment of a Research Development Department thus bringing together four different units, and we are confident that this new Department will be up to our expectations.

After this introduction, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that we support and endorse the COAG Report and that we are also of the opinion that its decision concerning its support to the priorities in the Programme of Work and Budget in the chapter Major Programme 2.1 is but a modest way of giving overall support to the Programmes undertaken by the Organization in these vital fields.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we would also like to highlight some of the programmes contained in the Report, which are instrumental in the solution of the problems of agriculture in the Near East. You know, Mr. Chairman, that Agriculture in the Near East is either irrigated or dependent on marginal and insecure rainfall. Irrigation as a matter of fact requires a large share of the efforts which is made by the farmers in our region. Therefore the introduction of new irrigation techniques at the farm level as well as market crop production techniques, given the marginal rainfall, would have a considerable positive impact on the increase of agricultural production in this part of the world where, as I said before, water rather than land is the essential factor of production.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we request that due attention be given to these issues within the framework of the guidelines under sub-Programme 2.1.1 (Natural Resources).

Mr. Chairman, we should also like to express our concern at the fact that the regional project for the utilisation for water resources in the Near East is no longer in existence, and that this project has been concluded, especially since this project provided tremendously useful services to the region.

Now as far as livestock is concerned, you are well aware that because of the insufficient animal production in the region and because of religious reasons, the region imports large quantities of cattle on the hoof, which made it impossible to control the introduction of animal diseases into the region. Despite the participation of most countries of the region in the animal production and health scheme, and despite the establishment of large laboratories for the production of vaccines, the situation continues to be very serious and threatening to all the neighbouring regions.

Mr. Chairman, we have already endorsed in the last session of COAG the proposal for setting up an International Genebank and the preparation of an international convention on plant genetic resources, pursuant to Conference Resolution 6/81 of November 1981 requesting the Director-General to present a report and suggestions to COAG for transmission to our Council session in November. However COAG for reasons that need not be discussed here authorized the Director-General, in cooperation with the working party, to submit a report to this effect to the Council at its forthcoming session, and we are confident that the DG's report will, as usual, serve the interest of the majority of member countries and the development of agriculture in the whole world.

D. C. W. KAMBAUWA (Malawi): The delegation of Malawi has once again studied the document before us with keen interest, and wishes to applaud the Committee for producing such a comprehensive report. We also wish to thank Dr. Bommer for his clear summary of the document yesterday.

The document touches on a number of areas of interest to our delegation. However, since it is such a comprehensive and a wide ranging report we shall not be able to comment on every aspect in view of time constraints. We shall instead confine our remarks to a few points made in the report.

My delegation has noted with interest the observation made in paragraph 72 of the report to the effect that there should be a balance between the necessity to achieve growth in agricultural production and the preservation of land and water resources. We are in full agreement with the observation that there should therefore be sound land use planning in order to avert ecological degradation. At the same time that we recognize this need to preserve this balance, however, we recognize that without adequate and proper trained manpower this goal is difficult of attainment. My delegation therefore endorses the view expressed in paragraph 200 and elsewhere in the report that in FAO and other bilateral and multilateral agencies to intensify training programmes at all levels of agricultural activities.

My delegation is also gratified to note that the thrust of the report recognizes the pivot role that small farmers play in food production in the majority of developing countries. We wish to stress the importance of extension activities in the attainment of increased food production and urge that this subject receive increased attention in the future work of both FAO and this particular Committee.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, several delegations from Africa have on one occasion or another referred to the occurrence of drought in several regions of the continent. It is well known however that this serious situation can, to a certain extent, be easily ameliorated by the proper harnessing of some of the water in the regions affected. My delegation therefore wishes to endorse the observations in paragraphs 74 et 75 of this report, and would suggest that FAO takes a keen interest in the study and development of the irrigation potential of the agreement.

A. FEQUANT (France): La delegation française approuve le rapport du COAG dans son ensemble et notamment les quatre thèmes de développement proposés pour l'ordre du jour de sa prochaine session.

Certains points du rapport ont particulièrement retenu notre attention. Nous pensons, comme l'a souligné le Comité au paragraphe 11, que les programmes de l'Organisation doivent être concentrés sur les pays les plus pauvres et sur l'économie paysanne la plus démunie. En outre, il est nécessaire, comme le rappelle le paragraphe 12, que les pays en développement recensent les domaines dans lesquels ils manquent de capacités techniques, définissent leurs priorités, et demandent l'aide de l'Organisation sur cette base.

Il est également souhaitable, comme l'a recommandé le Comité au paragraphe 13, que les documents qui lui seront soumis à sa prochaine session évaluent l'impact de certaines activités choisies à titre d'exemple.

Par ailleurs, nous pensons comme le Comité, au paragraphe 23, qu'un système efficace de production végétale comportant de bons dispositifs locaux d'entreposage et la réduction des pertes après récolte, reste la pierre angulaire de tout programme de sécurité alimentaire.

Le Comité a souligné à juste titre au paragraphe 39 que le renforcement de la production alimentaire et l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire dépendront principalement des initiatives des pays en développement eux-mêmes, et en particulier de l'intensification de leur coopération économique et technique mutuelle.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 142, il est en effet indispensable de mettre en place et de maintenir au niveau du paysan des incitations économiques en faveur de la production et de la vente des produits vivriers, essentiellement par la garantie d'un prix d'achat attractif, par la possibilité d'accès au marché national, et par l'accès aux crédits qui, seuls, peuvent fournir les ressources nécessaires à l'intensification de la production et remédier à terme à la situation actuelle de nombreux pays où la production locale ne permet pas de répondre à la demande et oblige à recourir de manière croissante aux importations et à l'aide alimentaire.

En outre, comme le souligne le paragraphe 149, ces importations acquièrent souvent un rôle structurel par une modification durable des habitudes alimentaires, parfois renforcées par une politique de prix à la consommation qui leur est favorable et entraîne une détérioration des régimes alimentaires locaux.

Enfin, nous approuvons la création proposée au paragraphe 193 d'un groupe d'experts sur les systèmes améliorés de lutte intégrée contre les mauvaises herbes, et parallèlement la fusion des deux groupes d'experts existants sur la résistance des parasites aux pesticides et sur la lutte intégrée contre les ennemis des cultures.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Après avoir écouté avec attention les déclarations de mes collègues au sujet de cette question et de la situation agricole dans leur pays, je me vois face à une réalité amère qui m'amène à évoquer la situation agricole au Liban.

En effet, ce pays, petit par sa superficie, est devenu un exemple à suivre en matière agricole, de sorte que les délégations de la région du Proche-Orient venaient au Liban pour se rendre compte des progrès réalisés par le Liban dans le secteur agricole, que ce soit au niveau de la production ou au niveau de la technologie. Je citerai comme exemple la production de 7000 kilos de blé par hectare irrigué.

Mais la guerre qui a éclaté au Liban et qui continue encore aujourd'hui, les forces étrangères qui occupent une large part de notre petit Liban, malgré les efforts déployés par le Gouvernement libanais et à sa tête le Président de la République, font que de grandes superficies agricoles restent encore occupées par les forces armées et qu'un grand nombre d'organisations et institutions spécialisées sont soit détruites, soit dans un état qui ne leur permet pas de fonctionner. Tel est le cas de la direction des recherches scientifiques agricoles, et d'autres institutions agricoles, tandis que les bombardements détruisent nos récoltes. Mais le Libanais en tant qu'individu, continue à croire qu'il pourra sauver le Liban et lui permettre de reprendre une place de choix, en particulier dans le domaine agricole, en dépit des neuf années d'agression dont il est l'objet. C'est un engagement pris par le Président de la République, soutenu en cela par tout le peuple libanais pour sauver ce petit pays.

Monsieur le Président, en dépit de cette situation, nous ne voudrions pas prendre du retard sur le cortège de la science et du progrès surtout dans le domaine agricole. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous sommes toujours présents sur la scène internationale grâce à notre foi dans l'avenir et dans la pérennité de notre nation.

Vous m'excuserez, Monsieur le Président, d'avoir ouvert cette parenthèse, mais j'ai voulu rendre compte aux délégués ici présents de la situation vécue par le Liban, notamment sur le plan agricole.

Je reviens maintenant à l'ordre du jour pour dire que nous appuyons les recommandations du COAG, et notamment celles relatives au choix de thèmes précis de développement à inscrire à l'ordre du jour de sa prochaine session, tel que cela apparaît au paragraphe 241 du document CL 83/9. Nous pensons que ces thèmes sont très importants et qu'ils sont liés aux différents secteurs du développement. Ces thèmes vont permettre également au COAG de poursuivre son engagement technique et politique et de traiter des problèmes alimentaires et agricoles dans tous les pays, notamment dans les pays en développement.

Nous voudrions également dire notre satisfaction pour la décision qui a été prise par le Directeur général de faire une étude sur les politiques de prix des produits agricoles et de présenter un rapport à ce sujet au COAG lors de sa réunion en 1985, ce qui permettra au COAG de discuter de cette question importante d'une manière utile et fructueuse.

V. VONGSKUL (Thailand): The Thai delegation has studied in depth the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture. Due to the time constraint, we would like to point out some aspects of the report that we consider of special interest. First, we fully agree with the Committee decision as shown in paragraph 21 of document CL 83/9. We believe that the developing countries can educate people from BSc and BA level down to primary school level, but the knowledge which they get from textbooks is not sufficient. However, for men and women, the training course should be at a middle level, an in-service level, a pre-service level and farmer level. The reason why we say this is because the majority of the people in developing countries are at these levels.

Secondly, regarding the agricultural machinery, we wonder why developing countries depend on modernizing machinery which consumes gasoline. Here we would like to draw attention to the developing countries to look back to the past. The old generation used simple equipment and hand tools to cultivate the land. This does not mean that we are going back to the primitive way of agriculture. Our intention is to say that under present circumstances, as for the role of agricultural machinery as stated in paragraph 30 of document CL 83/9, we are happy to endorse this and we believe that this kind of agricultural machinery can help us increase food production. One of the important factors is that less financial outlay is involved and it is easier for the farmer to follow.

My third point is that most of the countries, the developing and food-deficit countries, depend on the mercy of those who stay up in heaven, that is rain. We do not know when we can have rain. Most of the cultivated land is in rainfed areas. Due to financial constraints, irrigation on a large scale is impossible because this requires the investment of large amounts of money. Therefore, irrigation on a small scale would seem more advisable. We believe this would be helpful for the rural poor, especially in the dry season in terms of livestock, fishery and horticulture. We also support the decision of the Committee as contained in paragraph 75 of the document.

Fourthly, we fully agree with the remarks contained in paragraph 153 of the document which stresses the need to encourage popular participation in rural development strategies. Unfortunately, the role of FAO in helping the developing countries is very limited. Only a few countries receive assistance from the Organization. In the case of Thailand we submitted the project to FAO under the FAO Small Farmer Development/People's Participation Programme, but we cannot get any assistance, due to financial constraints. We wish to take this occasion to appeal to donor countries to provide all possible financial support to this programme.

G. JEMBERE (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation to this Session of the Council of FAO has studied with great interest the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture. My delegation is in broad agreement with its conclusions and recommendations and would like to draw particular attention to certain aspects which we feel need particular attention. We note and welcome the increases in practical training in the form of workshops, training courses and study tours that form part of the 1982/83 programme, together with the increased practical assistance being channelled through regional offices, which give more practical help in the field, where it is needed. FAO has been concentrating on channelling resources to the rural poor and we feel that this practice should be continued and strengthened, and supported at national level. Thus the incentive programmes aimed at lower income groups, the small and poor farmers, that are planned to continue in the next year's programme, must attempt to utilize an integrated approach with the appropriate use of local resources where possible. Alongside technical assistance at the lowest levels is needed the back-up long-term work of soil and weather conservation, land protection, management of grazing land to prevent overuse of limited resources and prevention of crop losses, pre-and post-harvest.

The Early Warning Systems and the establishment of emergency food stocks offer a great potential for alleviating suffering in the future. While we appreciate the progress made by the Working Party on the need for the establishment of an international genebank, I wish to inform the Council that in Ethiopia we have a Plant Genetic Resource Centre that has been in full operation for several years. Its mandate covers collection, conservation, evaluation and utilization of our country's germplasm potential. Additionally it houses an introduction centre for food, industrial and medicinal plants from other countries. Through its international contacts it channels exotic and potentially useful germplasm to cooperating breeders. Within the possibility of establishing and applying clearly defined policy studies, Ethiopia is in principle ready and willing to exchange germplasm with cooperating institutions around the world operating on the principle of mutual benefits.

My country supports in principle the idea of a well-defined global network of genetic resource activities. FAO's role in promoting international cooperation between national, regional and international centres working together on the simple philosophy of mutual benefit to all mankind, cannot be overemphasized. The concept of mutual assistance is basic to the development of international germplasm resources. It is more than just reciprocal exchange of seeds: it is the cooperation in exploring collectively and evaluating available genetic varieties and also storage, so that the germplasm remains available to anyone willing to make use of it. Here the concept of genetic resources centres, acting as regional centres for specific crops and selected species where they are in a centre of diversity for that crop, is to be commended; and the possibility of external support should be considered in order to assist this aim.

As part of its continuing effort in the field of animal health, FAO has given a lot of technical assistance for animal disease control. In this connexion the Ethiopian delegation would request that the Director-General of FAO contact potential donors with a view of raising funds for the initiation of a Pan-African campaign to control and eradicate rinderpest. Such a campaign should be launched under the aegis of FAO/OIE/OAU/IBAR. The Ethiopian delegation requests the Council to adopt a recommendation to this effect and the Director-General to report to the next Council meeting the results achieved.

The Ethiopian delegation is glad to note the emphasis placed on the status of women in developing societies and we strongly support FAO's work in this field. It is of vital importance that the role of women in rural society be actively remembered so that programmes for development also take into account the changes to social structure that may be induced as a side effect of the project, and that the role of women within the framework of the project be fully utilized.

The Ethiopian delegation welcomes the concept of global strategy for plant protection. At the very least, plant protection should be on an agro-ecological regime basis with no national boundaries. We welcome the code of conduct on distribution of pesticides and hope that its use will lead to a more balanced approach to plant protection with more use being made of biological and genetic controls wherever possible.

In the field of research support, we all realize that the resources available are clearly insufficient for the needs but hope that FAO can continue to provide the technical training support that is so important at the lowest levels, whilst also stimulating basic research into specific problems by the formation of cooperative research networks between interested countries.

Finally, we wish to emphasize our belief that continuing integrated research with relevance to the improvement of the living status of the rural masses is of primary importance to healthy development in all fields.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Yesterday in our intervention on this agenda item we perhaps overdid a bit the brevity in trying to be helpful and in saving time of this session. In response to questions which were put to us individually I should like to state that we do consider the four topics for future sessions of the COAG, singled out in paragraph 241 of document CL 83/9, to be of great importance. If, as was suggested, the number of sectorial items were to be limited in order to allow for in-depth discussion, our preference would in coherence with an overall study already under way go for Food and Agriculture Price Policies. That discussion is in our view tied to, and also a requisite to, the last topic, namely Strategies for Improvement of Marketing and Input Delivery Systems for Small Farmers.

Our second priority would go for the third topic but modified so as to enable concentration on production and processing of non-cereal food plants, like roots, tubers, pulses and vegetables, an area strongly supported during this session and it should also include in our view the proper use of water and irrigation.

With regard to the position stated on an international convention for plant genetic resources and the possible setting up of an international gene bank, stated by many delegations in our session, I should like to reiterate, in addition to what we have already said, that my government maintains its constructive attitude as voiced at the COAG session. In order to get a clear picture about the

deficiencies of the existing system and the obstacles in using it mentioned, but not yet spelled out clearly enough by particularly interested delegations, my delegation would favour an early inquiry among Member states bringing about such clarification, preparing in that way also the basis for the discussion, to take place at the Twenty-second FAO Conference.

Thirdly and finally, we very much support what was said by the delegations of the United Kingdom and Colombia, that the COAG could give an even greater impact to the Organization if it were to get more expertise from qualified experts. The agenda and the timetable should allow a timely limited participation of such experts and therefore can fully be prepared. In so doing, COAG would meet to quite an extent I think the suggestion made by the delegation of India.

B. N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): My delegation is thankful to Professor Bommer for his clear presentation of document CL 83/9. Both the introduction and the main body of this report have made our task much easier, hence this short statement.

We have fully participated in the 7th Session of the Committee on Agriculture, the report of which we have broadly supported.

On the question of animal health, we share the concern which has been expressed by previous speakers, namely by my colleague from Nigeria. Accordingly, the delegation of Angola wishes to make the following four proposals: first, that the Director-General contacts donors or potential donors with a view to raising funds for a pan-African campaign to control and eventually eradicate rinderpest; second, that such a campaign be launched jointly by FAO, OIE, OAU-IBAR; third, that the Council adopts a recommendation to this effect; fourth, that the Director-General reports to the next session of the Council any results achieved.

Turning to the proposal for the establishment of an international gene bank and the preparation of a draft international convention for plant genetic resources, this delegation fully endorses the view that genetic resources belong to all mankind who should have open access to these resources in a framework which protects the interests of the parties concerned, preferably on the basis of pacta sunt servanda. In this field we are fully in accord with the work being undertaken by the Director-General of FAO.

G. DESEQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne): Etant le dernier orateur, je ne voudrais pas prolonger le débat; ma déclaration sera donc très brève, elle aura uniquement pour objet de rappeler le point de vue de la Communauté économique européenne sur les principaux éléments de la septième session du COAG.

La Communauté économique européenne a trouvé très intéressants les travaux du récent Comité de l'agriculture; elle considère en effet comme très fructueux les échanges entre tous les Etats qui prennent place dans cette enceinte. Les thèmes qui avaient été retenus pour cette septième session étaient dans l'intérêt d'un développement meilleur de l'agriculture dans les pays en voie de développement, et dans l'amélioration des conditions socio-économiques des populations agricoles.

La Communauté économique européenne marque son approbation sur le rapport de la septième session du COAG, et estime comme particulièrement utiles les discussions et conclusions relatives à la santé animale et au rôle des femmes dans la production agricole.

En ce qui concerne la proposition pour une éventuelle création d'une banque de gènes internationale et d'une convention internationale sur les ressources phylogénétiques, la Communauté a pris note de l'action prise par le Directeur général depuis lors et attend avec intérêt le rapport qu'il présentera au Conseil lors de la session de novembre 1983.

CHAIRMAN: I think now we will request Dr. Bommer to answer some of the points.

D. F. R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): First of all Professor Nurul Islam and myself wish to express the appreciation on behalf of the Director-General of the very constructive discussion the Council have had on the COAG report and the broad endorsement of its recommendations. I think your discussion, together with those you have before you on the item on Programme of Work and Budget, will help the Director-General considerably to form his final proposals for the Conference on the Programme of Work and Budget. I think a lot of thanks should go for the work done on COAG to its Chairman, Dr. Norman Tate of Canada, who so ably conducted its deliberations.

I think there is a need to comment briefly on those ideas that have been brought forward or comments made on the work and structure of COAG. Actually the comments relevant to this were those of China, the United Kingdom and India and if you recollect the views expressed you see that there are wide, diverse views on what COAG should do, and how COAG should conduct its work remains in the organization, because the programme of departments is at the core of the organization and has to deal with a wide range of subjects. There is certainly not an easy solution to bring these diversified views together, on the one side to be holistic or comprehensive and on the other side to be in-depth and to the point and to have real experts available of Member Nations to discuss the relevant aspects, so that the Director-General, I think, has to find a way in between to satisfy the wishes expressed by the various delegations again on this account.

If we recall the work done by COAG so far and its involvement I think we must say that COAG's work has improved considerably over the time. It has found its way in taking a general look in the present implementation of the forthcoming programme of work, of the major programme in agriculture and at the same time has looked into some very well selected special development issues. In the viewpoint expressed by China it would certainly be very much restricted in number because it is clearly understandable that each delegation is not able to bring a corps of experts to one meeting.

On the other side the idea expressed by the delegate of India is not a new idea because before COAG there had been two committees, one economic and social and one agriculture. These have been merged. Now we have one. To go back to these ideas of additional committees, this is very interesting and takes care of the tremendous importance of the work for which we are responsible, but at the same time it acts against your own decisions to cut down the meetings in bodies of this Organization, because we already have hundreds of those per year.

Coming back to the present solution COAG's work gives the possibility to take the necessary overview, but at the same time enables the Organization through its specific additional meetings in the form of expert consultations in specific other bodies to have a view on the very relevant subjects which the delegate of India has mentioned.

Your point of view will certainly be taken into consideration by the Director-General in further evolving the work of COAG, but we should recognize too that meanwhile COAG has accepted to have two standing items on its agenda. One is nutrition and one is WCARRD follow-up. So there is a mix now of standing items and those selected for each meeting and to be considered separately. We are very glad to know in this context the proposals made for the selection of the items and I am sure the Director-General will have valuable advice from your comments in his final selection jointly with the Chairman of COAG for the agenda of its next meeting.

The question of how far the nutritional aspect is happily dealt with in COAG Professor Islam will deal with later. Various delegations stressed the importance of an even improved review of the implementation of the programme and in-depth evaluation where it is possible in a very selected way. This is a point which COAG has been concerned with for a long time and the Secretariat has tried to work constantly on improvements. At the same time we have to recall that the evaluation of the Regular Programme and of the Field Programme goes to the Conference in November and certainly this process was not completed to be before COAG. COAG had preliminary parts of this for its deliberations. But there are certainly other responsibilities for future improvements which the Director-General will look into, particularly as a number of in-depth evaluations are being presented, and in particular sub-programmes, to the Conference and these evaluations could be ready in time to be looked at by COAG so that there is a whole sequence of processes to better come to grips with this very well understood problem in the Member Nations as well as for the Director-General and his staff.

In your debate some issues ranked very high and we were very glad to hear the numerous comments made on the topic of genetic resources, international conventions, international genebank. The Director-General will note with interest the comments made, particularly those which brought forward particular ideas in the further formation of his views with the help of the working party. In addition the Director-General looks forward to more such very concrete views to be provided to him in written form so that he might have even more advice beyond the working party, to which he has already appealed in the same way.

I want to underline here that at the end of COAG this wish by the Director-General was already expressed to the members, to inform him of specific lacks and gaps in the present system of genetic resources and, very important too, of any difficulties experienced so far with the exchange of genetic resources. No such information has reached the Director-General up to now but we are looking forward to receiving it. I repeat here that this is of considerable interest only if we know particularly where problems exist because then action can be formulated to overcome the problems.

Another important topic addressed was the one on rinderpest. The Director-General underlined in his statement his serious concern with the rinderpest situation in Africa and he will lend his full support to the request made to him by Members of this Council, the full support of the Organization, to the countries affected and certainly will continue to increase his collaboration with OAU and other bodies to assist African countries. Any particular recommendation on this line by the Council would certainly be helpful and would strengthen his hand in fostering such collaboration. He will certainly follow the wishes to appeal to donors, which I want to do here on his behalf in the Council, to assist African countries in their serious situation and on particular and specific requests being made by them in launching their own campaign as part of the overall needed campaign in Africa and to strengthen the infrastructure to deal better with the problem. Some very striking examples are given in the debate. I want here particularly to mention to Nigeria that at the moment an FAO laboratory instrument engineer is visiting eight African laboratories to rehabilitate the vaccine production equipment at the laboratory. Another concern is on recruitment specialising in production techniques, and he will visit those laboratories to help to speed up their production and production capability. Those are only a few of the many actions which the Director-General has taken.

The Director-General is very grateful for the full support which has been rendered to his proposal to set up a division on research and technology development and he fully shares the view expressed by Council Members on the importance of research and at the same time on its direction to be for the use of the mass of the agricultural producers and particularly small farmers in many developing countries and to be closely linked with the technology and transfer mechanization needed to get the research down to the farmer, as was so ably described by India. In this context we have noted the offers made by some Members of the Council to assist in this work, particularly at country level. I remember the offer from SELA to work closely with the Organization in this field in the southwest Pacific area. At the same time we were glad to note the offer made by Argentina on its technology development to improve biological nitrogen fixation in crop protection systems from which we have already drawn very valuable experience to be further available to be transferred and to assist other countries.

The Director-General has noted with interest the request expressed by some delegations that in finally formulating his programme he should give even more weight and priority to major food crops, particularly roots and tubers, sorghum and millets and to small farm animals within the possibilities existing. The Director-General will take serious note of those requests made by Council Members as have been made already before in the Programme Committee and COAG.

On plant protection we had various important questions and interventions. I am glad to inform you that the Director-General has already taken action to set up a panel of experts on improved weed management, as proposed by the New Zealand delegate in the COAG meeting and supported by Members. We hope that the first meeting of this panel will take place in late 1983 or early 1984. At the same time I am glad to inform you that, as requested by Spain, the code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides is under preparation and we will have the first UN international agency consultation on this subject in August, which will be followed by other consultations to be prepared for final discussions of this very important move which will hopefully improve the situation to which various delegates addressed themselves of the possible misuse and dangerous use and mis-channelling of distribution. In the same context we have to see that we fully react to wishes expressed by the delegates of Cyprus and Upper Volta to setting up better legislation, to strengthening capabilities of pesticide quality laboratories and for pesticide monitoring, which we are also engaged on.

An important problem was mentioned which does not actually fall within the responsibility of COAG. This was the movement of the Nun moth in Poland from the East, which has developed a very serious plague in Poland and has been reviewed by a German expert recently in a TCP project. Advice has been rendered to the Government and considerable funds and pesticides are involved to control the disease. At the same time it is a secondary problem following a major problem which is of concern not only to all European nations at this time but parts of America, North America, including Mexico, and this is the development of acid rain. It is those trees already damaged through the rain over years which are now particularly affected by this destructive moth which comes from the East. So we are fully aware of the situation and are ready to assist as far as our resources allow. Our Forestry Department, which provided this information, is fully in contact with this development.

Suggestions were made by Norway that we should extend our activities in desertification studies from a global and regional level down to the country level, an activity on which there have already been considerable discussions with UNEP, but I am sorry to inform you that the resource situation of UNEP as well as our own is very limited for these purely study-type activities which we would certainly prefer and like to propose. At the same time I wish to add here that we are actively engaged in a number of countries in desertification control programmes, and we are just waiting for a request from North Yemen, and we are actively engaged even in China and some other countries in the control of sand dune movement, reforestation, etc., but much more could and should be done. It is more of a question of resources than will and preparedness of the Organization.

We share fully the view of Bangladesh on the importance of animal feed in animal programmes. This is actually the basic consideration, animal feed and forage production on the one hand, and use of other feed resources on the other. I want only to draw his attention to our efforts at the country as well as the regional level to considerably improve the exchange of information and better practices, and we wanted to cite here a particularly important activity which is going on presently in Pakistan, one of your neighbouring countries, which can have a considerable impact, too, in Bangladesh on the use of by-products from the farm level to improve animal feeding, but we agree fully that animal feeding stands first on any health problems when we consider health programmes.

There was considerable mention of mechanization with a number of important problems being raised, and I wanted only to underline here that our discussion of agricultural mechanization as COAG already did in a former session is related to the appropriateness of mechanization including the equipment type which has been mentioned by India and some delegations from Africa up to strong mechanization. It must be appropriate to the countries, and I think we are somewhat in disagreement with Lesotho when he said generally that mechanization is not appropriate in Africa. I think this is something we cannot say, because we must accept that large rural areas of Africa are under exodus of people, particularly of men, going to the urban areas, and these areas are badly in need of improved work tools. With either machines - even strong mechanization programmes in part of those countries and part of those areas becomes unavoidable. I wanted to assure, Lesotho too, that our programme on small irrigation development has really taken off and is continuing in the African countries, hopefully with the support of possible donors on development which is much more suited to African countries than the large dam development being proposed.

Finally, I wanted to refer to Pakistan rightly putting his finger on the importance of crop insurance schemes. You might be familiar with the fact that we have in the Regional Office in Bangkok an advisory service established on crop insurance with the help of the Japanese Government, and we are further pursuing this field, knowing at the same time its tricky and difficult development, so it is not easy to develop schemes rapidly, but we try to include it principally in credit schemes to become part of credit schemes on crop insurance as well as the mentioned livestock insurance.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Pedimos disculpas, señor Presidente, por intervenir en estos momentos, pero queremos subrayar nuestra sorpresa cuando el Dr. Bommer nos habla de una información en torno al sistema actual que no ha recibido; no sabemos a que se refiere el concepto porque el grupo de trabajo está haciendo los mejores esfuerzos por incorporar todos los elementos posibles de manera que se le presente al Director General aquella información y elementos que le permitan formular un mejor reporte al Consejo y a la Conferencia.

Sentimos también que en su declaración no haya incluido algunos ofrecimientos que verdaderamente modifican, o hacen aportaciones importantes en esta cuestión, que es tan delicada.

Me refiero concretamente a los ofrecimientos hechos por España, por Rumania y la posibilidad que manifestaron otros países por hacerlo, porque esto, en verdad, modifica cuantitativa y cualitativamente el planteamiento y porque, en verdad, no está a discusión en estos momentos si se va dejar el sistema actual o si se va a establecer un Banco, sino dar respuesta a una resolución a través de un grupo de trabajo que está aportando al Director General elementos para que su reporte contenga todas las inquietudes y, en última instancia, el Consejo y la Conferencia puedan resolver en torno a las formas para el establecimiento de un Banco Internacional y los elementos para un Convenio Internacional en materia genética.

Igualmente, y ya para terminar, queremos manifestar que agradecemos el que se le haya dado esta trascendencia al asunto del Banco y de los recursos genéticos por parte del Director General y por parte de otras áreas y que se incluya ésto como parte del concepto de la seguridad alimentaria. Sin duda, los planteamientos hechos aquí permitirán integrar lo relativo a los recursos fitogenéticos como parte de la estrategia de seguridad alimentaria e incorporar así a otras áreas de la FAO en esta cuestión, y no exclusivamente al Departamento de Agricultura cuyas funciones se ven rebasadas, evidentemente, por lo manifestado en esta ocasión.

Queremos, simplemente, dejar esto manifiesto porque nos inquietaba la forma en que se lo expresó el Dr. Bommer.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I am sorry, Mr Chairman. I Certainly apologize to Mexico if I was misunderstood, because I gave, I think, in my opinion, full gratitude to the proposals made and particularly by Spain, Romania and other delegations, which would be a considerable additional input to the working party performing. That was one point, and the other point which I referred to, which was referred to the Working Party, too, was that at the end of the COAG session I had announced on behalf of the Director-General that the Director-General should be advised by written statements on two aspects of gaps experienced in the present system, and second, on difficulties experienced in the exchange of genetic resources, and I refer here in saying and it still stands that up till now the Director-General has on this latter point not received any information from the COAG members, and therefore I have repeated this request by the Director-General now to the members of the Council to provide such information which would serve you and the Working Party and the Director-General as very important inputs for the formulation of the final proposal.

He also asked the 12-member Working Party to do the same, but here he did that in order to explain to the other members not being in the Working Party to provide such information. This was the point.

L. MOHAPELOA (Lesotho): I do not intend to delay the proceedings any further, just a little point to put the record straight. I suspect we must have been misunderstood here. I believe our attitude is that to the extent possible we should arrive at a reasonable mix. Our employment of mechanization or use of mechanization should not compromise the possible employment-creation effects of undertaking. This is the only correction.

CHAIRMAN: I think Dr. Bommer made it clear that he referred to appropriate mechanization. It depends upon circumstances and areas, so you are both on the same wave length.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would like to add a few comments on some of the issues which were left unsaid by Dr. Bommer. Firstly, I would like to add additional comments to what he has said on the issue of COAG successfully dealing with the issues of rural development to which India has referred. The structure and the number of committees dealing with agricultural and economic and social policy issues have been examined over the past years, and it was found that in view of the interrelationship of the various issues and the need for encouraging an integrated discussion and consideration of overall both technical and social policy issues, the present structure on the Committee on Agriculture seems to have worked well so far, even though scope for improvement in its working always remains.

The basic issue is how best to consider or provide for intergovernmental deliberations on issues of rural development. In this respect, the mandate that FAO has is the WCARRD Programme of Action which defines the concepts, the approaches and the components of rural development with accent on growth, equity and people participation, and it encourages, in fact enjoins that this approach must be an integrated approach and all activities in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fishing, economic and social policy issues be oriented in the light of the WCARRD Programme of Action.

Now, this is done at present by putting relevant issues, aspects of WCARRD's Programme of Action in various committees of FAO, including the Committee on Agriculture as well as the Committee on Fisheries and Forestry.

In the Committee on Agriculture, as and when necessary, we have put items on the agenda at the suggestion of the Member countries which relate either to overall follow-up of WCARRD or the specific issues, such as this year, women in rural development.

Again, the policy issues of a general nature relating to WCARRD's follow-up are taken up in the Regional Conferences, since issues relating to each region are also different.

Thirdly, we also have inter-country consultations on WCARRD follow-up for each region, in addition to various workshops and seminars on specific detailed aspects of WCARRD follow-up. This is as much as rural development issues are concerned.

Now, the Secretariat is very happy to note with their appreciation and thanks that the Council confirms the conclusions of the Committee on Agriculture on the main thrust and priorities of programmes relating to the Economic and Social Policy Department. As many delegates have emphasized, the work and area of food and agricultural policy analysis remains an important activity. Suggestions have been made by Norway regarding broadening the work of Agriculture Towards 2000 type of work. We intend to pursue this work in three aspects in the coming years, first updating data collected and analyzed in the past for the study on Agriculture Towards 2000; second, reestimate some of the figures, which was done in the earlier report; third, improve the methodology wherever necessary especially

in the livestock sector and to apply the data and the framework of analyses increasingly at the country level for analysis of FAO's work in planning assistance and all the other programmes of work.

We have also supplied to the individual countries, as you recall, we did analysis for each of the individual 19 countries, collected data as well as analyzed their future possibilities under various assumptions. We have supplied this to each of the member countries included in the 19 developing countries' studies, requesting them to react as to our analysis and data, and secondly, supply them users' guide so that they can use this analysis and data for their own work at the national level.

Lastly, I would like to mention that for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade we intend to undertake the new scenario in the light of the changed circumstances on a global level. This is in connection with our work for the review and appraisal of ideas. Reference was made to the need for work on interrelationships between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. This is important indeed. We are increasingly in our work on the state of food and agriculture, analyzing the interrelationships between, in broad terms, the effect of overall development on the world economy in the food and agriculture sector. Secondly we obtained feedback on the interrelationships through our participation in the ACCT task force on long-term development objectives of each of the agencies, specialized agencies, working under respective sectors, to inter-change ideas and also exchange their work relating to specific sectors, so that each can get a feedback from the other.

We are also exploring with the needle a joint work on interrelationships in agriculture and industry. To start with a sort of meteorological work in analyzing interrelationships.

On nutrition a question was asked as to how efficiently this subject is dealt with today in the Committee on Agriculture. There are two issues relating to efficient provision on intergovernmental foundation on nutrition: 1) the integration of nutrition in the overall policy framework at the country level and also the integration of nutritional consideration at the programme and budget level. 2) There is the aspect of specific issues within the nutrition field as such which have to be discussed by the nutritionists meeting among themselves.

These two aspects we strive to take care of in the following ways: 1) in the Committee on Agriculture - this is what the member countries wish and it is supposed to be the most efficient way we can integrate the nutritional considerations and overall agricultural rural development policies, programmes and projects. This is how we put the nutritional spending item in the Committee on Agriculture where the nutritionist can speak and yet with non-nutritionist in charge of agriculture and rural development policies. As far as the specialized issues in nutrition are concerned, they are dealt with, as always, and are continuously being dealt with by various expert groups, expert consultations, workshops, etc., to mention a few, for example relating to food standards, codex committees dealing with the specialized issues of food standards. Also we have such expert consultations as the consultations held in 1980 on fats and oils, expert consultation on carbohydrate, expert consultations on vitamin and mineral requirement in 1985. Last year we had the FAO and WHO Expert Committee on Nutritional Requirements, etc.

Questions are also raised about nutrition education and an increasing effort is being made by us in the field of nutrition training at all levels. This is based on two main areas: 1) production of suitable materials and audio/visual aid for pre-service and in-service training. The other is the training of local instructors who will be able on return to progressively build up a pool of competent persons. With regard to training materials we are making a special effort to produce materials not only in the official FAO languages but also in local languages, national languages such as Swahili and Indo-Asian, and adapting these texts to local situations and the needs. The education of trainers makes some difficulty in view of the scarcity of suitable training centres and permanent courses on the subject in developing countries. At the higher level most trainers are sent abroad for training and in the meanwhile we are trying to strengthen regional and national institutions imparting more training on nutrition.

Reference has been made by several distinguished delegates to our on-going work on pricing policies. I would like to inform the Council here that the work is well under way and that we will have at the end of year an expert consultation on the results of our preliminary work on pricing policies, and this subject will also be put in the agenda of the Regional Conferences so that we have discussions on the same subject in the context of regional considerations and differences in various regions. The results of the overall study will be put on the agenda of COAG in 1985.

Concurrently with our work on pricing policies, Mr Chairman, we do continue to work at the country level in advising member governments on their pricing policies. Recently we held, just two days ago, at a workshop in Sudan in collaboration with the Government of Sudan, with the Sudanese experts participating in the workshop and writing documents on their own pricing policy and FAO's top experts participating along with them deliberating on their pricing policies.

In respect of work on women and development several distinguished delegates have supported our ongoing work and also encouraged us to strengthen this work. We have been undertaking a pleasing amount of work in this area both at headquarters and at the country levels. As you will recall this is an important component of the work WCARRD Programme of Action as a part of overall encouragement to keep its participation in agrarian reform and rural development. We have inter-departmental mechanisms within the Organization to encourage cooperation of women's considerations in our programmes and projects in other departments, not only in economical social policy but also agriculture, forestry, fishery, etc., and also we work with other UN agencies under the auspices of ACCT task force for rural development in trying to formulate common approaches in women's concern in development.

Many distinguished delegates refer to our work on statistics, information etc. We continue to strengthen our work in the collection analysis and dissemination of relevant, accurate and timely statistics, as well as to assist member countries improve their national capability for the collection and analysis of statistical data. To this I have already made reference during the discussion on world food situation.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Professor Islam. We are very grateful to Dr Bommer and Professor Islam, and the 40 delegates and one observer who have participated in this discussion. I am sure the Drafting Committee will try to sift out the numerous ideas which have been presented and get them incorporated in our Report, I myself wanted to make a few remarks but I think I have, as the Chairman, to see the clock and at least keep to the time, and I find we are already behind one item today. We ought to have completed Item 7 so what I am planning to do, the few points which I have I will write down and give it to the people in charge of the record, and those who are interested in my views on genetic resources, nutrition and agricultural research might like to read it when the report comes. The agenda will follow this afternoon when we will take up Item 7 and the Chairman for that session will be Dr Hamdi, our distinguished Vice-Chairman, and since he will be taking the chair straight away after 2.30 I think it is my duty to introduce him to you. He was a research professor in the Institute of Soil and Water Research at the Agricultural Research Centre of Egypt until 1981 when he came as Representative of his country to FAO. His speciality is in the field of micro-biology including biological nitrogen fixation. He is a very wellknown worker in the field of bio-fertilizers and has participated in many research meetings and written many scientific papers and I am happy he is going to guide this Eighth Plenary Meeting in the field of fertilizers.

I have made commitment to some distinguished speakers who have to leave Rome that will give them an opportunity to speak this afternoon on Item 12. Therefore I am constrained to remark that the discussion on Item 7 will be from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., and if we cannot complete it we will give some other time to the speakers who cannot speak before 4.30. I shall resume the chair at 4.30 and start the discussion on Item 12 and we will continue until 6 p.m. today and then of course continue the next day. So those who want to speak on the Commission of Fertilizers please give your name to the Secretariat and then kindly be as brief as possible and help Dr Hamdi so that within two hours, 2.30 to 4.30, we are able to do as much as possible.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA (16 June 1983)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: I had announced that our Vice-Chairman, Dr. Hamdi, would take the Chair at this point, but, as you see, there is no respite for the wicked; so I am back here because Mr. Hamdi has been called for an important meeting by the Director-General.

- 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 Seventh Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 21-30 March 1983) (including the follow-up of Conference Resolution 6/81 on Plant Genetic Resources) (continued)
- 6. Rapport de la septième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 21-30 mars 1983) (y compris les suites données à la Résolution 6/81 de la Conférence sur les ressources phytogénétiques) (suite)
- 6. Informe del séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (Roma, 21-30 de marzo 1983) (incluidas las actividades complementarias a la resolución de la Conferencia 6/81 sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos) (continuación)

At the conclusion of this morning's session several delegates were good enough to tell me that I must not just place my views in writing and that I must find at least a little time to say what I wanted to say. I therefore thought, since I am in the Chair, I had better take a few minutes and then request Dr. Bommer to take over. I shall deal with only two aspects. One is plant genetic resources. My first introduction to this building was through plant genetic resources in the 1960s. The first meeting I attended in FAO was on plant genetic resources, so this Organization from its inception has been involved in this question of plant genetic resources. And in the last 20 years, particularly after the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources came into being, there has been increasing activity.

I wish to say first of all that we are very grateful to the Mexican delegation for having given the subject the importance it deserves. When we were talking about plant genetic resources I was thinking how nice it would be if in the audience we had people like Vavilov the famous Russian scientist who started all this; and others such as Linnaeus and De Candolle, who would have been very happy to see that at long last the topic is receiving the attention it deserves from the international community. Because unlike soil erosion which is perceptible, gene erosion is invisible to the naked eye and therefore we do not understand its significance. We would not even know if we had genes or not, if they were present or lost. But we have seen the impact of having such genetic variability in terms of our ability to overcome a wide array of problems in animals, plant and fish breeding, and all biological organisms.

We are all mortals, we come and go, but genes can be immortal, that is the difference. Genes are immortal in the sense that they are available forever and they can be preserved in various ways, although the bodies in which they are carried die. That is the difference between the genetic carriers and hence I think this whole idea of having some kind of international convention for germ plasm conservation and utilization, a set of guidelines for cooperative work, is a very important one and FAO obviously is the right forum to discuss this.

I am also happy that there is a working party which is going to help the Director-General to prepare the paper to be put up at the Conference consisting of a very knowledgeable group of persons, including Dr. Bommer, so we hope a very good paper will come to the conference. All I want to say at the stage is in this area, like what we discussed about food security, it is a step-wise process, it cannot all be done in one day, collections are going on, they are being maintained, but how do we have an overall systems approach to the whole question of germ plasm collection and conservation and utilization. This is where there is need for vision because I always believe that where vision is limited action is equally circumscribed. Therefore it is important to have vision so that at least action can be stimulated. I would like to suggest that this working group under the Director-General, when they prepare the paper, they have this concept of the global convention or global charter, whatever you want to call it, on germ plasma conservation and utilization. Under that there are at least six major groups of activities which ought to receive attention. Number one is collection and classification; this has to be done largely at the national level, the countries which have the genetic resources, most of them are developing countries, countries of the South as they are called, they are the countries which have rich genetic variability and it is their responsibility to involve everybody, I would say, students, farmers, some countries I know are involving farmers and in some areas defence services will have to be involved because there are politically sensitive areas where it is difficult for civilians to go. Also defence services have greater mobility. I have a detailed knowledge of the state in rice so I can tell you, for example, that the world may have about 120 000 types of rice of which the present collection is about 70 000, so about 50 000 more can be collected. Recently we have developed a five-year plan to complete this collection before 1987. Much of the collection

which is remaining to be collected are in the endangered habitats, mountain habitats, sensitive habitats, which are more inaccessible. So I would say the first strategy of any global convention on conservation starts with collection and classification. Although the title of the Mexican resolution was Plant Genetic Resources, it is important when talking in this forum to take the view that the biological resources, in other words azole, Rhizobia, farm animals, etc. are all important. In 1980 there was a meeting here on the preservation of animal genetic wealth so that at the country level the action programme could be a little more comprehensive, in terms of plants, in terms of micro-organisms, in terms of farm animals which are of interest to us wherever genetic variability is important. Again and again we are talking about trypanosomiasis or I think African members talked about endemmas and tick-tolerant animals and so on. Many of them can become extinct. I do not want to take much time now but if you go through the proceedings of the FAO Conference on Animal Genetic Resources held in 1980 here you will find a number of examples of farm animal variability also threatened.

In work relating to collection and classification, the national endeavour should be comprehensive involving all members of society helped by competent professionals.

Then comes conservation. This is where the International Genebank was proposed. I was happy to hear the proposal now is for a global grid or network. It is not one gene bank somewhere, which is not viable, but we do really have a large number of collections. They are existing already, some of them are being coordinated by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, but there are a number of others all over the world, including our host country here, Italy, which has a big collection at Bari. Every country has one. A Scandinavian gene bank exists; Germany and United Kingdom; Japan has a beautiful one at Tsukuba, the most automated gene bank I have seen. Fort Collins, Colorado (USA) is probably the biggest repository of genetic material. So there are collections in a number of countries. What you are thinking of in an International Genebank is some system whereby we can have a multiplicity of repositories, in other words security in these collections. Even if something happens in one place, such as earthquake, etc., we should have them preserved if a duplicate set exists. So the strategy for collection and preservation is important.

The third aspect is the data bank and this is where scope exists for immediate action, for a large, international, centrally coordinated effort. A computerized system with satellite terminals, and one centre giving you all the information. I am sure this is engaging the attention of countries and that we can develop an international data bank.

The fourth is exchange and utilization and this is where there is concern that collections should be available for free exchange. I am sure the Director-General will be able to work out the methodology by which we can ensure that this is available to everyone who wants to use it through an international convention for germplasm exchange.

The fifth aspect is quarantine and safe exchange, because this is equally important as part of the global strategy of the conservation of genetic resources. The quarantine aspects for the safe exchange of material is equally important. It is particularly important in animals. I find indiscriminate introduction of animals from one place to another creates new problems which I know, from my own experience, occur inadvertently and not from anyone wanting to do any harm to others.

The last aspect to which I attach a great deal of importance is education and training. In other words the process which has been started by FAO in this hall, must become universal now because conservation is everybody's business. It was nobody's business before but ultimately conservation will take place not by just putting some seeds into cold storage, although this is also important. In many cases we will have to preserve the habitats where a lot of genetic variability occurs through bio-sphere reserves. This can be done only with people's cooperation and training of a large professional cadre. Therefore I am hoping that when we have the paper in November we have a comprehensive document which will give a blueprint for action over a period of time. It is not to be done today or tomorrow but over a period of time. It gives a broad perspective and I would very much like to see, although we may start with plant genetic resources, that we do emphasize the importance of other biological organisms which are equally important from the point of view of conservation. You can see enormous differences between different azole species, the ability to fix nitrogen varies by an order of one to ten. In many medicinal plants you will find enormous variation. If you take diosgenin content in *Dioscorea* you will find enormous variation. Therefore I think this concept of conservation must be a broad one, although at a particular time we might concentrate on wheat or cassava or whatever is of particular interest to a country, pulses or whatever. Thus, the global charter for Germplasm conservation we develop should deal with collection, classification, conservation, exchange and utilization, quarantine aspects and education and training.

This is the only point I wanted to deal with at length but the next point I would refer to is agricultural research. I want to welcome the FAO initiative in starting this research and technology development Division.

To my colleagues in developing countries I can only say one thing, agriculture being a highly location specific vocation unless you have a good local research system, whatever may be the data or material that may come from outside, it can sustain you for a few years, not more. One will run into a large number of problems with soil, plant and animal health. Without a dynamic national agricultural research system a dynamic agricultural production system cannot be sustained. It will be short-lived. It will all be called crash programmes and it will not succeed. This is why for a good extension machinery you need good research. This means the political leaders must invest money on good research. It must be considered as an integral part. I have seen sometimes hundreds of millions of dollars spent on an irrigation project but not half a million dollars on irrigation research and on-farm management of water. You do not get the full benefit of the water, later you lead to salinization and so on, and this leads me to my concluding point, I think a very important ingredient to success in national research systems in developing countries is personnel policies suited for science. These are not talked about in these fora but those who have managed systems know, because at most times the personnel policies are such that we do not allow anybody to specialize in anything. In other words, one day he may be a wheat agronomist, the other day he may be a casava agronomist for a little betterment of salary. I think the personnel policy in a scientific organization must be such that they can attract and retain the best quality people because science is a creative activity, not all can do science and therefore those creative individuals who may not be many in a country, particularly in our developing countries, they must be considered to be important assets and the personnel policies must be tailored to help and retain them.

There are other items I will put in writing because we are already delayed now.

7. Report of the Eighth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers

(Rome, 31 January - 3 February 1983) 7. Rapport de la huitième session de la Commission des engrais

(Rome, 31 janvier - 3 février 1983) 7. Informe del octavo período de sesiones de la Comisión de Fertilizantes

(Roma, 31 de enero - 3 de febrero de 1983)

D. F. R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): In introducing the Report of the Eighth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers contained in document CL/83/22, I wish at the same time to bring the Council up-to-date on the current world fertilizer situation.

The situation is similar to that when the Commission met from 31 January to 3 February this year. Fertilizer export prices were low as they had been throughout the 1981/82 fertilizer year - that is to say, from July 1981 to June 1982. They have continued to be low during the current 1982/83 fertilizer year which ends this month and are expected to remain at this level during at least the first part of the 1983/84 fertilizer year which begins in July.

The current low prices reflect the low offtake of fertilizers during the Spring planting season in the Northern Hemisphere. Thus, any change would only take place during the Autumn planting season.

Such a change could be influenced by supply management being practised by Northern American producers who have closed plants and by West European producers who have reduced capacity utilization rates.

These supply management practices resulted in a rather large decline in the production of each of the three major nutrients (N, P₂O₅, K₂O) in the developed market economies in 1981/82.

With the decline in the developed market economies exceeding the growth recorded by the developing and centrally planned economies, world production of the three nutrients combined fell in 1981/82. This was, as mentioned already by the Director-General, the first time this had happened since World War II.

There also was a small decline in world fertilizer consumption, primarily due to the substantial falls in consumption of each nutrient in the developed market economies. In the developing market economies although there was continued growth in nitrogen consumption, that of phosphate and potash fell. This was mainly due to their decline in Latin America because of low prices for the major export crops and changes in fertilizer import and credit policies in some countries.

Although fertilizer export prices are currently low and were low during the 1981/82 fertilizer year, they were high in terms of local currencies in many developing countries due to the strength of the dollar, which is still very strong.

Hence the Commission expressed concern about the stagnation of fertilizer consumption in spite of the decline in fertilizer prices due to the economic difficulties and particularly the shortage of foreign exchange being experienced mainly by fertilizer importing developing countries.

The Commission therefore suggested that the Secretariat explore whether appropriate agencies, including the IMF, could offer possibilities to assist countries on the balance of payments problems. The Director-General has written to Mr. de la Rosier, the managing director of the IMF, in this regard in April, but so far has had no reply. In prevailing conditions of financial difficulties for the importation of fertilizer, fertilizer aid to developing countries, particularly by the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, the IFS, are of special significance for developing countries.

The Council will note that in spite of an increase in 1980/81 fertilizer aid to developing countries has been decreasing. Furthermore, such aid has never reached the recommended annual target of one million tons of nutrients.

The Commission expressed its appreciation of the contributions made to the IFS by the Arab Fund and the Governments of Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands. Since the Eighth Session of the Commission the Governments of Ireland and Italy have made further contributions to the IFS.

The Commission expressed great appreciation for the IFS but also expressed deep concern about the overall and steady decline in its resources. It recommended that the IFS be continued and strengthened. It requested Member Governments to replenish IFS resources. The Commission also requested this Council to consider measures which it finds appropriate to seek increased support for the IFS.

The Commission also expressed concern with regard to investment in new capacity due to low fertilizer export prices. Unless prices rise to the level of realization prices required to encourage new investment it is possible that enough additional capacity will not be forthcoming to meet the expected demand towards the end of the present decade. No doubt as supply becomes short relative to demand prices will rise and new plants will be built, but only after having experienced a period of high prices.

The Commission suggested that the developing countries should enter into joint ventures with other countries to take advantage of the availability of raw materials and markets for the fertilizer produced. A study is currently being undertaken on the possibility of such joint ventures. It will be made available to Members of the Commission when completed.

The Commission recommended that the options system be extended for a further five-year period. They have written to the fertilizer producers who participated during the first five years to ascertain their willingness to do so. Replies received so far have been positive. Furthermore, the Commission fully supported FAO's fertilizer activities.

In evaluating the work of the Commission Members expressed satisfaction and stressed the importance for member countries to receive on an annual basis regular information on trends in fertilizer consumption and production. Under these provisions the Commission agreed to meet in future once during a biennium rather than twice as has been the case up to now. However, the Commission provided for a special session between its regular sessions if required.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Bommer, for bringing out so clearly in a short period of time the important points. S. A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): I thank Dr. Bommer for his excellent presentation of the report of the Eighth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers.

The Commission have studied in depth some aspects of world fertilizer policy, with special reference to demand, supply, prices and trade as also Investment and production costs of fertilizers. However, while the in-depth study covers one facet of a rather complex situation quite exhaustively, another equally important facet appears to have not received the attention it deserves.

Concern at the possibility of stagnation in the establishment of additional capacities in fertilizer production leading to higher prices in future are quite well founded, but the reasons for the stagnation and decline in fertilizer consumption, particularly in developing economies obviously credit closer and more detailed examination.

It is the farmer who uses the fertilizers for production, and the farmer's level of economics under given market conditions which essentially determines the rate of use of fertilizer.

It is needless to say that a farmer in a developing economy works under a different market situation than a farmer in a developed economy. In most developing countries, with a high percentage of subsistence level farmers, the bulk of whom are consumer producers with marginal or no marketable surplus, working under unfavourable market conditions, incentive for consumption of fertilizer for higher farm production is often lacking. May I, in this context, draw attention to your own most valuable observation on the key role of the farmer in agricultural production and development and the rightful attention his interests deserve. Motivation at his level, which is the most essential prerequisite, cannot come unless his interests are protected through necessary governmental intervention and support.

Frequently mention is made of governmental fertilizer policy and strategy, as has been done also in this document CL 83/22, giving an impression of treatment of the subject in isolation, while fertilizer is just one of the major inputs in agricultural production and must thus be an integral part of the overall governmental strategy and policy in respect of food and other agricultural produce.

A government in a developing economy, faced with the paradoxical situation of simultaneously operating two conflicting market approaches, such as complete withdrawal from intervention in the marketing and distribution of fertilizers and other major inputs and obligatory intervention in the marketing of food to keep the same within the reach of and available to a bulk of the population close to or below absolute poverty level, grossly handicapped by extreme resource constraints, could very well be trying to reach the impossible, unless the overall strategy is designed to compromise for helping the farmer only to reach an optimal economic level of production under given conditions, even though the same may fall short of otherwise attainable higher target levels.

Against this back drop it becomes imperative for developing economies to aim at increasing the efficiency of chemical fertilizer use as suggested by F.I.A.C. through developing a system of soil and crop specific fertilizer prescriptions at the farmers' level, based on detailed expert study of soil crop relationship, residual effects and responses of various partnership crops in a cropping system so as to ensure more economical input use without seriously hampering production growth. The introduction of biological nitrogen fixation and organic recycling on a more intensive scale and improvement of fertilizer use efficiency through improved cultural practices are also essential in this context.

My country's delegation is thankful to the FAO for the sustained level of assistance it has been providing in the above fields and would request the Director-General for continued efforts in the further refinement of technology in the efficient use of mineral fertilizers and fully supports the recommendation that the FAO's activities in this area be further consolidated and strengthened.

My delegation also endorses the observations and recommendations of the Commission in respect of fertilizer aid to developing countries and the adoption of the new "Integrated Plant Nutrition System" approach.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En relación a este tema recogido en el documento CL 83/22 nos gustaría precisar algunos conceptos que resultan inexplicablemente vagos del informe de la 8ª reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes.

Los párrafos 8, 9 y 10 de dicho documento nos dejan la impresión de una Comisión estática que no se conmueve con la información preocupante que recibió sobre el desenvolvimiento de la industria de los fertilizantes y que solamente "tomó nota" de los gravísimos problemas que se expresan en dichos párrafos, como son la disminución de la producción y el consumo de fertilizantes a nivel mundial. El Director General de la FAO en su discurso introductorio a esta sesión del Consejo mencionó, y lo cito: "sin un aumento constante de la producción y el consumo de fertilizantes será imposible en el estado actual de la tecnología mantener el suministro de alimentos que necesita una población en constante crecimiento".

Es por esto, señor Presidente, que en vez de "tomar nota" deberíamos expresar una gran preocupación por este hecho, cuyos orígenes se ubican sólo parcialmente en la crisis económica mundial y las fuertes repercusiones que ha tenido ésta en la industria de los fertilizantes.

Decimos que el origen del problema sólo parcialmente es originado por la crisis porque nos gustaría conocer y evaluar la información relativa a la influencia que ejercen las grandes corporaciones transnacionales que dominan esta industria y que seguramente han tenido una participación importante en este fenómeno.

En ninguna parte del documento CL 83/22 encontramos una mención directa y concreta a estas corporaciones que con sus rigurosos análisis de costos/beneficios aumentan o disminuyen la producción de fertilizantes, especulando con el hambre de muchos seres humanos. Sobre este particular solamente encontramos una muy tímida mención en el párrafo 45 en donde se habla de la colaboración que se ha establecido entre la FAO y la industria de los fertilizantes. Si esta colaboración es efectiva,

señor Presidente, no vemos por qué no puede proporcionársele a los miembros de la FAO una información amplia y detallada sobre las actividades y propósitos de las corporaciones transnacionales que operan en este sector.

Por otro lado debemos enfatizar lo establecido en los párrafos 20 y 21 del documento de referencia, puesto que pensamos que los esquemas que buscan implementar efectivamente la cooperación Sur-Sur son los que debe buscar el mundo en desarrollo; en materia de fertilizantes tenemos la materia prima, los recursos humanos, la voluntad de desarrollar nuestra industria de fertilizantes. Es muy importante que los países en desarrollo tengan acceso a tecnologías y a financiamientos necesarios para impulsar su industria de fertilizantes, por lo cual comprendemos la preocupación que se expresa en los párrafos 19 y 22; es importante, entonces, que se señale en el párrafo 29 que los organismos internacionales de financiamiento ayuden efectivamente al desarrollo de la industria de fertilizantes en los países en vías de desarrollo.

Esperamos con gran interés el informe que nos prometió el Director General de la FAO sobre sus gestiones ante el Fondo Monetario Internacional, y que nos mencionaba hace un momento el Dr. Bommer, no se ha recibido respuesta todavía. Pero sugeriríamos que extendiera sus buenos oficios a otros organismos internacionales de financiamiento para que países con dificultades críticas en la balanza de pago puedan recibir apoyo para adquirir fertilizantes.

Resulta incomprensible que exista déficits de alimentos y además baje el consumo de fertilizantes cuando debería ser a la inversa, y precisamente los fertilizantes deberían desempeñar, a precios económicos como los que hay ahora, un papel preponderante en la producción de más alimentos. Por eso es angustiante lo que se señala en el párrafo 31 de que la Comisión "toma nota" que el volumen de la ayuda de fertilizantes en 1980/81 era, y cito "inferior a la de 2 y 3 años antes", y era todavía bastante inferior al objeto anual de ayuda recomendado por el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y está cifrado en un millón de toneladas.

¿Cómo es posible, señor Presidente, que la Comisión solamente "tome nota" de este problema en vez de transmitirnos su grave preocupación por este hecho?

En relación al párrafo 53 sugeriríamos que se incorporara al estudio que va a desarrollar la FAO el tema de las empresas transnacionales que solicitamos al principio de nuestra intervención. Dicho párrafo dice que "se realizarán una serie de estudios si hubiera fondos para ellos", y esto lo dejamos entre comillas. El tema es tan importante que deberíamos insistir que la FAO establezca una partida presupuestaria para realizar estos estudios y no lo deje solamente en términos condicionales.

Finalmente, nuestra delegación se pronuncia enfáticamente en favor de que la Comisión de Fertilizantes y su grupo consultivo de trabajo prosigan desarrollando su cometido. Señalamos que la diversidad de tareas que realiza tiende a promover la producción, la distribución, la comercialización y sobre todo la utilización de fertilizantes para elevar la producción agrícola y de los alimentos, especialmente en los países en desarrollo.

M. AHMED (Pakistan): We are in general agreement with all the observations and recommendations with the Commission on Fertilizers. We especially appreciate the emphasis placed on the use of an integrated approach to plant nutrition, combining the use of mineral fertilizer, recycled organic materials and those available from biological nitrogen fixation and even appropriate cropping patterns and crop rotations. Although we have been generously receiving support on a bilateral basis in respect of fertilizer requirements, we would also support the request made by the Commission to donor countries to replenish and augment the resources of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme.

Pakistan has been the recipient of aid under the Scheme in the past and has been utilizing the counterpart funds in carrying out research on the improvement of efficiency of fertilizers. Fortunately, there has recently been a sharp fall in fertilizer prices. This is perhaps going to be a shortlived phenomenon. In our view it gives us a breathing spell which should be utilized in devising action programmes and creating an environment for enhancing the efficiency of fertilizer. India, in his intervention on the earlier item, has drawn our attention to the extremely low efficiency of urea application and the very simple matter of correcting the situation. This kind of experience needs to be shared on a more extensive scale. The Fertilizer Commission has no doubt stressed the need for continuing efforts to increase the efficiency of fertilizer use and boost the crop response to fertilizer, but we think the importance of this subject in view of the cost involved to the farmers on the use of this vital input warrants a much greater effort and we would like it to be so reflected in the FAO's programme.

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): We welcome the Report of the Eighth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers, commend and endorse the work done. We shall make comments on a few areas beginning with paragraph 10. We regret the fact that fertilizer consumption declined in many fertilizer-importing developing countries.

In the study Agriculture Towards 2000, fertilizer is recognized as a major input in increased food production in developing countries. Fertilizer will account for over 50 percent of the increase in food production. This would mean a five-fold increase in fertilizer use by developing countries as a whole. After taking into account organic sources of plant nutrients, it would mean a more than fifteen-fold increase in fertilizer use in low-income food-deficit countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa.

I should like to observe here that in 1979/80, developed market economies consumed 127 kilogrammes of nutrients per hectare of arable land. Developing market economies in the same period consumed 31 kilos of nutrients per hectare of arable land, Africa consuming a mere 8 kilos. These figures, though old, give the general picture of consumption disparities.

In discussing food security issues, one always arrives at the conclusion that increased national food production is the cornerstone of food security. With the declining and low levels of fertilizer consumption in developing countries, especially in Africa, my delegation then would like to know from this Council the means by which these countries will rapidly achieve reasonable food security and sustain it. Of course, as you all know, these countries will not import enough food to feed themselves. They are often faced with foreign exchange problems, which is a key reason for their inability to import sufficient quantities of fertilizer even at times when prices are said to be low. Actually, I do not know if to developing countries, prices were really low when you relate the local currencies to the strength of the dollar. So it would appear that many countries, especially low-income food-deficit ones, will never in the foreseeable future be able to obtain enough supplies unless maybe substantial grants and other facilities and arrangements which are sympathetic to the problems of these countries are generously provided.

We support new investment in fertilizer plants within fertilizer-importing developing countries, and regional or sub-regional collaboration in this area would be most useful.

Regarding fertilizer procurement, national forward planning is very important. It is important to have indications well in advance as to how much fertilizer a country will require, what type, when and where, in which parts of the country it will be used. Fertilizer imports should be based on these questions and indeed, when the fertilizer arrives at the port or point of delivery, problems like distribution arrangements to areas of use are minimized. I make this point because it is one thing to see fertilizer though, of course, always not enough, and another thing to make it available to the farmer when he needs it.

On issues for review contained in this report, we have two comments, one, on which of the areas we should consider. We urge the international community, especially donors, to strengthen the resources of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. In paragraph 35 of the report the Council was requested to consider measures to increase support to IFS. My delegation proposes that the Council request donors to make long-term pledges to the resources of the Scheme, as this will, *inter alia*, help the Scheme to plan its activities in advance. In this connection, it is sad to see in paragraph 34 of the report that only the Arab Gulf Fund and governments of Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands had made at that time recent contributions to the Scheme. My delegation requests the Council to be grateful for these efforts.

On plant nutrition and other activities of FAO, we urge the Organization to channel more resources on the development of strategies to food production with a minimum of fertilizer use.

A. PEREZ-MARSA HERNANDEZ (España): Deseo agradecer al Dr. Bommer su brillante exposición del documento. La delegación española quiere dejar constancia del excelente trabajo llevado a cabo por la Comisión de Fertilizantes en su octavo período de sesiones, cuyas conclusiones están recogidas en el informe que se nos ha presentado.

Además mi delegación quiere hacer constar, en primer lugar, su preocupación por la situación y perspectivas de la demanda de fertilizantes, afectadas muy negativamente los problemas financieros de los países en desarrollo y la erosión de la renta del sector agrario en los países desarrollados, hechos, que de no variar, pueden provocar efectos muy depresivos a medio plazo en la propia fabricación y oferta de fertilizantes y, como consecuencia, en la producción agraria mundial.

En segundo lugar, su satisfacción por los logros que, en orden a la difusión de las ideas relacionadas con los denominados "Sistemas integrados de nutrición vegetal", ha conseguido la FAO en el Programa de Fertilizantes y por la importancia dada en él al mejor aprovechamiento de los recursos orgánicos propios como vía para incrementar la eficacia de la fertilización mineral y reducir las necesidades de ésta.

En tercer lugar, mi delegación quiere expresar su apoyo para proseguir, en esa línea de actuación, por ser la forma más adecuada para multiplicar los efectos de los recursos disponibles por el PIF, recursos que, dadas las dificultades puestas de manifiesto por la Comisión en su informe, no podrán experimentar un incremento significativo respecto a las del año pasado.

Por ultimo, quiero insistir en la trascendencia de los trabajos de la Comisión y estimularla para que siga mejorando y completando los estudios e informaciones sobre la evaluación y perspectivas de la oferta/demanda y comercio internacional de fertilizantes y sus materias primas; precios de los mismos y expectativas de la inversión industrial por la evidente y gran utilidad que ese tipo de información tiene para países en desarrollo y para toda la comunidad internacional.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, consideramos una obligación, a la vista de lo expuesto por el Señor Director General en su declaración del lunes pasado, agradecerle muy sinceramente la labor realizada al dirigir, por escrito, al Director Gerente del Fondo Monetario Internacional, en relación a la posibilidad de que el FMI, en colaboración con la FAO, presten su apoyo a ciertos países para que puedan adquirir fertilizantes. Esperamos que los resultados sean positivos.

ABDUL WAHID bin ABDUL JALIL (Malaysia): The Malaysia delegation would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Bommer for his introduction on the work of the Commission which had reviewed the current situation and future outlook of this very important input for increasing food and agricultural production. My delegation endorses the conclusions of the Commission.

However, there are four distinct components in the Report which our delegation would like to recommend in the way of emphasising the points that have been expressed before.

1) The information on fertiliser situation and outlook. In paragraph 6 the Report refers to the documents containing an analysis of world production and consumption of fertilisers, nutrients, of trade in fertilisers, of spot prices of the main fertiliser material in international trade and of short and long term outlook of the supply and demand. It has been requested, as contained in paragraph 7, that this monitoring should be continued and the information provided to member countries on a regular basis. This has been further underlined in paragraphs 41 and 51. The information mentioned above would be of immense value for planning purposes, and an arrangement to provide an authoritative set of data on the basis of regular analysis should be strongly supported.

2) Fertiliser production capacity. World fertiliser consumption fell in 1981-82 in most parts of the world - this is referred to in paragraph 9 - in spite of lower fertiliser prices. The combination of lower prices and market for fertilisers was likely to become a disincentive to investment in new fertiliser plants. Such a decline in production capacity would result in an increase in fertiliser prices in the future and could lead in turn to further decrease in fertiliser consumption.

This matter was obviously of great concern and several paragraphs, namely paragraphs 13, 19, 20, 21, 28 and 49 were devoted to discussing the various arrangements for ensuring that such a stagnation in the establishment of additional fertilizer production capacity did not in fact occur.

The above is obviously a matter of great concern to all member countries. It is of even greater concern to developing countries where a rise in price of fertiliser will place this very valuable agricultural input out of the reach of most of the farming community. It is of special concern to countries like Malaysia where a rise in fertiliser cost would greatly increase the cost of production of many agricultural commodities and reduce the competitive edge on the world market. It would be prudent therefore to study carefully all possible efforts to avoid the vicious circle about which the Commission has already expressed its concern. In this connection the cooperative efforts by the member countries of the ASEAN to set up fertiliser plants for the benefits of the member countries is in line with the present need and situation.

3) Efficiency of fertiliser usage. It appears that many developing countries would remain importers of fertilisers, and the Report argues in paragraph 12 that it might be advantageous for countries to import fertilisers rather than food. This would be true only if the return to applied fertiliser is assured. This would call for an upgrading of all related areas of agricultural technology as well

as an increase in the efficiency of fertiliser usage. The later component is recognised in the report as contained in paragraphs 14, 40 and 43. Sufficient importance is attached to this question that the Report makes specific reference that it should be taken into account in the formulation of future programmes of work and budget of the Organization. While this obviously merits support it should be emphasised that improved fertiliser technology alone will not ensure adequate return to a plant fertiliser, and there has to be concomitant improvement in related areas of agricultural varietal improvement practices, cultural and crop protection.

Finally, the alternative sources of nutrients. The Report also referred to increased efforts to tap sources of nutrients other than chemical fertilisers, increased reliance on biological natural fixations, and the recycling of organic materials was specifically mentioned. These efforts demand a high level of support as improvements of technology are necessary in order to overcome constraints of an economic and logistical nature in many instances.

G. ABU BAKIR (Afghanistan): I would like to say briefly that my delegation supports the Report of the 8th Session of the Commission on Fertilisers.

In Afghanistan we have a factory for manufacturing Urea fertiliser with a production capacity of 105 thousand tons a year. The phosphate and triple super-phosphate are imported each year. About 84 443 tons of Urea and 29 810 tons of DAP, a total of 114 253 tons of fertilisers were distributed by the Afghanistan Fertilisers and Agricultural Services Company last year. The estimated figures for this year are more than 110 thousand tons of total fertilisers.

With regard to Item No. 12 of the Review of Current Fertilisers Situation and Outlook, I would appreciate FAO's contribution in phosphate fertilisers as it has been done in the past. Being a developing country, these items hinder the supply of phosphate fertilisers very much; a) no raw phosphate material is available locally, b) there is no phosphate producing factory in the country, and c) lack of foreign currency.

Mr. Chairman, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan wishes that the present Council of FAO should come out with such a solution for people of its member states to overcome their difficulties, and also we are sure that its decision fosters the spur of cooperation among member states.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Mi delegación solamente quisiera expresar su apoyo al Informe presentado por la Comisión de Fertilizantes y que se presenta en el documento CL 83/22. Nos referimos a problemas muy concretos que fueron analizados por esa Comisión.

En primer término, consideramos que efectivamente la escasez de divisas es un grave problema para los países importadores de fertilizantes. Apoyamos, por consiguiente, la sugerencia que se hace en el párrafo 11 del documento, de que la Secretaría indagase si los organismos apropiados podían ofrecer posibilidades para ayudar a los países a afrontar sus problemas de balanza de pagos, y nos complace que la FAO se haya ocupado debidamente de este asunto, aunque sin resultados, según lo ha expresado el Sr. Bommer en su presentación.

En lo que se refiere propiamente a las actividades de la FAO en materia de fertilizantes, apoyamos específicamente la labor del Programa de Fertilizantes de la FAO destinada a ayudar a los Estados Miembros en sus esfuerzos por aumentar la producción agrícola. Asimismo, ha sido muy importante su acción como medida complementaria de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, ya que en parte ha concentrado su atención en la participación del pequeño agricultor y su acceso a los fertilizantes como un factor importante de la producción.

Apoyamos, asimismo, el párrafo 38 del documento referente a que la ayuda en fertilizantes suministrada a través del Plan Internacional de Fertilizantes y de otras formas se integren mejor con la asistencia técnica proporcionada dentro del Programa de Fertilizantes de la FAO.

Por último, quisiéramos elogiar la labor que está realizando la ONUDI en materia de fertilizantes, especialmente en su interés en el desarrollo de las miniindustrias de fertilizantes en los países en desarrollo, siempre que esto no se contradiga con la soberanía de esos países.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): First my delegation would like to record its appreciation of the very clear introduction of the Commission Report which was given by Dr. Bommer in which he also outlined the main recommendations and conclusions. We have read the Report with considerable interest and would like to make one or two brief observations.

It seems to us that fertilizers are one of the most important inputs into agriculture but usually, because of its comparative cost and the fact that at least in the short run, the effects of a reduction in the level of fertilizer application can take some time to become apparent, farmers are often inclined to reduce their application of this most important commodity as soon as the product prices fall, or when market prospects become uncertain even before they start to deteriorate.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, it seems to the New Zealand delegation that the decline of fertilizer consumption mentioned in paragraph 10 of the Commissions Report is one important manifestation of the state of the world economy and the depressed state of agriculture, particularly in developing countries, but also in some developed countries.

I think it is also important to note that the effects of a reduction or stagnation of fertilizer application can be seen in both short-run agricultural production and of course in long-term agricultural development. There appears to us, Sir, to be no simple answer to the capacity problems

mentioned in paragraph 13 of the Commission's Report. The joint venture approach recommended by the Commission will hopefully be of some help, the confidence in the future in the form of improvement of market prices and the strengthening of the demand for agricultural commodities is probably an important prerequisite for any long-term improvements to the capacity problems identified by the Commission.

We also looked at the question addressed by the Commission to the FAO Council in paragraph 35 of the Commission's Report, a comment that was also mentioned by Dr. Bommer and a number of other delegations. I wonder whether there have been any studies on the efficacy of the IFS Scheme or perhaps particular case examinations which might demonstrate the way in which the Scheme is contributing to agricultural development in recipient countries. This may help the expressed concern of the Commission, but of course reductions in contribution to the IFS Scheme are indeed matters of concern.

The programme of work of the Commission does include, we note with some satisfaction, given the vital importance of adequate levels of fertilizer application, the comment that Member Governments had expressed during the Commission's meeting, their satisfaction with its work, and indeed this comment has been re-echoed by delegations this afternoon. We agree, as recommended by the Commission at paragraph 51, that member countries should be provided with fertilizer demand, supply and price information on an annual basis.

New Zealand also supports the proposed study in paragraph 52 on the effect of price changes on fertilizer consumption and food production, and so on; in particular the part of the study as it concerns the efficiency of fertilizer use will, we hope, be of particular benefit to developing countries, since in times of falling market prices for commodities, it is of course important that existing inputs be made to go further.

Sra. SUAREZ MELO (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia agradece la presentación del Documento hecha por el Dr. Bommer, de manera tan clara e informativa.

Al referirnos al tema 7, nuestra Delegación piensa que será necesario consignar en nuestro informe que se aumenta el estancamiento del consumo de fertilizantes especialmente en los países en desarrollo. Esto se debe a la difícil situación económica por la cual atraviesan estos países, como lo dice el párrafo 10 y, naturalmente, afecta el aumento de la producción.

En el párrafo 12 se hace una afirmación curiosa acerca de que, cito el texto: "podría ser más conveniente para los países en desarrollo importar fertilizantes en vez de alimentos". Naturalmente esa actitud dependerá de muchos factores, porque hay países que tienen necesidades inmediatas de alimentos y no pueden dar prioridad a la importación de fertilizantes. De todos modos sería conveniente seguir explorando las posibilidades de financiación para aquellos países que necesitan importar fertilizantes, y así tratar de aumentar la producción.

Naturalmente, recomendaremos también que el Banco Mundial y la ONUDI ofrezcan financiación y asistencia a aquellos países o grupos de países en desarrollo que están en condiciones de construir pequeñas, medianas o grandes fábricas de fertilizantes. Para los países que consideren la posibilidad de construir fábricas de fertilizantes deberán aplicarse los criterios que aparecen en el párrafo 20 y no sólo los criterios económicos.

La delegación de Colombia destaca la valiosa colaboración del Plan Internacional de Fertilizantes que sigue ayudando a los países en desarrollo, lo cual es más conveniente aun cuando se combina con la asistencia técnica requerida.

Señalaremos el reconocimiento al Fondo del Golfo Árabe y a los países que han contribuido al PIF, párrafo 34, pero lamentaremos la disminución general y constante de recursos que impiden al Plan cumplir más eficazmente sus importantes funciones.

G.J. DIETZ (United States of America): I also would like to thank Dr. Bommer for his remarks and his excellent analysis of the situation. We will make a short statement because of time constraints.

We have read with great interest the report of the Eighth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers, The fertilizer needs of the developing nations have been a major concern of the Commission on Fertilizers since its inception in mid-1970 when serious world-wide shortages occurred. We wish to commend FAO's continuing interest in fertilizers as one of the principal requirements of developing nations in meeting food needs and improving their agriculture as well as their total economies. We believe one of the major FAO goals should be research and development efforts to improve fertilizer production and utilization efficiency in both developing and developed nations. We should note, however, that fertilizer is only one component of the total development programme and should be considered only as appropriate to the general development goals of the nation.

The United States prefers to provide fertilizer aid exclusively through bilateral assistance programmes and does not believe that assessed Regular Programme funds should be used to increase the IFS. We agree, however, that the IFS provides a useful aid channel for some donor nations. Nevertheless, facts show that the overwhelming share of aid - I believe some 98 percent in recent years - has been provided through bilateral programmes. The United States strongly opposes IMF funding activities for importing or purchasing fertilizers; as the central monitoring institution for the world economy, the IMF serves member countries in the financing and adjustment of balance-of-payments problems. Any proposal to consider the IMF facility to finance fertilizer imports would be inconsistent with the Fund's traditional focus on overall balance-of-payments position. The IMF's new policy of enlarged access which permits members to draw up to 450 percent of their quota if they are willing to undertake sufficient adjustment measures, should provide more than sufficient financing to cover balance-of-payments problems arising from increased cost of imported fertilizers.

The United States agrees with most other agenda items and supports the Fertilizer Commission's observations and recommendations. The regular meetings provide a useful means of information exchange. With specific reference to paragraphs 6 through 10 we commend the FAO/UNIDO World Bank Five-Year forecasting activity as an extremely valuable planning document.

With reference to paragraphs 12 through 15 regarding concern over declines in world fertilizer consumption, we in the United States share this concern. However, improved fertilizer efficiency and current facility expansion plans hopefully should be adequate to meet expected short-term demands. We look forward to participating in the forthcoming Consultative Working Party on Fertilizers.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de Haute-Volta félicite M. Bommer pour la synthèse concise faite du document.

Nous tenons à féliciter les participants à la 8ème session de la Commission des engrais.

La délégation de Haute-Volta soutient le chapitre 13 qui préconise la création de coentreprises pour tirer un meilleur parti des matières premières.

La consommation d'engrais en Haute-Volta est en moyenne de dix kilos par hectare et de 4 kilos par personne, ce qui est bien insignifiant. Comme nous le disions précédemment, en dépit de la baisse des prix des engrais sur le marché international, cela n'a pas encore eu de répercussion au niveau des producteurs de notre pays, bien au contraire, puisqu'avec l'allègement d'une subvention aux engrais faite par le Gouvernement on assiste actuellement à une hausse importante des prix, ce qui n'est pas de nature à encourager la consommation.

La contribution des engrais étant prépondérante dans l'augmentation des productions, toutes les mesures doivent être prises pour la vulgarisation et l'utilisation des engrais. Ce qui nécessite que des efforts soient faits pour fournir des engrais accessibles aux agriculteurs les plus démunis.

La Haute-Volta dispose de gisement de phosphates relativement importants. L'extraction, le broyage et l'utilisation de ces phosphates sur une petite échelle ont donné des résultats très encourageants, pour la bonne raison que nos sols sont très carencés en phosphore. Pour une mise en valeur de ces phosphates, nous soutenons fermement les chapitres 20 et 21 du rapport qui nous est soumis, qui recommandent la création de nouvelles usines dans les pays en voie de développement, en jouant sur une coopération horizontale, et qui invitent la FAO à aider les pays dans ce sens.

Tout en reconnaissant que le problème de la fumure organique doit être résolu par les agriculteurs eux-mêmes, il n'en demeure pas moins vrai qu'il s'agit là d'un aspect de la fumure difficile à résoudre à cause des difficultés de l'intégration agriculture-élevage.

La délégation de Haute-Volta pense qu'une assistance de la FAO serait utile pour aider à envisager les meilleures solutions pouvant résoudre le problème de la fumure organique dont l'utilisation devient nécessaire dans certains sols dont le taux d'humus est nettement en-dessous de la teneur normale.

Y.A. HAMDI (Egypte)(original language Arabic): The delegation of my country wishes to thank Dr. Bommer for his introduction to this report. The Egyptian delegation attended the work of this session and we were among those who adopted this report. Nevertheless, we should like to draw attention to two key issues: the amount of fertilizer available and used in the IFS (International Fertilizer Supply Scheme). This scheme has dropped and this gives us cause for concern because this programme is aimed at assisting developing countries, especially the low-income food-deficit countries. These countries in turn also require foreign earnings to pay for the imported fertilizers. This indeed is one of the main factors if they are to increase their production.

My delegation therefore wishes once again to reassert this need to pursue the application of this programme and invites donor countries to renew their contributions.

The second point I wish to make regards the activities of the Organization, and its help with fertilizers would be as follows. My country's delegation wishes to express its appreciation of the efforts engaged in by the Organization as regards the use of fertilizers and plant nutrition to help member countries achieve greater production especially food crops. Now that we wish to highlight the importance of mineral fertilizers, we should likewise insist on the need to develop the utilization of new and renewable resources of plant nutrition within the framework of the recycling of organic products and the biological nitrogen fixation. We feel that the importance of this element is due to the fact that it could complete or even replace costly mineral fertilizers which are not available to a great number of developing countries. We would also in this context point out that the Arab Republic of Egypt is participating in the work of the African Regional Centre for Fertilizer Production, a centre which is being set up in Zimbabwe.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Nous voulons associer notre voix à celles des délégués précédents pour appuyer le rapport de la 8ème session de la Commission des engrais. Nous appuyons notamment le paragraphe 40 qui fait une proposition concrète de la Commission puisqu'elle recommande que la FAO continue à s'efforcer d'assurer l'utilisation plus efficace des engrais minéraux. En effet, le programme de démonstration et de vulgarisation au niveau des paysans, ainsi que la formation sur place dans le contexte de chaque pays doit également mériter une attention particulière de l'Organisation. Nous pensons aussi que l'utilisation judicieuse des engrais chimiques et organiques à l'avenir dans les pays africains mérite une étude très détaillée.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): My delegation feels that fertilizer is a most important component of increasing agricultural production. It has been established that in a country like India the increase in food grains with per unit increase in fertilizer in terms of nutrient goes up anything from five times to ten times so therefore we are very much concerned about the increased use of fertilizer for agriculture production yet today we are faced again with a very paradoxical situation in the world scenario that whereas the international price of fertilizers has been crashing the consumptions level of fertilizer in various countries, including developing countries, is going down. Now it has been indicated in this excellent document that one of the reasons for this falling consumption of fertilizer is the lack of capacity in terms of foreign exchange of the developing countries to purchase fertilizer. Could I add one reason for that. I feel that apart from shortage of fertilizer, what is lacking is our approach to farmers and demonstrable proof to the farmers that with every increase in fertilizers used the increase in food production would be much much more than what they would invest in fertilizers. So though we may bemoan the lack of foreign exchange for purchase of fertilizers we must not overlook the fact that we have to do our homework in making fertilizer popular and favourable to the farmers.

In this report of the Commission on Fertilizers my delegation wholly supports the conclusions and analyses drawn in the paper. We are particularly interested in the recommendations of the Commission regarding the monitoring of demand and supply of fertilizer in the world scenario, the price situation, fertilizers supplementing chemical fertilizer with organic, importing fertilizers rather than food and we are as much concerned regarding stagnation in fertilizer consumption as indicated in the report. The recommendation that the feasibility of having small fertilizer plants is very interesting to us and my delegation would request that the FAO or the Commission on Fertilizers could give some more force to it and make more facts and figures and feasibility studies to us so that these can be tried.

The recommendation that there should be a study of the relationship between price of fertilizer and consumption is very relevant to the situation in the developing countries.

A few suggestions and I will close. I would suggest that a conscious effort should be made by all industrial countries and even in the developing countries which produce fertilizer to reduce the price of fertilizer and in this respect if the FAO could bring out certain norms of production of fertilizers and the cost norms of the production of fertilizers it would go a long way in having some sort of discipline so far as fertilizer costing is concerned because in India for one thing we are very much concerned about the shooting price of fertilizer production costs and we do feel that some sort of discipline and norm is very necessary and in this respect the international intervention by the FAO would bring some order in a rather near-chaotic condition that prevails in the cost analysis of fertilizer production.

We are also very much concerned with maintaining the quality of fertilizers because if the quality of fertilizers is not up to the mark it is the farmers who suffer and the credibility in the use of fertilizer is shattered. We have to see that more and more fertilizer plants are set up and in areas where raw material is easily available so that the cost of production comes down.

Efficient use of fertilizer is one of the most important recommendations made in the report and here we have to give some sort of consultative service to the farmers, extension service to the farmers and in this respect I do feel that in the matter of fertilizer use soil test is very necessary and I feel that every fertilizer manufacturer should have some sort of mobile laboratory for testing the soil so that the dosage of fertilizer to be used by the farmer is very accurately indicated to him.

The conjunctive use of organic and non-organic fertilizers is very important and, for instance, the use of *Rhizobium* culture for pulses and leguminous crops will to a great extent reduce the need for using chemical fertilizers. The use of blue green algae and azola in high-rainfall areas will also help the farmers in increasing the productivity of their land and avoiding high use of chemical fertilizers. As in India we would suggest that the manufacturing industry should try to adopt certain regions and certain countries where they would take up an intensive extension programme of demonstrating to the farmers and training the farmers, free of cost, on the benefits accruing from the use of fertilizer. In India about a few years ago our fertilizer consumption went up at the rate of 17-20 percent annually. In spite of a 60 percent rise in fertilizer price we are still maintaining last year a 6 percent annual rate of growth of fertilizer consumption and this has been made possible because of the interest that the industry is taking by adopting villages and I feel what we are doing on a national plane could be done also on the international plane.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): There is not very much I have to reply to but I would like to start by making reference to the last speaker, the delegate from India who very ably described a possible policy to increase further the production of fertilizers. I think the key issue is to demonstrate to farmers and to provide the incentives to farmers that fertilizer use becomes an economic proposition. I think India itself gives an excellent example, as a number of other countries, and I think the studies the Director-General has commissioned on the price policy certainly will include this aspect as all the inputs price aspects are a very important component in the general agricultural price policy.

The delegate from Mexico asked more specific questions. First he was disappointed in the wording of the text of this report. May be. he had not read some of the paragraphs because there the concern of the Commission on Fertilizers was very well expressed, it is underlined, but it was expressed, the concern, not only noted, about this question, and his question, what is the role of the multinational company, we do not have very exact figures but it is roughly that the whole fertilizer market is divided 50 percent and 50 percent between the government and the private sector and within this private sector then you will have a large area which you can quote to the multinational companies and there is certainly some definition, I think this is roughly the thumb rule, as you can read in the documents provided to the Commission.

The question of some kind of guide on fair protection cost related to investment, this has been the subject of two sessions of the Committee and if I can refer the delegate from India to the very thorough papers of the World Bank presented to this discussion which have tried to come up with the formulas related to the cost of raw materials, certainly the time of the investment, and because it is one of the most worrying points, that investment has become so very expensive in recent times compared to the. costs and production costs certainly have to be balanced between these investment costs, raw materials and actual market situations.

The delegate from New Zealand asked on the report on the efficacy of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. We provide regular reports to each of the Commission meetings. There are a number of reports in the scheme, actually on the use of the fertilizer by the government concerned and the revolving funds established out of the fertilizer contribution and the particular note of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme is that it has combined with FAO efforts in the fertilizer programme to demonstrate the efficient fertilizer use, to establish these revolving funds and to see further effects from the fertilizer contributions into agricultural development and this might be the difference between the lot of the bilateral fertilizer aid and the multilateral channels through the IFS.

I think these were most of the questions asked and I will stop here because your time is very limited.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Dr. Bommer. We now pass on to the next item of our agenda for today.

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION - RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS - INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS
- 12. Summary Programme of Work and Budget, 1984-85
- 12. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1984-85
- 12. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto 1984-83

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In my opening address to the Council I offered some comments on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85. It is almost a tradition when a governing body examines a proposed programme of work and budget for it to concentrate on the budget level and the proposed increase. The real programme increase I propose - of \$2.2 million for the biennium - is so modest that it is hardly an issue for the most ardent advocates of restraint. I have deliberately chosen a very circumspect path in formulating my proposals for the next biennium.

Let me review the main features of this proposal. The world economic situation continues to be of serious concern. There is no fundamental progress in the North-South dialogue under the framework of "Global Negotiations" or under any other name.

The effects of the global economic situation are particularly harsh on the developing countries, which face a compounded burden of debt servicing of historically unique dimensions, deteriorating trade balances and the consequences of severe adjustment policies, the impact of which is the most harsh on the least developed countries. At the same time the richer developed countries continue with the most stringent measures required to combat problems of inflation, productivity, unemployment and budgetary deficits. It is a comprehensive examination of all these problems and the utmost sober assessment of the needs and constraints which have led me to submit the proposal before you.

While the proposal deal with the Regular Programme, as always it is impossible to consider this without also reviewing the developments and likely trends under our Field Programme

The issues of gravest concern on this score are the decline of official development assistance in general and the resources to multilateral institutions in particular, especially as they have affected the replenishment of IDA and IFAD and Pledges to UNDP.

Despite some modest improvements in our delivery under the Trust Funds, the same resource constraints affects our special action programmes - a situation which I view with the utmost concern.

The strategies and priorities have been framed after taking full account of the previous guidance of the Conference, the Council, the Programme and Finance Committees, the Regional Conferences and the entire range of technical committees which deal with work of our Organization. The strategies and priorities regarding the major programme, Agriculture, have recently been fully endorsed by the Committee on Agriculture at its last session.

I am also pleased at the reaction of the recent sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees to the proposed strategies and programme priorities. Both Committees have expressed themselves in full agreement and recommended to you to approve the level and the balance of the resources to be allocated,

Here too I wish to emphasize the restraint I have had to exercise. The Technical Cooperation Programme has in the view of the Conference itself been fully recognised for its importance and its effectiveness. The Regional Conferences for Africa, the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean all requested me to increase the resources of the Technical Cooperation Programme. My proposal provides for only a modest increase in the Technical Cooperation Programme share of the total budget, rising from 12.9 percent to 13.5 percent. The Programme and Finance Committees both supported the programme and the proposed increase.

Similarly I am proposing keeping the FAO representative scheme to its present level, despite the importance attached to FAO representatives by the countries which benefit from their collaboration and services.

I do not need to single out all programme priorities which have received the unanimous endorsement of COAG and the Programme and Finance Committees. The proposals also involve significant sacrifices willingly offered in order to enhance further the effectiveness of the Organization's programmes and to concentrate further the use of resources of technical and economic programmes.

With a proposed net elimination of 40 post the percentage of expenditure on established post in the total budget comes down further to 58 percent. Only a decade ago it was over 77 percent.

The entire emphasis of the proposed budget has been on eliminating activities of relatively low priority, reducing administrative and support costs and channelling the resources thus freed together with the minimum net additional resources to the technical and economic programmes of the Organization. These are proposed to be increased by \$7.3 million, or 3.5 percent over their current level. This is offset by a reduction of \$4.2 million in the resources devoted to administrative support and common services, or 6.4 percent of their current level. The resources for general policy and direction are also curtailed by 1.2 percent and those for development support programmes by 0.9 percent. Thus while the net programme increase is kept to a minimum, instead of a freeze in programmes you have a significant shift in resources in favour of the most urgent priorities with the most appropriate means, aimed at the highest impact.

My records show that I am not in a favour of structural changes and reorganization of staff for its own sake, or as a symbolic evidence of change. This time, however, I propose two structural changes -the establishment of a Research and Technology Development Division, regrouping four existings units, and the strengthening of the Office of Internal Audit and Inspection.

The reactions of the Programme and Finance Committees are before you in their reports, and the Chairmen of these two Committees are present with us in order to draw your attention to the outcome of their deliberations. I have followed their work with close attention and assured the two Committees that, in the light of the Council's own reactions to their views and recommendations, I will certainly carefully examine what programme changes may need to be further reviewed prior to the finalization to the full Programme of Work and Budget.

I have already referred to the question of cost increases in my opening statement. You will recognize that these are not based on speculative assumptions or inspired guesses. They are built on the effects of higher costs which have already occurred in this biennium, firm indications of increases in the rest of this biennium and restrained and moderate estimates of the cost increases expected in the next biennium.

There is no change in the methodology for calculating and presenting the cost increases, which has been accepted by the Finance Committee, the Council and the Conference. As in the past, estimates of cost increases can be improved and be on a firmer basis, the closer we get to the start of the next biennium. In the interest of a more accurate provision, therefore, I must reserve the right to propose changes in the full Programme of Work and Budget, bearing in mind that there might be unforeseen increases for which no provision is made which would cut into the real programme resources. However, you may rest assured that to the maximum extent possible, I will continue to exercise downward pressure on our costs.

The deliberations of the Council at this Session are a crucial stage in the formulation of my proposals for the full Programme of Work and Budget. This consideration is based on summary proposals. The full Programme of Work and Budget document will contain much more information, in much more detail. The Council itself will consider the full Programme of Work and Budget at its pre-Conference Session in November and of course it will be the Conference which will utter its final pronouncement on my proposals,

Mr. Chairman, I do hope that your own deliberations will provide an endorsement to the summary proposals with the same degree of consensus, if not unanimity, which characterized their passage in the Programme Finance and Committees.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Director-General, for that clear and precise statement on the philosophy of the purpose underlying the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. We are grateful to you.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I am much obliged to you for giving me the opportunity to address the Council on behalf first of the two Committees and then I will try to highlight the main points in the report of the Programme Committee.

First, on behalf of the two Committees I am very pleased to say that the Committees welcome very much the improvement in format and presentation. Of course the Committees fully agree that the summary Programme of Work and Budget now represents an appreciable improvement over past efforts. But of course we are fully aware that further progress perhaps is still possible.

With regard to the so-called background of the overall situation in which the Director-General had framed his proposal, we were of course very much concerned with the present world political and economic situation and in particular of course with the situation in food and agriculture.

I will not go into the matter. I am fully aware that one delegation at least was not very satisfied with the position of the two Committees. I want only to assure you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council, that this did not really reflect the commercial side of the world food situation but a much more profound one, the fact that most likely the number of those who are seriously malnourished or hungry has increased in recent years as a consequence of the global economic situation in the least developed countries.

With regard to strategies and priorities, the Committees were in full agreement with the proposal of the Director-General for the next biennium, 1984-85. The Committees fully agree that the priorities and strategies faithfully reflected the policy guidance of the Conference and the Council, the views of the Council on a number of occasions and the views of the Committees, as well as, as the Director-General has just now explained, a number of standing committees, including also Regional Conferences, the General Assembly, the whole UN System, ECOSOC, and so on and so forth.

With regard to the most tangible issue, the level of the Programme and the level of the Budget, the Committees, as you can see, reached a consensus, one which reflects our agreement with the Director-General's proposal, that it fully respected the priorities, especially the highest priorities of the Organization, the needs of the Member countries as well as the overall situation, the global economic recession, including the difficulties of all countries and in particular the developing ones to meet their external obligations.

Finally, the Committees recommended to the Council to give its support to the proposed level of the Programme and Budget and, as we said, a sound basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

Now coming to the Programme Committee part of the report, I will not address the matter of format and presentation because the Programme Committee was in full agreement with the joint views. I will not even speak about the overall situation, the background, because I feel the Director-General has again very clearly indeed explained the background situation, the circumstances in which he had to frame his proposal.

I will just come immediately to Section III, Field Programme. The Committees were very much concerned with the decline of official development assistance and in particular the decline of all sources of multilateral finance. We single out especially the IDA and IFAD as the most essential sources of conventional financing, given the share of food and agriculture in these two resources. The Committees spent a lot of time discussing the problem in the investment area. We again fully appreciate the work of FAO in assisting the developing countries as well as financing institutions. We were to a certain extent concerned with the resource situation of the World Bank but at the same time, nevertheless, we were to a certain extent encouraged with the indications of the World Bank's wish to increase its pipeline of agricultural projects.

With regard to UNDP, I doubt that I have to say more than a couple of words. Fortunately or not, the situation is quite well known. The decrease in UNDP resources is indeed enormous. It could even reach a 30 percent decrease as compared with the delivery in 1982. Of course, the Committee could do nothing more than express the very strong hope that the trend in UNDP resources would be reversed. In that context, we strongly suggest that the Council urge all donor countries to provide the funds necessary to execute UNDP programmes and in particular programmes in the field of food and agriculture.

On other extra-budgetary resources, we realize that the situation is likely to be much better than that in UNDP, but at the same time, we are fully aware that the increase in trust funds, and other extra-budgetary resources could only compensate in part the decrease in UNDP resources, so on the whole it is unfortunately very likely that the field activities of FAO would decline in the next year and the next biennium.

With regard to so-called "New Dimensions", that means TCDC type of activities, we welcome the emphasis of the Director-General, and the Committee was very much pleased with the progress already made, but at the same time the Committee again encouraged the Director-General to pursue the same trend with renewed vigor.

With regard to Special Action Programmes, I will be very brief. What is common to all FAO Special Action Programmes is unfortunately lack of resources to finance already identified and praised projects. Here again the Committee recommended to the Council to again address all donor countries, all those who are able to provide necessary funds to do so, especially taking into account the high efficiency of all FAO Action Programmes.

With regard to the financial framework, the Committee was certainly very much pleased that the Director-General was able to increase technical programmes, allocations to technical programmes of FAO by as much as US\$ 7.3 billion in real terms - that means in prices of 1982/83 - and even more that he was also in a position to propose very substantial shifts within the base within various programmes, which amounted to US\$ 8.9 million in the same base; that means in real terms. So although the real term increase overall is very limited, even a symbolic 2.2 million with a decrease in administrative support costs and quite substantial shifts in base which only reflected further the trend which was recognized by the Committees and indeed the Council in the numbers of the last biennia, we were, as I said, very much pleased to see the quite appreciable increase in technical activities of FAO.

With regard to Strategies and Priorities, here again we were in full agreement with the proposal of the Director-General. We emphasized that in framing his strategies and policies he fully followed the guidance of the Conference and the Council, the comments and suggestions of the Programme and Finance Committee, other standing committees of the Council, Regional Conferences, his direct relations with the member Member nations, so on and so forth, including, of course, as has been mentioned, also the various activities initiated in the UN system, especially those that can be asked about by the General Assembly of the UN.

Though the Committee was fully in agreement with the Director-General as far as reduction of administrative and support costs or services were concerned, I have to emphasize that the Committee tried its best to assess to what extent the reductions proposed by the Director-General could have a negative impact on the quantity and especially the quality of the administrative and support services. We were assured that all necessary precautionary measures were contemplated by the Director-General and his colleagues to minimize potential negative impacts.

As regards programme priorities, the Committee was by and large in agreement with the General thrust. In particular, we fully agree with the Director-General's proposal to establish a new division on Research and Technology Development. We found that it was in compliance with the thinking in the Committee and indeed in the Council, though the Committee I might add only addressed on a number of occasions a programme scheme because we did not discuss the organizational scheme, it was under the authority of the Director-General himself. We are very pleased that the Director-General found a proper way, indeed an excellent way, to give effect to the views of the Committee and the Council.

With regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, here again the Committee was fully satisfied with the operation of TCP. In the given circumstances, we were also very much pleased to see the role of the TCP in alleviating the negative bearings of the current UNDP resource crisis on FAO field activities, of course, by ensuring to the extent possible continuity of the, as we said, essential field activities. The Committee expressed the wish that the activities of TCP should be strengthened in the future. One member of the Committee, though he fully recognized the TCP efficiency in general and the useful role that the TCP activities play, nevertheless again emphasized the policy of his government that all technical cooperation activities in the UN system should be centrally and voluntarily funded.

I have nothing more to add but to underline the full agreement of the Committee with regard to the investment activities of FAO. We realize of course the Director-General had been given the position to decrease the proposed increase in the FAO World Bank Cooperative Programme but it will be partially offset by the rest of the Investment Centre of FAO.

With regard to FAO's representative scheme we again recall the decision of the last Conference that the scheme could be considered for the time being to reach a stable level, but in this regard I have to mention that it was the view of the Committee that flexibility should be exercised in this regard so as to enable the Director-General of FAO to respond with a certain amount of elasticity, for the express needs of the member countries.

On regional priorities I have nothing particular to say. At the summary stage it is perhaps premature to make any definite assessment of the regional priorities but by and large the Committee was in agreement with the regional impact in the priorities proposed.

Very briefly indeed, on the objects of expenditure, I will single out only one point. The Committee of course placed a note of caution with regard to the share of established posts in the FAO Regular Programme Resources. We felt, and we felt quite strongly, Mr. Chairman, that the limit to such a tendency is nearing and that perhaps if the reduction of our share is going to continue it would be of certain detriment to FAO efficiency.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, again the Programme Committee, like the Committees in the Joint Session, reached a full agreement to recommend to you to give your support to the proposed level of resources. We fully took into account the fact that the circumstances in which the Director-General had to make his best judgement this time were especially difficult, that he was able to realistically assess the external and internal factors, inputs of various sides, particularly from FAO Governing Bodies, the Member countries, its Standing Committees, directly or at Regional Conferences, and on that basis, Mr. Chairman, we reached that consensus. Of course the consensus was not reached without certain divergency in feelings.

Again we addressed the issue of zero growth, and the majority again on the Committee reconfirmed its opposition with regard to a zero growth theory as applied at least to FAO, I have to say, the majority of the Committee expressed concern with regard to proposed increase in the resources. The majority of my friends and colleagues felt that the real term increase proposed by the Director-General was indeed symbolic when compared with the needs for FAO assistance, and the majority strongly hope that the Director-General would be able in the future to continue his policy of judiciously developing the Organization's capability to respond of the express wishes

of FAO membership, here again, one member while commending the Director-General for his efforts to increase the efficiency of the Organization with only a small increase in resources and bearing in mind the economic situation throughout the world, expressed again his government's view that the UN organizations should absorb a significant portion of inflation as well as holding the real growth to zero. I myself do not entirely understand the message but of course the representative, and very able one of the country concerned, would if necessary elaborate the position of his government.

Before I stop, I have just to draw the attention of the Council on two further things. I cannot go into any detail about the programmes and sub-programmes. As you are fully aware, the annex to the document is the basis of our work. Just to illustrate, we spent one day on the general salient features of the Programme of Work and Budget, and then the next three days we had a very detailed discussion on major programmes, programmes and sub-programmes.

I want to draw your attention only to crops where we suggested that the Director-General might give further thought to the possibility of strengthening the crops programme. I am not going to elaborate at length. I believe the discussion took into account all relevant factors. We recognized all FAO cooperation with national and regional institutions and the FAO needs to promote further its cooperation with all these international institutions, the FAO promotional role in all these things has a progressive orientation to the crop system as opposed to the longstanding orientation on individual crops, but as the final result of our debate we nevertheless felt that perhaps reconsideration might be given to the possibility of strengthening the crops programme.

I want to draw attention to a small change which is reflected in paragraph 2.132. It concerns Statistics. We fully agree with what the Director-General proposed in general. In principle, the Programme Committee emphasised a number of times, the need for keeping the gap between the programme and the organizational schemes as low as possible, and we feel that the change in scheme proposed by the Director-General was just intended to produce such an effect.

Finally, before I end I do not need to assure you that I have no particular aptitude for courtesy, but as I used to say to my colleagues, you can expect anything from a Balkanian but certainly not for him to be unduly polite. When I say that I really feel privileged - very much so - that I have been in a position to guide the deliberations of a very very able, very dedicated, very competent group of my colleagues, then I mean it. I am really very grateful to all of them for increasing effort, and the effort invested by all of them when we met last time in April/May was very appreciable, and I am personally very happy and I want too express my gratitude to all of them.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to present the views of my Committee on this very important item. The Chairman of the Programme Committee has already reported to you the views not only of his Committee but also on the outcome of the deliberations in the Joint Sessions of our two Committees. I will try my best to avoid repetition of the things which have been mentioned already by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, but if I do so it is only to remind you of the importance of the item.

Your attention is drawn to the main points resulting from our deliberations which are contained in document CL 83/3. The paragraphs which are relevant to our discussion are paragraphs 3.4 to 3.37 of the report.

Regarding the document itself, the Committee considered it was well-prepared and provided an excellent framework for the full Programme of Work and Budget. The improvements made in its format, presentation and content were appreciated.

About the world background the Committee agreed with the Director-General's assessment and felt he had exercised sober judgement and a considerable amount of restraint in formulating his proposals.

In its review of the financial resources situation the Committee noted with great concern the steady decline in resources available to the UNDP although a compensatory factor was the increase in delivery under Trust Funds. The latter cannot replace the damage in the effects of the decrease in UNDP resources which in 1983 is still some 463 million dollars lower than the target set for the year. In this connection the Committee stressed the importance of the Special Action Programmes of FAO and the urgent need for continuous resources to finance the activities. The Committee expressed full support for the strategies and priorities set for the coming biennium and agreed with the priorities proposed by the Director-General.

Since I do not wish to go into details, let me at this stage highlight a few of the main features in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. The Committee endorsed the establishment of a research and technology development division by combining four existing units, namely the Research and Development Centre, the TAC, the Environment and the Energy Programmes Coordinating Unit and the Remote Sensing Centre.

The Committee also endorsed the proposed increase for the coming biennium of the Technical Cooperation Programme from 12.4 percent to 13.5 of the total budget. However, the majority of the members felt that this increase was insufficient considering the Technical Cooperation Programme's proven record for efficiency and effectiveness.

The Committee noted the proposal also to stabilize the FAO representative scheme in 1983. Many members felt that this level was too low in view of the great importance attached to the services of FAO representatives by developing Member Nations. The Committee, in considering the weightage given to the regions in the distribution of resources, agreed with the special focus accorded to Africa because of the special nature of that continent's problems. The Committee also endorsed the important role of the regional offices, particularly in dealing with other regional institutions and in providing advice and technical assistance to the countries they served.

The Committee also agreed to the proposals to substantially strengthen FAO's Internal Audit management inspection activities, as it had in its earlier sessions given favourable consideration to the comments made by the external auditors regarding the strengthening of resources to this unit.

In examining the proposed objects of expenditure the Committee endorsed the Director-General's proposals including the reduction in the resources spent on staffing and the cut in the number of posts by 40 under chapters 5 and 8 in the Regular Programme. While the Committee welcomed this proposal it expressed concern lest the reduction have a negative impact on the effectiveness of the Organization's technical and economic programmes, and cautioned against pursuing this policy further, Mr. Chairman, in the review of every Summary Programme of Work and Budget it is the special responsibility of this Committee to examine the proposals of the Director-General on cost increases. Before doing so the Committee took into account the manner in which these cost increases were built. In doing so it observed that the basic methodology for calculating and presenting the cost increases was that used for the current biennium which was approved by the Conference, Council and Finance Committee and was therefore acceptable as a basis for the 1984/85 Programme of Work and Budget. The cost increases proposed were not based on speculative assumptions. Instead they were based on firm estimates with regard to each item.

We were provided with clarifications and further information in response to all the questions raised. We were also informed that more detailed information would be provided in the context of the full Programme of Work and Budget in the autumn session, which would enable an even fuller discussion. We looked very carefully at chapters 5 to 7 covering administrative, personnel and financial activities. The cuts proposed are quite substantial. They reflect how seriously the Director-General has taken note of the serious resource situation. However, the Committee strongly felt that such cuts should be exercised with extreme care and caution because any damage to FAO's capacity to provide administrative support in implementing its full programme would be very difficult to rectify.

In our examination of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget we were fully aware of the very difficult situation the Director-General is facing in formulating his proposal. It was the view of many members that the proposed net programme increase of 0.5 percent was inadequate in comparison to the enormity of the tasks which a specialized agency such as this Organization should endeavour to achieve under prevailing conditions. Some members felt, however, that in the present economic and financial situation prevailing in the world, the Director-General's efforts should be welcomed. Only one member reserved the position of his government because of the prevailing economic uncertainty and need to study the additional information provided to the Committee, but even he supported in principle the level of the budget, the thrust of the Director-General's programme and the need to allow for budget growth occasioned by unavoidable cost increases.

The Committee accordingly agreed that a spirit of consensus would prevail and recommended to the Council the proposed budget level.

In conclusion, I wish to say that the discussions in the Committee were cordial and the conclusions it reached were clear. On behalf of my Committee I wish to express the hope that the same positive spirit and agreement will prevail in the Council in endorsing the Committees views and recommendations on this item.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Abeyagoonasekera. We all agree that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Chairmen and members of both the Programme and Finance Committees for going into this matter in such great detail. Within five weeks after the end of those meetings we had had the reports. We are also grateful to the FAO Secretariat and to the Committees for having made this possible. We will now start the general discussion.

M. GONZALEZ (Colombia): No quiero empezar sin antes expresar mis agradecimientos al señor Director General por la clara y objetiva presentación que ha hecho del tema. Asimismo agradecemos al Presidente del Comité del Programa y al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por sus ilustrativas explicaciones.

La delegación de Colombia apoya el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el Director General para el bienio 84/85.

Lamentamos que el aumento del programa deba limitarse a 0,5 por ciento en esos dos años. Una organización como la nuestra debe estar dotada de medios y recursos que le permitan servir cada vez mejor a los países en desarrollo; sin embargo, destacamos el esfuerzo del Director General por compensar ese aumento limitado en el programa con nuevas reducciones en los gastos de servicios de apoyo y servicios comunes, así como la eliminación de cuarenta puestos.

Esas medidas acertadas han permitido al Director General proponer un gran impulso a los programas técnicos y económicos.

La delegación de Colombia ha apoyado siempre el fortalecimiento de las oficinas regionales y las representaciones en los países. Por ello debemos resignarnos a que en el próximo bienio esas Oficinas deban limitarse a su consolidación sin ningún crecimiento. La delegación de Colombia considera que en los años futuros la política de descentralización de la FAO tendrá que seguirse desarrollando; los problemas, las tierras, los agricultores, los campesinos, todos los elementos primarios de la agricultura están en nuestras regiones.

El gobierno de Colombia desea dejar testimonio de su aprecio positivo y reconocimiento al señor Director General por la forma eficaz, rápida y oportuna como el programa de cooperación técnica ha venido atendiendo las inmediatas necesidades de nuestro país. Pensamos que el PCT es una de las grandes realizaciones de la FAO y una idea afortunada e innovadora del Director General y, por lo tanto, apoyamos el aumento propuesto para el Programa de Cooperación Técnica,

La delegación de Colombia rechaza todo intento de perpetuar en los presupuestos de la FAO la lamentable tendencia del crecimiento cero.

Apoyamos estas propuestas como un mínimo; pensamos que es un presupuesto muy modesto y realista.

La metodología para el cálculo y la presentación del incremento de los costos ha sido aprobada por el Comité de Finanzas, el Consejo y la Conferencia. En el pasado el cálculo del incremento de los costos ha sido siempre aceptable y no deberán existir dudas sobre la validez de la metodología ni sobre su aplicación.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que debe haber un consenso sobre el incremento de los costos en el caso de una eventual reducción. En el incremento de esos costos el producido debería aplicarse como nuevo aumento real del Programa.

Por el momento estas son nuestras observaciones. La delegación de Colombia se reserva el derecho de una nueva intervención sobre este importante tema, si fuere necesario.

G.J. NEWELL (United States of America): The United States delegation has studied the Director-General's Summary Programme of Work and Budget in considerable detail. This is probably the most studied single document on the agenda. This summary is an indication of the general scope and emphasis of the full Programme of Work and Budget proposal we shall be studying even more diligently later this year.

In his introductory remarks the Director-General stressed his hope that when the full Programme of Work and Budget is considered next fall, it will receive the support of all members of FAO. I can assure you, Mr. Chairman that my Government shares the Director-General's hope. We too want the full Programme of Work and Budget to be one with which we can all agree. Since this agenda item is one of the few opportunities for the membership to discuss the Organizations's programmes as a whole, my delegation has a number of observations which we would like to make.

We consider the overall real programme growth rate proposed in the summary document a marked improvement over the current budget and strongly support the Director-General's efforts to improve the Organization's efficiency by reducing administrative costs. The fact that some sharp cut-backs have been made in the Director-General's own office and staff sets an excellent example for the FAO as a whole.

The United States largely endorses the strategies and priorities put forward in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We are especially pleased to see that the Director-General has accepted the difficult task of identifying specific programmes of a lower priority which may be reduced or eliminated to free resources for those of a higher priority. Such choices are not easily made but are essential to a carefully targetted effective programme.

Turning to specific programmes, the programmes on crops and livestock are, we believe, the core of FAO's programme. The food loss prevention and seed improvement special action programmes have particular support. The effort to control African animal diseases is an excellent example of FAO's world-wide expertise being put to good use. We are very pleased to note that FAO and IFAD have developed the non-duplicative collaboration which was envisaged when the World Food Conference called for IFAD's creation.

The United States continues its long-standing support for FAO's work in assembling world-wide agricultural statistics and in-training programmes. While we support the majority of the management decisions and programme activities, there are some new proposals for which we desire further information. For example, the Director-General's proposed consolidation of diverse units into a single research and technology office appears to be good, sound management. Yet the Summary Programme of Work and Budget suggests a programme increase of 15.3 percent for this item. This is one of the largest percentage increases in the summary budget. The streamlining and combination of functions should result, of course, in greater efficiency. We believe that the increases in funding and proposed addition of four positions are not adequately justified in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation would therefore appreciate additional information on the requirements in the final Programme of Work and Budget.

In terms of the overall balance among major programmes, we are concerned about the relatively low priority given to the forestry portion of the technical and economic programmes. For our part we would have preferred to see some of these resources devoted to the TCP Programme redirected to forestry, particularly tropical forestry.

Regarding the field programme, FAO's role in the execution of UNDP and trust fund projects is a major contributor to the assistance provided to developing countries in their efforts to increase and improve their agricultural production and marketing capabilities. We are most concerned, however, with the continued use of Regular Programme subsidies for the field programmes. As is well known in the United Nations system my Government generally opposes, the use of assessed funds to support voluntarily funded field programmes. We would recommend that the Secretariat take steps as it can to ensure that the overhead charges for trust fund programmes reflect the true costs of administering such programmes.

With respect to the budget, we emphasize that despite considerable improvement over previous budgets, the Director-General's budget does not meet our fundamental objective of zero programme growth and significant absorption of non-discretionary cost increases. Nevertheless, we recognize that the Director-General is confronted with a difficult job in balancing the interests and concerns of the many Member States of this Organization; and we recognize further that the Director-General has done his very best to reconcile these various interests and to strike a reasonable balance that should appeal to all parties.

In the light of this consideration, while we must necessarily reserve our final position until we have seen the full Programme of Work and Budget we believe that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget provides a sound basis upon which the Director-General might proceed to prepare the Organization's agenda of action for the coming biennium.

A. PIERRET (France): Je voudrais, pour commencer, vous féliciter, au nom de la délégation française pour la manière dont vous présidez nos débats. Je tiens aussi à remercier les présidents du Comité des programmes et du Comité financier pour l'excellente présentation de leurs travaux dans le document conjoint qui nous a été soumis. S'agissant du sommaire du programme de travail et budget, je souhaiterais successivement faire quelques remarques sur les orientations générales qu'il propose et les perspectives d'économie dans lesquelles il a été préparé.

Tout d'abord, la délégation française se félicite des orientations générales des objectifs et des priorités proposées, ainsi que des efforts entrepris en matière de renouvellement des analyses, des méthodes et des moyens d'intervention. En effet, nous considérons que les orientations mises en avant par le Directeur général depuis quelques années sont essentielles.

L'aspect le plus important et le plus difficile de la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale réside dans la crise que traverse une fraction étendue et croissante de la paysannerie des pays en développement. Elle est essentiellement concentrée dans les pays les moins avancés dont elle constitue souvent la seule base économique. L'affaiblissement, voire la destruction de cette paysannerie alimente le chômage et la marginalité urbaine. Elle compromet gravement l'équilibre alimentaire, et, partant, l'équilibre économique de ces pays. En outre, si l'aide alimentaire reste indispensable à court terme, à plus long terme en revanche la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement doit passer par le développement prioritaire des productions vivrières. La restauration de l'économie paysanne, et en particulier le sauvetage de sa fraction la plus menacée à travers une politique vivrière volontaire, constituent donc bien l'axe principal d'une stratégie

efficace visant l'instauration d'une sécurité alimentaire véritable. Parallèlement - et je rejoins sur ce point ce qui vient d'être dit par le représentant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique - les systèmes forestiers doivent jouer un rôle essentiel dans l'élaboration de cette stratégie. Dans la zone intertropicale ils sont en pleine évolution, sous la triple influence de la croissance démographique, de l'extension des économies de plantation, et de la puissance des grands moyens mécaniques de défrichement. La deforestation, qui s'est opérée anciennement sous d'autres latitudes, est en marche. Dans ces conditions, la mise au point de systèmes agro-sylvo-pastoraux équilibrés capables de satisfaire les besoins en aliments et en bois reproduisant la fertilité et préservant les bioclimats reste à découvrir et à promouvoir. Dans ce contexte, il est clair que les programmes techniques et économiques, et en particulier la mobilisation des résultats de la recherche, de même que le programme de coopération technique à l'appui des actions sur le terrain, sont prioritaires.

A cet égard, nous appuyons tout particulièrement le renouvellement des analyses et méthodes, qui devra être poursuivi. Ainsi, l'étude des systèmes agricoles d'économie paysanne, de leur origine, de leur structure, de leur fonctionnement et de leur dynamique est-elle indispensable. Cette étude permettra d'identifier et d'évaluer l'héritage technique de ces sociétés, de déterminer les besoins, d'orienter les recherches vers les technologies les plus appropriées à la situation et aux possibilités techniques, économiques et culturelles. Pour être appropriées, ces technologies devront être d'une part plus économes, en privilégiant systématiquement les ressources renouvelables, d'autre part plus autonomes, en utilisant en priorité les ressources locales, enfin plus progressives, en favorisant une meilleure protection de l'environnement, et plus faciles à reproduire et à entretenir localement.

A cet égard, la création de la nouvelle Division du développement, de la recherche et de la technologie ainsi que la réorientation qualitative de ces activités peuvent jouer un rôle décisif pour animer, coordonner et renouveler les problématiques d'analyse et les méthodes d'intervention de l'organisation, l'efficacité future de l'OAA en dépendant. Toutefois, cette efficacité dépend aussi du bon usage d'un budget limité. Car les possibilités du moment. Ceci, fait l'objet de la deuxième partie de mon intervention.

La délégation française félicite le Secrétariat de l'esprit d'économie, de la volonté de rigueur, et du souci d'efficacité qui ont présidé à l'élaboration du sommaire du programme de travail et budget. Nous apprécions l'orientation prise par le Directeur général dans ce sens, et l'encourageons vivement à poursuivre ses efforts.

La croissance réelle du budget global de l'organisation par rapport à celui du biennium précédent s'élève à un demi point. Exprimée en dollars, cette augmentation se monte à 2 223 000 dollars, soit dix fois moins que pour le biennium précédent. En outre, malgré la création de certains postes, on constate une réduction nette de 40 postes en 1984-85 pour le Programme ordinaire, ceci pour l'essentiel au siège. A cet égard, il convient de noter l'évolution favorable de la part des dépenses consacrées au personnel qui passent de 77 pour cent en 1974-75 à 58 pour cent dix ans plus tard. Toutefois, le net ralentissement de la croissance des dépenses et les réductions de personnel ne devraient pas affecter le volume et la qualité des opérations. En effet, la ventilation des accroissements de programme proposés s'effectue au bénéfice des programmes techniques et économiques et du programme de coopération technique.

En ce qui concerne les bureaux régionaux, nous avons constaté avec satisfaction, pour la première fois depuis le biennium 1978-79, une réduction réelle de programmes de 1,1 pour cent par rapport au biennium précédent, alors que les représentations de l'OAA dans les pays sont maintenues à leur niveau actuel. En effet, lorsqu'en 1976 la délégation française a donné son aval à l'instauration de représentants de l'OAA à l'échelon national, nous avons demandé que dans le même temps soient revus le rôle et la taille des bureaux régionaux. Toutefois, s'il nous paraît justifié de réduire la part des bureaux régionaux dans le budget global de l'Organisation, nous ne sous-estimons pas pour autant l'importance des activités régionales. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons la priorité élevée accordée dans le document aux programmes du siège qui ont un impact régional, particulièrement pour l'Afrique. Nous apprécions donc que l'effort de rigueur budgétaire ait porté sur les bureaux régionaux et les dépenses administratives et de soutien; nous espérons qu'il sera poursuivi dans ce sens.

Avant de terminer, je souhaite faire quelques remarques sur la présentation du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget.

Il aurait été souhaitable en particulier de faire apparaître plus clairement les efforts faits et proposés par l'OAA en faveur des pays les moins avancés, conformément aux recommandations de la conférence des Nations Unies sur les pays les moins avancés, tenue à Paris en septembre 1981. Le même souci de clarification et de meilleure transparence devrait conduire le Secrétariat à préciser les créations, transferts et suppression de poste par programme départemental et bureau régional, ainsi que les variations de crédits par sous-programme, objet de dépense et département.

Enfin, si le groupement au sein d'une nouvelle division des activités de recherche et de développement technologique est effectivement de nature à accroître l'efficacité du soutien au développement des recherches nationales et une plus grande coopération entre les institutions nationales et régionales, cet effort d'unification doit s'accompagner de la mise en évidence des liens existant entre les actions menées par l'OAA et les thèmes de recherche et de formation retenus comme prioritaires.

Il nous semble aussi que les programmes biennaux seraient d'une interprétation et d'une discussion plus commodes si des perspectives techniques et économiques à long terme régulièrement mises à jour étaient élaborées et présentées devant les instances de l'Organisation.

En conclusion la délégation française tient à souligner que les priorités annoncées en faveur du soutien des productions vivrières et de la revalorisation des sociétés paysannes, en particulier des plus pauvres, rejoignent les analyses et les orientations de la politique française d'aide au développement.

Par ailleurs, l'effort de rigueur budgétaire entrepris devra être poursuivi. Le contexte international actuel et les politiques de maîtrise des déficits budgétaires mises en oeuvre par la plupart des Etats Membres de l'Organisation justifient en effet pour les années à venir une grande modération et une meilleure rationalisation dans l'emploi des fonds mis à la disposition des organisations internationales, même de celles comme l'OAA, dont la finalité correspond à l'une des priorités essentielles de la communauté internationale.

A.H. EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation to start with wishes to express its thanks to the Director-General for his excellent presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget and wishes to thank the Director-General and his assistants for the excellent effort they have made in preparing this summary. We also welcome the broad outline of the Director-General's suggestions for priorities and strategies and we support giving the Director-General all liberty of transfers between the various programmes and the suspension of programmes that have fulfilled their objectives.

We notice with satisfaction the increased activity of the investments centre which has proved its utility, as shown in paragraphs 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 of Chapter 3 of the document in English. We wish that more material support will be given to this centre so that it may fulfill its objectives.

Also in discussing FAO's field programme we should bear in mind the importance of the extra-budgetary financial resources needed for the implementation of these programmes. Since the UNDP is one of these sources, and in the light of the Pledges announced by countries participating in this programme during the year 1982 and the subsequent reduction of the indicative planning figure for each country, we wish that the list of programmes financed by UNDP will be constantly reviewed so that we maintain the more useful of them. We also wish in this connection to thank all countries participating in and financing the trust funds.

My country's delegation after having studied the new dimensions of the Programme of Work and Budget, as shown in paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 of Chapter III of this document which contains FAO's reliance on the abilities and capabilities of developing countries in the implementation of the field programme, my country supports these new dimensions, particularly the "exchange of knowledge and experience."

The EAR fully appreciates FAO's special action programmes and the effect of these programmes in helping developing countries achieve food security programmes.

Among these programmes we mention the Desert Locust Programme which has helped my country in controlling desert locusts, and the IFS, yet what has been mentioned about these special programmes should not minimize the positive effect of FAO's Regular Programme, which is the main approach and the sound basis of several national programmes.

Since we fully realize the economic problems faced both by developing and developed countries and after having studied Chapter IV of this document in connection with the financial framework of the proposed budget, my country wishes to support the contents of paragraphs 4.10 to 4.12 for distribution of financial burden on the various countries, and here we can see the Director-General's experience in the preparation of our Budget.

My country's delegation fully welcomes the Director-General's new definition of policies and strategies for 1984-85, which fully reflects the resolutions of international fora, and responds to the requirements of countries.

Yet we will welcome more support to the technical cooperation programme which we have always paid tribute to, for its quick response to our requests and for covering the execution costs of the projects.

Likewise we wish to see more activities under the research programme, and both in the economic and social fields, and fisheries.

FAO embarked on decentralization in 1976 by establishing 62 Country Offices and by the end of 1983 74 offices will have been established. In the light of Egypt's experience of this policy we find that it is successful for direct contact and communication between FAO and EAR, through the country representative, which has made more readily available development requirements. We therefore wish that the Director-General should continue and intensify these efforts in support of this policy. In this connection we wish to pay tribute to the role of the regional offices for fulfilling the targets of regional cooperation.

In conclusion we support the Director-General to maintain only the required experienced personnel for the implementation of projects and to benefit from consultative services. Again we reiterate our support for the proposed summary Programme of Work and Budget.

A.F.M. de FREITAS (Brazil): I have some comments to make on documents CL 83/3 and CL 83/4. As a member of the Programme Committee I subscribe to the remarks contained in the introductory pages of both documents which faithfully reflect the debate both in the Programme Committee and the joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

I would like to highlight some of the topics which are of particular interest to my delegation. The summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 indicates a relative increase in the technical and economic programmes as compared with the other programmes. This development is seen in a positive light by my Government. It shows that the general framework of economic difficulties and scarcity of resources has been duly taken into consideration in the drafting of the new Programme of Work and Budget.

The Brazilian delegation has consistently expressed the view on different occasions and in different fora that the major agricultural programmes, the technical and economic programmes, like natural resources, crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry, together with research and technological development, are those which effectively contribute to the production of food and to the agricultural productivity in the developing countries, and as such they deserve the highest priority in the Programme of Work and Budget.

My delegation wishes to commend the Director-General, who put special emphasis on saving in the administrative and support services and on shifts among different programmes so as to obtain balanced overall results in keeping with the proposed priorities.

My delegation would like to express full agreement on the main priority indications contained in document CL 83/3. First among them we find research and technology development. I wish to endorse the importance given to this topic, as I have often done during the present session of the Council, and to approve the vital approach proposed by the Director-General in this matter, the additional strengthening of FAO's support of the development of national research activities, the regrouping of the four existing units which deal with matters relating to research into a new division, and finally a new presentation of these activities so as to give a more complete picture of research activities in the structure of the Programme of Work and Budget.

In the section dealing with follow-up to WCARRD my delegation wishes to support the priority given to the sub-programmes relating to agricultural education, extension and training of women in agricultural production in rural development.

My delegation would also like to express its endorsement of the FAO investment activities, both in cooperation with the World Bank and with other international institutions, especially IFAD.

With respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme my delegation acknowledges the important role which it has been playing, both in supporting new projects and in complementing existing ones in the developing countries and it supports the priority assigned to it.

As regards the regional programme priorities for Latin America and the Caribbean my delegation fully agrees with the proposals contained in the documents under consideration. I wish to refer particularly to the technical cooperation networks amongst national institutions. The seven networks that are already established have been producing satisfactory results and they are becoming an important element in the horizontal cooperation among Latin American countries. My delegation believes that the success of the Latin American networks clearly indicates that the technology already available for the developing countries through their experts, equipment, consultant firms and research institutions are and should be increasingly utilized by FAO. In fact I believe that the greater utilization of these technologies, both in the context of TCDC and ECDC as it has been fruitfully proved through Latin American networks is bound to be beneficial to all parties involved in view of the similar social economic conditions in the developing countries.

The Brazilian delegation is convinced that in this way FAO will contribute to an increased effectiveness and efficiency, which, it I may quote the opening statement by the Director-General, are not the monopoly of one group but of all of us in common.

Allow me now to make some comments on the fundamental question of the level of the budget. I would like to recall first that the last session of the Programme Committee considered as symbolic the real increase proposed for the next biennium. I wish to reiterate the view of my delegation that the proposed budget is a balanced one. My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Director-General to adjust the proposed Programme of Work and Budget to such substantially reconcilable elements as the overall world economic situation on the one hand and the glaring and urgent needs of the developing countries on the other. The Director-General proved himself concerned with both the increase in problems of the poor countries, especially with respect to hunger and malnutrition, and with the financial and budgetary difficulties which beset most of the developing countries of this Organization. The summary Programme of Work and Budget which resulted from this effort is a praiseworthy achievement and deserves the acknowledgement of this Council.

C. NTSANE (Lesotho): This summary Programme of Work and Budget is the culmination of a profound and sober consideration of all the important topics that have been tabled before this body. We have gone through the current world food situation, we have gone through the report of the Committee on Agriculture, we have gone through the report of the Committee on World Food Security, all of which give us little comfort if any.

The Programme of Work and Budget is the alpha and the omega of every biennium. It is the question and the reason why this Organization exists and continues to function. It is the reason why so many of us sit in this room, on the podium or as delegates or as observers, and our children are assured of a daily meal, but above all it is the only hope of millions and millions of starving mothers and children who keep hoping that some day someone will make the right decision at the right time to give them comfort and natural justice - bread.

It is for this reason that we register our full support for the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and call on all the Members of this august governing body to approve and recommend to Conference.

In an earlier intervention we made a happy reference to the Rinderpest Control Programme. But we later learned with dismay that this programme is now not receiving the support originally promised and that not enough interest is shown even by those who eat African meat. We encourage all who are concerned about the world food situation and are in a position to do so, to give this programme full financial support, because when there is no rinderpest, African cattle constitute a significant part of world food security and can positively change the world food situation. Knowing as we do that this Council is concerned about these two issues, we confidently but humbly request Council to ask the Director-General to make every effort to mobilize the necessary resources and take the lead in collaborative efforts with other agencies in order to stamp out the plague in a timely fashion.

For too long and with no sign of change for the better, Africa is called the hungriest continent on earth. Africa is hungry because it sits and waits for water to fall from heaven. When there is no rain everybody starves to death as we currently do in southern Africa, and yet lakes and rivers abound with clean water which is good for irrigation.

We submit that irrigation is a tradition in Asia and therefore FAO should help to foster links that will secure Africa the technology from Asia. I should be ashamed of what I have just said about the role of FAO in this matter of irrigation in the face of all the talk about political will, national food strategies, importance of agriculture, as the backbone of economies and south/south cooperation etc. But you know how it is, these things have to be pushed from all angles, so we do it here, and if inclusion of an item on irrigation for Africa in the Programme of Work is the only way that Africa will realize that it has no reason to starve with so much water at its doorstep, I am willing to Wear the shame for what it is worth.

I propose that Council should ask the Director-General to urgently explore ways of exploiting the water resources of Africa in order that the deleterious effects of drought should be brought to a halt in a permanent way.

What we find in the report of the Committee on Agriculture and in the joint report of the Programme and Finance Committees is not specific enough and is half-hearted; it talks of small-scale irrigation. The problem of drought for example, in Southern Africa and in the Sahel is widespread and big. Irrigation in these areas must be tackled as a regional and intercountry issue, otherwise it is a contradiction to apply small-scale solutions to big-scale problems.

We are aware that irrigation as a concept, a technique and a system is said to be expensive and therefore should be considered with caution. But one may ask, is it more expensive than the tens of thousands of lives lost every day because of hunger? Is it more expensive than the indignity that Africa has suffered since the dawn of colonization? Is it indeed more expensive than what the world spends on armaments?

It is for this reason that we already plead with those who customarily oppose this item on the budget not to bring up untenable arguments but rather accept that zero growth is an unacceptable concept by all standards.

We should also sound an early warning to the Director-General that we note a relatively insignificant increase in the overall budget. We hope that he will not try another time to perform a miracle of running an organization and its programmes with less than what it takes to do so.

The progressive decline of official assistance is a constant reminder that global negotiations are stalling to the disadvantage of developing food-deficit countries. It is also a reminder that FAO is one of the few organizations that still offer a talking, peaceful atmosphere to all nations of the world.

Finally, we should thank and continue to encourage the benefactors of our Organization, because let us face it, it could be worse.

E. HRAOUI (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je prends la parole, Monsieur le Président, pour discuter de cette question excessivement importante à savoir le Programme de travail et budget proposés par le Directeur général, car cela me donne l'occasion, non pas simplement de vous faire part du point de vue de mon Gouvernement sur les propositions qui nous sont faites, mais cela me permet aussi de commenter un certain nombre de points importants.

Tout d'abord, je tiens à exprimer l'appui total de mon pays à toutes les propositions figurant dans le document CL 83/3. Je tiens également à remercier le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour cet effort méritoire.

Cependant, Monsieur le Président, cet appui ne doit pas signifier que nous n'avons pas été quelque peu étonnés en constatant la faible augmentation contenue dans les propositions sous étude. Si nous tenons compte des problèmes complexes auxquels se heurte le monde en matière d'alimentation, et d'agriculture, problèmes que nous connaissons tous, et convaincus de la nécessité urgente d'aider les pays en développement où vivent les trois quarts de la population mondiale, et compte tenu de la maigre augmentation tant de l'aide bilatérale que multilatérale et de notre profonde conviction et de notre foi en l'efficacité de l'aide fournie par la FAO et sa capacité à entreprendre de plus grandes tâches; si nous tenons compte de tout ce qui précède, nous ne pouvons, Monsieur le Président, que nous demander avec étonnement, comment nous pourrions étudier un budget pour deux ans ne comportant qu'une augmentation d'un/deux pour cent.

La délégation de mon pays partage le point de vue d'autres délégations, notamment des délégations des pays en développement, qui auraient souhaité que le Directeur général propose une augmentation plus importante du budget des programmes d'aide et de coopération sur lesquels nous comptons tous.

Cependant, nous avons très soigneusement examiné l'étude que le Directeur général a faite de cette question, d'où découlent les propositions qui nous sont soumises. Notre appréciation pour les décisions qu'il a prises et qui se caractérisent par une claire vision des choses, une analyse précise et une profonde perspicacité, nous poussent à approuver ces décisions, mais à regret. Le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier nous ont fourni, comme à l'accoutumée, une aide précieuse. Le Comité du Programme a examiné les programmes soumis sous tous leurs angles pour savoir dans quelle mesure ils étaient compatibles avec les objectifs fixés et les priorités recommandées à tous les niveaux gouvernementaux, en tenant compte de leur parfait équilibre et de leur concordance, et la possibilité de leur mise en oeuvre efficace, la bonne administration de leurs ressources. La délégation du Liban approuve le point de vue du Comité du Programme, à savoir qu'il est possible d'approuver le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour l'exercice biennal 1984-85, aussi bien en ce qui concerne les programmes proposés ou en ce qui concerne le niveau et l'équilibre des ressources qui leur sont affectées.

Nous le disons en dépit de ce que nous aurions voulu pour certains programmes. Je voudrais vous rappeler qu'il y a deux ans de cela et dans cette même salle, le Liban avait longuement parlé du programme d'assistance technique. Il avait manifesté le désir de son pays de voir les ressources de ce programme augmenter. Or, deux ans plus tard, aujourd'hui, nous constatons que l'augmentation est insuffisante. En effet, la proposition du Directeur général revient à accroître les crédits de ce programme de 0,6 pour cent. A l'origine, ces crédits représentaient 12,9 pour cent du budget;

maintenant, ils représentent, tel que proposé, 13,5 pour cent du budget total. Nous ne pouvons pas être convaincus que cette maigre augmentation soit suffisante ou qu'elle dépasse les limites logiques, comme l'ont dit certains délégués, et nous nous rallions aux nombreuses délégations qui ont considéré que cette augmentation était modérée et auraient souhaité qu'elle soit plus importante que celle proposée par le Directeur général.

D'autre part, nous ne pensons pas qu'il soit de l'intérêt de ce Conseil que certains membres expriment des opinions rigides à propos de certains programmes, car les programmes proposés constituent un tout conforme aux instructions du Conseil et de la Conférence ainsi qu'à toutes les recommandations adressées au Directeur général. Il ne suffit pas lors de l'étude de ces propositions que chaque délégation cherche à assurer les intérêts de son pays. Mais au contraire, nous devons au cours de ce Conseil et au moment de la Conférence, en novembre, être en mesure d'exprimer nos points de vue en tant que reflétant la conscience collective de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, tout en exprimant notre satisfaction pour les programmes proposés et notre entier accord, nous nous déclarons pleinement conscients des implications financières de ce programme. Le Comité financier a étudié l'augmentation proposée, reposant sur les lignes approuvées par la Conférence. Il va réexaminer cette question lors de sa prochaine session en automne où il sera saisi de l'intégralité du Programme de travail et budget et nous exprimons notre entière satisfaction à ce sujet.

A la lumière de toutes les considérations que je viens d'évoquer, nous demandons instamment au Conseil d'appuyer à l'unanimité les propositions dont il est saisi par le Directeur général.

A.A. KHALIL (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): We have given particular attention in studying the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General for the biennium 1984-85 both with respect to the activities contained therein and the funds to be allocated, and before I start commenting on the important points, I wish to express my government's support of the proposals covered by the document and would heartily congratulate the Director-General for this valuable document presented to us.

I do not believe that we should bring to mind here again the fact that the developing world is facing an ever-increasing problem, namely, providing food to the millions of inhabitants of developing countries suffering from malnutrition and hunger. I said not to remind everybody of this, for the Director-General has repeated it over and over again here and on all occasions in order to draw the attention of the world to this danger. It is a big and complicated problem, and so you should rely on the efforts which should be made by the developing countries themselves. This has been clear in the sense that all governments with all their resources and possibilities should increase their food production in order to alleviate poverty and hunger. Yet there is a truth we cannot ignore, namely, the necessity of technical and financial assistance required by these countries so that they may better use their technical possibilities. There are indeed huge technical possibilities available to FAO through which it can provide technical assistance to the needy countries.

I say this with extreme wonder and surprise. How can FAO face the situation and assist developing countries when it is presenting to this Council a budget where the effective increase is only 0,5 percent? Can we stop at this indeed painful situation and not afford FAO the means to solve this difficult hunger problem? It has so many activities to tackle, and we here have to provide it with all support.

I cannot speak on this important subject without congratulating the Programme and Finance Committee for their valuable assistance and to express our support of the view of the Programme Committee for the programme presented for the year 1984-85. The Programme Committee has given their view after scrutiny of the various programmes so they make the recommendations of the various governments for maintaining a balance between these programmes. This was indeed an enormous problem that the Programme Committee has overcome and we have to congratulate them.

There is another point I have to insist upon. The valuable assistance given by FAO to developing countries through the technical cooperation programme which was supported by most countries, and the excellent results will be more palpable when FAO will move forward to respond to all the requirements. The major increase raising the allocation from 12,9 to 13,5 percent of the total budget can only be considered as a modest increase imposed by necessity. For this kind of assistance my country's delegation wishes continued support to this important programme and the approval of the funds allocated to it without any reduction. I wish to draw attention that in Council we should look at the complementarity of the various elements and factors in the various programmes as one of our own integrated programmes, and not just to concentrate on certain parts of the programme according to our own individual interests. This overall view of the programme before us is to our view the best way to express our views and to accept the programmes, be adhered within the Council or at the Conference in November.

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I wish to conclude my comments by reiterating our support to the proposals submitted by the Director-General and will appeal to the Council to give it its full support.

CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much. I think this will bring this afternoon's meeting to a close.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La seance est levee a 18 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 83/PV/9

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83º período de sesiones

NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE NOVENA SESION PLENARIA (17 June 1983)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION - RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS - INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (continuación)
12. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 (continued)
12. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 (suite)
12. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, 1984-85 (continuación)

A. NTEZILYAYO (Rwanda): Permettez-moi de joindre ma voix à celle des collègues qui m'ont précédé hier, pour appuyer les propositions de programme et de budget de la FAO pour le biennium 1984-85. En plus de la clarté de leurs présentations, le budget et le programme présentés ont le mérite d'être réalistes. En effet, ils se concentrent principalement sur les priorités, priorités relatives à l'amélioration de l'alimentation par l'accroissement des productions vivrières, ainsi qu'à la sécurité alimentaire.

Toutefois, M. le Président, une inquiétude profonde s'impose et notre délégation voudrait l'exprimer. Au cours de cette semaine que nous venons de passer ensemble, nous avons reconnu la précarité de la situation alimentaire mondiale qui ne fait que se dégrader davantage, notamment et particulièrement dans les pays africains à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire. Les importations de denrées alimentaires de ces pays, surtout les céréales, ne cessent d'augmenter, grevant considérablement la capacité d'investissement dans les secteurs multiples. Une étude très fouillée a fait l'inventaire des problèmes qui se posent dans ces régions, et a proposé des solutions. En conséquence de cette situation, le pays le plus grand producteur mondial de céréales décide de mettre ses terres en réserve. L'aide au développement et l'aide alimentaire ont particulièrement diminué et, de surcroît, la FAO voit son budget diminuer dans certaines de ses composantes et croître de manière insignifiante dans d'autres. Je voudrais souligner le danger de cette situation qui, à notre avis, porte atteinte à la vie même de notre organisation.

En effet, aujourd'hui on réduit le budget des postes administratifs, on supprime certains programmes jugés non prioritaires, comme si brusquement la FAO nous apparaissait tout juste comme une machine bureaucratique. Je me demande si demain les programmes de terrain ne seront pas à leur tour mis en cause, histoire d'apprendre aux pays sous-développés à se débrouiller eux-mêmes. Il est à notre avis temps que les Etats Membres se rendent compte que la FAO est l'organisation internationale la plus qualifiée pour aider à résoudre les problèmes alimentaires mondiaux; qu'elle est un forum privilégié où les responsables internationaux de l'agriculture, en dehors de toute considération politique et autres, peuvent encore entendre la voix du partage et de la reconnaissance du droit de se nourrir de l'humanité entière. Et ici je voudrais rendre un vibrant hommage au Directeur général de la FAO qui incarne cette politique de défense de notre organisation.

Il importe par conséquent de sauvegarder cette organisation comme telle, en lui assurant les moyens de s'affirmer davantage et de venir à bout des égoïsmes des uns et des autres.

Enfin j'aimerais insister sur le fait que même si le budget du programme d'agriculture a légèrement augmenté, la part de cette augmentation consacrée aux cultures, à l'élevage et à la nutrition paraît insignifiante si l'on pense à tout ce qu'il reste à faire pour assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire d'une partie importante de la population du globe.

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Cyprus): The Cyprus delegation is supportive of the general trends proposed by the Director-General in his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1984/85, as outlined in document CL 83/3. We note, however, that for the second consecutive biennium the budget proposals contain little real programme increases, which amount to only about .5 percent. We understand and fully appreciate the reasons which necessitate this extended period of consolidation. At this time there is extreme fragility of food supplies, as was pointed out by the Director-General in his opening statement.

We would hope that the world economic situation would improve in the biennium under consideration, allowing for real budgetary increases and growth of the Organization in the years ahead.

If this were not to happen, the Cyprus delegation feels that FAO would then be faced with increasing difficulties in fulfilling its mandate, since the 1984/85 financial constraints are being proposed to be accommodated through drastic, perhaps under the circumstances unavoidable, shifts in resources in allocations and in the various programmes.

This shift of resources in itself cannot be expected to compensate, at least in the long run, for real budgetary growth.

We would therefore hope that the world economic situation in the years ahead would be such as to allow FAO to hope for real growth of its resources in view of the current and potential needs for expanded FAO assistance in order to meet its world mandate for increasing agricultural production and help to adequately feed a rapidly increasing population.

Bilateral assistance, which, as the Director-General pointed out in his opening statement, is increasing, does not really provide in our own view dollar for dollar the value to be derived from multilateral assistance programmes nor does it provide of course an opportunity for all least -developed countries to help themselves towards self-sufficiency in food production which would in turn alleviate misery and malnutrition in the world.

Within the framework of these introductory remarks, I would now like to focus on the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1984/85 with which, as I have said earlier, we are in broad agreement.

Nevertheless, in order to accommodate an "austerity" budget, certain cuts have been inevitable and we have no comments in the areas of these cuts, as we believe that these, under the circumstances, are the least painful ones. The situation has, however, to be watched very carefully, and any effect that the proposed elimination of posts might have on the functioning of the Organization's main activities should be corrected as quickly as possible in forthcoming budgets through the establishment of the necessary incremental posts.

We have also noted the regrouping and merging of units, and here we have no difficulty in accepting that these proposals will bring about real economies and probably improve their productive output. We therefore congratulate the Director-General for this bold step.

We do regret to note that circumstances have dictated a period of consolidation of regional and country offices since these from their inception have been instrumental in promoting and coordinating FAO activities at the field level, and my delegation would hope that this period of consolidation would only be a temporary one.

We are happy with the priority sectors that are being proposed to receive net incremental resources and would only like to highlight the significance of four of these sectors. These include the farming systems which will deal with both arable crops and livestock (the mixed farming concept, as we call it in Cyprus) and would cover aspects such as input supplies, marketing, credit and agro-industries, aspects that are often overlooked in catering to the needs of the small farmer. It is our belief that without a proper farming systems approach, real growth in most developing countries would be difficult to achieve. Hence we give our full support to these proposals.

Fisheries is also programmed to receive incremental support - and rightly so. As is very rightly pointed out in the document before us, the adoption of the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea would enable developing countries to more fully exploit their economic zones, and for this they would certainly need greater assistance from FAO and indeed from other international organizations than ever before. Increased support to fisheries would also enable FAO to assist in the development of aquaculture and inland fisheries, areas which have a great potential in many of the Least Developed Countries of the world.

We continue to hold the view that investments in agriculture, which in the concept that I am referring to includes investments in training and in rural development, should continue to receive priority in the developing world, as they lay foundations for real agricultural growth and rural well-being.

We note with satisfaction that in spite of a decline in FAO's collaboration with the World Bank, which is now deemed to have halted, a much higher level of collaboration has been developed with other funding institutions such as IFAD and regional banks. This is in our view a healthy sign. The Investment Support Programme works substantially in the poorest countries which need urgent capital investments. We are therefore very happy to support the improved modest inputs into this programme.

Finally the modest increase in the TCP component from 12.9 percent to 13.5 percent of the total budget is, we feel, a small step in the right direction. Modest as this increase might be, it highlights FAO's determination to continue to provide rapid assistance in the field in dealing with unforeseen needs and problems and for acting as a catalyst in promoting capital as well as technical assistance from different sources. We know from personal experience how relatively small inputs that are well-timed and planned can provide much greater benefits to the developing countries through a catalytic effect.

In our view, this Programme has done extremely well in promoting the priorities and principal aims of FAO at a minimum cost, and we would wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to thank FAO for introducing this Programme and the Programme's management for their quick response to assistance

requests. We would have been much happier if resources were available for even further increases in the Programmed budget for 1984/85, particularly in view of the sharply declining UNDP resources, but we are realistic enough to accept that this would not be possible for the biennium under consideration. We would, however, hope that future budgets would allow for real and substantial growth in the resources of this Programme to enable it to continue and expand its activities - acting always as a catalyst, a formula which has already proved its success.

May I conclude by expressing the hope that future budgets would contain elements of real growth, since any further budgets with zero or almost zero growth would certainly hurt and would certainly damage FAO's image and capability to execute effectively, efficiently and timely its mandate which has been bestowed upon it by the international community and on which the developing world has placed so much hope and expectations. I would hope that we shall not let these countries down in their expectations because we would then be failing in our duty and responsibilities.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the Council to unanimously support the proposals of the Director-General.

ZHANG CHENGHUA (China) (original language Chinese): At the outset, we wish to thank the Director-General for the effort he put in in proposing the Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the Council. This is a well-contemplated and seriously worked-out document which deserves our commendation. We also wish to express our appreciation for the introduction made by the two chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees. We are sure that the recommendation of the two Committees will serve as a useful input to the deliberations of the Council.

Today, we are discussing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget at a time when the world is facing a grave international economic situation. Since our deliberations of the 1982-83 Programme of Work and Budget two years ago, the world economy has been deteriorating, imposing restraints for further expansion of the Programme of Work of the Organization. On the other hand, the developing countries most severely affected are hampered in their food and agricultural production and urgently need international organizations to step up their efforts and increase their assistance.

We noted that the proposed budget level for the next biennium is US\$451 million with 22.48 percent cost increase and 0.5 percent real programme increase. The 0.5 percent real programme increase is inadequate when we consider the need to strengthen the work of the Organization so as to meet the demand of developing countries. However, we think this is realistic in view of the current world economic situation. Therefore, we endorse the budget level the Director-General has proposed to the Council and we urge the Council to approve it by consensus. We have also noted with interest the policies adopted by the Director-General to raise the Organization's efficiency, reduce administrative costs and eliminate less important activities. The resources thus saved can be used to ensure the implementation of economic and technical programmes and facilitate increases in the allocation of funds for projects of high priority. As the Director-General indicated in his opening statement, the aim has been achieved of "effecting a major shift in resources to substantive programmes. Administrative support services will be heavily cut, so that there will be an increase in technical and economic activities by more than \$7 million." We appreciate and support the efforts made by the DG to this end.

We endorse the proposed Programme of Work for the next biennium and would like to make the following comments.

First. In the overall Programme for the next biennium, the DG strives to ensure first and foremost real increases of the technical and economic programmes, including the Technical Cooperation Programme which is not listed in the programme of work. We give it our support.

Second. We endorse the four priority areas in the Programme. Among the four, the first one is to promote food production. Food remains the core of the current problems of world agriculture. Hence, all activities, especially those at the field level, which have direct relevance in promoting food production in developing countries, should receive priority consideration in the allocation of additional resources.

Third. As science and technology are productive forces, we support the DG for giving priorities to work in this field. However, we believe that science and technology should be applied and extended in production to create material wealth for the society. Therefore, we attach particular importance to science and technology relevant to developing countries and the significance of science and technology transfer to these countries. As indicated in paragraph 5.31 of the document, new programmes will pay special attention to technologie appropriate for developing countries and will reflect qualitative changes of this new dimension. Furthermore, in sub-programme 2.1.4.1 of Annexe in the document, it is pointed out that at the national level, emphasis will be placed on the identification of obstacles to the transfer of new technologies and to their adoption by farmers. We hope that the Secretariat will put this principle into practice in the next biennium so that developing countries will be able to enjoy practical benefits in their agricultural production from this sub-programme of FAO. Besides, in the allocation of resources among regions for this sub-programme, due attention should be paid to the balance among different regions.

Fourth. We noted that the African Region continues to be the priority region in terms of their receipt of net additional resources. We give our support to this approach.

Fifth. Concerning investment in the field programme. Although a quarter of UNDP resources will still be used on agriculture, the prospects for its resources are less than satisfactory. We are concerned that this will exercise adverse effects on FAO's field programme in the Third World countries in the next biennium. But the document says that the Trust Fund of FAO will continue to increase. We hope that the trend will not be weakened, because this will be beneficial to both developed and developing countries. The developed countries need the developing countries to provide markets while the economic growth of the developing countries will in turn benefit the developed countries by way of expanding the latter's exports. Therefore, investment in the field programme for the next biennium should be strengthened rather than weakened.

In recent years, FAO, in the implementation of its field programme, applied "new dimensions", namely, utilization of the capabilities of the developing countries. We wish that this policy will be further effected in the next biennium. Therefore, we suggest that the departments concerned of FAO will, through all possible channels, collect, compile and consolidate information concerning technical advantages and expertise from developing countries for application in technical assistance projects.

LEE CHENG YAN (Malaysia): Like all delegations before me my delegation considers this agenda item, that is the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, very informative and as the most important item in this Session of the Council. As it has been emphasized, and without any further constraints, this summary Programme of Work and Budget should get the support and approval of all of us. My delegation has read the document which reflects the fact that the Director-General for his part has taken every possible measure to formulate a proposal which is acceptable to all under this very difficult economic situation and tied financial aid. They had put in the forefront the great wisdom and judgement to reflect the needs and priorities and having in mind the urgency and magnitude of the problems of food and agriculture development in developing countries, particularly those in Asia and Africa.

My delegation wishes therefore to congratulate the Director-General and his staff for having realistically examined and prepared this summary proposal. As he had indicated in the proposal, this Summary Programme of Work and Budget was formulated after critical and serious examination, taking into account the urgent demands of the developing countries and the constraints faced by the developed countries, and also the capacity of the Organization to fulfil its mandate.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation would not want to go into a deeper examination of the proposal because we feel that under the present situation the Director-General has put up what appears to us an acceptable proposal, though with a barest minimum possible budget level. We only hope that this will not be the case in the future. We feel that the zero growth concept should not be applied to an agency like the FAO which plays an important role in the alleviation of hunger and malnutrition in the world. If we consider carefully the actions taken by the Director-General and his part in preparing this proposal as summarized in his fact sheet in which he had trimmed the budget for greater efficiency and economy, and to shift his Programme activities to boost technical and economic programmes, we would agree that this proposal would result in the implementation of priority programmes with the aim of increasing efficiency and optimum utilization of resources.

We agree with the priorities proposed by the Director-General. In view of the difficult situation now prevailing in Africa we welcome the emphasis given to the Continent with the hope that these difficulties will soon be reduced and eventually eliminated.

We also agree Mr-Chairman with the various programme priorities proposed. Many of these reflect the proposals and recommendations that we in the Council, the Conference and the Regional Conferences that had met before and, which the Director-General and his staff had taken into careful consideration. In view of the fact that this proposal had been closely examined by both the Programme and Finance Committees and it had their approval, for which we would like to congratulate them, in view of the constructive nature with which this proposal was prepared to give thrust and balance to the programmes, my delegation gives our full support to the proposal of the summary Programme of Work and Budget, especially the level of budget, the strategies and priorities in the Organization's Programme of Action for the next biennium.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the Director-General will prepare no doubt a detailed programme for the consideration of the Council and the Conference in November, which takes into account the views that have been expressed in this Council. As we all know between now and November many unforeseen events could take place. In view of this the Director-General should be allowed to use his wise judgement to make the necessary changes should the need arise.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): First of all allow me some general remarks about document CL 83/3 before us. We appreciate the efforts of the Director-General to find in his summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 a balance between the need for increased activities towards promotion of food and agriculture and the well-known world-wide economic and financial difficulties which are of equal concern to developing and developed countries alike.

We welcome in particular the general thrust that is to absorb the real programme increases largely through cuts in the administrative sector within the framework of clearly established priorities.

We also welcome the way in which the summary proposal has been presented in document CL 83/3, allowing us to recognize the broad technical and administrative structures as well as important details.

With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer first to the programme. We welcome the further sharpening of priorities towards production oriented measures which has partly been achieved through shifts within and between the programmes, as well as through the discontinuation of activities of less relevance and the completion of non-recurrent activities. We can agree on the whole to the priorities suggested.

We are also in agreement with the Director-General that the programme proposal covers all important areas of FAO's tasks and responsibilities. In the Major Programme, agriculture, we welcome the intention of the Director-General to give in the future even greater importance to research and technology. Research and technology and their practical application have to play a key role in the fight against hunger in the world. In this crucial area international organizations and governments are faced with a broad field of activities in which they must continue their efforts to a still larger extent.

In this respect an effective division of labour is of special importance. We assume that FAO will endeavour to avoid even more unnecessary duplication. In this context the effect of coordination with the Consultative Group on International Research and with the European Communities, will remain of special importance. The EEC recently launched a programme to promote research and technology for development. As regards the programme contents of the new Research and Technology Development Division in detail, we should like to draw your attention to the fact in connection with sub-programme 2.1.4.2: Agricultural Application of Isotope Research, that the possibilities and limits of agricultural application of isotope research have now been studied for 30 years. It has been learned that the contributions of this method to the clarification and control of scientific interrelations and processes are limited. For this reason, Mr. Chairman, for example the research capacities in the Federal Republic of Germany have been reduced again substantially in the last few years in the field of isotope application in the agricultural sector.

FAO should take this development into account and examine carefully whether it is possible not only to avoid an increase in this sub-programme but to make even considerable cuts.

As regards Sub-programme 2.1.4.4: Remote Sensing Technology we fully recognize the benefit of this technology in particular in large-scale areas of the Tropics and Sub-tropics. In the sector, however, we see possibilities for a labour division with a joint research station of the European Communities in ISPRA, where a comprehensive remote sensing programme is being carried out for agriculture. The joint research station at ISPRA should be prepared and in a position to expand the cooperation with FAO in that sector.

Concerning the Sub-programme 2.1.2.4: Crop Protection, we should like to point out that preliminary work for preparing a code of conduct in the trade and use of pesticides is under way, also within the framework of UNEP. In order to avoid unnecessary overlaps it is considered imperative that the Secretariat of FAO and UNEP come to an understanding about the coordination responsibility for the further development of this Code of Conduct.

We have no special remarks, Mr. Chairman, on the Major Programmes: Fisheries and Forestry. The planned rates of increase concern areas of particular priority.

As far as the TCP is concerned, my delegation does not intend to restate the general opinion of my Government that technical cooperation should be financed from voluntary contributions and not from Regular Budgets. Therefore we note with concern that the TCP shows the highest rate of increase in percentage as compared with other Major Programme areas. We do, however, not ignore the fact that the Organization has entered into certain difficulties in the project sector because of a declining flow of funds from UNDP, even though this reduction has been mitigated to a certain extent through an increase of trust fund resources. We are nevertheless of the opinion that with a share of the TCP of 12.9 percent in the total budget which the TCP has reached in the current budget 1982-83 the upper limit for project operations financed from the Regular Budget of FAO has been surpassed. We are seriously concerned about any increase beyond this point. This concern also relates to the ever-increasing number of TCP projects which is absorbing an excessive share of the Secretariat's planning, implementation and supervision capacity. This may in the long run effect even the core tasks of the Organization.

In view of the already existing high share of the TCP in the total budget, we repeat our request for more detailed and comprehensive information. We continue to ask for information about the extent and the results of internal evaluation and suggest again increased external evaluation. Moreover, we would like to ask whether the project criteria established at the beginning of the Programme have worked out or require revision.

Coming back to the proposal as a whole, my delegation does appreciate every effort to achieve consensus in the forthcoming Conference on the Programme of Work and Budget and wishes to see it come about. My Government is willing to do its best for maintaining FAO's role and functions and has therefore always been advocating concentration on priorities and improvement of efficiency which, as a matter of fact, should be the common aim of all of us. In times in which we are going through budget cuts at home and most people in our countries are affected by reductions of expenditure, we should strive for limiting the financial burden of all member nations. Proceeding on these grounds, my Government recognizes the endeavour made by the Director-General for bringing down the budget increase while trying to strengthen FAO's working capacity. We believe that this is the right approach but that there is still room for improvement. However, in view of the aforementioned objectives and with due regard to my Government's well known position relating to real zero budget growth as a general rule throughout the United Nations system, more information and greater transparency would be required to understand more fully the budget proposal before us.

In particular, in order that we may be put in a position to elaborate more thoroughly on possible suggestions for such improvement, we would be very grateful for more detailed information on some points which seem to lend themselves to improving even more concentration and efficiency of the Organization's activities.

Firstly, the large budget increases result from the biennialization of programme activities as well as from the compensation of cost increases. We would be grateful for detailed information about the factors of calculation and their period of application for the individual cost areas in order to see whether the cuts will be possible. This is also in line with the "petita" of the Finance Committee for its session in autumn.

Secondly, we welcome the further reduction of the share of staff cost of the total budget of the Organization. However, as this share continues to be the largest portion in total expenditure, we should like to ask the Director-General to include additional information about the staff situation in his final proposal for the Programme of Work and Budget. We assume that this information will also include the established posts for the country representatives, broken down by number and rank of the posts as well as the summary which shows the intended elimination and/or establishment of new posts in the respective units. We would be grateful for information on the share of costs for consultants in nominal figures and as percentage of the next budget. The summary proposal indicates a decline in the costs for consultants. We request the same information on contractual services for which the document before us shows an increase of 15 percent and we would appreciate being informed about the reasons for this increase. With this information we would be in a position to identify the share of overall personnel costs in the budget.

Finally, we would be grateful for knowing how far the fully computerized personnel data system has progressed, as requested by the Finance Committee and by Member States. We are looking forward to the full and detailed Programme of Work and Budget proposal which will allow for comprehensive examination with a view to determining the final position of our Government.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): The Indian delegation thanks the Director-General for his very lucid presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget; even the documents and their structure are very clear, precise and immediately understandable. The Indian delegation fully supports the Programme and Budget.

The budget is a very balanced document in which the donor group and the beneficiary group can both find satisfaction, solace and reassurance; satisfaction that maximum efforts are being made to economize on expenditure and on overheads and low priority items; satisfaction that specific steps have been taken by the Director-General to increase efficiency so that economy is not at the cost of efficiency. We get the reassurance, especially in the developing countries, that priority programmes and activities are not only maintained but also reinforced and increased in real terms.

Administrative expenditure has been reduced by \$4 million which in percentage terms comes to 6.4 percent less than last year's. This is very commendable. On the other hand, the technical and economic programme's outlay on them has been increased by \$7 million, that is 3.5 percent over last year's level and the overall increase has been \$2.2 million, that is 0.5 percent in real terms over last year's level.

I seek your indulgence Mr. Chairman, to clarify the implications of 0.5 percent increase in real terms; this should not disturb those who asked for zero growth rate, for reasons best known to them. My feeling is that as a matter of fact, with 1.8 percent growth rate in world population, 0.5 percent growth rate will mean actually a negative per capita growth rate of minus 1.3 percent in FAO's outlay. To maintain per capita growth rate at the same level as now, FAO's budget should have been at least 1.8 percent higher over last year's in real terms, and not 0.5 percent.

The Indian delegation would perhaps be expressing the desire of many developing countries that 0.5 percent is a very modest increase; as a matter of fact, in per capita terms it is a negative growth rate and we would have liked a 2 percent growth rate as a minimum. Be that as it may, we rest content with 0.5 percent increase. The Government of India will meet her commitment on the revised budget.

My delegation fully endorses the Director-General's principles of increasing food production, strengthening food security, giving more orientation to field programmes and encouraging cooperation amongst developing countries. We are happy that Africa has been placed at the centre of the stage of FAO's programmes and activities. India will be prepared to offer all possible assistance to Africa through the FAO's programmes in the areas of irrigation, crop husbandry, agricultural research, forestry, fisheries, livestock development, management of agricultural credit and agricultural extension. My delegation is happy that dry land farming, forestry, energy management have been given priority in FAO's programmes. These are the programmes on which India has laid great stress through its policies and our Prime Minister's new 20-point programme. We are satisfied that in FAO's programmes ecology, exclusive economic zone in the case of fisheries, price policy, small farmers, inland fisheries, social forestry have been included. We consider them to be programmes of the greatest importance.

The Indian delegation has a few general and specific suggestions which the Director-General may kindly consider to the extent possible at this stage. We feel that research in animal sciences and problem-oriented research should be emphasized. Such things as seed-cum-fertilizer drills, designing a special type of plough, seed drills - they are very minor things but they can take agriculture, especially in African countries, very far if some new design through intermediate technology can be achieved.

Similarly, agricultural cooperatives, which we think are a main vehicle of rural development and also for agricultural inputs, processing and marketing, should be included and accommodated in the programme.

Some of the specific suggestions my delegation would like to make - and in this respect I would seek your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, to take you through a few pages of this very lucid and important document, CL 83/3. On page 52 the sub-programmes on agriculture have been indicated. Within the overall figure of \$15.6 million, seeds have been given \$1.86 million whereas crop protection has received \$3.6 million. The suggestion of my delegation is that seeds being the foundation of more productive agriculture, should receive a little more funds than perhaps crop protection has had at this stage. High yielding varieties of seeds, diversifying seed processing are very important in the development of agriculture in its incipient stages and crop protection will come after we have sown a good crop. So therefore I think seeds should receive more attention and more finance than has been indicated and crop protection has got perhaps more than its share, at least in the countries where agriculture has not taken the strides in modern technology.

Next on page 56, on livestock with an overall ceiling of \$9.8 million, keeping the ceiling as it is, my delegation would like to see that livestock production, which has received only \$1.3 million approximately as against \$3.1 million on animal health, should receive more attention. I think the same picture is repeated; we are placing animal health and crop protection on a higher pedestal than animal livestock production or crop production. So I thought where agriculture or livestock is still at a developing stage, livestock production and genetic improvements should receive perhaps more attention and perhaps more funds and perhaps we can afford to reduce the outlay in animal health as we are able to do in the case of crop protection.

On page 60 on Research Technology development my delegation feels that out of a total outlay of \$7.6 million we have given about 30 percent to agricultural applications of isotope research. While we are still struggling in the case of African countries with the design of a new type of plough or seed-cum-fertilizer drills I thought perhaps we could afford to reduce our outlay on isotope research and divert a little bit to problem oriented research, intermediate research, lab-to-land programme, for making the fruits of research available to the farmers and some programmes of operation research, where the results of research are tried out in the farmers' fields. I feel that these items will pay much more and much quicker dividends than perhaps big outlays on sophisticated research programmes.

On page 64, on Rural Development, I have a few suggestions. We have a feeling that in some countries like India and others also, marketing too could receive a little more attention because without proper marketing and pricing the motivation to produce more will not be available to farmers.

Then we feel in this sub-programme agricultural cooperatives should also be included and in this statement my delegation feels that allocation for programme management seems to be a little higher than has been done for other sub-programmes. I have checked up; in the case of other sub-programmes, programme management takes about 5 percent of the total outlay but in this particular case programme management has taken about 15 percent of the total outlay of \$16.7 million. So we thought perhaps there can be some scope for reducing the expenditure on programme management without reducing the total ceiling and diverting some funds on marketing and agricultural cooperatives. These are our suggestions, only for consideration.

On page 68 on Nutrition, out of \$9.2 million we have allocated \$3.2 million to one single item of food quality and standards. My delegation feels that perhaps this can to some extent be reduced and that money could be made available to the anti-poverty programmes of nutrition and field programmes support. This is for consideration.

On page 71 on Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis we feel that an item on agro-meteorological services could be accommodated within the overall budget of \$12.5 million by taking some money out of the sub-programme outlay on situation and outlook, and statistics.

On page 73 on Food and Agricultural Policy, my delegation feels that the commodity policies and trade with \$6.3 million of outlay is a little on the high side. Perhaps some of the funds could be diverted to agricultural planning assistance which is very much needed for African and developing countries and my delegation would suggest that some efforts should be made to prepare model policy guidelines for countries which ask for such guidelines, and where no such invitation is available, at least for the sub-regions and certain agro-climatic areas, model policy guidelines on agricultural development could be thought of and some assistance could be provided under this heading, agricultural planning assistance.

My delegation feels that just as commodity policies and trade inter-act with GATT perhaps there is a case for having a cell on agricultural credits which is presenting considerable difficulties in our country, and this cell on agricultural credit could inter-act with IFAD, the World Bank and IDA. So that there is some rethinking about the basic policy and approach which the international agencies are adopting to my mind in a counter-productive direction. But I do feel that some interaction or some point of inter-face, between the FAO and the financial institutions could be very helpful indeed.

Then I come to page 79 on fisheries. We feel that inland fisheries should receive more attention. I think this was discussed a number of times in the regional meetings and most of the countries in the Asian region and the Pacific region emphasised that inland fisheries development should receive more attention. One of the prime difficulties in developing inland fisheries is the lack of some fish seeds and some development of hatcheries. This has not been included under this sub-programme. It could also be thought of.

Last but not least I come to forestry, this is on page 82. I have calculated that forestry during 1982/83 has received \$12.2 million out of a total allocation of \$366.6 million. This figure of \$366.6 is not indicated but I have got it from some other place. The budgetary allocation was \$366.6 million of which \$12.2 was given to forestry which comes to 3.3 percent in 1982/83. If we compare the corresponding figures 1984/85 \$12.4 million out of a total outlay of \$451.6 million comes to 2.8 percent. So the share of forestry during 1984/85 is 2.8 percent as against its share of 3.3 percent in the 1982/83 biennium. Similar reduction from 4 percent to 3.3 percent of forestry's share can be calculated against total projects as given on page 89.

It is for consideration of the Director-General and the FAO whether we can afford to reduce the percentage share of forestry considering the Director-General's keen interest in ecological and environmental protection and need for afforestation as a supplement or a support of agriculture. Therefore my delegation would like to submit, most respectfully, that in the case of forestry (Headquarters total forestry) the percentage share of 3.3/4.0 during 1982/83 should be maintained during 1984/85, within the overall budget.

The second suggestion of my delegation on forestry is that outlay on forest afforestation resources and environment, even if cannot be increased, at least should not be reduced during the 1984/85 biennium. It has been reduced by \$91.000.

We would also suggest that forestry research should receive some recognition either under this head or some other head because forestry research is something which is suffering in various developing countries. Conservation of wildlife should also receive some more attention and outlay insofar as Asian and African countries are concerned.

These are a few recommendations in the form of suggestion which the Director-General and FAO may consider for whatever they are worth even. Otherwise we fully support the Programme of Work and Budget given by the Director-General. We support the Director-General's proposal on reorganizing the research and technology development division and strengthening of the internal audit and inspection division fully. We congratulate the Director-General that he has produced such an excellently balanced budget. If I may say, in the language of Churchill, one can say that never before have so many important programmes been contained in so little funds and with so few people. The Director-General has very difficult and very challenging problems. We wish him all success for the sake of man's future. With his dynamism and his commitment to the cause of developing countries and their famished people we are sure that the interests of the world's community are safe in his able hands.

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): I was trying to respond to your appeal to ask us to be brief because of time constraints. Although I have cut out some parts I think the main message will be communicated.

We wish to thank the Programme Committee and Finance Committee for the excellent work they did. We also thank the Director-General, first for his correct assessment of the international political and economic situation, particularly for his very honest concern for the worsening food supply situation of low-income food-deficit countries, especially in Africa. We endorse the work of the two Committees. We endorse the strategies and the priorities proposed for 1984/85 and also request the Council to endorse these programme proposals together with the level and balance of resources to be allocated to them.

While agreeing that the proposed level of resources is a sound basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget, my delegation wishes to put it on record that we did not see how the Director-General will respond adequately to priorities of the developing countries given the limited level of resources. To us developing countries this is a matter of great concern. We therefore ask the Council to express the same concern and also note that organizations directly dealing with food and agriculture should not be handled in this manner; I mean, should not be denied reasonable resource increases. Concepts like zero-growth have been advanced but I have yet to get an explanation of how this is consistent with our efforts to achieve goals which governments have set nationally and internationally to meet growing needs of developing countries. How do you expect such organizations to fulfil their mandates when we deny them the resources they would have wanted to have and use for this purpose?

Regarding specific comments on various programmes, we have already commented on the agricultural programme during the debate on the report of the Committee on Agriculture when we, *inter alia*, emphasized four main areas, namely training, research, delivery systems, farming systems and institutional building and when we emphasized the contents of paragraph 279 on page 10 of document CL 83/4, that the crops programme should be strengthened by reprogramming the resources in favour of the production of indigenous food crops, including roots and tubers, sorghum and millet.

We would like to see this reflected in the final Programme of Work and Budget, and the assurance that we have already had from the Director-General that this will be done is welcome to us and very encouraging.

Regarding the Fisheries Programme, we endorse the strategies and priorities set, but wish to emphasize small-scale fishery development, aquaculture and inland fisheries development as a whole.

We also agree with the basic objectives and general thrust of the Forestry Programme but wish to emphasize (a) arid zone forestry and watershed management, (b) community forestry including fuel tree development programmes.

Lastly we support strongly FAO's collaborative efforts with the Economic Commission for Africa and the efforts to implement the Lagos Plan of Action for agriculture and rural development in Africa, as indicated in paragraph 2.185 in document CL 83/4.

A. NAGA (Japan): First of all I would like to make some general remarks about the 84/85 Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

My delegation feels that the 84/85 Summary Programme shows a certain amount of improvement as compared to the 82/83 Programme, in being that it has reduced the real programme increase to almost zero by the cutbacks of various costs including 40 posts, management costs etc. In view of this situation, my delegation appreciates the Secretariat's efforts which appropriately reflect the extremely difficult financial situation of each Member Nation.

In the Summary Programme it indicated that priorities were given to such activities as food production world food security, TCDC/ECDC etc. that have been endorsed or recommended by the Council, Conference, Intergovernmental Bodies and other bodies. Even though my country's final position on the budget will be finalized after further examination of the full Programme of Work and Budget and will be stated at the 84th Council or the 22nd Conference, my delegation feels that these areas of priority are very appropriate and hopes that FAO will continue to undertake these activities utilizing its expertise and knowledge.

At the same time, we should give due consideration to FAO's major responsibility in collecting, analyzing and distributing of the information on food and agriculture. My country considers FAO's study and research activities in the field of food and agriculture to be very important and we strongly hope that FAO will continue to provide the member countries with this very essential information.

Now I would like to make some specific comments on the Technical Cooperation Programme. According to the document CL 83/3, the budget allocated to TCP has proposed an increase of 5.0%, while the total real increase of the 84/85 budget is actually 0.50%. Subsequently the shares of TCP have also increased from 12.9 percent to 13.5 percent.

Although my delegation recognizes the important role of TCP, we feel that it is very difficult to support such a sharp increase in the TCP budget unless specific and concrete reasons for this increase are provided.

Although the document CL 83/3 has defined many decisions and recommendations which indicate the necessity for an increase in TCP, we have been unable to obtain the information of the actual basis for calculating the TCP budget; therefore, my delegation would like to request that the Secretariat provide this information for all the member nations before the next council. In addition to this, my Government would also like to know more specific information about the TCP projects which actually had a catalytic effect in succeeding to introduce external funds and technical assistance. A list of these projects and their relevant information should be provided by the Secretariat before the 84th Council so that each member nation may fully understand the important role of TCP in this area.

In the table of paragraph 5.60, we notice that the miscellaneous category gradually increases its shares, and after 1979 it holds the largest share. My delegation feels that the present categorization does not clearly and appropriately explain the actual TCP activities. Therefore, we would like to request that the Secretariat design and present to us before the 84th Council a table which includes a more detailed categorization.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation has carefully studied the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85 and the reports of the Programme and Budget Committees. My delegation congratulates the Director-General for presenting such a well-considered, pragmatic and development-oriented Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation also thanks the Chairmen of the Programme and Budget Committees for their hard and arduous work in examining the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and presenting their reports for consideration by the Council. We are happy to note that both these Committees have supported the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. This will no doubt facilitate the Council in deliberating on the subject.

My delegation generally agrees with the main objectives, strategies and priorities of the Programme of Work and the level of budget proposed by the Director-General and endorsed by the Programme and the Budget Committees. However, we would like to make a few comments and observations on certain points which my delegation considers very important.

My delegation has noted with appreciation that in determining the priorities and strategies of the Programme of Work and Budget the Director-General has taken into account the recommendations of the FAO Council, the Conference, Regional Conferences, the various committees and the UN General Assembly. It is also gratifying to note that urgent developmental needs of the different regions and countries, and especially of the low-income food-deficit countries, have been taken into due consideration in fixing these priorities.

My delegation also highly appreciates the measures taken by the Director-General in eliminating the low priority activities, reducing administrative and support costs and then devoting the resources thus freed to the high priority technical and economic programmes, including TCP, with the main objectives to promote agricultural development and food production, improve food security, to give more impact at field level activities as well as to enhance the economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, on which much assistance has been given.

My delegation also supports the allocation of these net additional resources to the high priority programmes and sub-programmes such as technology, follow-up of WCARRD, a small farming system, agricultural price policy studies, food security assistance scheme, World Food Survey, TCP, fisheries, forestry and for Africa. These are undoubtedly recognized priority areas of FAO activities and hence my delegation supports the increased allocation to these priority programmes proposed by the Director-General.

In view of the importance of the Technical Cooperation Programme in providing rapid assistance and in meeting unforeseen needs and problems of the least developed countries in Africa, Asia and elsewhere, as well as promoting capital and technical assistance from different sources for these countries, my delegation strongly supports the proposal of the Director-General for the modest increase in its resources from 12.9 percent of the total budget to 13.5 percent. The FAO Conference, Council and the Regional Conferences also recommended augmentation of the resources for TCP. We therefore hope that all delegates to this Council meeting will also give their valuable support to this programme.

About the level of budget proposed for 1984/85, my delegation has noted that in proposing a very modest increase of about 0.5 percent over the working budget for the current biennium the Director-General has exercised his utmost judgement, spirit of economy and restraint in formulating his proposal after reconciling the urgent needs of the developing countries on the one hand and the constraints of the developed countries caused by economic recession on the other hand.

The Director-General has proposed a small amount of \$83 million for cost increase requirements for 1984/85, as against the \$114 million for the current biennium, in spite of continued high inflation. This is another instance of the austerity measures of the Director-General.

The Director-General has taken many other measures for bringing about economy and efficiency of the Organization. These include a drastic cut by \$4 million in administration and common service expenditure, the abolition of 40 posts, bringing down the expenditure on established posts from 77 percent of the total budget a decade ago to only 58 percent in the next biennium. At this time of high inflation and rapid cost increase these bold measures to cut down expenditure are no doubt praiseworthy, for which the Director-General should be highly commended.

Finally, my delegation strongly feels that 0.5 percent increase in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85 over the current biennium is very modest as compared with the need of the developing countries for food production and for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition.

It is needless to mention that the FAO, under the dynamic leadership of its Director-General, has the dedication and expertise and is poised to carry out its sacred task of improving the standard of life of the people in the developing countries. It is therefore very urgent that the FAO's programme of activities should not be so severely limited by resource constraint. However, in view of the present economic recession and financial difficulties the proposed meagre budget increase of 0.5 percent for 1984/85 over the current biennium has our full support. My delegation would also urge upon the Members of the Council to approve the proposed level of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget by consensus.

M. BENNIS (Maroc) : Je me fais un devoir de remercier notre Directeur général du brillant exposé qu'il a fait hier, nous présentant de façon concise, claire et précise le contexte dans lequel a été établi le programme du prochain biennium 1984/85. Les éléments d'appréciation qui ont conduit au choix des priorités et les domaines essentiels sur lesquels seront axées les actions de la FAO.

Je voudrais également féliciter le Président du Comité du Programme et le Président du Comité financier de nous avoir rendu compte des principales conclusions des travaux des comités en question qu'ils ont d'ailleurs dirigés de façon remarquable.

D'une manière générale, ma délégation ne peut que constater avec regret l'affectation de plus en plus grande de l'activité de notre Organisation par les retombées de la crise économique mondiale et ce à un moment où devient plus urgente la nécessité de permettre à toutes les populations de satisfaire leurs besoins de nutrition. Certes, la prise de conscience est générale et personne ne conteste actuellement ce droit à la nourriture, et il incombe à toutes les nations d'oeuvrer pour l'honorer.

Ma délégation appuie sans réserve les grandes lignes du Programme qui nous est présenté et tient à rendre hommage au Directeur général pour avoir bien décelé et identifié les domaines d'activités susceptibles de réduire autant que possible l'impact peu favorable de l'évolution du volume des ressources qui sont encore en général en-deçà des besoins exprimés et potentiels dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire. Nous appuyons donc la stratégie préconisée par le Directeur général pour le prochain biennium. Nous nous réjouissons en particulier de l'accent mis sur le Programme de terrain et des efforts déployés pour réduire les charges administratives.

Ma délégation a noté avec regret également que l'érosion que ne cessent de subir les ressources financières du PNUD dans l'efficacité de la contribution à réaliser les objectifs de développement agricole dans de nombreux pays est incontestable.

Nous constatons également la baisse des ressources des institutions financières multilatérales mais nous notons avec satisfaction l'intérêt croissant porté à l'agriculture par les organismes internationaux et régionaux de financement. Nous voudrions demander à notre Organisation d'intensifier ses efforts pour drainer le maximum de ressources vers le PNUD pour permettre à ce dernier de faire face à des demandes de plus en plus croissantes et d'ailleurs importantes.

Nous suggérons également que notre Organisation lance un appel pressant aux institutions financières pour qu'elles continuent à porter la plus grande attention à l'agriculture sachant que ce secteur joue et jouera pour de longues années encore un rôle moteur et dynamique dans le développement économique et social des pays en développement.

Plusieurs délégués ont mis en exergue au cours des réunions de notre Conseil l'importance du rôle de la recherche et de la technologie et nous ne pouvons qu'abonder dans le même sens.

D'autre part nous enregistrons avec satisfaction le fait d'avoir hissé les préoccupations dans le domaine des politiques de prix agricoles parmi les premières priorités des programmes qui bénéficient de ressources additionnelles. Je voudrais marquer également la satisfaction de la délégation marocaine pour l'attention particulière dont bénéficie le continent africain.

En définitive, ma délégation constate avec admiration le tour de force réalisé par le Directeur général qui a su judicieusement opérer les économies nécessaires pour retenir les priorités convenables. Nous devons l'en féliciter et soutenir ces efforts pour permettre à notre Organisation de remplir sa noble mission. La délégation du Maroc renouvelle donc son appui au Directeur général, formule son approbation sur les conclusions du programme et exhorte le Conseil à donner son accord sur le Programme et budget des deux années à venir.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): It goes without saying that we have studied the documents before us on this item very carefully. The Summary Programme of Work and Budget we feel represents the fine distillate of the efforts of the various sectorial committees and councils to give directions to the efforts of the FAO Secretariat. The Director-General and his colleagues are to be congratulated on the documents they have presented for our consideration, and these documents represent the treading of a fine line among the diverse interests represented in this Council, bearing in mind the overwhelming needs of many countries and the scarce resources available to meet them. In this vein we commend the efforts that have been made to prioritize the various programmes and to reorient the scarce resources within the budget envelope towards technical and economic programmes at the expense of programmes judged to be of a lower priority and of savings effected in the administrative and support areas. We, as others before us, appreciate the difficulty of cutting posts and commend the efforts that have been made. On this point, I would like to echo the statement of France who expressed the hope that the full Programme of Work and Budget would provide details on where these cuts have been made as well as some information on the reorientation of priorities they may represent.

As regards the presentation of the document, we welcome the efforts that have been made to present the information to Council in a more transparent fashion to allow us to better appreciate this complex subject and to make more informed judgements on these important matters. Notwithstanding, we believe the document could be improved by providing appropriate reference points in the various tables so that the reader is better able to appreciate the orders of magnitude of changes that are being proposed.

My government was represented on many of the sectorial committees from which the programmes represented in this document were drawn. We had an opportunity to make our detailed comments on them at that time and will not reopen those issues. On balance, we can support the thrust of the programme we are being presented with. We like others will look forward to the full Programme of Work and Budget for more complete details. For the moment, however, we would like to express some disappointment that the forestry sector appears to be receiving a declining share of admittedly meagre resources which are available, as was so eloquently put yesterday by France and this morning by India when they described the essential role that forestry can play in the food processing chain. Developments such as desertification, erosion and fuel wood shortages are directly linked to food production, supply and nutrition. In this vein, some members may recall how the importance of these links was brought out by Mrs. Gandhi in her opening address to the last Conference. We have noted with some concern the continued albeit modest growth of the Technical Cooperation Programme where resources are being increased from 12.9 to 13.5 percent of the regular programme resources. We believe that the current available funds are ample to meet the unforeseen needs that this programme is designed to meet and that the carryover provisions provide ample flexibility for the administration of the programme. We would prefer to see these additional funds allocated to the FAO's main technical and economic programmes which are at the heart of the FAO's mandate. We would suggest, for instance, that the forestry programme could well absorb some additional resources. On this subject of TCP we would like to echo the statements of the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan when they called for more information and caution in the use of this programme.

My delegation is also concerned about the use of the regular budget resources to support extra-budgetary activities. We certainly do not quarrel with these activities. However, we would urge the Secretariat in accepting these extra-budgetary activities to ensure that they be fully costed so as to avoid drawing resources away from the FAO's regular budget. Finally, on the subject of TCP, given its growth over the years and the sizable amounts now involved, it may be opportune to pause somewhat and evaluate the effectiveness of the programme before allocating to it additional resources.

Turning now to the financial side of the document, we were reassured by the Director-General's statement that the Organization weathered the difficult period last Fall without needing to seek temporary financing through borrowing and that for the present the Organization is in good financial state. This, of course, is confirmed by the data that has been provided to us. We are, however, concerned about the increasing tendency of payments being made late in the fiscal years as well as the numbers of Members who are seriously in arrears. In these times it is sometimes understandable that some Members experience difficulty meeting their financial obligations, but efforts should be redoubled, since these delays and non-payments can seriously hinder the delivery of the programmes and the achievements of our common objectives.

Finally, on the level of the budget, my delegation has reviewed the document very carefully and has participated in numerous meetings to seek a better understanding of the Programme of Work and Budget. My government's position on zero real programme growth throughout the UN system is well

known and I will not test the patience of the Council by repeating our commitments to our policy again. However, taking account of the efforts that have obviously been made to trim the sails in keeping with the current economic and budgetary storms raging in many Member countries on both sides of this issue, my delegation believes that the proposals contained in this summary document provide an acceptable basis on which to prepare the full Programme of Work and Budget. On this note, I would once again like to commend the Director-General and his associates on the skill which they have shown in navigating these difficult waters.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. At this stage, Sir, I would reply only to this question of resources for Forestry which has been raised by a number of distinguished delegates, as you pointed out. In particular the delegate of India referred to some figures which I think it might be helpful to clarify. He referred to the figure 12 244 000 in the 1982-83 Budget, and taking that as a percentage of the total 1982-83 budget, remarked that this was 3.34 percent. He then took the figure of 12 496 000 which appears in the same table at page 82 of the document proposed for 1984-85, and gave it as a percentage of the total proposed budget, including the cost increases at 451 627 000, and then drew the conclusion that the share of Forestry declined to 2.77 percent. Of course this is not quite doing justice to the information.

It would be more useful if we took the figure for Forestry not only for the Headquarters because the table to which reference has been made refers only to Headquarters. One has also then to consider the resources to be channelled to the Regional Offices, and if we take the total resources in 1982-83 you had 14 634 000, which as a percentage of the total budget comes to 3.99 percent. If you then take the comparable figure proposed for 1984-85, this is 14 896 000 and as a percentage of the proposed budget without the cost increases comes to 4.04 percent, but if you add the cost increases at the same level for Forestry as you would across the board, the share of Forestry would then be around 4.25 percent. So in terms purely factually of resources in 1982-83, Forestry resources - 3.99 percent; for 1984-85 - 4.25 percent.

I would also point out that the Director-General's proposal of the net additional increase for Forestry amounts to just over 2 percent as compared to the medium for the budget as a whole of 0.5 percent.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Antes de hacer ningún tipo de consideración nuestra delegación quiere expresar que apoya en absoluto el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984/85 como está presentado en el documento CL 83/3.

Durante el desarrollo de la discusión se han presentado muchas pruebas del equilibrio con que se ha recogido este documento. Las palabras iniciales del Director General, a nuestro juicio, son conclusivas del esfuerzo realizado para presentar armonizadas las prioridades con la realidad de la situación económica mundial.

Al Director General, con el prestigio de su dedicación a la causa de la solución de los problemas del hambre y del desarrollo de la agricultura en el mundo, hay que felicitarlo por este aporte de realismo.

Consideramos que los informes y exposición hechos por los distinguidos presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas demuestran la pulcritud y dedicación en que se trabaja en la formulación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Señor Presidente, en estos momentos queremos comenzar a plantear, primero, que nos oponemos a que se inicie una instrumentalización del crecimiento cero, con consideraciones, a nuestro juicio inconscientes y egoístas porque no se dan cuenta que el hambre crece, que crece la malnutrición, que crece la muerte por inanición y de esta forma se comenzará a propugnar el evitar poder enfrentar, o al menos aliviar, estas situaciones.

Nuestra delegación no tiene que hacer ninguna preferencia por los programas; apoyamos en todo su contenido y en las interrelaciones que existen entre todos de la forma que está presentado.

Apoyamos, asimismo, las prioridades presentadas.

Sí queremos específicamente exaltar la importancia para nuestros países del Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Estos Programas se ha probado ya, se ha repetido muchas veces, y en todos los continentes hay pruebas fehacientes de ello, constituyen un medio eficaz, rápido de apoyo a las prioridades internas de nuestro desarrollo. Esta es una cuestión muy importante porque estos Programas de Cooperación Técnica obedecen a nuestra demanda. Los Programas de Cooperación Técnica garantizan que los países puedan elegir su opción sin interferencia de los grandes centros económicos. ¿Será por esto que les molesta que la FAO ayude a evitar la dependencia? Creo que estas son razones específicas para la existencia y para el crecimiento de los Programas de Cooperación Técnica.

En este sentido queremos elogiar los esfuerzos que realiza nuestra Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe. Asimismo queremos referirnos al papel de los representantes de la FAO en los países. Consideramos que los mismos están jugando un papel muy importante de agilización de la participación de nuestros países en las actividades de los Programas Ordinarios.

La labor del representante de la FAO en nuestro país podemos considerarla como muy fructífera, criterio de nuestro gobierno.

Una Organización como la FAO necesita de esta dinámica para poder mantenerse en la situación mundial existente. No entendemos, lo decimos claramente, que países con suficientes medios de informática a todos los niveles, con una computerización científicamente alta puedan escudarse para oponerse al presupuesto y al programa en necesidades de informaciones.

La FAO, lo acaba de demostrar en estos momentos el Sr. Shan, inclusive a todos los países, y no a los poderosos solamente, le ha suministrado en todos los tiempos todo tipo de información y está considerada dentro del marco de Naciones Unidas como la Organización con el cúmulo mayor de informática y de estadística.

Los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas proporcionaron documentos suficientemente amplios, y en estos Comités están representados muchos de los que, no sabemos por qué, aquí necesitan más información.

Con todos los respetos, señor Presidente, consideramos que el Consejo va a apoyar y aprobar por consenso un presupuesto que sólo ha tenido dos o tres manchitas que necesitan más información y que estamos seguros que la FAO la puede dar.

Una Organización consecuente con su objetivo fundamental, la FAO, sobre todo a partir de que la Dirección General está en manos de un hombre del Tercer Mundo, ha procedido dinámicamente por el origen de sus propósitos; la FAO incorpora novedades importantes que van más allá de la conformidad de ver al hambre como consustancial a los países del Tercer Mundo, a lo que nos puede llevar si aceptamos el crecimiento cero.

Es lamentable decir que el desarrollo espectacular de unos pocos países a costa de la dependencia económica de la mayoría nos obliga ver en la FAO el instrumento primordial de análisis y preparación de todo tipo de programas que le permita cumplir con la erradicación de las causas reales de la pobreza y del hambre, que es su mandato en Naciones Unidas. Esta importante Organización se ha caracterizado por su capacidad informativa e instrumentalización al servicio de las grandes mayorías; debe seguir profundizando sus estudios y apoyando a los países pobres a eliminar las verdaderas causas que han provocado la dependencia alimentaria.

Sin duda que el horizonte mundial sería muy distinto si las resoluciones y recomendaciones aprobadas colectivamente en esta Organización se hubiesen apoyado o instrumentalizado, por ejemplo, por el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, o si la voluntad política de quienes gozan de abundancia se ejecutara como lo proclaman.

Nuestra delegación está convencida de que la FAO va a seguir orientando todos sus esfuerzos y capacidades en contribuir intelectual y técnicamente para activar el apoyo a los gobiernos por sus reformas agrarias, su desarrollo rural, agroindustria, el desarrollo tecnológico, nuestra agricultura, nuestros montes, la pesca, la nutrición, la capacitación, los programas de cooperación técnica, la participación popular, etc.

Preguntamos: ¿Será por esto que se impide crecer a la FAO? ¿Será por esto que se ataca a la FAO?

La angustiada perspectiva de los pueblos del Tercer Mundo, que también sufragaban una crisis que hoy nos la presentan como motivo para el crecimiento cero, una crisis que en nada han contribuido a crear, tendrá que exigir también que la FAO se incorpore a la campaña permanente contra el armamentismo. ¿Por qué? Porque estamos obligados a no concebir que la FAO pase por alto, que en la misma medida que crecen los hambrientos la humanidad gasta en un año miles y miles de millones de dólares en armas; se sabe que son cinco mil veces más que lo que se le da a la FAO, dos mil veces más de lo que se le da al FIDA, no concebimos que la civilización más refinada- y altamente científica destine más a aniquilamiento que al desarrollo; no concebimos que se nieguen fondos a la FAO y se le den fondos a Sudafrica para que siga asesinando a pueblos en nombre del sacrosanto racismo blanco; no concebimos que se opongan a que la FAO pueda seguir cumpliendo su mandato.

Finalmente, apoyamos las cifras que nos proponen porque queremos que siga existiendo la FAO; apoyamos las cifras y el Programa porque la FAO va a cumplir con su mandato con ahorro y austeridad como lo ha hecho hasta ahora.

Queremos volver a felicitar al Director General, a la Secretaría y a los Comités de Programas y de Finanzas por el perfecto esfuerzo de armonización para presentarnos, dentro de las circunstancias, un programa y presupuesto para que la FAO cumpla su misión histórica eficazmente.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 a fait l'objet d'un examen attentif et minutieux de la part de la délégation de mon pays. Nous sommes heureux de pouvoir dire qu'il s'agit d'un document bien structuré, dont la présentation marque des progrès sensibles par rapport au passé; aussi voudrions-nous nous associer aux félicitations adressées au Directeur général par tous ceux qui nous ont précédés. Les mêmes félicitations s'adressent également aux présidents des deux comités qui ont fait une analyse fouillée et équilibrée de ce sommaire de Programme de travail et budget.

L'examen des documents CL 83/3 et CL 83/4 ne doit pas être séparé des analyses que nous avons faites les jours précédents; au contraire nous pensons qu'il convient de l'inscrire dans ce contexte préoccupant, et à cet égard l'exposé introductif fait hier après-midi par le Directeur général est fort éloquent. Il a en effet su, en termes poignants, décrire le contexte dans lequel il convenait de placer ce sommaire de Programme de travail et budget. Or ce contexte, nous le connaissons, il est caractérisé par un faible taux de croissance de la production vivrière par rapport à l'accroissement démographique dans les pays en développement, source de pénurie alimentaire chronique et de fréquentes situations d'urgence. Ceci amène une diminution du volume d'aide publique au développement, notamment des ressources affectées au PNUD, au FIDA, au PAM et à la Banque mondiale qui connaissent un déclin préjudiciable aux investissements dans l'agriculture et une dette extérieure de plus en plus écrasante, conséquence du déclin enregistré au niveau des recettes d'exportation et des taux d'intérêt élevés.

Face à une telle situation, l'on pouvait s'attendre à ce que l'organisation chargée d'aider les pays en développement à inverser ces tendances puisse bénéficier des ressources nécessaires pour accomplir cette mission. Hélas, on nous propose la croissance zéro. Oui, M. le Président, je ne me suis pas trompé car une augmentation de 0,5 pour cent sur le précédent budget nous paraît proprement symbolique voire insignifiante. Il y a deux ans, à la même époque, nous disions que le budget alors proposé était un compromis entre les tenants de la croissance zéro et ceux, comme nous, qui pensaient que le niveau du budget devait correspondre à l'ampleur des besoins auxquels la FAO devait faire face. Il est clair que le niveau du budget proposé donne plus satisfaction aux partisans de la croissance zéro.

Ma délégation tient à rappeler qu'il est inacceptable que ce concept s'applique à la FAO dont la mission essentielle est de promouvoir la production agricole et alimentaire en vue de garantir à tous le droit à la nourriture. Mais ma délégation voudrait apporter son soutien au programme de travail ainsi qu'au niveau du budget soumis à notre examen, car elle apprécie hautement les efforts d'assainissement faits par le Directeur général pour réduire les dépenses administratives au profit des priorités techniques et économiques. A cet égard, nous percevons à travers les différentes rubriques la volonté confirmée du rôle essentiel de la FAO dans la production vivrière, la sécurité alimentaire, l'élimination de la pauvreté en milieu rural et l'avènement d'échanges internationaux plus équitables pour les produits agricoles.

Les stratégies et priorités retenues pour le biennium 1984-85 rejoignent nos préoccupations telles qu'elles sont exprimées à la Conférence régionale d'Alger et dans d'autres instances. Cependant, nous tenons à exprimer nos réserves quant à la timide orientation de ressources affectées pour renforcer les activités intéressant la production du plantain, des racines, des tubercules ainsi que des légumineuses. Il est souhaitable, au regard de ce qui a été dit ici au sujet de ces produits, que des ressources supplémentaires y soient consacrées.

Le regroupement de quatre unités dans une Division du développement, de la recherche et des techniques nous paraît assez judicieux, car il semble qu'ici l'esprit d'économie se conjugue parfaitement avec le souci d'efficacité qui doit caractériser les activités de notre Organisation.

Un autre côté faible dans la préparation des ressources, malgré les explications données, nous paraît être les forêts et la pêche, et nous voudrions demander au Directeur général d'imprimer un essor décisif à ces départements qui nous paraissent être les parents pauvres dans l'affectation des ressources, malgré les efforts indéniables qui ont été faits dans l'actuel budget. Nous savons tous le rôle de la forêt en milieu rural et son impact dans certaines de nos économies nationales, pour ne rien négliger qui puisse permettre aux Etats intéressés de tirer le maximum de revenus et de bien-être social de leurs forêts. La pêche revêt pour notre délégation une importance capitale, car de nombreux facteurs, dont la tsé-tsé, limitent le développement de l'élevage malgré des efforts importants de notre Gouvernement pour promouvoir ce secteur pour lequel les crédits ne devraient souffrir aucune amputation. C'est pour cette raison que les produits de la pêche constituent à présent une source de protéines non négligeable qui apporte une contribution importante à la sécurité alimentaire de notre pays. Ces crédits devraient donc être renforcés par rapport à l'actuel budget.

Mais, M. le Président, toutes ces imperfections pouvaient être corrigées si le programme de coopération technique, dont l'efficacité n'est plus à démontrer, sans doute parce qu'il tire ses ressources du budget ordinaire - et nous l'appuyons sous la forme actuelle, car c'est sous cette forme qu'il a reçu l'appui unanime et pertinent des différentes conférences régionales dont la nôtre, et dont les mérites ont été largement évoqués ici -, si donc le PCT, dis-je, avait reçu toute l'impulsion dans l'affectation des ressources.

En effet, une augmentation de 0,6 pour cent ne nous paraît pas refléter tout le bien que les pays bénéficiaires en pensent puisque l'augmentation notée ici est à peine supérieure à l'augmentation générale du budget. Nous nous étonnons de ce que ce programme, qui a suscité tant d'intérêt de la part de nos pays, n'ait pas été le principal bénéficiaire des différents transferts de fonds qui se sont opérés à l'intérieur de ce budget. Nous sommes cependant conscients que le Directeur général s'est trouvé face à de multiples priorités et orientations, et a dû faire des choix parfois douloureux. C'est pour cette raison qu'il convient que le Conseil lui apporte tout son soutien, avec l'espoir que les lacunes qui ont été relevées ici soient tant soit peu comblées lorsqu'il nous présentera son programme définitif.

Pour sa part, la délégation de la République populaire du Congo réitère son appui aux priorités contenues dans le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 présenté par le Directeur général, et souhaite ardemment qu'il l'aide à accomplir sa mission dans la sérénité. Voilà pourquoi, tout en étant sensible aux efforts du Directeur général visant à réduire le personnel au siège, nous pensons qu'il y a des limites dans ces réductions au-delà desquelles la FAO ne devra pas s'aventurer, au risque de compromettre l'efficacité des programmes de terrain.

Nous saluons également l'accent mis sur la formation dans les différents sous-programmes, et espérons que cet effort se poursuivra dans l'avenir, puisqu'il s'agit là de la priorité des priorités mises en avant par la dernière session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique.

J.I. PALACIOS SERRANO (España): Gracias señor Presidente. La delegación española se reserva el derecho de intervenir en otras futuras intervenciones. Quisiera tomar la palabra en este momento, aunque muy brevemente, pero antes deseo felicitar al señor Director General por las palabras que nos dirigió ayer, así como a los presidentes de los Comités de Programas y de Finanzas por la excelente forma en que presentaron sus informes.

La delegación española ha estudiado detenidamente el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85, y quisiera manifestar su satisfacción por los esfuerzos que se han hecho en pro de la economía y de la distribución más eficaz de los recursos dentro de la Organización. Quisiera, asimismo exhortar al Director General a seguir en esta misma línea. Mi país considera como esencial el papel de la FAO en la sociedad internacional, y aunque estime que todos los recursos destinados a financiar la erradicación del hambre en el mundo son escasos, no por ello deja de considerar necesario que en esta tarea exista un cierto rigor presupuestario y una mayor eficacia, que debe entenderse como resultado de la actual crisis económica internacional, y la difícil situación financiera por la que atravesamos algunos países miembros.

En resumen, la delegación española apoya los recortes para una mayor productividad y economía, así como los impulsos a los programas técnicos y económicos con las prioridades que se especifican en el documento de referencia.

H.F. NAJEB (Iraq) (original language Arabic): First of all I should like to say that all the delegates who have spoken before me have expressed their support for the Programme of Work and Budget proposed for 1984-85 biennium. We would express, in our turn, our entire support for this Programme of Work and Budget. We also wish to congratulate the Director-General for his proposals which constitute a compromise between the developing countries' needs on the one hand and the world economic situation on the other. We also congratulate him again on his success in allocating an amount not exceeding 58 percent for the staff costs and this had a positive effect on the increase in technical activities up to the sum of \$7 million allocated to these activities without any extra increase in the budget. We would have been happier still if the Director-General in the light of the above, would have submitted to us at this Session, as he has done at previous sessions, details of expenditure for administrative services for every amount spent on the services in respect of each of the field projects and programmes along with a comparison of these figures with those of other development organizations, international or national, so that the efficiency of FAO in this matter could be better illustrated.

We wish, on the other hand, to express our concern because of the substantial reduction in the UNDP resources, as well as the reduction in the aid given to developing countries in general.

We fully agree on the joint report of the Programme and Finance Committees, as contained in document CL 83/4 and we thank them for their emphasis on strengthening the administrative and technical support to the Technical Cooperation Programmes and for their support to the Technical Cooperation Developing Countries. We trust that the increase of only 0.5 percent suggested in the budget will not have an adverse effect on the training activities undertaken by the organizations because of the vital importance of this activity and its positive effect for the development of agricultural personnel in the developing countries.

We also wish to refer to another point here at the Council. It concerns the Technical Cooperation Programmes which we consider as a very useful tool which the Director-General can resort to for a quick and effective intervention in favour of the developing countries. Although we would have wished that a larger share of the resources be earmarked for this programme, yet in view the general circumstances which we hope are only exceptional and not to be repeated in future budgets we are happy to announce our support for the increase in these allocations from 12.9 percent to 13.5 percent.

Finally we wish to welcome with pleasure the consensus of this Council Session in approving the Programme of Work and Budget as this would certainly have a positive effect on the speedy ratification thereof by the Conference.

G.E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): Desearía, en primer término, expresar nuestro sincero reconocimiento al Director General y a todos los funcionarios de la Secretaría General que han puesto un esfuerzo especial en la preparación de la documentación. Entendemos que es especialmente valiosa, no solo por la forma clara en que ha sido presentada, sino por el rigor presupuestario que caracteriza a esta presentación; pero decía que, en particular, expresamos nuestro reconocimiento por la forma, el "approach", casi podría decir la filosofía seguida por la Secretaría en la preparación del proyecto del Programa.

Nuestra Delegación ha estudiado en detalle la documentación respectiva, y para ser franco con ustedes había preparado una larga exposición con comentarios y consideraciones, pero creo que a esta altura del debate resulta innecesaria su lectura. Consecuentemente, tratare de referirme a algunos aspectos de particular interés.

El Documento refleja en forma sintética el enfoque con que la Secretaría de la FAO ha preparado, o está preparando, el Programa del Presupuesto para el próximo bienio, e incluye en forma resumida el examen de las estrategias y políticas y de sus repercusiones en el Programa de Campo, las prioridades de los programas, los aumentos de los costos y las relaciones recíprocas entre todos estos elementos. Por otra parte, y como es lógico, en la formulación del Programa de Presupuesto se ha tenido debidamente en cuenta la actual situación mundial; es así que la Secretaría General en su documento nos señala la grave crisis económica internacional, el estancamiento del comercio mundial, la desocupación, los niveles de endeudamiento de los países en desarrollo y, en fin, todos los males que aquejan a la comunidad internacional, pero que adquieren un carácter dramático en el caso de los países en desarrollo.

Sobre lo que hace a la producción agrícola se señala que aunque ésta ha crecido globalmente en los últimos dos años, se tiene plena conciencia de que sólo un análisis de la situación alimentaria por regiones, por países e incluso por sectores dentro de los países, puede indicar dónde se hallan los problemas reales.

Coincidimos también en la forma sintética en que la Secretaría General señala la situación en materia de ayuda alimentaria, el comercio agrícola, los intercambios y la ayuda exterior a la agricultura; la situación descrita ha llevado, y aquí algo muy importante, a actuar con grande cautela y con gran sobriedad en la preparación del Programa de Presupuesto.

Mi Delegación considera que el enfoque es absolutamente correcto, ya que en forma pragmática se ha logrado hacer el estudio de las necesidades y de las limitaciones financieras existentes.

Finalmente, se hace una evaluación crítica de la capacidad de la organización para cumplir su mandato.

Insistimos en que este documento nos parece muy correcto y nosotros le damos nuestro total respaldo.

Por otra parte, el Documento se refiere también al apoyo prestado por la FAO a distintos programas y a la decisión de continuar participando y de tratar de hacerlo tan eficientemente como sea posible. Así se refiere a fertilizantes, al PASA, prevenciones de pérdida de alimentos, y entre algunas otras, al de la pesca en las zonas económicas exclusivas. Sobre este punto en particular, Señor Presidente, quisiera detenerme un par de minutos. El propio Documento señala que son los cambios introducidos en el Régimen Jurídico del Mar por la adopción por parte de la mayoría de los países de la Comunidad Internacional de la Convención sobre el Derecho del Mar, los que han tenido consecuencias importantes para los Estados costeros, tanto desarrollados como en vías de desarrollo. Es precisamente ante esta situación consciente de las consecuencias de los cambios, que se iniciará en 1979 un programa global para el desarrollo y la ordenación de la explotación pesquera en las zonas económicas exclusivas.

Se ha prestado, y leo del Documento, una ayuda especial en numerosas esferas de actividades, en particular política y planificación dentro de las zonas económicas exclusivas, vigilancias, controles e inspección de las actividades pesqueras de otros países y propias, prestaciones de asesoramiento jurídico y armonización de los regímenes nacionales. Estas misiones, a juicio de esta Delegación, constituyen el medio principal para prestar la asistencia de los países ribereños para que éstos puedan desarrollar sus recursos pesqueros. Este es el objetivo principal del Programa y nos congratulamos de que así sea.

Por otra parte, y siempre dentro de este mismo tema, nos ha llamado la atención lo señalado en la página 13 de que se necesitará un apoyo extrapresupuestario de 30 millones de dólares para aspectos supranacionales del Programa de zonas económicas exclusivas.

Mi Delegación congratula a la Secretaría General por la permanente búsqueda de fondos y recursos extrapresupuestarios en vista de las crecientes dificultades que tenemos; pero nos permitimos recordar la conveniencia de garantizar que la eventual procedencia de esos fondos extrapresupuestarios no nos desvíe de los objetivos fijados.

Abreviando, Señor Presidente, quisiera decir que la Delegación argentina coincide en el mantenimiento de los niveles del fondo de operaciones y de la cuenta especial de reserva, que han alcanzado niveles aceptables para su funcionamiento. Agradecemos especialmente a la Secretaría, el esfuerzo realizado para disminuir los gastos administrativos sin limitar los principales programas. Apoyamos la iniciativa de aumentar los recursos del PCT, ya que creemos que responde a solicitudes expresas de varios organismos de esta Organización así como de todas las conferencias regionales de la FAO.

Confiamos en que la Secretaría continuará haciendo todo lo posible para disminuir los costos de documentación y entendemos que la propuesta que nos hace significa un buen esfuerzo, pero quizá sea en este campo donde se podrían realizar ajustes adicionales.

Respecto a la disminución de los 40 puestos en la Organización, estoy seguro de que dicho corte no afectará el nivel de eficiencia de la Organización. Estimo que podrían ser absorbidos sin mayor problema; lo más importante en todo caso es señalar los esfuerzos de la Secretaría por presentarnos un presupuesto donde no disminuyen los programas técnicos y que por lo menos, no nos presenten nuevos pedidos de vacantes para llevar adelante esos programas.

En resumen, Señor Presidente, mi Delegación coincide en la forma y en el fondo con el Documento presentado y le damos nuestro pleno apoyo. Somos conscientes de que el monto total del Presupuesto resulta insuficiente para hacer todo lo que FAO puede hacer, pero estamos convencidos de que con el entusiasmo y la eficiencia que caracteriza a todos los funcionarios de la Organización, ésta podrá continuar prestando sus valiosos servicios a la humanidad.

W. DOYLE (Ireland): My delegation wishes to record its appreciation of the efforts made by the Director-General and clearly reflected in the documents before us to keep the budget increase to a minimum and to reconcile this modest increase with the enormous needs of the developing countries by providing Council with a commendable programme of work in the next biennium.

We wish to refer in particular to the question of savings under administration. We note that the Director-General is leading by example here and that some of the staff savings are made from among his own staff.

The difficult economic climate is a special spur to all governments, and indeed the Organization, to search exhaustively for savings, especially savings which can be effected without undue detriment to essential services. My Government is not alone in this quest. Having heard the delegates of so many member countries express misgivings in regard to possible adverse effects that staff reductions might have on programme performance, I thought it might be appropriate for me to explain that our Government looks to this area in our own public service to achieve very significant savings. I think it is a question of hard times require difficult and often unpopular decisions.

The decision taken and implemented by the Government of Ireland almost a year ago was that two out of every three posts in public service would remain unfilled. You may be pleased to note that reaction to this rather severe action has been very mild, even though it has been in operation for almost a year now. Reaction showed itself on my departure from Dublin to Rome, in that we had a 24-hour air traffic controllers strike - perhaps it is gathering.

As regards the increase proposed in the FAO budget and its being as low as 0.5 percent, I would like to point out that such an apparently modest increase would mean a considerable increase in my country's contribution. This is so because of the revised scale of UN contributions recently decided in New York and also the adverse exchange rates for our currency. Notwithstanding this, my delegation considers that the proposals made in the summary before us form a sound basis for the budget for the next biennium. I wish again to thank the Director-General on this account.

Sra. Doña E. HERAZO DE VITI (Panamá): El primer comentario que le merece a la delegación de Panamá la discusión del resumen de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el 84/85 que nos propone el Director General es el de reconocerle a éste su mérito en la racionalización de los gastos que viene a significar que los servicios de apoyo y los servicios comunes lleguen a representar el 18 por ciento del presupuesto, así como la eliminación de 40 puestos, y que los gastos en estos puestos en proporción al presupuesto total hayan disminuido del 77 por ciento; hace un decenio al 50 por ciento, aparejando estos recortes por un aumento de 7,3 millones de dólares, un 3,5 por ciento sobre el nivel actual en los recursos dedicados a los programas técnicos y económicos, entre ellos el PCT.

El Director General nos ha expresado que ha tomado muy en cuenta los problemas económicos por los que actualmente atraviesan los Estados Miembros, y sobre este particular reiteramos lo que expresáramos en nuestra intervención inicial en el sentido de que la crisis que se da en el interno de los países desarrollados es dentro de ciertas condiciones de bienestar, que dista mucho de las mejores condiciones por las que puedan pasar muchos de los países en vías de desarrollo.

Para sorpresa nuestra, durante el día de ayer escuchamos señalamiento por parte de algunas delegaciones en el sentido de que apoyaban la tendencia al crecimiento cero al referirse al nivel del presupuesto. A esta delegación le preocupa este tipo de planteamientos, el cual en anteriores oportunidades hemos rechazado, y rechazamos, porque, como bien lo expresara nuestro Presidente del Grupo de los 77 en declaración inicial a este Consejo, las dificultades de nuestros países no tienen crecimiento cero, sino que lamentablemente se multiplican y agravan. Se trata, pues, como bien lo expresaron los Presidentes del Comité de Programa y de Finanzas, de un incremento presupuestario simbólico del orden de 0,5 por ciento para el próximo bienio; y este tipo de incremento no guarda relación con las necesidades crecientes y demandas insatisfechas de una seguridad alimentaria que todos hemos aceptado en fortalecer y ampliar.

Es por todo esto que resulta totalmente inaceptable la denominada teoría de "crecimiento cero" porque la racionalización de gastos con la cual se está de acuerdo tiene un límite que superado significará regreso en las actividades mismas de una Organización como la FAO en la cual hay puestas muchas esperanzas y depositada mucha confianza.

Sobre los programas de campo, cuyas propuestas vienen indicadas en el capítulo tercero del documento CL 83/3 queremos subrayar, por su importancia dentro de los programas especiales de acción, el de fertilizantes, destacando lo acordado por la 8ª reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes que reconoció las funciones de este Programa en su esfuerzo por aumentar la producción agrícola, reconociendo asimismo los aspectos socioeconómicos de esta labor como acción complementaria de la CMRADR, lo mismo que el plan de ayuda para la seguridad alimentaria, el Programa para Prevención de las Pérdidas de Alimentos, así como el de Mejoramiento y Desarrollo de Semillas, el Plan Internacional de Fomento de la Carne, el de Contribución Forestal y Desarrollo de las Comunidades Locales, y el de actividades complementarias de la CMRADR, cuyos avances hemos venido examinando periódicamente los órganos rectores de esta Organización y que vienen a incidir en la prestación de asistencia y ayuda a diversos países en la preparación de sus estrategias, planes y programas nacionales de reforma agraria y de desarrollo rural, así como la atención al fomento de la participación popular, la función de la mujer en el desarrollo rural y el apoyo a la educación, capacitación y extensión para el desarrollo rural; y en planos regionales el importante aspecto que tiene que ver con el establecimiento y funcionamiento de los centros regionales del desarrollo rural y reforma agraria que tal y como han sido concebidos deben incidir positivamente en los aspectos de planificación, capacitación y ejecución de los programas de reforma agraria y de desarrollo rural; sobre este aspecto del resumen del programa de labores y presupuestos para el 84/85 subrayamos lo indicado en el párrafo 3.85 sobre la amplitud de las demandas no satisfechas, que inciden en las esferas de los programas de acción de esta Organización que merecen en las actuales circunstancias un apoyo especial.

Para finalizar, nuestra delegación desea mencionar que Panamá ha recibido los beneficios del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, un Programa ágil y oportuno que da respuesta a necesidades con soluciones imposterables para nuestros países.

Z. GROCHOWSKI (Poland): First our delegation wishes to say that we found the document highlighting the main features of the Director-General's proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium concise and clear, which will certainly facilitate discussion of this important issue. We fully appreciate the amount of work and effort which was necessary for the preparation of this document and further improvements in its format and presentation.

As we stated in the discussion of the current world food situation, we agree with FAO's assessments of the world agricultural position and the recognition of the gravity of the world food situation, and that these problems are requiring the highest attention of governments and public opinion. We also agree with the statement of the Secretariat that the basic mandate as well as the strategies and medium-term objectives of the Organization remain unchanged and that its programmes have a continuous character being carried forward from one biennium to the other. However, the needs of world agriculture and food economy are evolving and require a new determination of priorities of action in their context of available resources.

It should be appreciated that the budget proposed takes into account the economic situation of the world and financial constraints faced by many governments. We therefore welcome the efforts undertaken by the Director-General to limit the request for additional resources.

I would like to remind you that my delegation is in favour of the concept of zero growth. In order to be able to expand the programmes and activities in these fields in which their expansion is highly desirable it is necessary to reduce or to cut programmes and activities of relatively low priority or utility.

My delegation is of the opinion that the main directions and orientations of the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget are correct. We are in favour of recognizing the highest priorities for food production, farming systems, research and technology, to shifting the resources to technical and economic programmes, to concentrating attention on the African region. We agree however with the comments of the Programme Committee that food and agricultural problems in other regions should continue to be given adequate attention and that Asia in particular would need to remain a focus of attention in view of its huge population and the magnitude of the problem of rural poverty in the region.

We welcome and support the Organization's effort to reduce the number of established posts at Headquarters and the proposed cuts in the administration and support services at Headquarters and in the field.

It seems to us that there are still some possibilities of making economies, and we should like to encourage further steps in this direction. The priorities as established in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget in our opinion reflect the present pressing need of countries and regions, and both regular programme activities and special programmes are geared to render the maximum possible assistance to needy countries in the field of agricultural development. The concentration of efforts and resources on technical and economic programmes appears to us fully justified under the present circumstances when agricultural productivity is stagnant in many countries, a number of which experience serious food shortages. The importance of mobilizing additional financial resources for agricultural development cannot be over-emphasized.

We should remember that the most important factor in fighting human malnutrition is increase of food production. Therefore, we think that the work of technical divisions like plant and animal production divisions should be strengthened and cuts be avoided.

We consider the training of farmers in the introduction of new improved farming systems as being of paramount importance for the further growth of production. We would appreciate some more detailed information on the results achieved in this field, methods applied in training and proposed action for the future.

We note that the activities carried out by the Investment Center are highly appreciated as they are supposed to pave the way and facilitate future investment. We understand that this work will be further continued. We are not very clear, however, why the demands of the World Bank for FAO services have been declining as stated on page 26 of the document under discussion. We would appreciate receiving additional information in this respect. The Polish Delegation on many occasions has stressed the need to increase FAO's function in international cooperation in the field of agricultural research and technology development. Therefore we are glad to see the proposal of the regrouping of units dealing with various aspects of research and technology development and we hope that this measure permits FAO to increase its contribution to the countries' development and to intensify cooperation with other international entities dealing with research and technology.

My country's position is that the normal assistance programme should be based on voluntary contributions. The Conference accepted these specific purposes of the TCP of providing a speedy, efficient response to Member governments' urgent requirements. Taking into account the specific purposes of the TCP, we do not consider that the proportion of financial appropriation for this purpose should increase.

We fully agree with the proposal to stabilize the decentralization programme at its present level. The coverage of more than 70 developing countries by FAO representatives should be sufficient for providing assistance to countries which need it most. We consider, however, that the concept of multi-accreditation should be further pursued whenever possible.

We have noted that the present scope of recent activities in the European region will be continued. We only regret that financial resources allocated for this programme are extremely small, which would prevent further expanding of this programme.

To summarize, I wish to state that we agree with the general line of the Director-General's programme of work, and we appreciate his efforts to limit the additional financial burden on Member countries in the present difficult economic situation faced by many of them.

H.K. SEIP (Norway): In his opening statement last Monday, the Director-General characterized the item under discussion as a main item on our agenda. It certainly is. The Programme of Work and Budget reflects the policy of the Organization and creates the basis for its implementation. With this in mind, it is encouraging to experience the work done by the Secretariat to optimize the use of available financial resources. We sincerely hope that the firm and wise leadership of the Director-General which has led to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget before us will bring us a proposal for the Conference that is acceptable both for the developing and the developed world. Even in the existing difficult economic situation, my delegation feels that chances are good both concerning the budget level and the priorities applying.

It should be noted, though, as mentioned by Ireland, that even a budget with a very moderate growth because of relative changes in money values can be a significant regrowth in the burden of some donor countries. Realizing the difficulties of getting the reports from the Programme and Finance Committees out sufficiently early, we hope that it will be possible to give us more time for studying the final Conference documents than has been possible this time.

We know, of course, that the work of the Organization cannot be judged only by the allocation of sources to budget posts. The type of activity within each element of the sub-programmes can vary considerably without changing the headlines that are visible in the budget. A closer look into detailed activities enabling a value judgement on how close the Organization is following its own policy is rather difficult for an outsider. As far as my delegation has been able to familiarize itself with the actual work of FAO, we feel that even in this respect, the Programme of Work is close to the wishes expressed by the governing body. During the Conference it is assumed that medium-term objectives will be discussed together with the budget. As we have found nothing about this in the document before us, I would like to ask the Secretariat how this item will be handled.

Two aspects in the budget I would like to mention specifically. The Technical Cooperation Programme has been given a significant increase. This was discussed in my delegation because we felt it was difficult at this stage to see the detailed allocation of these funds. We have, however, recognized that the breakdown as suggested by the Finance Committee will be available in the Conference document. This will help us to get a clearer view of the allocation of the total financial resources, including extra-budgetary means.

We also feel that the increase in reserve left over from one year to the next raises a question about the justification of an increase. In the best budgetary situation, we appreciate, however, the Director-General's need to use this way of keeping a reasonable flexibility if the total budget can be kept on the level indicated. We therefore feel that we probably be able to go along with the increase of the TCP. In spite of the valuable clarifications given by Mr Shah, it is our hope that this flexibility can be used to strengthen in particular forestry activities, as mentioned by the Programme Committee in paragraph 2.1.5.9 and by several delegations from various parts of the world. This links to the need to give attention also to long-term problems as, for instance, to reduce the desertification which goes on with the speed of about 800 hectares each hour day and night. Since we started this meeting this morning, another 2,000 or 3,000 hectares have passed the border from fertile soil to desert. Such development threatens forestry and other types of water management which are conditions for sustained agriculture.

The other aspect that I would like to touch upon is the significant reduction of personnel which has been found necessary due to limitations in the financial resources. As pointed out by the Programme Committee in its report in paragraph 2.5.2 and others, there is a limit to how far such an approach can be applied. I assume that the Director-General by this operation has brought about a reasonable balance between financial and personnel resources. If the financial situation should improve in the future - which we sincerely hope - the situation could arise when staff and not money would be the limiting factor in the implementation of FAO's technical programmes. As staff members of a quality that is a condition for an effective international work are not always readily available, this will need a well-planned recruitment policy. I do not know how this problem is handled in the Organization, but I think the situation indicated in this budget needs the Director-General's particular attention.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Just to say that the number of technical posts will be increased in 1984/85, and the posts which I am proposing to abolish are not technical posts. This is just to reassure the distinguished delegate of Norway.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 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

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Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE DECIMA SESION PLENARIA (17 June 1983)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours.

M.S. Swamlnathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45 sous la présidence de M.S. Swamlnathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION - RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS - INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (continuación)
- 12. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85 (continued)
- 12. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1984-85 (suite)
- 12. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, 1984-85 (continuación)

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Mr. Chairman, my delegation would first like to place on record our thanks to the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for the very clear explanation they gave us yesterday afternoon over the deliberations of their Committees on this most important and complex item.

Also, Mr. Chairman, we are grateful to the Director-General for his statements to the Council on the summary Programme of Work and Budget at the beginning of this 83rd Council Session and also yesterday afternoon. It seems to us that both the Committees' Chairmen and the Director-General have put the issues in front of those of us not on either Committee in very clear perspective.

My delegation is not in a position to comment on the Programme of Work in the detail produced by a number of other delegations. However, in general terms we do feel that the proposals before us take good account of the concerns expressed at the 1981 Conference about matters such as programme evaluation, the general thrust of FAO's activities, as well as the actual level of the budget itself.

We feel also, Mr. Chairman, that the Director-General is trying to do his best at a time when many, if not all Member Nations, are under real and severe budgetary restraints of their own, a point which New Zealand feels should not be overlooked, and I think as a consequence the document in front of the Council does seem to my delegation to reflect the realities of the situation.

Turning to the summary of the Programme, although we are not able to comment on it in detail, the increased concentration on what might be described as more front-end activities and more research and development support albeit at the expense of general Headquarter's administration, does seem to us to be the preferable way to proceed. My delegation doubts, Mr. Chairman, whether the quality of service offered by FAO will suffer as a result of these changes; I think it is quite likely that similar approaches to activities are probably being adopted by many countries, certainly including New Zealand and indeed, as was told to us before lunch by the distinguished delegate from Ireland when he mentioned the policy in his country. They are all adopting these approaches to administration without any noticeable diminution in the quality of services offered. Therefore, New Zealand can give its general support to the overall strategy and priorities to the Programme of Work.

Turning to the summary of the budget, we are in favour of the restraint on growth and expenditure that the summary budget contains, given the current economic conditions faced by Member Governments. We feel that the way in which the 0.5 percent increase seems to have been arrived at, that is by selecting programme reallocation, is to be preferred to unplanned across-the-board cuts. The budget summary therefore seems to my delegation to represent a reasonable basis on which the Director-General can proceed to develop the full Programme of Work and Budget for final consideration of the Conference later this year.

My delegation would just like to flag one further point and that is in the circumstances where the Director-General has referred, both in his presentation yesterday and, I think, earlier, to the matter of possible unforeseen cost increases, we would expect the final document to have reflected also any unforeseen real or projected cost savings that might arise between now and the Conference.

In conclusion, therefore, the New Zealand delegation looks forward to being able to consider the final 1984/85 Programme of Work and Budget at this year's FAO Conference on the basis of the document now before us.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): May I begin my intervention with a reaffirmation of the United Kingdom's support to the role of FAO as the central body within the UN system on matters concerning food and agriculture. The United Kingdom's inability to contribute as we have in the past to a number of FAO activities should in no way be construed as any change in that basic view of the Organization. We have noted the Director-General's conclusion that there is no need to alter the basic strategies of FAO as contained in the medium-term objectives. We agree with that view.

We also note the Director-General's suggestion that it is more relevant to identify the factors which affect specific aspects of that basic strategy; we agree with that also. The Director-General rightly points to the way in which priorities reflect the process of consultation in the main fore of FAO, including the regional conferences and the technical committees. As you know, Mr. Chairman, the United Kingdom among a number of other members has pressed for greater evidence in the summary Programme of Work and Budget that in its formulation all programmes and sub-programmes have been subjected to the most rigorous scrutiny of their impact on the development problems which we all face. Here I should like to express the appreciation of my delegation for the way in which the FAO Secretariat has responded to requests for clarification of certain aspects of the Director-General's proposals; this has been extremely helpful in our consideration of them. The position of my Government on the need for budgetary restraint throughout the UN system is well known and needs no elaboration. That position has not changed. We are therefore grateful to the Director-General for the efforts he has made to limit real growth in his budget proposals for the next biennium. This is especially gratifying given the conflicting pressures of the increasing demands for the services of the Organization and the effects of inflation and other factors determining the level of cost increases and therefore the additional amounts which all members will have to provide in terms of their national currencies.

In this connection it has to be said that the estimated United Kingdom contribution to this budget under the revised contribution scale would be in the order of 20 to 25 percent higher for the current biennium in our national currency, which is many times the current rate of inflation in the United Kingdom, and hence the allowance made nationally in our public expenditure programmes to cover this factor. We note in particular the savings that have been achieved by what document CL 83/3 calls "trimming for greater efficiency and economy." I like the expression. In the two broad sectors where such economies have been made, we commend the fact that an overall reduction in development support programmes can be achieved without detrimental effect on the units involved.

We agree strongly with the Programme Committee in particular on the importance of the work of the Investment Centre. Most pleasing is the substantial saving that can be made in the various areas under the heading of Support Services.

Turning to the proposed increases in the technical and economic programmes, we have examined these carefully and we are pleased to see that steps have been taken in many programmes to cut out or to put back on, activities seem to have only a marginal developmental impact, and to reallocate the funds thus released to higher priority areas. In general we believe these shifts in resource allocation do indeed reflect the priority needs for the next biennium, as they can be judged at present.

We therefore welcome the fact that additional resources are allocated to research and technology development, since money wisely spent here can have considerable benefits.

The one area where my delegation feels bound to express some concern is that of the Technical Cooperation Programme. The real increase proposed of 5 percent may not seem large although the resources made available in cash terms will, of course, be substantially higher than those currently available. The United Kingdom is not in any way opposed to the concept of TCP nor to the purposes for which it is to be deployed. However, as a proposed 13.5 percent of the budget it now represents a not unconsiderable sum and as yet TCP continues to be, in our view, an area of FAO expenditure which it is most difficult to assess in terms of cost effectiveness, mainly because of absence of information.

Other members of the Council have referred to this matter, I think particularly the delegates of Japan, the Federal Republic of Germany and Canada; and I can therefore simply endorse the points they made on this issue.

I hope that what I have said concerning my delegation's views on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is a sufficient indication of our general support for the Programme content of the Director-General's proposals. As to their financial implications, we recognize that there are a number of uncertainties, such as the final exchange rate to be adopted, the level of mandatory cost increases, the amount of extra-budgetary resources which may be forthcoming and so on, which remain to be clarified before the final proposals can be prepared and presented to the Conference. At this stage, therefore, my delegation cannot state the position the United Kingdom will take in November on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85, but we can accept the conclusion reached by the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees as recorded in paragraph 1.6 of their report in CL 83/4.

Finally, I would say that we also share the Director-General's hope that the final proposals will be supported by consensus at the Twenty-second Session of the Conference.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap Vert): Après nombre de mes collègues dont j'ai écouté attentivement les interventions, je tiens également à féliciter le Directeur général ainsi que l'ensemble du Secrétariat pour le document que nous avons sous les yeux.

Ce document est en effet remarquable tant par sa forme que par son contenu. Du point de vue de la présentation, les quatre premières pages récapitulatives des principaux points saillants du Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget constituent un effort louable pour permettre aux délégations d'appréhender d'emblée les principales évolutions de notre organisation. J'ai particulièrement apprécié, pour ma part, les trois diagrammes qui nous sont fournis car ils répondent parfaitement au souci légitime de nos gouvernements d'être à même d'évaluer la portée des mesures entreprises par le Directeur général pour rationaliser la gestion de notre organisation dans le sens d'une économie et d'une efficacité accrues. Ces diagrammes nous dispensent de toute rhétorique : les chiffres parlent d'eux-mêmes et devraient rassurer les plus sceptiques. Ils ne laissent aucun doute sur l'ampleur et le succès des mesures entreprises pour accroître sensiblement l'impact des programmes techniques tout en réduisant drastiquement les dépenses administratives.

Ce document est aussi remarquable pour son contenu. Comme tout un chacun, je retiens d'abord le chiffre de 0,5% d'augmentation réelle du programme proposé pour le prochain exercice biennal. Monsieur le Président, ce chiffre est saisissant par sa modestie et, à l'instar de la plupart des pays en développement, je ne cacherais pas ici ma surprise. En effet, comme je viens de le souligner, cette organisation a fait ces dernières années la preuve éclatante de sa capacité à gérer ses ressources avec une rigueur que pourraient lui envier bien des institutions.

D'autre part, la situation agricole des pays en développement est heurtée de plein fouet par les effets néfastes de la crise économique mondiale et plus particulièrement par deux de ses aspects les plus préoccupants, à savoir : le fléchissement de leurs exportations agricoles associé à la dégradation constante des prix de la plupart des denrées agricoles. Face à une telle situation, et forte de la confiance de ses pays membres dans l'efficacité de sa gestion, la FAO aurait pu légitimement en tirer prétexte pour proposer une augmentation sensible du niveau de son budget. Mais le Directeur général a résisté à cette tentation et ce au risque de décevoir l'ensemble des pays en développement qui pourraient ajouter à la liste déjà bien lourde de leurs préoccupations celle de voir réduire, biennium après biennium, les moyens mis à la disposition d'une organisation pourtant vitale pour le soutien de leur développement agricole. Cependant, bien que victimes de cette décision, les pays en développement comprennent les motivations et l'approuvent à leur corps défendant.

Bien heureusement, la FAO compense la modestie des ressources de son programme ordinaire par le développement de ses activités extra-budgétaires. Le dynamisme du Centre d'investissement et l'effet multiplicateur de ses activités ne sont plus à démontrer.

Mon Gouvernement se réjouit des nouveaux accords de coopération passés avec des institutions sous-régionales de financement et tient à manifester son appui à toute initiative qui viserait dans le futur à renforcer le Centre d'investissement.

Notre satisfaction est aussi très grande de constater l'augmentation régulière des activités financées par les fonds fiduciaires et plus particulièrement celles de ces activités au titre desquelles les pays en développement financent leurs propres projets d'assistance technique avec l'aide de la FAO.

Mais ces sujets de satisfaction sont assombris par la perspective de voir diminuer toujours davantage la part du PNUD dans le financement des programmes de terrain de la FAO. A cet égard, l'évolution enregistrée ces dernières années et qui semble devoir se confirmer dans l'avenir est très préoccupante. C'est pourquoi nous tenons à saluer ici les efforts entrepris avec succès par le Directeur général pour diversifier les sources de financements extra-budgétaires.

Il faut, par ailleurs, se souvenir que la Création du Programme de coopération technique avait été, d'une certaine manière, inspirée par les premiers effets néfastes de la crise du PNUD sur la FAO. Bien sûr, ni la création du PCT, ni le développement progressif de ses ressources, n'arriveront jamais à compenser les conséquences de cette crise qui persiste et s'amplifie. Et cela pour la raison bien simple que le PCT ne peut soutenir la comparaison, ni du point de vue de ses ressources ni de celui de ses objectifs avec le PNUD. Mais si j'ai tenu à faire cette remarque, c'est pour en appeler une autre ; Monsieur le Président, le Directeur général propose d'augmenter la part du PCT dans le budget total de 12,9% à 13,5%. Une augmentation bien modeste en vérité et je ne cacherais pas, pour ma part, que j'aurais souhaité davantage d'audace en ce domaine.

En définitive, la totalité de ce Programme de travail et budget, de la première à la dernière proposition, et dans le moindre de ses détails, a été de toute évidence conçue dans le souci unique de faire l'unanimité.

Aussi, j'ose espérer que la sagesse et la mesure du Directeur général ainsi que les sacrifices consentis par la majorité seront appréciés à leur juste valeur et récompensés par l'approbation unanime des propositions contenues dans ce Programme de travail et budget. Et surtout que l'on

ne vienne pas tenter de contester la méthodologie observée pour calculer l'accroissement des coûts dans l'espoir de grignoter encore et encore ce budget déjà bien maigre. Une telle approche serait totalement injustifiée car la méthodologie est parfaitement conforme à celle approuvée par la Conférence.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Lorsqu'il s'agit de lutter contre la pauvreté et la faim, il est extrêmement difficile, je dirais même douloureux, d'établir des priorités dans des priorités avec des ressources en déclin et nettement insuffisantes par rapport aux besoins courants qui sont au contraire partout en augmentation. La situation économique mondiale nous oblige néanmoins à réaliser cet exercice c'est-à-dire un compromis acceptable, comme l'a dit la distinguée déléguée du Brésil dans les premiers jours de notre débat, entre une économie mondiale qui frappe tous les pays, une économie mondiale en crise et les besoins croissants des pays en voie de développement, surtout des pays à plus faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire.

Le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1984/85, rédigé par le Directeur général et ses assistants avec l'appui efficace du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, a réussi à réaliser ce compromis qui nous semble acceptable et réaliste dans les conditions actuelles. Je comprends très bien le Directeur général lorsqu'il dit dans sa déclaration introductive aux travaux du Conseil que, de tous les programmes de travail et budget présentés jusqu'ici, ce programme a été pour lui le plus difficile à préparer. La croissance zéro en termes réels est devenue la règle depuis quelque temps des pays développés mais je veux souligner qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une nouvelle théorie ou d'une nouvelle politique, qu'il s'agit plutôt d'une triste nécessité conjoncturelle, d'une conjoncture qui malheureusement se prolonge dans le temps. Cette contrainte, c'est-à-dire mettre un frein à tout prix aux dépenses budgétaires au niveau national et dans les organisations internationales, se traduit dans l'exercice 1984/85 de l'Organisation par un accroissement réel de 0,5 pour cent, ce qui nous paraît tout à fait acceptable et un effort très louable.

Mais je voudrais dire que l'évolution la plus positive dans le Programme de travail et budget est moins la limitation du volume total des dépenses que le transfert des ressources disponibles au programme technique et économique en réduisant les dépenses sur le personnel et les services de soutien administratifs. Nous sommes d'avis que c'est dans ce contexte qu'il faut surtout apprécier l'efficacité, l'esprit d'économie et la volonté de rigueur du Directeur général et de ses collaborateurs, le but étant de préserver la qualité et le volume des programmes techniques dans des conditions particulièrement difficiles.

Quant aux priorités, nous sommes largement d'accord avec les stratégies et les priorités proposées dans le sommaire. Il s'agit du développement de la recherche et de la technologie, avec le regroupement des quatre unités existantes: de la formation et du développement rural intégré; du rôle des femmes dans la production et la commercialisation; du développement de la production vivrière; de la sécurité alimentaire; de la concentration des programmes et des moyens dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire surtout en Afrique; et enfin du développement des ressources humaines et des énergies nouvelles et renouvelables sur le plan local.

On parle beaucoup, d'interdépendance entre le Nord et le Sud. Oui, il y a interdépendance, mais nous sommes d'avis que cette interdépendance n'est pas équilibrée lorsqu'on a à faire face au problème de la pauvreté et de la faim. C'est pour cette raison, que nous regrettons la limitation et surtout le déclin des ressources mises à la disposition des institutions internationales qui s'occupent du développement, et particulièrement du secteur alimentaire.

Mon pays, bien que dans une situation difficile et avec des moyens limités, s'est efforcé et s'efforce d'aller contre cette tendance, surtout dans le secteur de la sécurité alimentaire.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): As a matter of fact in the previous meeting of the Finance Committee and while deliberating on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85 all of us, the members of that Committee, felt that we represented this Council in all its groupings and always attempted to secure the agreement of all member states. Therefore we were very keen in our careful and deep analyses of all aspects, whether the positive or negative aspects, to maintain this level of the proposed budget. Our Report is before you.

Now I speak as a representative of a developing country that needs the technical expertise in order to improve the standard of its food production and it no doubt needs assistance and support in this field. We have always resorted to this pioneering organization in order to secure assistance from this Organization and our cooperation with the organization is constant and we say that it is of topmost level. Based on this point I would like to give our full support to the TCP and the modest increase which has been proposed for this programme in the budget and we also endorse its continuity through the regular budget and the approved allocations.

Two days ago we were all in this Council, in this august assembly, talking, all of us, about food security, food-deficit countries, people that suffer from hunger and face death as a result of malnutrition and of all other alarming facts and the delegation of my country stated before this Council that the strengthening of international economic cooperation is an imperative and unavoidable fact and it is to the benefit of all states, developing and developed alike. Strengthening world food security is a responsibility which is borne by the international community as a whole. We also referred, and this is more important, that international agencies specialising in food and its production, bear the biggest share in this responsibility, in order to provide all help and assistance to the efforts which are exerted by developing countries, in order to secure food security and to obtain self-sufficiency in the food production. We also stressed that developed countries should strengthen their cooperation and increase their assistance and support to these organizations and to developed countries alike in order to achieve this goal and to reach the desired target. This is what we stated two days ago and we all know, as everybody else does, that this Organization is the pioneering and capable organization and through it we can achieve much for the developing countries, especially those food-deficit developing countries.

We now discuss the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for this Organization for 1984/85 which has been formulated, as is clear, for various important considerations. Among these considerations first we have to keep in mind the international economic situation, its problems and the deterioration of the economic international situation, the high rate of inflation, increasing unemployment in the world at large and this is a situation that is undoubtedly recognized by all and we all suffer from it, in spite of the fact that the degree of suffering differs from one country to another.

On this occasion I would like to address myself to developing countries and I refer to the proposed contributions by the General Assembly of the United Nations for the next biennium. We note from this scale of assessments that the trend is that developing countries should bear the full responsibility. The contributions of many developing countries increased in the Regular Budget of the United Nations for the next biennium and the contributions of some of the wealthy countries decreased, and I do not mean here wealthy countries in terms of cash only but wealthy in cash, food and expertise.

The second point is, as the Director-General stated, and which he highlighted in his introductory statement, namely the continuity of the wise management which would lead to increasing the ability of the staff members and to achieve the highest economies and to use the savings for the agricultural development in developing countries. All of us have endorsed, and we also endorse and appreciate very much this trend which is followed by the Director-General and we request that he should continue on the same path as far as possible - and I repeat, as far as possible.

The Director-General formulated this budget taking into consideration all these factors and other factors and, as we have heard, the developing countries who are in need of the assistance of this Organization started to endorse this budget. However, this was endorsed with bitterness and pain and with some deafening protests, and they are perfectly right in this because the food problem and the suffering of these countries in view of a shortage of food is not a matter which is easy to accept.

On another plane we hear voices calling for reducing the administrative costs, and this is also their right. The Director-General has always been responsive to them and this is very clear in this budgets the degree of responsiveness by the Director-General in reducing the administrative costs.

As for reducing technical assistance which is called for by some voices here, we have no comment thereon after what we have said. We would like only to say that they do not have the right to do so, especially when we know that the largest contributor in this proposed budget for the next biennium would pay only \$278,000 per annum and this cannot be compared with the benefits which can be taken by developing countries as a result of this modest increase.

In conclusion we would like to stress our endorsement to the proposed level of the budget. We stress our endorsement that this would be taken as an experiment only for all countries without exception. I call upon developing countries to be well aware for they have two years ahead of them to prove this experiment and to feel the impact of the experiment.

May Allah guide our steps and make our efforts successful. If we fail, the whole world community will bear the brunt of this failure and we should then reconsider the whole situation.

M. AHMED (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation would like to join the others who have preceded us in their interventions to pay warm and sincere tribute to the Director-General for his well-conceived, soundly prepared and finely balanced proposals for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We also congratulate the Chairmen of the two Committees, the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee, for their presentation of the results of their examination of these proposals.

We strongly endorse the priorities reflected in the budget and the criteria by which these have been established, namely the four aims given in the wonderful factsheet. We welcome the economies and improvement in efficiency, the shift in the emphasis to technical and economic programmes, curtailment of administrative and overhead costs, but we feel that the concept of zero growth is rather harsh and inappropriate for an organization whose main purpose is to spark off development of food and agriculture and rural development in the rural areas which in most of the developing countries support two-thirds to three-quarters of their population. Such development touches their very lives. Let us hope that the difficult task which is facing the Director-General will be possible within the budget. But we strongly support the reservation that if unforeseen events arise he will have to ask for more. I think it is a fair reservation and we should all endorse it. But we would have liked this budget to be somewhat larger and there should have been a sizeable element for contingencies because there will be several regional conferences held next year, although the recommendations will find a place in the next biennium, 1986/87. But some of them may be urgent. That is why we are pleading that an allocation for contingencies should have been provided for in this budget to take care of such expenditure.

We welcome the new initiative embodied in this programme which the Director-General has very nicely and aptly described as new dimensions, wherein there is scope for the appointment of national directors, project directors, consultants, particularly from the developing countries, and procurement of equipment. Already considerable progress has been made. We only hope that equitable distribution will be kept in view until the appointment of such experts and procuring such equipment.

We also welcome and strongly endorse the stress reflected in this budget on the promotion of TCDC and ECDC. The previous statements have touched upon the wonderful programme that we call TCP. I think perhaps it is not fair to describe it as unprogrammed; it is really programmed but not finely tuned. Perhaps this change of description would clearly bring out the important utility of this programme. It provides a link between the national and regional priorities. It has a catalytic role to play. By virtue of its flexibility and capability of ensuring speed and timeliness it has served the countries who have been the beneficiaries of assistance under this programme. Perhaps the misgivings expressed by a few delegates could have been set at rest if countries receiving this assistance could with the help of FAO have prepared documents, some brochures, on the benefits actually received by them. The Pakistan delegation would be willing to make a humble contribution in this regard. We would, incidentally, like this assistance also directed at increasing the capability of member countries to prepare schemes for food and agriculture in rural development which may not necessarily be financed by outside agencies but be financed by the national governments themselves.

Our delegation has already indicated some of the areas which need emphasis within the system of priorities established in this programme and I have brought the attention of this Council to these points in my earlier interventions. Briefly these are, studies relating to crop insurance, marketing of perishables, and in this connexion we welcome the extension of the Prevention of Food Losses. Programme to include fruits and vegetables. That is a very welcome addition, very much needed. The third suggestion we made was the credit system for the small farmers. The fourth was extension of dairy development, particularly the chilling technology and the transport for the benefit of the small producers.

Fertilizer research was also mentioned by me. A few other areas which need emphasis within the system of priorities already indicated are agro-forestry, multipurpose fast-growing trees. Dissemination of interest on this should be properly reflected in this. We have read in this programme about forestry for community development, but agro-forestry, wherein agriculture can be side by side with forestry tree cultivation, is a point which needs emphasis - agro-based industries with linkage with production, linkages between these industries and production, as an incentive and stimulus for production. This has already been mentioned at page 54. That is what is needed, to establish linkage of such industries with production.

One word about food and agriculture policies and the support realized for planning for food and agriculture policies. The aim in this should be not only to maximize production and productivity but also to see that we maximize this production through optimization of the land and water resources for different ecologies, not merely production; we have to see which crops are more suited to a particular technology so that we make the maximum use of the resources. In the regional programmes of Asia and the Pacific on page 28, we would suggest that as part of dryland farming and rain-fed agriculture, some specific mention may be made of oilseeds, water management, and development of soil-tolerant agriculture should also be included.

In agricultural engineering on page 54, we would like studies relating to the minimum use of energy and selective mechanization which should increase productivity and production without having a serious impact on employment opportunities for the people.

One or two delegations have suggested that agricultural applications of isotopes should be emphasized. We do not agree with these suggestions. In fact, isotopes are an essential tool for hydrological mapping, for hydrological studies and also for fertilizer research on which so much emphasis has been requested to be placed by the delegations.

Of course, mutation breeding is very important. It has complete success in Pakistan, and we have evolved several new varieties much better suited to our economy, much more high yielding and pest-resistant, and I mention in this connexion rice and cotton.

Once again I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Director-General for his wonderful proposals as contained in the Summary Programme and the Budget.

Miss ALMAZ WONDIMU (Ethiopia) : The economies of many developing countries, particularly food-deficit countries, have reached a very critical stage. The statements made by the various delegations during the past five days clearly echo this concern. Various FAO studies on the State of Food and Agriculture reveal an alarming situation at present and in the future. Over three-quarters of the world population are in a continuous state of hunger and malnutrition. Such a situation calls for serious steps at the global level. FAO's leading role in this global exercise to combat hunger and malnutrition is unquestionable. Under these circumstances, the zero budget growth or the trends towards that direction is absolutely unjustifiable and we strongly object to this unjustified direction. We do understand the position of the Director-General. He is faced on the one hand with certain donor countries who consistently ask for budgetary restraints, and on the other, mounting problems of hunger and malnutrition in the developing countries. In such a situation, Ethiopia would like to congratulate the Director-General's ability for the realistic allocation of the scanty resources FAO would have at its disposal.

At this juncture, my delegation fully supports the Programme and the Budget proposals and hopes for its efficient implementation in the future. It strongly supports the priorities given to food.

The Ethiopian delegation wishes to commend the Director-General for the efficient use of the TCP. As one of the main beneficiaries of the Programme, we can attest to this and proudly endorse any efforts aimed at strengthening this sector.

At the last COAG meeting and other subsequent meetings, the importance of food crops, particularly traditional crops such as tuber roots, sorghum and millet, have been strongly underlined. To this end we strongly recommend once again that the crop unit be strengthened by transferring additional resources and additional personnel.

Inasmuch as we support the administrative measures taken to cut costs, we wish to express our hope that proper steps will be taken to keep up FAO's efficiency.

Lastly, we wish to congratulate and commend the Director-General for his continuous efforts for the cause of development and for his consistency in aligning himself with the poor and undernourished sector of the world population.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Estamos conscientes de la dificultad para preparar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto sometido a nuestra consideración actualmente. Las circunstancias económicas internacionales y el empecinamiento de algunos países desarrollados en manejar una política de crecimiento cero, que repudiamos, en los presupuestos de los organismos internacionales, ha hecho mucho más difícil la labor de integración de nuestro programa de trabajo.

Apreciamos en este sentido la posición razonable, la posición abierta de países como Francia e Italia y esperamos que la Comunidad Económica Europea no se solidarice con esas políticas de crecimiento cero.

Estamos de acuerdo y suscribimos lo planteado por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 en el sentido de que mientras los problemas del mundo crecen es un contrasentido, y nosotros agregaríamos que si así se continúa, será un crimen reducir a cero el aumento de los presupuestos de los organismos internacionales que tienen que analizar estos problemas, y representan, por ahora, las únicas expectativas de solución; este es el caso de la FAO.

Coincidimos también con Cuba y otros países en su preocupación sobre las causas que están llevando a los poderosos a debilitar las fuerzas del multilateralismo en función de relaciones de preponderancia. En este contexto dramático e injusto, apreciamos todavía más el esfuerzo del Director General para que, a pesar del modesto incremento real de 0,5 por ciento para el futuro bienio, se logren impulsar actividades sustantivas dentro de la Organización. Ha sido un esfuerzo de gran ingenio y de mejor utilización de los recursos disponibles. Apoyamos por tanto, este contexto, en su totalidad, del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-85 y la manera clara y eficiente como lo ha presentado el Director General.

Aprobamos también la transposición en las prioridades de los programas que han logrado eliminar actividades de menor interés, y que significan un aumento de los programas técnicos y económicos que triplican el incremento general de aquellos cuyas prioridades y objetivos compartimos plenamente. Pensamos, sin embargo, que se deben impulsar los programas a nivel de campo y la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en vías de desarrollo dentro del esquema de fortalecimiento de las relaciones Sur-Sur.

Consideramos que como consecuencia de la lamentable disminución de la disponibilidad de recursos para el PNUD en particular y en general para la cooperación internacional, es plenamente justificable el incremento del porcentaje del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, porque éste es además un programa válido y útil.

Estamos también de acuerdo con las actividades que recibirán recursos adicionales netos conforme a las prioridades establecidas, y quisiéramos ver enfatizadas las labores complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, la de Pesca, Montes y los Programas de Cooperación Técnica que ayuden directamente a elevar el nivel y la calidad de la vida.

Nos oponemos enfáticamente a lo dicho por una delegación en el sentido de que la FAO colabore más con el Grupo Consultivo de Investigaciones Agrícolas Internacionales, porque éste es un órgano heterodoxo y autónomo, donde no necesariamente se reconocen los intereses de toda la humanidad, y porque estas cuestiones bien pueden ser resultado de los elementos que ahora el Director General está recabando del Grupo de Trabajo que le apoya en la preparación de su reporte.

Finalmente, nuestra delegación solicita información de parte de la Secretaría en torno a las razones por las cuales en el Programa 2.1.4, sobre Fomento de la Investigación Tecnológica, página 64 del documento CL 83/10, no aparecen asignaciones a la región de Latinoamérica. Es tan solo una pregunta.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de Haute-Volta félicite le Directeur general ainsi que le président du Comité du programme de travail et budget pour l'introduction à l'examen du sommaire de ce Programme. Elle apprécie hautement les orientations soumises par le Directeur général. Les priorités proposées, entre autres la promotion des productions vivrières, la sécurité alimentaire, rencontrent notre agrément et nous leur accordons notre plein soutien puisqu'elles sont celles d'un grand nombre de pays d'Afrique au sud du Sahara, avec pour objectif l'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaire à l'horizon 2000.

Notre délégation est satisfaite du renforcement, insuffisant à notre avis, du budget du PCT dont la grande utilité a été reconnue par la Conférence à sa 21ème session ainsi que par plusieurs conférences régionales.

Nous félicitons le Directeur général pour les dispositions proposées accordant plus d'importance aux opérations de terrain et au continent africain. Notre délégation exprime sa reconnaissance à la FAO, à travers sa représentation, pour les prestations diverses et efficaces au profit de notre pays.

Notre délégation approuve le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1984-85, dont l'exécution, nous en sommes sûrs, donnera des résultats très satisfaisants étant donné la qualité des hommes chargés de la gestion.

La délégation de Haute-Volta félicite la FAO pour son ouverture vers un plus grand nombre de banques afin de mobiliser davantage de fonds au profit des Etats Membres. Elle constate avec regret l'augmentation insignifiante du budget au niveau global et se joint aux délégations qui estiment que des sacrifices auraient pu être faits par certains Etats Membres pour permettre à notre organisation de disposer de plus de fonds en vue de jouer pleinement son rôle très noble visant à sortir l'humanité de sa misère.

AMIDJONO MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian delegation I wish to express appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of the documents on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. Allow me to thank also the Chairmen of both the Programme and Finance Committees for their explanatory statements.

Having studied carefully the document under discussion, and taken note of the considerations underlying the explanation made by the Director-General and the statements made by the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees, my delegation fears that there are many reasons for proposing a programme increase in real terms of 0.5 percent for the biennium 1984-85 and Indonesia supports it.

Taking into consideration the present state of food and agricultural development in the Third World, the need for increased and sustained assistance in the developing countries with special reference to LDCs, the proposed increase is to be considered very modest. We understand that the formulation of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget must have been made in the light of the financial difficulty arising from the world recession. Under this consensus the proposed increase in allocations of TCP resources should be welcome although the increase is very modest. There is no need to stress over and over the advantages connected with the implementation of the TCP.

Mr Chairman, turning to the significant role of Forestry in food and agriculture and rural development, my delegation finds that this should deserve immediate attention. The Government of Indonesia places high priority to forestry development and this is reflected in the establishment of the Ministry of Forestry several months ago. My delegation therefore is eager to note that the matter of Forestry for rural development will be accorded high priority in the FAO Forestry Programme.

Mr Chairman, the proposed level of the budget for the next biennium can be considered as reflecting austerity in the near future. This being the case, my delegation is in agreement with all effort, including the trimming, that can be made towards a higher degree of efficiency in expanding the work of the Organization.

In conclusion, my delegation takes note with concern of the prospect of a decline in extra budgetary resources.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): Mr Chairman, as per your appeal we are going to be concise and shall start with the voice of disagreement. Most previous speakers have been stressing, and I quote "the budget increase, the moderate increase, the minimum increase and so on" in real terms this increase actually means only 278, hundred thousand per annum to the largest contributor and \$111 to the smallest. Mr Chairman, we disagree. Instead of real increase one should talk about notional increase. Indeed the proposed budget increase of 0.5 percent becomes a notional increase if one takes into account the economic, political and social variables which daily impinge on the activities of FAO action quarters and in the field. This is the case of adverse exchange rates, rampant inflation and ever mounting cost increases for the forthcoming biennium. This notional 0.5 percent increase represents an extreme budgetary regress which may have adverse effects for developing countries and in turn for developed countries due to the negative effect of the multiplying factor running through North/South interdependence.

Mr Chairman in view of this budgetary regress and taking into account the formations of the variables I submit that some Member Countries of the Council are in practice slowly but steadily applying the concept of zero rate growth to FAO. My delegation strongly regrets this concept and in the future will find it difficult to accept it.

However, for the biennium 1984-85, and in the spirit of cooperation and compromise the Angolan delegation fully supports the present summary Programme of Work and Budget and appeals to distinguished Members of the Council to approve by consensus the proposed level of the budget as a reasonable basis for the preparation of the final Programme of Work and Budget to be presented to the Conference.

Mr Chairman, on the substantive part of the Programme of Work and Budget my delegation has the following comments. First, we support the organization of the research and technological activities of FAO into a new Research and Technology Division. Second, we also support the Programme Committee's recommendation that the Director-General give some more resources, financial and personnel, to the Crops Division so as to emphasize food crop production especially roots and tubers, sorghum and millets. Third, we endorse the intended programme to be launched in Africa, and my delegation deeply appreciates the strong support the Director-General is giving to the training in Africa. Fourth, finally and to save time we strongly endorse the support given to TCP by the distinguished delegations of Cape Verde and Pakistan.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation joins the earlier speakers in congratulating the Director-General and the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for the excellent work done in preparing a very clear and a very positive Programme of Work and Budget for the 1984-85 biennium.

We support the level of budget which the Director-General has allowed to remain virtually at the level of the current biennium in response to the general economic climate. The marginal increase of 0.5 percent over the 1982-83 biennium can hardly advance the cause of the Organization significantly but consolation lies in the increases proposed for the technical and economic programmes to be financed largely from savings made from general policy and direction provisions. We join other delegations from developing countries in appealing to this august body that in spite of the present economic climate the concept of zero growth should not be allowed to take root in the sector which is so crucial to the welfare of mankind and yet is so much subject to the forces of nature.

We endorse in particular the new emphasis on TCP which is demonstrating year by year its efficacy in dealing with pressing problems of specific countries. We note with deep appreciation the continued emphasis on Africa as the region which requires special attention to deal with the mounting problem of food production and rural development.

Mr Chairman, please allow me to address a few specific issues. In sub-paragraph 2.1.1.3 Soil Management and Fertilizers, more emphasis needs to be placed on assisting developing countries in developing simple soil testing techniques which extension workers can apply at the field level to advise farmers on the types and levels of fertilizers to apply. This will result in significant savings both for the farmers and for the countries concerned.

The recent resurgence of rinderpest disease in cattle in most countries of Africa calls for a dramatic review of the Sub-programme 2.1.3.2 Animal Health, with FAO playing a significant role in assisting affected countries in the control or in the setting up of local vaccine production.

In Programme 2.1.5 Rural Development my delegation suggests that FAO should do more in the promotion of small-scale rural agro-industries in the context of WCARKD, if necessary in collaboration with other bodies.

Additional emphasis should also be given to functional literacy as it relates to women's activities as illiteracy has been a handicap in the participation of women in rural development.

The programme on marketing is fully endorsed.

In the Fisheries sub-sector the proposal to forecast our assistance to developing countries to increase their fish catch with improved cost benefit is welcomed. In doing this more interest should be given to the establishment of technical report units rather than multiplicity of consultancy missions. Priority attention should continue to be given to training both in marine fisheries as well as inland fisheries and agriculture.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation shares the hope of some other delegations that the status of Forestry in terms of the size of the programme and the percentage of the budget allocated to it would increase substantially in future biennia, if not possible in the 1984-85 Programme of Work and Budget.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): Regarding the summary Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85, Mr Chairman, my delegation was very pleased to note from the Director-General's opening statement that on preparing the Programme he took account of the fact of the needs for expanded FAO assistance and the continuity imperative for the FAO Programme to be more effective and responsive. We agree with his statement since no one can deny that with the current international economic situation, the developing countries need more assistance from the FAO. In our opinion we would like to see a figure in our biennium budget higher than 0.5 percent. In order to run the Organization and maintain a minimum number of programme activities, but under the present circumstances as everybody in this meeting of FAO knows, we have no choice but to accept it. The only one thing we can do now is to appeal to this Council to accept unanimously the summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 as proposed by the Director-General.

Mr Chairman, after having listened to several delegates from the developed countries which spoke before me my delegation became very disturbed when they mentioned the Technical Cooperation Programme. They appear to have misunderstood with regard to the role of TCP and its usefulness to developing countries. We would like to stress that it is indicated in the document CL 83/3 that TCP is an instrument enabling FAO to respond promptly to urgent requests for assistance from governments as well as filling a gap in the range of the technical assistance that is so relevant to the developing countries.

As a representative of a recipient country, my delegation can confirm that this Programme has always responded to emergencies and to the needs and priorities of governments when we requested FAO help. We have always believed that all developed countries are willing to help the developing countries. We therefore hope that they will listen to us and we appeal to them to let us have TCP in our regular Budget because it really meets our needs.

Sra. Doña M.I. CASELLAS O. (Venezuela): En aras de la brevedad del tiempo y para no referirnos a puntos que ya han sido debatidos durante la discusión de este tema, hemos pedido la palabra para manifestar al Sr. Director General y a su equipo, nuestra satisfacción por los esfuerzos hechos para presentar un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que merece nuestro reconocimiento.

Queremos manifestar el apoyo de la Delegación de Venezuela al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1984-1985; sus objetivos, prioridades y estrategias, por estar convencidos de que se ajustan adecuadamente a las dificultades causadas por la actual situación económica mundial. La reducción de los recursos a sectores menos prioritarios, el fortalecimiento de programas técnicos y económicos responden a la urgencia y necesidad que afrontan los países en desarrollo en esta precaria coyuntura.

El Presupuesto presentado por el Sr, Director General representa el nivel mínimo requerido para llevar a la práctica dicho Programa; no obstante, queremos dejar constancia de nuestra preocupación de que el criterio del crecimiento cero se vaya a institucionalizar en el futuro, cuando sabemos que el camino de las soluciones a los problemas de la alimentación y de la agricultura en el mundo es largo y complejo,

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation is at a dilemma. The Programme of Work I will say is like a candle lighted in a vast infinite empty darkness. It is a Programme that is in general agreement with the priorities of the member countries and the ideas expressed in the governing bodies. But as President Kenneth Kaunda once said in a speech in this august body, it is like planning where to place a bridge where the need, as everybody knows, is for a hundred bridges. It is like trying to locate a road of ten miles where a thousand miles of road are needed. It is a programme of Lilliputian dimensions to solve a problem of Brobdingnagian proportion. We know that the Programme itself cannot turn the tide of reaching the goal set up by the international development strategy of 4 percent growth of food and agriculture for the decade of the 80s. We need a programme of much bigger dimensions - something like a Marshall Plan, at this stage.

On the other hand, we have some difficulty with regard to what we call 0.5 percent. In our national budgets we are not able to afford a 0.5 growth much less a 22 percent growth. We are obliged to contain ourselves at a zero budget because of the present economic situation.

We know - as everybody knows, as many that are developing - that our exports are primarily agricultural. I do not know whether we are undeveloped because we are primarily agricultural, or whether we are agricultural because we are primarily undeveloped. But the fact is that our exports are agricultural products and the price of these are very low - a record low price. So we find it difficult to finance not only our essential budget development programmes. So even 0.5 percent is difficult for us, I mean for the developing countries, not only my own government but many developing countries will find it difficult to get an increase, not only a 0.5 real increase but any nominal increase would be difficult for us to sustain at this point.

However, we are not going to oppose this budget because we know that in spite of the fact that we find difficulties at home and that we are tightening our own belts, we know that this has more or less the corresponding priorities of the Member Countries, so we will not oppose this budget. Nevertheless, we want to express a few points which we think should be emphasized at this point. Since resources are very scarce, these scarce resources should be placed at those points where they are able to have a maximum effect. I think the study of the African paper on the Committee on Food Security gives us a hint on what the developing countries regard as the main obstacles to their own development.

If I may be allowed to quote document CL 83/10, these are the priorities which should receive attention and I think also in FAO: first of all training, research, delivery systems and institutional development. And I think even in the Committee on Agriculture, research is given enough emphasis. In fact, I quote from document CL 83/9 on page 12 there is a sentence which states that "the diffusion of new developments in research and technology" ... "in the developing world, which activities, the Committee stressed needed further strengthening."

I think in spite of the fact that developing countries find it difficult to raise money to support a budget that would propose a 20 percent increase in nominal terms and a 0.5 percent increase in real terms, this entails a real sacrifice for many developing countries, but nevertheless we believe this budget merits support. But we believe that this budget also should give more emphasis and more concentration and priority to what the developing countries think is the central focus of the things that will be able to help them get out of the present stagnation in production in food and agriculture.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your statement. If there are no further Council members wishing to take the floor, I shall now give the floor to the observers, hoping they will emulate the Council members and try to be as brief as possible.

MAI LUONG (Observateur pour le Viet Nam): Je serai bref, mais puisque pour la première fois la délégation de la République socialiste du Viet Nam a l'occasion de prendre la parole devant cette illustre session du Conseil de la FAO, permettez-moi, au nom de ma délégation, de féliciter le Président pour la compétence dont il a fait preuve en dirigeant les travaux du Conseil, de féliciter les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, le Cap-Vert et l'Egypte pour leur élection à la noble Vice-Présidence du Conseil.

Ma délégation apprécie hautement l'exposé très clair, très approfondi du Directeur général, sur le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1984/85. Elle remercie aussi les deux Présidents du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier d'avoir plaidé sous leur pleine responsabilité les travaux de ces deux comités.

Monsieur le Président, la délégation de la République socialiste du Viet Nam est saisie de la manière ingénieuse et novatrice du Directeur général et de son Etat-major d'avoir pu trouver des mesures excellentes pour sortir de la situation financière difficile de l'Organisation et pouvoir garantir l'exécution des nobles tâches qui incombent à la FAO, chef de file dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. Ces mesures sont la compression des dépenses administratives, l'esprit d'économie, la volonté de rigueur, la suppression des postes au siège en faveur des programmes techniques et économiques. Le choix judicieux des stratégies et des priorités. Pour le biennium 1984/1985, l'attention donnée à la recherche et à la technologie, au Programme de coopération technique, etc.

A propos du PCT, notre délégation a plus d'une fois, durant la dernière session du Conseil et de la Conférence, apprécié les résultats tangibles de cette activité que nous considérons comme une des grandes réalisations de la FAO, une idée quasi novatrice du Directeur général.

A voir cette activité si efficace du PCT, tant appréciée par de nombreux Etats membres et appuyée fortement par les conférences régionales pour l'Afrique, pour le Proche-Orient, pour l'Amérique et les Caraïbes, ma délégation ne se réjouit guère d'une augmentation de crédits pour le PCT qui, dans le biennium à venir, atteint moins de un pour cent, c'est-à-dire qu'elle passe de 12,9% à 13,5% du budget total. Nous espérons que l'activité du PCT sera soutenue plus fortement encore par le Conseil et que des ressources soient mobilisées pour ce programme de coopération technique qui est un instrument opérationnel permettant de fournir une assistance rapide sur le terrain, de faire face à des besoins imprévus et à des problèmes d'ampleur et de durée limitée.

Permettez-moi maintenant de faire quelques commentaires à propos du niveau du budget de ce biennium à venir. Une augmentation minimum, je dirai même imperceptible, de 0,5%. Ma délégation trouve que c'est là un effort insuffisant pour l'activité de la FAO devant l'ampleur des travaux à exécuter, devant la nécessité d'aider de nombreux pays en développement et surtout d'aider les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire, tels que de nombreux pays d'Afrique, alors que le Conseil et la Conférence ont jusqu'ici reconnu la nécessité que le programme de la FAO soit toujours plus efficace et serve l'objectif d'accroître la production et la sécurité alimentaire, d'éliminer la misère et d'assurer plus d'équité dans le commerce international.

Ma délégation accepte avec réticence ce niveau de budget pour 1984/85, qui est d'ailleurs très proche de la croissance zéro. La nécessité et les circonstances actuelles, tant économiques que politiques, nous obligent à accepter à contre coeur ce niveau du budget, mais nous espérons qu'à l'avenir cette notion de croissance zéro ne sera plus qu'une ombre qui obscurcirait tous les espoirs d'une coopération de plus en plus grande et d'une aide internationale plus adéquate pour les pays soucieux du développement de leur production agricole et d'une élévation du niveau de vie de la classe rurale.

Je termine en déclarant une fois de plus que la délégation de la République socialiste du Viet Nam appuie pleinement le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour le biennium 1984-85 présenté dans le document CL 83/3. Elle espère vivement que les membres du Conseil seront totalement d'accord pour accepter ce document, quitte à présenter une moindre réduction du budget à la 22ème Conférence de la FAO.

T.E.C. PALMER (Observer for Sierra Leone): Normally a basic handicap of Observers, especially under circumstances such as these, is time and in most cases substance is sort of sacrificed for brevity, and at this point of time my delegation is the victim but however we take solace in the fact that we are in fact a member of the Programme Committee which has thoroughly discussed the Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by the Director-General and because of this we are in fact heartened to have observed and to have listened very attentively to the interventions of many delegations from the Council membership who have supported, who have raised objections, who have raised points of clarification on the budget but we are, however, a bit disturbed that one or two issues were relatively not adequately addressed to, especially the TCP and reallocation of resources and the efforts, strenuous as it was, attempted by the Director-General in meeting the demand of some of the members of the organization in asking and in fact demanding the organization absorb quite a considerable chunk of the economic situation as it completes itself today.

However, we would like only just to re-emphasise our point here, and I am sure it has been emphasised by many other delegations that, first of all, we would not like to see the project, which has been prepared and presented to this Council, and which has in fact now been prepared for the Conference, to be a sort of blue-print for budgets to come because we do not want to think that this might be a trend for what is now sneaking in as a concept for zero-growth because we at this stage believe that when you have a constant, like this budget is now explaining itself to be a more or less constant, and you have increasing variables, which are the demands from the recipient countries, we would not be surprised, and painfully we would arrive at the conclusion, when in fact we cannot have the ability

to overcome the consequences of it, that we might have in inverse proportionality of the problems and to match up with the demands from the developing countries. So we would like to request this Council more or less to ask the Director-General that he should view future programmes of Work and Budget purely on the situation as they present themselves, not on concepts which in fact might be a little misleading and tend to turn the clock back because this organization was meant for the developing countries to assist the developing countries, but now we see dictates coming from areas where we, the developing countries, would have very little to do or influence, and this is where we believe our brothers from the developing countries, who have more or less been raising this issue of zero-growth, should re-examine not only the concept but also examine economic trends and see what is the status quo in developing countries and see if there is some point of mileage.

With this we would like to reflect on one or two issues of the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget and that is the reallocation of the resources that has been attempted by the Director-General. Here we would like to suggest that more emphasis be given to the present needs of the developing countries, particularly the hard pressed regions such as Africa where in fact shortages are now more frequent than in fact they ought to be. So we request that emphasis be given to an increased crop production, increased production of livestock, with particular reference to small ruminants, and also we welcome the emphasis being placed on research and development and there we from the Africa region would like to extrapolate one aspect of this research and development, to emphasise the importance of food technology in the region at this particular stage because we believe it would go a long way to help us obtain food security.

Now coming to the last point, we have heard relatively disturbingly, some comments raised about the usefulness of TCP. I just want to make one or two brief comments. What are the origins of TCP:

non-political, specifically technical. What is the specific purpose: in fact it is a short-term and is geared towards assisting developing countries on specific problems, problems which in fact they could not have tackled at a particular point of time. What is the methodology, the procedure; it is immediate because you do not need to go through a labyrinth of political and inflexible bureaucracy to arrive at a decision for assistance. What are the characteristics of the operations of TCP; they are flexible, international and they have considerable regard to the reactions of the recipient governments and the resources unfortunately are inadequate for the purposes for which the TCP is intended. I doubt if you will have a programme, multilateral or bilateral, to match this particular programme at this point of time in food and agriculture and all the more reason why we believe, rather than just sort of throwing pointers as to the alternatives of TCP resources, that is forestry and all the programmes, careful observation should be made as to the different points I have just raised on the TCP and perhaps those who probably have inhibitions or who have reservations about the TCP might perhaps come forward and this is what we are looking forward to.

So we welcome the proposed summary but we are not happy with the level at which the summary was brought but at this stage we reserve the position to say that we believe that the Director-General has done his best under the present circumstances to merge contrary views so that he could arrive at a sort of meeting point, a compromise point between the demands and the available resources and for this reason we request that at least all present here, and those who are going to be at the Conference, should support the present level of proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

P. VALSCEANU (observer for Namibia): As an observer, I would like, with your permission, to make some brief remarks, in the framework of general debate, stressing in this way the importance given by the United Nations Council for Namibia to the 83rd Session of the FAO Council in Rome. At the same time, we would like to present to you some areas of concern for the UN Council for Namibia, including the food and agriculture problems of Namibia, and to make some suggestions which may be found useful to be taken into consideration when finalizing the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

But before doing so, allow me to convey thanks and compliments to the Director-General, Mr. Edouard Saouma, and to Professor Islam for the comprehensive appraisal of the world agriculture and the current world food situation, in particular in Africa.

As Namibia is a developing African country, we are particularly concerned with the situation in Africa, for the reasons which have been stressed here by the African brothers. Namibia is confronted with the same economic problems as other developing countries, aggravated and deepened by the continuous colonial domination, by the ruthless illegal occupation of the territory by South Africa, by the plundering of its natural resources by foreign economic interests.

The need of Namibia for overall international assistance to remove the occupation regime, for the Namibian people to decide freely of its own future is stressed by the fact that Namibia is the only territory with an international status, being under direct administration of the UN until it has reached independence.

Acting in this framework, the UN Council for Namibia, as legal administering authority, is developing an intensive activity in the political, economic and other fields. As you know, in accordance with the General Assembly resolution 31/153, a comprehensive programme of assistance to Namibia has been launched within the UN System, covering the period until independence and the initial years of independence. A nationhood programme has been worked out, which includes manpower training programmes for Namibians, surveys and analyses of the Namibian economy, including the food and agriculture; identification of development tasks and policy options, projects for education of Namibians and other programmes.

In this regard, we are grateful that some of the projects in the framework of the nationhood programme are executed by FAO, in agricultural education, agrarian reform, protection of food supplies, food and nutrition fellowships, water development, fisheries policy options, the potential land suitability and others, and we hope that the second stage of these projects will be implemented in the same conditions like the first one.

The Council for Namibia is interested in the expansion of such programmes of assistance for Namibian people and its liberation movement - SWAPO, and we rely on the UN System support.

It is true that the struggle to free mankind from the scourge of hunger goes back to the very dawn of history, but this has always been going along with the struggle of man to be free of exploitation, with the struggle for liberty and human dignity, for the assertion of the right to freely decide upon its own future.

This is true for the Namibians, for the valiant people of Namibia still facing domination, exploitation, hunger and humiliation and which has been fighting since the very first moment it came to existence, for liberation.

The Council for Namibia, since its creation in 1967, after the General Assembly by its resolution 2145 (XXI) terminated South Africans mandate upon Namibia, spares no efforts to mobilize concerted international actions to seek an early end to South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia, and has firmly supported the people of Namibia and its liberation movement in their struggle to achieve self-determination, freedom and national independence in a united Namibia. We believe that the United Nations should continue to exert every effort to bring an end to the illegal occupation of Namibia, and to assist the Namibian people in building up its own independent country, free from hunger, domination, and exploitation.

For this concerted international action for assistance to Namibia, FAO has a significant role to play to be shared with other UN bodies and specialized agencies. We would be grateful to, and are ready to cooperate with, FAO Council, in working out FAO programmes of technical cooperation for Namibia; FAO ordinary, medium and long term programmes; technical assistance; nutrition programmes for Namibian people and its liberation movement, assistance for displaced and refugees from Namibia. We would be interested to see some reference included in the budget, which would allow FAO within the sphere of its competence to assist Namibia immediately after independence, to help Namibian people and its liberation movement to cope from the beginning of independence with the problems created by a long occupation and domination, and to build up a prosperous Namibia independent country. This role may be taken into account in the consideration of reappraisal of the concept of food security and the establishment of new approaches towards solving world food security problems.

M. ZJALIC (Observer for Yugoslavia): My delegation endorses the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1984/85.

The economic situation of many developing countries, particularly their balance of payments problems as well as their policy of budgetary austerity in cutting off public expenditure by developed countries has imposed the need for minimal growth of budget.

In his proposal the Director-General has successfully and happily in our view recognized the needs for increased multilateral support to the efforts of developing countries aimed at solving their food problems on the one side, and financial constraints which are in our view partly the result of objective circumstances and partly a reflection of deliberate action and political orientation of some governments to give more emphasis on bilateral cooperation within an overall reduction in public resources allocated for assistance and cooperation. We express our hope that in the future neither zero growth philosophy nor a relatively negligible increase will be the basic approach of Member Governments when we are in a position to discuss the next Programme of Work and Budget. The same goes for another attempt to introduce an unacceptable principle of external evaluation which in our view in an attempt to weaken the United Nations system and this Organization as well.

Having expressed our general agreement with the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and particularly with strategies and priorities for 1984/85, we would like to commend the Director-General for a balanced and carefully elaborated document as well as for his introductory statement.

We feel that the further reduction in administrative and support costs could have an adverse impact on the effectiveness of technical and economic programmes as well as on field programmes. We note with satisfaction that resources for the Technical Cooperation Programme will be increased for the next biennium so as to meet at least partly the growing need for such type of assistance.

We support the proposed priorities in major programme 2.A, Agriculture. In this connexion we underline the important role of FAO in solving the specific problems of Africa, particularly in the field of animal health, as reflected in sub-programme 2.i.3.2. and express our full agreement with the statement of the delegate of the Democratic Republic of Sudan concerning the role of FAO in executing, backstopping, monitoring, and coordinating action within the rinderpest campaign.

Many developing countries are faced with the problem of reorientation of their national planning policies in the sector of food and agriculture. The developed countries are invited, not only in this forum but in many other international fora, to readjust their agricultural policies. This situation calls for intensified intergovernmental consultations on policy issues, exchange of information, and sound analytical work, all of this being the mandate and the task of FAO. This work cannot be done without a reliable statistical data base. That is why we support the general orientation in the proposed programmes 2.1.7. and 2.1.8. These two programmes have an additional significance and importance for developing countries, namely they provide support for improvement in technical and economic cooperation among developing countries.

Let me mention that while the interdependence between the developed and developing countries' economies plays an irreplaceable role in resolving the actual economic problems, economic cooperation among developing countries represents a reliable and unique agent for long-term and more balanced economic growth and development accompanied with necessary adjustments at the global level.

FAO's work on agricultural commodities field, policy analysis, agricultural planning, provides an essential backstopping and assistance for the action of the developing countries in their efforts aimed at attaining a higher level of collective self-reliance.

J.E. MENDES FERRAO (Observateur pour le Portugal): Nous avons étudié avec beaucoup d'attention le document qui fait l'objet de notre ordre du jour, et avons apprécié le soin avec lequel il a été élaboré, dans le but d'aboutir à un budget susceptible d'être accepté par tous les Membres. Nous constatons que la bonne volonté du Directeur général a permis la convergence de points de vue différents, bien que les principaux objectifs de notre Organisation soient communs.

Mon pays est dans une situation économique difficile; comme vous le savez, nous avons un nouveau gouvernement depuis exactement 10 jours. Mais nous avons conscience que d'autres pays éprouvent également beaucoup de difficultés.

Je ne suis pas, dès lors, en position d'avancer beaucoup sur ce sujet, mais personnellement je considère que le document élaboré fait preuve de réalisme devant les problèmes mondiaux de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, et je pense que le projet de budget recevra un accueil favorable de mon pays et qu'après avoir été enrichi des suggestions présentées par les intervenants il pourra être approuvé par nous au cours de la prochaine Conférence.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ (Observador de Perú): Señor Presidente, señor Director General: En mi condición de observador pero a la vez miembro del Comité de Finanzas tengo el deber de confesar que inicialmente cuando ví este presupuesto me espanté; me espanté porque era conocedor de la creciente demanda de alimentos, de la creciente hambre, de la creciente mortalidad infantil; sin embargo, pensé que como miembro del Comité de Finanzas iba a recibir un presupuesto por lo menos incrementado en el 10 20 por ciento en relación al año pasado. Sin embargo, cuando Director General hizo un análisis detallado de la situación mundial y de todo el estancamiento de las economías de los países desarrollados y la situación precaria en la cual vivía el comercio mundial y la inestabilidad de carácter general, poco a poco fui aminorando, digamos, mi estupor.

Mi delegación apoya en su plenitud este resumen de los Comités del Programa y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio porque creo, sencillamente, que lo que ha habido es una racionalización en el uso de los fondos y recursos.

Yo casi con sorpresa he aprendido una lección: que se puede a veces hacer más tortillas sin romper huevos, porque efectivamente se está volcando al campo mayores fondos a base de una racionalización del uso de esos fondos para finalidades administrativas; sin embargo, me parece que dentro de esa racionalización queda un punto que, siendo racional, no ha sido tocado en la profundidad y al cual se le deben de todas maneras dar mayores fondos. Me refiero al Programa de Cooperación Técnica; Programa que todos los países en desarrollo conocemos muy a fondo y que sabemos por intuición, por

esa profunda intuición que tienen los pueblos del bien que se les hace, sabemos por esta intuición que son los programas de menor costo y de mayor eficiencia, y como el mundo está viviendo situaciones de emergencia permanente son éstas las que más producen y son éstas las únicas que pueden ser atendidas con celeridad, con oportunidad, con dedicación por este Programa de Cooperación Técnica, el cual tiene un crecimiento ridículo y al cual, sin embargo, algunas delegaciones, muy respetables, objetan y olvidándose de que muchas veces algunos de los fondos de este Programa son para reforzar, directa o indirectamente, un programa de silvicultura, o un programa de pesquería o un programa de algunos de los programas ordinarios, creo que la asistencia técnica imprevista a corto plazo y en pequeña escala para situaciones de emergencia sólo tienen este medio: el Programa de Cooperación Técnica en la preparación y complementación de los proyectos de inversión que generan después proyectos de desarrollo; sólo tienen este asidero, los programas de cooperación técnica.

Además de la indudable y comprobada capacidad para responder en casos de emergencia de estos programas, debe tenerse en cuenta que el PCT desempeña una función muy especial en lo que respecta a la movilización acelerada de la asistencia externa. Y es más, en momentos en que descenden los recursos extrapresupuestarios, por ejemplo, el PNUD y otros más, es el PCT el que está desempeñando y tiene una función importante porque evita el que se paralizen algunos programas por falta de fondos.

Por consiguiente, yo no sólo estoy en desacuerdo con los que digan que se debe cortar el PCT, sino sencillamente creo que no conocen lo que es el PCT, porque si lo conocieran no podrían, no deberían decir esto; y me llevo la triste impresión, después de oír el crecimiento cero, etc., de que si bien este crecimiento cero podría haberse aplicado en orden a las prioridades, las funciones de cada uno de los organismos de las Naciones Unidas, o de la familia de las Naciones Unidas, si se sabe que una persona malnutrida, una persona con hambre no va a poder asimilar lo que le enseñen en los colegios, se va a enfermar más, etc., entonces es obvio que debería haberse dicho: bueno, agricultura, crecimiento cinco; el otro, tres; el otro, dos; y el otro, cero, pero ¿agricultura y alimentación crecimiento cero?

Entonces, queremos combatir, queremos balancear la doctrina Malthusiana: "que las poblaciones crezcan en progresión geométrica y los recursos en progresión aritmética", pues sencillamente van a seguir creciendo las poblaciones en progresión geométrica, y los recursos y la capacitación y la producción, no sólo en progresión aritmética, sino que van a crecer, entonces queremos controlar la población por medio del hambre, que se mueran de hambre más y así va a haber menos competencia por los recursos; y por otro lado el crecimiento del armamento, también alguna vez, ojalá nunca se use, pero también si se usa va a ser para favorecer la doctrina malthusiana "combatir y decir que mueran más en las guerras para que haya más recursos". Entonces, no entra en mi cerebro que dignos países que deben estar a la vanguardia, enarbolando la bandera de la humanidad, que cada día se acuesten menos niños sin haber comido, menos adultos sin haber ido a la escuela y a hospitales, mezquinen un crecimiento en un sector tan importante como es la agricultura y la alimentación, y hagan poca oposición al crecimiento en el armamentismo.

Creo que éste es un presupuesto el cual debemos aumentarlo. Como miembro del Comité de Finanzas, indudablemente cuando recibimos este presupuesto notamos que había sido tan racionalizado que ya no se puede hacer más. Pero yo sí creo que algo va a sufrir la administración, que algo va a sufrir el manejo con menos fondos y con mucha más obra que hacer, porque las generaciones malnutridas son aquellas que van a dar hombres disminuidos.

Con esto hago una invocación para que en alguna forma, si hubiera alguna forma de hacer alguna economía, si existiera algún programa no hecho, o no completado por alguna razón, estos fondos se vuelquen al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, que es un programa dinámico, ejecutivo y que justamente surge para subsanar emergencias que son las que más se presentan en estas épocas en que la humanidad se debate en estas acciones. Y si algunos países creen no tener fondos, si tienen fondos que dejen un poco el proteccionismo, que no vendan en el extranjero algunos de sus productos a la mitad del precio que cuestan dentro de su mercado interno. Esto es harto conocido, de manera que fondos hay, pero hay que reorientarlos con sentido humanitario.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): Just a brief statement: the Angola delegation fully supports the statement made by the representative of the UN Council for Namibia and requests the Director-General of FAO to give all humanitarian aid to the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO, its sole and legitimate representative, until such time as the madman of South Africa leaves its illegally occupied territory.

Srta. M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (Observadora de El Salvador): Muy brevemente, Señor Presidente, quisiéramos en esta primera oportunidad en que hacemos uso de la palabra, ratificar a usted nuestra confianza por la forma acertada en que preside este Consejo. Deseamos, asimismo, felicitar a los Sres. Vicepresidentes por su elección.

El trabajo desarrollado por el Director General y sus colaboradores, para presentarnos el Documento que estamos analizando, merece nuestra más sincera felicitación. Realmente, no es tarea fácil compatibilizar las urgentes necesidades que afligen a la humanidad con la situación económica imperante en el mundo.

Nuestra Delegación desea ofrecer su total apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto presentado por el Director General. Reconocemos el trabajo realizado, sin embargo no estamos de acuerdo con la tesis del crecimiento CERO, pues las necesidades de las poblaciones de los países en desarrollo no conocen esa tesis; es más, día a día crecen en forma alarmante y la función que la FAO desempeña en aliviar esas necesidades es fundamental.

Hay muchos puntos sobre los cuales nos gustaría opinar, aunque no quisiéramos abusar del tiempo de este Consejo; por otra parte, los mismos han sido tratados ya en forma excelente por otros Delegados. Sin embargo, quisiéramos referirnos brevemente al Programa de Cooperación Técnica. En cuanto a este Programa de Cooperación Técnica estamos de acuerdo en que el mismo sea reforzado. Este Programa responde a las necesidades de los gobiernos tal como ellos las ven, tal como ellos la sienten. Representa una ayuda rápida y ágil y en general tiene una serie de características que lo hacen merecedor de su continuo reforzamiento. No entendemos las objeciones que se formulan contra el Programa de Cooperación Técnica; se dice que debe ser evaluado para ver si funciona bien, como si no fuese evidente por la acogida entusiasta que recibe de los países interesados, la validez del mismo. Se le achaca que es un Programa tipo cuerpo de bomberos que apaga fuegos aislados. No es verdad; en lo que a nuestro país se refiere, y tenemos la impresión de que lo mismo ocurre en otros lugares, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica se inserta en programas de desarrollo de largo alcance

o da origen a los mismos, no es cierto que desemboque en esfuerzos aislados sin seguimiento; por ello, queremos manifestar nuestro total apoyo al mismo y al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto en general.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): Mr. Chairman, with your indulgence, I would wish only briefly to address one of the issues, that is the unified nature of the FAO programmes. One of the major disadvantages of the summary stage is that we are confronted with the proposed Regular Programme only. At this stage it is not possible to assess extra-budgetary contributions with any acceptable precision, so I want to say that my colleagues and myself are always very much aware of the unified nature of the FAO programme. November will certainly give us much more opportunity to express our views regard to the balance of allocations within the various programmes and sub-programmes. As you are fully aware, any line to be drawn between the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary of FAO is largely artificial. In that case, perhaps next time in November we would then be in a position to make, our judgement on a much more sound basis. I will not go into any detail. I propose only to explain one aspect of our work that is the joint FAO International Atomic Energy Agency programme.

I want to assure the Council that the Programme Committee at its last session as well as at its previous sessions thoroughly reviewed the Programme. We had with us in April/May, the representative of the Joint Programme. He distributed a number of summaries of their findings, their projects. We asked a number of questions related to certain aspects, the most vital one in fact of the Programme, and after a fairly long debate we got the feeling quite strongly that the Joint Programme was progressing quite well in particular in certain areas such as breeding, plant protection, and fertilizers. We will again come to the same Programme and we will certainly take into account the views expressed by the Members of the Council and I want to assure you, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Council, that we will seriously consider all the views expressed here.

I am not aware of any specific questions addressed to me so I would wish only to express again the deep gratitude on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues to the Council for supporting our views and I would certainly wish to say that it will encourage all of us to continue to invest all our efforts and to do whatever we can to serve the Council.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): I do not think there were any specific questions raised by the many speakers and observers who took the floor on this subject, but nevertheless since two members of the Finance Committee did voice their views which were completely in accordance with what the Committee's report reflected, I would like to say that when we discussed the question of cost increases and the very many questions that were asked, the Secretariat did provide us with all explanations. This I wanted to assure you because it was not a hurried debate, the timetable was agreed upon by all Members, and as the distinguished Council Members are aware, the Committee consists of both developed and developing countries and many opinions were reflected. So I think the time was adequate, the questions that were raised and the explanations given by the Secretariat were completely convincing and there were no questions left unanswered. When we meet for the Autumn Session, in deference to the views expressed by one country in particular that more detailed information should be provided by the Secretariat, we accepted that and we will be seeking the clarifications and details of information during our Autumn Session.

The next point I want to make, Mr. Chairman, is that our discussions were very cordial in the Committee. We had lengthy discussions and I must congratulate the Members for the deep interest they have taken. Many delegates came from their capitals and I took great delight and privilege in chairing this Committee and I wish to thank everyone of them. Finally, I would wish to stress upon the Council the fact that we have striven hard to do justice to a very important subject, and I think it will come up for discussion again and I very much appreciate your appreciating the services rendered by the Committee and look forward very much to eventually finding consensus in our views.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): It is a privilege to be authorized by the Director-General to respond to the many questions that have been raised in this interesting debate since yesterday afternoon. There have been a large number of comments, Mr. Chairman, which can be taken in the spirit of the words used by the Director-General himself at the opening of this debate. I refer to the suggestion made for the Director-General to consider in formulating the full Programme of Work and Budget. All the suggestions that have been constructively and carefully made will no doubt be studied carefully with a view to taking them into account, and in particular those suggestions which came from the Programme and Finance Committees and which found a ready core of response in the Council.

There are also a number of questions which were raised requesting further information. As the full Programme of Work and Budget document will contain considerable further information, I would propose not to reply to these individual questions where the information is going to be provided either in the document itself or to the next sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees.

That still leaves me with the task of responding to those questions which in many cases were raised by a number of delegations and are of particular interest not only because they call for specific information but because they point to certain principles which constitute the formulation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

May I first take the question of research. Research and technology development. There was considerable discussion on this subject starting with a comment by the distinguished representative of the United States of America yesterday afternoon when he commented on the fact that the resources to Programme 2.1.4, the Research and Technology Development were proposed to be increased by some 15 percent. He was referring indeed to the right figures, but here the Council may be interested in taking note of a number of factors which I would submit as relevant. Research and Technology Development has long been considered to be of prime importance by the Conference, by the Council, by the Regional Conferences, and by a large number of technical bodies of this Organization. In the past we have made specific recommendations to the Director-General to emphasize the priority to research and technology development, to give it a higher feasibility and a higher focus and to devote additional resources. All these recommendations are being responded to by the proposals submitted in this document. You have an amalgamation of different programme elements to give a higher focus, you have additionality of resources to show the higher priority should be given to this scheme, and you have the proposal for the regrouping or the grouping of existing units for better direction and a more effective focus. The Council will no doubt remember that it is not just the resources under the Regular Programme, as pointed out by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, which are relevant in this context. Under research and technology development there are some \$60 million of extra-budgetary funds per annum, some 258 field projects and over 400 experts.

Some questions were raised also about the new Division. The proposal for the new Division which has been endorsed by the Committee on Agriculture and by the Programme and Finance Committees however was the subject of some question as to whether it was really necessary or whether the additional posts were fully justified. Mr. Chairman, the Committees to which I have referred have already gone into the detail to accept the proposal of the Director-General. I would only indicate here that the new posts proposed by the Director-General are kept to a very minimum in terms of two professional posts, the Director of the Division itself and the Programme and Planning Officer. That can hardly be called excessive provision of resources for a new Division in a field which the Conference and the Council recognize is not only important but should be given additional resources and additional focus. I would point out that this new Division itself with the existing units which comprise it, for example the Remote Sensing Center, support field activities of almost \$9 million and the environment and energy Unit supports field activities of \$.8 million per annum.

Mr. Chairman, a number of very interesting comments were made about the priority to be given in a regional focus, particularly to Africa, and in this connection I may be permitted to take also a comment made by the distinguished delegate of Lesotho about the resources devoted under Sub-programme 2.1.1.4 on Water Resources. I would take these two questions together, Sir, in order to point to a very particular principle. The Director-General has always said the priority he accords to Africa can be seen in the regional focus in the whole Programme of Work and Budget. In the full document which you will have in the autumn, each region will be able to see what the focus of resources is, not only particularly in terms of Headquarters resources or regional offices resources but the impact of the programme for each region.

Further of course we have had to start some work in formulating or preparing the full Programme of Work and Budget, and in looking at Africa itself I can indicate that under Chapter II, the Major Programme Agriculture alone, Africa will have a focus, an increase in resources of 13.6 percent over the 1982-83 base. This regional focus for Africa becomes particularly important under Programme 2.1.1 on Natural Resources where the increase is 30 percent.

Let us move them to the Sub-programme which the distinguished delegate from Lesotho referred to, 2.1.1.4, and he referred to the fact that the resources were rather modest for water development and management at \$1 368 000. I can however indicate that under this very modest Sub-programme the activities proposed for Africa alone, and I repeat I am only confining myself to describing the activities for Africa, we hope and we plan to have a concentration of small scheme irrigation development and on farm water management. Specifically it will include an expert consultation and three original workshops on small-scale irrigation in Africa, the publication of proceedings of the above, guidelines for small-scale irrigation development in Africa and a training workshop on farm worker management for three specific countries. Irrigation in Africa south of the Sahara has in the past largely concentrated on large scale multi-purpose basin projects and it is in recognition of this that the Director-General has given a new emphasis, and an added emphasis to small-scale irrigation development which has not received adequate attention in the past, and which is of particular benefit to small farmers; which does not require heavy investment and which is also very suitable for technical cooperation among developing countries. What I indicated was only what is proposed under the Regular Programme. However, immediately one should bear in mind everything that can be done and is done under other categories, for example the Technical Cooperation Programme. I cannot tell you what the Technical Cooperation Programme will do for water management and development in the next biennium: that depends on the requests put forward by the member nations. But what I can tell you is what the TCP has provided recently; in Nigeria, a project for water resources, irrigation and reclamation of development policies in the framework of food production strategy; in Gambia assistance in water resources development in the framework of the national food plan; in the countries of the West African rice development association, formulation of projects for small-scale irrigation in rice production and integrated development projects in four other countries.

I will perhaps not go into further details at this stage. We have numerous and substantial extra-budgetary activities and the next Regional Conference for Africa will be looking in detail into this particular subject.

May I turn now to the question of the Technical Cooperation Programme which has aroused a rather lively debate. I need not comment, of course, on the points of principle made by some representatives of member nations, nor do I need to add to the comments of the overwhelming majority of the members of the Council who have benefited from the Technical Cooperation Programme and who have been themselves its most ardent advocates. I need only reply, if I may, to two points. Firstly, to emphasize that although the Technical Cooperation Programme is a separate budgetary chapter in our Programme of Work and Budget and it has specific provisions under the financial regulations which govern its usage, the Technical Cooperation Programme is not a separate part of the Organization's Programmes and activities. The Director-General himself has repeatedly emphasized in the past how the Technical Cooperation Programme is a mere extension of the technical and economic activities of the Organization. In the document before you, in the summary, we have tried to show very briefly and concisely how all the activities of the Technical Cooperation Programme can be linked to specific sectors and specific programmes, in particular economic and social policy, forestry, etc.

We have had requests for more information. Gladly, because we have a lot more information we can give. Immediately, for example, to show you that in the categories which are given of training, investment, emergency assistance and miscellaneous, this information can immediately be broken down by agriculture, fisheries, forestry, economic and social policy, etc. Of the total resources under the TCP used for training in 1982, 47.2 percent went for agriculture, 26.4 percent for economic and social policy; forestry I emphasize because there have been numerous suggestions that it merits additional resources: forestry in the training activities of the TCP alone got 6.8 percent. Under General Support to Development, forestry got 17.5 percent of TCP resources, which leads me also to emphasize the point that the Director-General made elsewhere in this document: that resources to forestry cannot be viewed purely in terms of those regular programme resources indicated under Major Programme 2.3 Forestry.

The TCP is thus an extension, if I may say, of the technical and economic activities of the Organization but it is also distinct; and it is distinct because it is specific. It responds to specific requests for very specific assistance. It is prompt, it is responsive to individual needs and I think here is a characteristic which distinguishes it from the activities normally carried out under the rest of the Regular Programme: that whereas activities in the rest of the Regular Programme respond to the demands and the needs of a number of member countries and try to respond to these in the most flexible manner with the most appropriate means of expenditure, the TCP is a programme which responds to individual needs. And finally, if we talk of impact, there can be nothing which is clearer of impact than a TCP project which is specific, where the assistance given is defined both in its quality and in time and where the recipient government itself is in a position to see what the results have been.

Lest the Council have the impression that the resources of the TCP are being proposed to be increased without any methodology, first of all the Council will no doubt recall that the recommendations to increase the resources of the TCP are not only of individual member nations but have been formally made in the regional conferences. There were specific recommendations in the form of resolutions requesting the Director-General to increase the provision of resources for the TCP. But I can also give an example and some figures to show that the resources are, in fact, utilized very carefully. For example, the number of requests has increased from 279 in 1980 to over 500 in an estimate that we made for this year. In 1982 it was 455. These are official requests. I do not take into account in these figures requests which may be made perfectly formally by governments but, because they are not made through the formal channel of submission, the formal authority designated by the government itself, are not considered official requests.

Of this number in the two last years, almost 30 percent of the requests have been turned down. This is surely the clearest way of showing that it is not a question of using resources to meet every request that comes in, but a firm indication of the strict application of the approved criteria in the approval of the requests.

The other comments to which I need to respond are rather more specific. If I may take only a few more minutes, the representative of Poland queried why there was a decline in the resources proposed for the FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme. This is no indication of any reduced interest on the part of the Director-General. In fact, in his opening statement to the Council he referred to the visit he received of Mr. Knudsen. There was an identity of views on the importance of investment, particularly investment in agriculture and equipment in Africa, which remain priorities for the World Bank, where a decline has occurred. It is only the fact of declining resources, particularly from the International Development Agency. The IDA resources in 1982 suffered a cut of 35 percent. For 1983, IDA has a commitment authority of only \$3.1 billion, compared to the original figure of \$4 billion. The priority on investment work shows that, no matter what the level of the resources which may be forthcoming from any one institution, the Director-General continues to attach the highest priority to the promotion of investment work and the mobilization of resources.

A number of questions were asked about posts, which posts are abolished, which new posts are created, at what grades, in which unit. There is no secrecy on this. As the full Programme of Work and Budget has shown in the past, all this information will be provided. The only reason why it was not provided in the summary is partly that by definition it is a summary, and partly because, as it is stated in the document itself, the proposals for elimination and for new posts have to undergo a very severe process of an establishment review, not only in the Personnel Division but in the establishment sub-Committee chaired by the Deputy Director-General, which then submits its recommendations to the Director-General. Because of this, firm indications were not given in the summary but will appear in the full document.

And finally, several comments were made about the objects of expenditure, why there is a nominal decline in the resources proposed for consultants, a nominal increase for contractual services, and so on. As regards consultants the Committee on Agriculture, the Programme and Finance Committees have recognized that the Organization's ability to utilize consultants effectively is a function of its own staff resources. As staff resources are proposed to be decreased, this is a factor which we have to take into account. Consultants are not merely to be utilized by issuing a contract and asking them to submit an end-product. Consultants need identification, briefing, support and the work they do has to be reviewed carefully in order to obtain the Organization's stamp of approval.

On the other hand, contractual services are favoured because of the very policies that the governing bodies have recommended to the Director-General. The use of national institutions and technical cooperation among developing countries - if I give only the highlights - but if one is to comment on the pluses and minuses and objectives of expenditure, may I conclude with a final word: that if the total budget is to have a nominal increase, if the staff resources are to be reduced, the total resources have to be spent in some way. And it is surely a management decision which the Director-General has to take in his wisdom as to how those resources are to be utilized. It is inevitable that this would lead in some cases to increasing reliance on one object of expenditure and decreasing the reliance on another. While keeping to the broad questions which have been raised, I hope I have answered sufficiently the main points which arose in the debate and I am, of course, at your disposal, under the instructions of the Director-General.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL : M. le Président, je serai bref. Je voudrais simplement dire que j'ai suivi avec une très grande attention les débats, les interventions qui ont eu lieu depuis hier, et auxquels ont pris part plus de 47 membres du Conseil et 7 observateurs.

Je voudrais, au nom de tous mes collègues et en mon nom personnel, remercier tous ceux qui ont bien voulu adresser des paroles aimables à l'égard du Secrétariat, et je voudrais aussi dire combien j'apprécie les nombreux appels qui ont été lancés par divers délégués en faveur d'un consensus sinon d'une unanimité à l'occasion du vote du budget en novembre. Je le souhaite également.

M. le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, le budget proposé ne présente pas sur une croissance zéro. D'abord, le chiffre exact est de 0,50 % ! Mais l'accroissement des activités techniques, qui sont la raison d'être de la FAO - qui est une agence technique - est de 3,5 pour cent, et je vous prie de vous référer au paragraphe 5.21, page 21 du texte français qui indique bien que l'accroissement des activités techniques est de 3,25 pour cent. A diverses occasions, on a remarqué que les ressources de l'agence internationale pour le développement ont diminué en termes réels de 35 pour cent; celles du PNUD, celles du FIDA, l'aide publique ont aussi diminué en termes réels. Par contre le budget que je vous propose ne présente pas une diminution en termes réels.

Vous avez, je pense, tous reçu ce document qui vous donne des informations sur les arriérés dans les contributions des pays membres (CL 83/LIM/1). Il reste encore 21 pays, presque tous en voie de développement, qui n'ont pas payé un seul dollar pour l'exercice 1982-83; quant aux arriérés, le total est de 105 millions de dollars, autrement dit 30 pour cent des contributions de 1982-83 n'ont pas encore été payés. Quand j'ai fait mes propositions budgétaires, j'ai tenu compte de la situation difficile des pays du tiers monde, dont les dettes se montent à 700 milliards de dollars.

Certes, le budget que je propose est modeste, et je suis le premier à le reconnaître, si on le compare aux besoins. Mais le budget de la FAO n'est pas là pour résoudre la totalité des problèmes des pays, c'est un budget pour promouvoir et accélérer les efforts déployés par les pays eux-mêmes.

Un mot sur le programme de coopération technique. Oui, c'est le programme le plus populaire parmi les pays membres et il était donc tout à fait normal que l'augmentation que je propose pour ce programme soit de 5 pour cent pour deux ans, soit 2,5 pour cent par an, donc une augmentation presque égale à la croissance démographique des pays en voie de développement, c'est-à-dire les trois quarts de l'humanité.

M. le Président, c'est en réduisant au maximum possible les ressources des activités non techniques que j'ai pu effectuer cet exercice que j'appellerai "de haute voltige", et je le dis parce qu'une opération similaire ne peut pas se répéter tout le temps. Je ne peux pas trouver d'autres procédés pour le prochain budget de 1986-87, pour maintenir une croissance nette minimum tout en obtenant une croissance plus importante des activités techniques. J'ai épuisé toutes les possibilités.

Alors, j'espère beaucoup que l'inflation va diminuer pendant les années prochaines, que la récession va s'arrêter, que la croissance économique va reprendre pour tous les pays, sinon ce serait une catastrophe, les pays en voie de développement devant chaque année déboursier des sommes énormes pour le service de leur dette. S'il n'y a pas de reprise économique, si les prix des matières premières de base ne deviennent pas plus rémunérateurs, ce sera vraiment une grande catastrophe.

Enfin, pour conclure, je voudrais exprimer ma reconnaissance. Je suis vraiment reconnaissant pour l'accueil qui a été fait par le Conseil dans sa totalité au programme de travail et budget. Je suis très touché par cet accueil. Je crois que c'est la quatrième fois que je présente le programme de travail et budget (parce que j'ai dû présenter une autre fois celui dont j'ai hérité en 1975 pour 1976-77, donc c'est la quatrième fois) et jamais cet accueil n'a été, je puis le dire, aussi favorable que celui que nous avons reçu pendant ces journées.

Je voudrais assurer tous les délégués que j'examinerai attentivement les commentaires qu'ils ont formulés, les suggestions qu'ils ont bien voulu faire, les demandes d'information à inclure dans le programme de travail et budget détaillé. Mais je dois dire qu'un certain nombre de délégués ont dit : "tel secteur, 5 pour cent, ce n'est pas assez; augmentez; tel secteur, là encore, faites monter les chiffres; là, baissez les chiffres". Nous n'avons pas eu de propositions concrètes. En particulier, je regrette que certains délégués ne soient pas là pour nous dire exactement quelles activités supplémentaires ils suggèrent, dans le domaine des forêts par exemple. Ils se sont bornés à dire "le pourcentage est trop bas faites le monter s'il vous plaît", mais de quelles activités s'agit-il précisément ?

Il y a eu ainsi des suggestions pour faire augmenter les pourcentages pour certains secteurs, sans propositions concrètes, et c'est pour cela qu'il me sera difficile de donner suite à certaines de ces suggestions. D'ailleurs un congrès mondial forestier se tiendra au Mexique, grâce à l'hospitalité du Gouvernement mexicain, probablement en 1984, qui débattrà de ces sujets, et permettra aussi de discuter des problèmes des forêts tropicales qui intéressent certains pays. Nous pourrions peut-être alors prévoir d'une façon plus claire et plus précise ce qu'il y a lieu de faire en plus, dans le domaine des forêts, dès 1986, et peut-être même pourrions-nous l'envisager dans le programme de 1985. Il s'agit-là d'une réunion au sommet de tous les forestiers du monde, qui a lieu chaque 4 ans, qui je crois nous donnera davantage d'orientations. Au Comité des programmes on nous a dit que nous ne faisons pas assez sur les cultures vivrières; cet après-midi, sur les forêts. Je ne sais pas quels seront les avis qui seront exprimés à la Commission II de la Conférence, mais en tout cas nous allons revoir tout cela à l'occasion de la formulation détaillée de tout le Programme de Travail et Budget.

M. Shah a bien dit que nous étions prêts à donner toutes les informations nécessaires. Je crois que, comme un délégué l'a reconnu lui-même, quand on nous a demandé non pas des réponses à une ou deux questions mais de tenir une réunion qui a duré pendant deux jours, nous nous y sommes prêtés volontiers. Je crois que c'est la meilleure façon de maintenir votre confiance, et nous le ferons encore quand il s'agira de préparer le programme entier.

M. le Président, je crois que je peux, avec mes collègues, être confiant qu'en novembre prochain, je pourrai vous présenter un programme de travail répondant à toutes les remarques et commentaires qui ont été faits, et qui je l'espère recevra l'unanimité et l'appui de tous les pays membres.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the Chairmen of the Programme and the Finance Committees, Mr. Shah, and finally the Director-General himself. I want to add my words of gratitude to the 47 members of the Council and 6 observers who took part in the discussion. The fact that nearly all Council members have spoken is an index, of course, of the importance of this topic. Sometimes we do not realise

that what we have been discussing in the last one and a half days is the whole Programme of Work and Budget of the most important inter-governmental organization dealing with the first among the hierarchical needs of man, namely food and so I am glad that the situation warranted the seriousness with which members participated.

I would like to summarise the major trends of our discussion into three major groups. Firstly, there has been complete unanimity in the conclusion that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85 as presented by the Director-General is an acceptable basis for proceeding with the preparation of the detailed programme for presentation at the 84th Session of the Council and the 22nd General Conference. By doing this we have really endorsed the joint views of the Finance and Programme Committees who had, after detailed examination of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget concluded that the Director-General's proposals for 1984/85 have been framed to respond to the highest priorities, as decided at various meetings, regional conferences, Council and various committees, and to limit the request for additional resources and hence the proposed level of resources is a sound basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85.

Considering the diversity of viewpoints and wishes represented in the Council, I think it is an outstanding achievement that there is such unanimity on the correctness of the strategies and priorities in relation to the medium-term objectives of the organization on the basis of the recommendations made by the governing bodies, the regional conference and main committee. This is truly an inspiring hope for the successful functioning of this organization. There has also been complete unanimity in the regional priority accorded in the Programme of Work and Budget to the less-developed food-deficit countries of Africa, mainly in the sub-Saharan region.

The second main trend from our discussions relates to the fact that several delegations would like to have more details of particular programmes and hence would like to offer more detailed and specific comments and definite comments when the full Programme of Work and Budget becomes available in November. Of course, you heard the Chairman of the Finance Committee and also Mr. Shah say that being a Summary Programme, obviously it would not be a summary if all the details were given but the Chairman of the Finance Committee said whatever details they had wanted are always available and I am sure Mr. Shah now has reassured us that the details requested by members will be forthcoming. In any case, the detailed Programme of Work and Budget will give all this information.

The third main trend that I have noticed from the intervention of the Council members and observers I think is best summarized by what the Ambassador of Italy said, which was also said in eloquent terms by the Philippines and finally by Peru. All of them said in different words what the Ambassador of Italy said, that it is very painful to establish priorities within priorities when so many urgent problems are crying for attention. Hence many delegates have expressed the fond hope that the financial resources available to FAO will at least be enhanced to the level that the programme can keep pace with the needs of the growing population. The delegate of India put it in the way that at least one should keep up the budget growth in per capita terms, not so much in terms of percentages. I think that population growth necessitates most of our countries to run twice as fast to remain where they are. Therefore many delegates feel, how can FAO assist in this endeavour if its resources are going to remain static. Of course I find the Director-General capable of performing this miracle, like Alice, of running twice as fast with the same resources. But this is done by a considerable degree of redeployment of resources and realignment of priorities on the basis of suggestions given by members themselves. I am amazed, because I have been involved in exercises of this kind. In fact the most recent one was in 1980 when I was involved in the preparation of the sixth five-year plan of India involving an outlay of over US\$ 100 billion. No government department will ever concede that one position is surplus to their requirements, but nevertheless it is a fact that everybody wants an accretion and not any adjustment. Therefore we have to compliment the Director-General on this exercise that he has undertaken. Although there has been a difference in viewpoint, such a drastic exercise is really in the long-term interest of the Organization. We therefore appreciate the steps taken by the Director-General to increase the outlay for technical and economic programmes by internal redeployment of resources and realignment of priorities.

Of course while listening to the various delegates one could certainly see that there are varying perceptions concerning programmes which deserve either enhanced or reduced outlay. This is but natural. A body like this will obviously have varying perceptions. But there has been unanimity in spite of this diversity in perceptions. What is most encouraging is that there is unanimity in terms of purpose, whether it is forestry, fisheries, and so on. There is a purpose in terms of looking at both the long-term and the short-term views on development in a more harmonious way.

I only hope that there will be some additional resources. I hope that Council members will convey to their respective governments this viewpoint expressed so eloquently by so many members of the Council and that during the November Conference they will agree, at least some of them, to say that we should have a mid-term appraisal some time next year, and when the international climate improves we must strengthen the resource position of the Organization.

These are the three major streams - unanimity with reference to the present Summary being the basis for a more detailed programme, secondly some members wanting more details before they offer definitive comments, and thirdly many other members feeling that the resources are inadequate in relation to the genuine needs of these countries.

Let me add a word about the TCP, because I have also been involved in developing projects for TCP and I think some questions were asked, and legitimately members should ask such questions, about the impact and benefit of this programme. In this context I would like to endorse the viewpoint expressed by Pakistan that countries themselves - some of them spoke here - which have asked for TCP projects and also implemented them, could each prepare a short factual and analytical report, on what was the project and what happened. Certainly FAO could compile it but I think countries also have a responsibility towards the Organization and it will be useful for countries to accept the proposal of Pakistan and prepare suitable objective accounts.

Listening to the debate for the last one and a half days one goes through a sense of pleasure and pain - I suppose there is no pleasure without pain - pleasure because there has been this enormous consensus, as the Director-General said. He said in the last three or four biennial debates this is the first time that there has been such complete unanimity in terms of support to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and also in connexion with the correctness of the strategies and priorities. On the other hand, there has been pain that the Organization may not be able to respond to all the demands. I only hope that ultimately this kind of agonizing reappraisal of priorities and programmes will lead to some form of enduring ecstasy in terms of having a programme which will have a vital impact.

Finally, my colleagues of the Council and Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to offer two personal suggestions which occurred to me while listening to delegates. The first is that several useful ideas about programme areas which need urgent attention in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and forestry, have been made by different members. Several important gaps in ongoing work, both at the production and post-harvest phases, have been pointed out, and obviously FAO cannot respond to these urgent calls under the prevailing budgetary conditions. But I personally feel that it might be useful to compile all the suggestions which come from the proceedings of these meetings. I am confident that the Investment Group in FAO must be doing it, but nevertheless I think it will be useful to compile some of these valuable suggestions made by members here, maybe on COAG and so on, and circulate it to all bilateral donors and regional development banks.

Let me cite one specific example of what I have in mind. I think the delegate of Lesotho, to whom Mr. Shah also referred, mentioned that to accelerate the harnessing of the untapped irrigation potential in sub-Sahara Africa it will be very beneficial if the long experience gained in Asia in harnessing and utilizing both surface and ground water can be shared with African countries. My feeling is that that is a very good suggestion, the sharing of experience in the Asian irrigated areas and the potentially irrigable areas of Africa. The delegate of the United States said that nearly \$1 billion, both in commodities and cash, will be available for Africa next year, and the delegate of Italy and many others made their commitment to the cause of Africa. I think it will be useful to get this kind of suggestion, however it cannot be implemented by FAO because of resource constraints implemented with bilateral help. You must have heard Mr. Shah outline the many steps taken by the Director-General for small-scale irrigation. I think it will be useful to implement such suggestions through suitable bilateral donors or under the TCDC programme with FAO's assistance. I would particularly call for, in addition to workshops, seminars, and so on, a programme of exchange of farmers between selected irrigated areas in Asia and countries with irrigation potential in Sub-Sahara Africa. This is because I personally observe the tremendous impact which, for example, Japanese farmers have had in India and our own farmers in the Punjab. In the area of water management and water use this had a tremendous impact, because to farmers seeing is believing and the impact is even greater when the demonstrations are laid out by other farmers, and a well-planned farmer exchange programme may well be of help to purchase time and accelerate the pace of progress in the high-yield potential and low-risk areas of Africa.

Finally, I feel that the initiative which the Director-General has titled "New Dimensions" is exceedingly important and significant. It is my conviction that all external assistance should be so designed that it does not become self-perpetuating. We need a development assistance strategy based on a self-eliminating pattern of expatriate expertise. This is the aim of the New Dimensions Programme. Hence it will be valuable if FAO summarizes the experience in the New Dimensions initiative and indicates how all available resources can be harnessed for the programme content rather than for overheads and project management.

I must also mention in this context that the gap between national salaries in many developing countries and international salaries is widening and the introduction of a large number of highly paid expatriates in an environment where highly qualified nationals receive very low salaries causes many human problems which are well known to the people around the table here. In addition it stimulates the whole process of the braindrain. This is why I hope that the FAO's New Dimensions Programme will open up some new frontiers in the methodology of international development assistance and cooperation.

Let me again thank the Chairmen and the members of the Programme and the Finance Committees, Mr. Shah, Mr. West, the various officers of the FAO and the Director-General for putting up such a fine document which has received such unanimous support around this table. I would request you all, Ladies and Gentlemen, to give a big ovation to the Director-General as our appreciation of the hard work that he and his staff have done.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (CUBA): Pido excusas por hablar después de que usted, Señor Presidente, ha ya hecho el resumen de la sesión, pero no quisiera irme con una confusión, con una duda, ya que no entendí la proposición de Pakistán, sobre si es una proposición de número de programas por países, o un análisis de los orígenes o de la forma. No tengo la versión de Pakistán pero no me parece haberlo oído en esta forma. Por eso quisiera que me explicaran esto, ya que no lo tengo claro y no quisiera irme con esa confusión.

CHAIRMAN: If you are referring to what I said, what I said was, I referred to the proposal of the Pakistan delegate that it might be useful for countries which have benefited from this programme to try to summarize their experience from this programme, what they got out of it, and so on. But if you are referring to any data given by Mr. Shah, then he will have to answer that question.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): First I must convey my real appreciation of the excellent summing up you have made. I am also grateful that you have highlighted the proposal that the delegation of Pakistan brought forward. The basic thrust of that proposal simply was that the best judges of a programme like the TCP are the recipient countries and when the recipient developing countries are emphasizing in the various fora and the committees and Council that it is an excellent programme, it is very flexible, it responds immediately to the needs of developing countries and exercises a catalytic agent, whereas the resources of the developing countries themselves can be mobilized into these channels where the TCP funds are going, so we are of the opinion that the recipient countries themselves are the best judges and we were inviting other recipient countries to share the experience of the TCP benefits in the Council and in other form.

CHAIRMAN: I hope that satisfies you, Cuba.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Just to assure the distinguished delegate of Cuba that, of course, the Chairman was making his own comments in addition to his summing-up of the debate on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. These were merely personal comments and advice to you and not decisions which have been taken by the Council. As Independent Chairman of the Council, I think he is entitled to give the Council the benefit of his wisdom and to express his views on all subjects. These views do not constitute a decision of the Council as we are now in the process of discussing specifically the Programme of Work and Budget. I think the Chairman has made an excellent summing up, which will be reflected in the draft report which will be submitted to you. I only wanted to clarify this point.

CHAIRMAN: I made the last two suggestions as my personal suggestions which came when I was listening to the delegates.

On Monday morning at 10 o'clock Mr. Roger Sorenson, our first Vice-Chairman, will chair the session and conduct the proceedings according to the timetable. You all know Mr. Sorenson; he has been a familiar face here. He has also been a member of the Programme Committee, the Minister Counsellor and Permanent Representative to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I find his biographical data very impressive. He studied violin, piano and composition at the Conservatory of Music and then went on to Brigham Young University and got his M.A. in Political Science and Economics, then proceeded further to the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and did post-graduate work. He has had a very distinguished career and a background starting from 1952 in private industry, then foreign service. In foreign service he has had a number of assignments, including the present one, and he has received a State Department Meritorious Service Award as early as 1965, and again in 1969 the State Department Superior Honour Award. We are really honoured to have him as the First Vice-Chairman.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 00

se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 83/PV/11

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83º período de sesiones

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 11ª SESION PLENARIA

(20 June 1983)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours, R.A. Sorenson, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15, sous la présidence de R.A. Sorenson, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria á las 10.15 horas bajo la presidencia de R.A. Sorenson, vicepresidente 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 Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference
- 10. Préparation de la vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence
- 10. Preparativos para el 22º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO
- 10.1 Arrangements for the Session, and Provisional Timetable
- 10.1 Organisation de la session et calendrier provisoire
- 10.1 Organización y calendario provisional del periodo de sesiones

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le contenu du document CL 83/11 en vérité n'appelle pas d'introduction spéciale, en ce qu'il ne diffère pas fondamentalement de celui des années précédentes. Il s'agit au demeurant d'un projet qui est destiné à la Conférence et qui pourra, de ce fait, subir tous amendements que le Conseil jugera approprié de lui apporter.

Je saisisrai cependant l'occasion pour appeler l'attention du Conseil sur le fait que pour le débat général une douzaine de séances plénières est prévue, pour les déclarations générales. Il faut également rappeler que la Conférence avait déjà fixé à 15 minutes le temps limite de parole pour chaque déclaration. Compte tenu de cette limitation, il n'est pas possible d'accommoder plus de 10 orateurs par séance, ce qui est extrêmement court. Compte tenu donc de cela, le Conseil voudra peut-être rappeler le besoin d'une autodiscipline dans la limitation du temps de parole, pour permettre à toutes les délégations de pouvoir s'exprimer.

Le Conseil voudra également rappeler le besoin, pour chaque délégation, d'être représentée dans la salle plénière au moment des déclarations du débat général. La Conférence, en effet, a décidé, la dernière fois, qu'un membre de chaque délégation devrait rester dans la salle plénière après que la déclaration du pays intéressé ait été faite. Il est arrivé en effet qu'après la déclaration du pays les membres de cette délégation quittent la salle pour assister plutôt aux réunions des différentes commissions, donnant ainsi une impression de vide dans la salle plénière.

Vous verrez également que, dans le projet de calendrier que nous vous proposons nous avons prévu un creux d'une demi-journée pour parer à des situations de dernière minute qui pourraient perturber le bon déroulement de la Conférence. Il serait peut-être utile que le Conseil mette l'accent sur la nécessité de maintenir ce battement afin d'éviter que les travaux de la Conférence n'en soient compromis dans leur durée.

Voilà, M. le Président, tout ce que j'avais à dire au sujet de ce document.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): May I first say before I speak to the particular item how delighted I am to see you sitting there on the dais before us.

Mr. Chairman, I have two very small points to make, the first is to thank Dr. Sylla for his introduction. Could we ask the reason for the Secretariat's proposal in paragraph 16 for bringing forward the vote on the Programme of Work and Budget? There is the possibility, I think, that by doing this undue pressure could be placed on the timetable for Commission II with the result the discussion there might be curtailed.

The second point, Mr. Chairman, arises from paragraph 19. We note that delegates are invited to speak on a few selected issues. We recall that in 1979 the Secretariat suggested topics that might be covered in this way, and we wonder whether the Secretariat propose to give any guidelines to us in this connexion.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On the first point, after the last two Conferences the Secretariat has had, not exactly complaints but comments from a number of delegations that by taking the vote - and here we have to have a vote, it is not just adopting the report, it is a vote - by taking the vote towards the very end of the Conference they were unable to be properly represented in the Plenary when this happened with a view to either registering their vote or, in some cases, of making statements that they felt they might want to make in explanation of their vote. So in order to accommodate delegations - in particular the smaller ones, although in some cases it involves larger ones, where a senior member of the delegation wants to be present on this occasion - we have proposed to have it earlier. Since the Programme of Work and Budget is taken at the beginning of Commission II this should not in fact produce any pressure on the debate, and of course the general Committee will adjust the agenda and the timetable of the Plenary in accordance with the progress made during the Conference.

On the second point, subject to anything Mr. Sylla wants to add, because we have not discussed this, we are not making any suggestions because in the past, when we have done so, we have found they have been largely ignored by a large number of delegations. Ministers like to make their own speeches about subjects which interest them, so all we are suggesting, as far as I am aware, is that we simply ask that the subjects covered should be as selective as possible.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Are there other interventions? There being none, we consider the document as approved.

10.3 Deadline for Nominations for Independent Chairman of the Council (see Rule XXIII, 1 (b) GRO)

10.3 Date de présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil (voir paragraphe 1 (b) de l'article XXIII du Règlement général de l'Organisation)

10.3 Plazo de aceptación de candidaturas para el cargo del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (véase Artículo XXIII, 1 (b) del Reglamento General de la Organización)

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Ce document, comme vous l'avez dit, concerne la présentation des candidatures au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil. Vous aurez remarqué que le Secrétariat propose que la date limite du dépôt des candidatures soit fixée au vendredi 2 septembre 1983 à 17 h, et au vendredi 9 septembre 1983 la date limite de notification desdites candidatures aux différents gouvernements. Nous espérons que le Conseil sera d'accord avec nous sur cette proposition.

CHAIRMAN: I take it, if there are no expressions to be made on this item, that these arrangements are approved. Thank you very much.

9. Inter-Agency Relations and Consultations on Questions of Common Interest, including:

9. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun, notamment:

9. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común, en particular:

9.1 Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO

9.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et qui intéressent la FAO

9.1 Novedades de interés para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): As always, I have great pleasure in introducing to you today, on behalf of the Director-General, the document on recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO: C 83/19.

You will note that the document already bears a Conference number as it will be submitted with any observations you may make now to the Conference in November at which time we shall also bring out a short supplement to cover activities between now and then.

In the meantime, let me now bring you up to date on events since April when the document was written. I think the simplest thing is for me to go through the document and take up the points in the order in which they occur.

One of the main events this year in the UN System is, as you know, the 6th Conference of UNCTAD which is taking place now in Belgrade, from 6 to 30 June. We shall not fail to report on this important gathering to the FAO Conference in November. The same will apply to the World Food Council meeting to be held in New York next week.

The document before you has a section on the International Development Strategy. You will see in paragraph 15 that we have raised the question of the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy by the FAO Governing Bodies.

As 1984 is not a Conference year we decided that the only way in which the FAO Governing Bodies would have an opportunity to make their review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy before the Committee of Universal Membership meets in the spring of 1984 was for a paper on the subject to be submitted to the FAO Conference this autumn. The paper is now in preparation and will be distributed later in the year as a Conference document.

On Operational Activities for Development, there is not much to add at this stage. The Governing Council of UNDP is at present holding its 30th session in New York (from 6 to 26 June). We shall report any important results of the session to the Conference this autumn.

UNDP programme delivery is still at 55 percent of illustrative IPFs. The resource crisis continues despite the creation by the Governing Council last summer of an Intersessional Committee of the Whole to try and resolve it. Efforts so far have not resulted in significant additions to UNDP's current resources nor in agreement on a more secure multi-year funding system. The insignificant additional resources pledged so far cannot make any real difference to UNDP programme delivery or solve the present UNDP resource problem.

Apart from this you will remember that the Director-General in his opening statement, mentioned that the Administrator of UNDP and he himself have recently agreed to send a second letter, jointly signed, to Resident Representatives and FAO Country Representatives, with a view to enhancing our collaboration at the Country level.

On emergencies, you will recall that the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General in Resolution 37/144, to submit a comprehensive report on measures to strengthen the capacity of the UN system to respond to emergencies. The United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (the Head of UNDRO) was entrusted with the preparation of this report. FAO and other organizations concerned were consulted. The report, now being finalized, will be submitted to the ECOSOC Summer Session in July, and later in the year to the General Assembly.

I should now like to turn to the section dealing with the resolutions of the General Assembly on the relations of the United Nations System with certain regional inter-governmental organizations. It may be a surprise to you to find such a section in this paper when normally relations with organizations outside the UN system are reported separately to the Conference. The reason is that the General Assembly in a number of resolutions is seeking to enhance co-operation with some of those bodies and in particular has adopted resolutions dealing with the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the League of Arab States and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

As you have seen from the document, FAO and these organizations have had, for a very long time, close and fruitful relations based on specific agreements as laid down in the Basic Tests of FAO. These direct relations are of great value to both sides and will of course be pursued and strengthened as far as possible. Nevertheless, FAO participates actively in the system-wide meetings held as a follow-up to the resolutions of the General Assembly. The UN/OAU meeting was held as scheduled in April 1983, FAO presented a paper which was well received, on the conservation, development and utilization of water resources in Africa.

The meeting between the UN Organizations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference will take place in Geneva on 15 July and will be followed by three days of bilateral consultations between organizations of the UN system and the OIC Secretariat. The meeting will be discussing matters of interest to FAO and particularly food security, assistance to refugees, science and technology and energy.

The meeting between the UN system and the League of Arab States will take place in Tunis from 28 June to 1 July. FAO will be represented and will be pleased to discuss proposals to strengthen co-operation in the field of food and agriculture.

In the section dealing with food and agriculture in Africa, you will note that the ECA had invited us to attend an interagency consultation on the food and agriculture technology gap in Addis Ababa from 23 to 27 May. We prepared a paper on the subject in an effort to present a survey of existing traditional and improved technology in fields like soil management and water control, plant protection and agricultural production, engineering, livestock, fisheries, forestry, land use and farming systems, and so on.

This paper was intended as a contribution to the report that the Economic Commission for Africa has been requested by the Secretary General to present to ECOSOC and the General Assembly.

I would only say that FAO has of course, ever since its inception, been involved in technological development in almost all sectors dealing with food and agriculture. We will continue to give assistance to governments through our field projects and through policy advice.

We are also closely involved in the research and development of new technologies and the application and adaptation of existing technologies where appropriate.

I shall now turn to the follow-up to the UN Conference on Science and Technology for Development. The Inter-governmental Committee met in Special Session in New York from 25 to 29 April with a view to apportioning the financial contributions to the Financing System and the voting shares between

developed and developing countries. No agreement was reached and the matter was referred to the recent session of the Inter-governmental Committee which ended last week. While we have no details on the outcome of this meeting I may add that the main result of this last meeting was the following: First, there was finally an agreement on the pattern of voting. Secondly, a pledging conference will be held just before the General Assembly; and thirdly, the proposals submitted by the ACC Task Force on Science and Development on joint activities was accepted by the Inter-governmental Committee.

For the follow-up to the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, the first session of the Inter-governmental Committee on the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy took place in New York from 18 to 29 April. The Committee dealt with the mobilization of resources for carrying out the Nairobi Plan of Action. It is proposed that financial resources be directed through existing channels such as UNDP general resources, the UNDP Energy Account, the UN Financing System for Science and Technology and the UN Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration. The Committee recognized that the mobilization of additional resources was crucial to carry out the programme and this matter is to be discussed in a series of consultative meetings.

The Inter-governmental Committee also discussed priority areas for action. Rural energy was singled out as one of these. FAO presented a substantive document on current and planned activities. The document stated FAO's mandate in rural energy and gave detailed information on FAO programmes and field activities in particular in the following sector: fuelwood and charcoal; biomass; (i.e. biogas, gasification of agricultural and wood residues, biofertilization), modernization of draught animal power, application of solar and wind energy, household energy including involvement of women in rural energy programmes. This paper was well received and enabled participants to have a clear idea of FAO's role in the field of rural energy within the UN system.

For the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, FAO has participated in a second inter-agency consultation on the Substantial New Programme of Action for the LDCs which was held in Geneva this spring. FAO provided information on its country field programmes. We also attended the Asian-Pacific Least Developed Countries Round Table convened by UNDP in Geneva in May. The main purpose was to provide five LDCs in the area with a forum for discussing their problems with their bilateral development partners and multilateral financial institutions.

Lastly, I should say that FAO attended the International Conference in Support of the Struggle of the Namibian People for Independence which was held in Paris from 25 to 29 April. We made available an information note on assistance to Namibia and also a major study on "Apartheid, Poverty and Malnutrition" issued in 1982. The Conference adopted the "Paris Declaration on Namibia" which reaffirms the inalienable right of the people to self-determination and independence.

There is one point which is not covered in the document before you which I would like to mention now, and that is the interagency aspects of rural development.

In document CL 82/17 the Council was advised last November of progress in carrying out the programme: of work of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development and was given details of the follow-up work for WCARRD. In April, the ACC Task Force met and examined action taken in its three priority areas, joint action at country and regional levels, people's participation and monitoring and evaluation.

Joint action at the country and regional levels, and more specifically WCARRD, has brought about increasing involvement of Task Force members in interagency missions for WCARRD follow-up. Twelve missions (Benin, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Jordan, Lesotho, Oman, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania, Yemen A.R.) have already been fielded and two more are planned for 1983 (Philippines and Mozambique). The main purpose of these missions is to assist countries in carrying out a review of their policies for agrarian reform and rural development and of their progress in poverty alleviation. In addition, these missions assist countries in setting up national co-ordinating mechanisms for rural development when requested to do so.

The ILO has acted as convenor of the Panel on People's Participation. The Panel met in January 1983 and drew up a work programme for 1983 and early 1984 which included a study of obstacles to people's participation in rural development, and measures to promote such participation.

IFAD is now the convenor of the Panel on Monitoring and Evaluation. The Panel met in February 1983 and drew up a work programme for 1983 and 1984, in addition to discussing a forthcoming document "Guiding Principles on Monitoring and Evaluation of Rural Development Project/Programmes", which will be issued in final form by end of 1983.

The ACC Task Force on Rural Development has published the first issue of a Newsletter intended to inform headquarters and field staff of all member agencies of activities of the UN system in rural development. This Newsletter will be published every April and October by FAO as Lead Agency in Rural Development.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that these few comments are sufficient by way of introduction and updating of the document which I am now submitting to you for your attention. I shall, of course, be very happy to answer any questions which delegations may wish to put.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A la Delegación de Colombia le causa verdadero placer verle a usted dirigiendo nuestros trabajos.

Como en todas las ocasiones anteriores las presentaciones claras y concretas que hace nuestro amigo André Régnier facilitan mucho las intervenciones de nuestra Delegación. Esperamos que en el próximo Documento se incluyan los resultados de la VI UNCTAD, actualmente en curso en Belgrado, respecto a la cual desgraciadamente sabemos ya que las dos primeras semanas de esa reunión no han sido satisfactorias para las aspiraciones y las necesidades de los países en desarrollo; pero confiamos que en las dos semanas que aún restan puedan rectificar esa situación desafortunada para el Tercer Mundo.

Cada vez que se presenta este tema a una de las reuniones del Consejo, nosotros, como Delegados de Colombia, sentimos verdadera satisfacción, Señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, orgullo sincero al poder admirar a través de estas referencias cómo la FAO sobresale notoriamente por su trabajo eficaz y concreto en todo el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Ese entusiasmo muy sincero de nuestra Delegación, desafortunadamente contrasta con la decepción que nos produce el hecho de que aún no se hayan iniciado las negociaciones globales y que no exista ningún progreso al respecto. Seguimos esperando esas famosas negociaciones.

Ese mismo sentimiento de pesar fue expresado en marzo pasado en Nueva Delhi por la Cumbre de Jefes de Estado de los Países No Alineados. Colombia como miembro reciente, ya que acaba de adherirse, quiere ser coherente con esa actitud y pedir al Consejo que se consigne en nuestro Informe la preocupación por ese retardo y por la carencia absoluta de todo progreso hacia la iniciación de las negociaciones globales.

Afortunadamente, en el campo de la agricultura y de la alimentación la FAO no se ha detenido en espera de que arranquen esas negociaciones, sino que siendo una Organización pionera trabaja con eficacia y con resultados positivos en favor de los países en desarrollo.

Sobre la evaluación de la ejecución de la Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo para el tercer decenio, evaluación que debería llevarse a cabo en 1984, estamos seguros de que la FAO corresponderá a lo solicitado en el párrafo 175 de esa Estrategia y aportará su experiencia en el plano mundial, teniendo en cuenta los resultados obtenidos en los planos sectoriales, nacionales y regionales.

A este respecto la Delegación de Colombia apoyó plenamente la declaración que fue hecha en Nueva York por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 el Sr. Embajador Farooq Sobhay, Declaración que aparece en el párrafo 13 del Documento y que de manera coincidentemente afortunada, fue apoyada también por la Comunidad Económica Europea tal como se expresa en ese párrafo 13 de nuestro Documento. La Delegación de Colombia confía en que los colegas de la CEE van a ser coherentes con ese apoyo manifestado en Nueva York y junto con todos los demás miembros del Consejo van a permitir que en nuestro Informe incluyamos referencias a esa Declaración del Presidente de los 77 que, en esencia, dice que los Organismos de las Naciones Unidas, de acuerdo con el párrafo 175 de la Estrategia, al hacer sus aportes para esa evaluación no deben limitarse a señalar los resultados que han obtenido en sus actividades, sino que deben igualmente indicar los problemas que han encontrado y las posibles soluciones para remediarlos.

Acerca de las Actividades Operacionales para el Desarrollo, la Delegación de Colombia considera preocupante la carencia continua y progresiva de recursos para las operaciones en favor del desarrollo, que son vitales y definitivas para el Tercer Mundo. En nuestro informe deberemos manifestar esa preocupación y señalar una vez más la necesidad de que haya un aumento sustancial y real en la corriente de recursos para actividades operacionales, sobre una base cada vez más previsible, continua y segura, tal como se afirma en el párrafo 19 del Documento.

En el párrafo 20 hay una ligera referencia al PNUD, que el Sr. Régnier nos ha ampliado. Todos sabemos como la disminución de recursos del PNUD afecta a las actividades de campo de la FAO. Expresaremos la esperanza de que el Comité Plenario establecido por el Consejo de Administración del PNUD, así como la acción del Comité Administrativo de Coordinación (CAC), logren obtener más fondos adicionales para las actividades operacionales del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

El Director General manifestó aquí en una de sus alocuciones anteriores la satisfacción que él siente por las buenas relaciones existentes entre el PNUD y la FAO; creo que esto también es conveniente que lo incluyamos en nuestro informe para apoyar las gestiones comunes que realizan el Administrador del PNUD y el Director General de la FAO en favor de la necesaria cooperación entre esos dos organismos en favor de las actividades operacionales que tanto requieren los países en desarrollo.

En cuanto a la capacidad del sistema para responder a las situaciones de urgencia, sin duda allí también la FAO desempeña una función importante. La experiencia ha demostrado que nuestra Organización ha sabido eficazmente coordinar las actividades de socorro y habilitación.

La FAO se ha convertido en una valiosa colaboradora de la Oficina del Coordinador de las Naciones Unidas para el socorro en casos de desastre. Este Consejo debe apoyar los puntos de vista de la FAO sobre la necesidad de que los países afectados por catástrofes reciban la ayuda a tiempo y en la medida necesaria, tal como se expresa en el párrafo 31 del documento.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que la acción conjunta de la FAO y del PMA en casos de urgencia debe fortalecerse y no debilitarse. La aprobación del Director General a las operaciones de urgencia del PMA sigue siendo indispensable, necesaria e inmodificable para asegurar los mejores resultados, la adecuada coordinación y la preservación de las funciones de cada organismo especializado.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que la FAO cumple adecuadamente la resolución de la Asamblea General sobre las relaciones con las Organizaciones Gubernamentales Regionales. En los párrafos del 35 al 44 se hace referencia a algunos aspectos de la labor de nuestra Organización en este campo. No aparecen en esos párrafos ninguna referencia concreta a Organizaciones Regionales o Subregionales de América Latina y El Caribe, pero nosotros sabemos que la FAO viene colaborando activamente con esas organizaciones de nuestra área y confiamos en que la FAO proseguirá y estrechará esa cooperación, porque en América Latina y El Caribe, en nuestra región particularmente, esos organismos regionales y subregionales son muy importantes y necesitan, requieren de la asistencia de organizaciones importantes y eficaces como la FAO.

Sobre la alimentación y la agricultura en Africa, la FAO está igualmente llevando a cabo una interesante tarea. Todos sabemos la cooperación que la FAO ha ofrecido a los gobiernos de los países africanos a través del Plan de Acción de Lagos y de otros planes reivindicativos de los fraternos países africanos; bastaría citar el interesante y magnífico informe del Director General presentado inicialmente al CSA sobre las limitaciones que impiden el crecimiento de la producción en Africa, informe que igualmente fue apoyado plenamente junto con las recomendaciones africanas por este Consejo en la discusión de uno de nuestros temas anteriores.

Finalmente, hemos aceptado y entendido muy bien las razones por las cuales no aparecen en este documento referencias al Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, FIDA; el señor Régnier se refirió al FIDA pero en otros contextos. Nosotros creemos que el FIDA es una agencia de las Naciones Unidas, o sea, que está dentro de los propios términos de la propia definición del título de este tema, y, obviamente, los acontecimientos que tienen lugar en el FIDA interesan particularmente a la FAO porque todos sabemos cómo es de necesario el incremento de los recursos para lograr el aumento de la producción que todos anhelamos.

Por esa importancia que la delegación de Colombia atribuye al funcionamiento del FIDA, consideramos que es necesario que en nuestro informe se incluya una referencia a la difícil situación en que se encuentra el FIDA. La delegación de Colombia opina que debemos señalar la crisis actual del FIDA y hacer un llamado para que los principales contribuyentes cumplan el compromiso legal y moral que adquirieron cuando suscribieron la Resolución 22/5 sobre la primera reposición de fondos.

Este Consejo debe pedir a los contribuyentes al FIDA que se complete esa primera reposición de fondos y que participen todos los Estados Miembros con ánimo constructivo en la primera reunión sobre la segunda reposición, que se ha convocado para los días 25 y 26 de julio próximo en esta ciudad.

La Resolución 22/5 del Consejo de Gobernadores del FIDA fue aprobada por 140 países, y esa Resolución dispone que la primera reposición debería cumplirse a más tardar a finales de 1983. Todos sabemos, especialmente quienes estamos vinculados al FIDA, que esa voluntad de 140 Estados Soberanos no va a cumplirse porque unos pocos países han incumplido su compromiso y han impuesto el aplazamiento del cumplimiento de esa primera reposición con los mismos recursos, lo que significa un debilitamiento considerable de los fondos con que cuenta el FIDA. La primera consecuencia de esa situación lamentable ha sido la de que la Junta Ejecutiva del FIDA, a cuyo funcionamiento me referiré más adelante, en la reunión de abril pasado tuvo que tomar la decisión de reducir el programa de labores del FIDA en 1983 de 435 millones a 310 millones. Nosotros creemos que situaciones como ésta menoscaban la función del FIDA, organismo que fue creado particularmente para los países menos adelantados, con bajos ingresos y déficits de alimentos.

Soy consciente, señor Presidente, que nos encontramos en la FAO y no en el FIDA; por eso no quiero extenderme más a esa situación, pero sí deseo manifestar brevemente el resultado de mi primera experiencia cuando en abril pasado pasé fugazmente, como representante de Colombia, en la Junta Ejecutiva del FIDA; yo creo que ese organismo trabaja en clandestinidad dentro de un espíritu reaccionario, conservador y negativo, cuyas decisiones son las que están particularmente afectando el funcionamiento del FIDA; pero que estas recomendaciones que ha planteado la delegación de Colombia, que tienen ánimo constructivo, que están dirigidas a fortalecer la subsistencia del FIDA, puedan aparecer en nuestro informe para traer el apoyo de la Comunidad Internacional en favor de la subsistencia del FIDA, que debe estar basada en recursos suficientes para que realmente el espíritu y los objetivos de la Resolución 22 de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación sobre la difícil situación de la agricultura en el mundo pueda irse logrando a través de un organismo tan importante como el FIDA.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La excelente presentación hecha por el señor Régnier nos ha permitido completar perfectamente la información que ya nos había dado la secretaría en el documento C 83/19, en la cual resalta el magnífico trabajo desplegado por la FAO en la cooperación con los otros organismos del Sistema, así como con los organismos regionales que se ocupan de acciones en pro del desarrollo, específicamente en materia agrícola y alimentación.

La intervención de la distinguida delegación de Colombia nos va a permitir ser sumamente breves. En tal sentido nos referiremos solamente a la necesidad de que en nuestro informe aparezca la preocupación de este Consejo por el retardo en la iniciación de las negociaciones globales, en las cuales los países subdesarrollados han asumido en todo momento actitudes muy positivas.

Nuestra delegación apoya la magnífica y amplia exposición del embajador Gonzalo Bula Hoyos.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): First my delegation wishes to thank Mr. Régnier for his excellent introduction of the subject before us. We take note of the document presented to us, C 83/19, and we find ourselves broadly in agreement with the contents.

At this stage we see no need to comment on the different sections of the document before us. After all, we are looking forward to complementary information to be given to us at the forthcoming Conference and it will be then that we will make our assessment.

As far as the north/south dialogue and related international negotiations are concerned, to which the distinguished delegates of Colombia and Cuba just referred to, I would like to remind you that the European community on several occasions confirmed their acceptance of the idea and concept of global negotiations. We remain committed to this position to the extent that the Group of 77 does not wish to alter that concept or replace it by other approaches. We still believe that the pertinent proposals put forward last year at the Versailles Summit would form a good basis for conducting global negotiations. Any other proposals that have emerged in the meantime, especially those tabled by the non-aligned movement in New Delhi, would be carefully considered once officially endorsed by the Group of 77 and sufficiently clarified.

Bearing in mind the strong commitment to the north/south dialogue in general and the preparedness to solving in a cooperative spirit the worldwide economic problems in particular that were expressed by the recent summit at Williamsburg, we sincerely hope that the outcome of the ongoing UNCTAD VI will provide a positive momentum to the consultations to be held in New York on the launching of the global negotiations.

Any negative or pessimistic assessment of the state of the art at this point of time therefore seems to us to be premature and not justified and would also run counter to the commitment to dialogue and cooperation made by the ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in Buenos Aires earlier this year. I have nothing more to say on that issue at this juncture of our debate.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Mr. Chairman, I would like to join my colleagues in offering our congratulations on your assumption of your functions this morning.

I would also like to congratulate Mr. Régnier for the presentation of the document that we have before us. We have received with interest the information provided in document C 83/19 on Recent Developments in the United Nations System. My delegation considers this an important item on the agenda, as a major concern of my government is the increasing fragmentation and lack of coherence in the United Nations System. So many governing bodies, executive boards, councils and conferences of so many United Nations organizations meet in isolation from each other that it has become extremely difficult for any one organization to keep track of all the events in the system which impinge on its own activities.

In addition, to be frank, it becomes difficult for governments themselves to coordinate a consistent approach to the many and diverse activities of this multi-faceted system. The report before us today is therefore very timely, and as such we would recommend that this agenda item remain a regular feature of Council and Conference meetings.

With respect to operational activities for developments, paragraphs 17 to 29, what we feel is still outstanding is a report on what has been done to work towards greater uniformity of procedures and more effective integration on the field level, specifically, on greater use of the UNDP country programming mechanism as a frame of reference for operational activities financed by the FAO regular budget, and whether any steps have been taken to unify the Country Offices. Until such information is available, we cannot say that action taken is fully in line with Resolutions 32/197, 35/81 and 36/199. We would be grateful if we could receive such information and suggest that the Secretariat may wish to provide it to the Director-General for development and international economic cooperation in the context of the preparation of the next comprehensive policy review of Operational Activities, as requested under Resolution 36/199, paragraph 12.

We would appreciate in this context knowing whether the information we are requesting is similar to that which is being called for in the ACC's decision 1983/2, as reproduced in Appendix D, and in that context, we would like some clarification on the timing of that particular report. We note, however, with satisfaction, that there have been some improvements in the coordination of multilateral development assistance at the field level, and we believe that further strengthening can lead to further gains in this important area for the benefit of donors and recipients alike.

C. VTDALI CARBAJAL (México): Me uno a los que tomaron la palabra antes que nuestra delegación en las felicitaciones a usted y al expositor por su clara y comprensiva presentación.

Nuestra intervención será corta; fundamentalmente queremos apoyar lo expresado por el distinguido Embajador de Colombia, Dr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, en su declaración, en especial en lo que se refiera a pesar de que tememos que no se hayan iniciado todavía, las negociaciones globales, y pedir concretamente que dicha preocupación se incluya en el informe que presente nuestra Organización.

Asimismo, compartimos lo expresado por la delegación de Colombia en el sentido de que se aumenten, o soliciten aumentos, los recursos de todos los organismos de Naciones Unidas, y que se instrumenten e incrementen las relaciones entre la FAO, el PNUD y las demás organizaciones con las cuales la FAO tiene actividades técnicas comunes.

J. GORMLEY (United States of America): Colombia has asked that this Council express its disappointment over the lack of progress in global negotiations. We would think that any simplistic expression of this disappointment was at this time inappropriate. We agree with Germany that it would be premature and unjustified to express this in any simplistic way.

With regard to the IFAD replenishment, the United States will attend the July meeting to discuss the second replenishment. We, too, regret the circumstances that have led to a delay in the completion of the first replenishment. Again, we should be very hesitant to support any statement by the FAO Council that would not take into consideration the legal procedures in the United States which have led to our own delay in meeting our commitments under the replenishment. This administration is committed to meeting its commitment under the first replenishment. We will do so, but there are legislative difficulties which will mean that it will be late.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Je voudrais d'abord remercier très sincèrement les représentants qui ont bien voulu prendre la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour, et nous faire part de leur réaction et de leurs commentaires, à la lecture de ce document et de la brève introduction que j'ai eu l'honneur d'en faire. Ces observations seront, bien entendu, tenues en grande considération et consignées de manière appropriée dans notre rapport. Je voudrais en tout cas les remercier des aimables remarques et de l'approbation qu'ils ont bien voulu exprimer à l'égard du document et de son introduction.

A proprement parler, je ne crois pas qu'il y ait eu de véritables questions. Je voudrais toutefois faire rapidement quelques brefs commentaires.

Tout d'abord, en ce qui concerne la question des relations entre la FAO et les organisations intergouvernementales en Amérique latine le distingué représentant de la Colombie a certainement raison d'indiquer qu'elles sont importantes et fructueuses. Des informations détaillées seront contenues dans un document qui sera présenté à la Conférence au mois de novembre portant sur les relations entre la FAO et les organisations intergouvernementales avec lesquelles l'Organisation collabore. La sélection qui a été faite dans le document que vous avez devant vous relève seulement du fait qu'il y a eu, lors de l'Assemblée générale, des recommandations spécifiques sur un certain nombre d'entre elles. Il nous a donc paru opportun, dans ce contexte, de mentionner ce qui est fait entre la FAO et ces organisations; dans une large mesure, c'est en réponse aux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale.

En ce qui concerne l'Afrique, je voudrais ajouter, à la suite de ce que le distingué représentant de la Colombie a mentionné l'importance que la FAO y attache. D'ailleurs, vous savez peut-être qu'un fascicule est en voie de préparation, et sera prêt vers la fin du mois de septembre, sur la "FAO en Afrique". Certainement, il illustrera l'importance des activités de la FAO en Afrique.

En ce qui concerne les questions posées par le distingué représentant du Canada sur les problèmes opérationnels et les informations qu'il souhaite obtenir relatives à la cohérence du système des Nations Unies, je répondrai tout d'abord, ainsi que le document le mentionne et comme je l'ai dit dans mon introduction, que le Directeur général au développement et à la coopération économique internationale, M. Ripert, va soumettre à l'ECOSOC et ensuite à l'Assemblée générale, son rapport d'ensemble sur les orientations des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies. Ce rapport a été préparé en consultation avec les organisations intéressées du système. Je suis persuadé que ce document répondra aussi complètement que possible aux souhaits du représentant du Canada. Par ailleurs, au sein du système des Nations Unies, ce qu'on appelle le CAC, le Comité administratif de coordination, s'est également penché sur cette question. Il a ensuite référé ces problèmes pour examen plus approfondi à un comité subsidiaire, le Comité consultatif pour les questions de fond (OPS), dont le président pour l'année en cours est d'ailleurs le Directeur général adjoint de la FAO, M. West. Ce comité s'est penché sur ces questions et, comme indiqué dans l'annexe C au document examiné, a déjà pris position sur un certain nombre de points. Son programme de travail sur le sujet est toujours en cours et les discussions vont se poursuivre. Comme vous voyez à travers, d'une part, le rapport de M. Ripert qui sera distribué d'ici peu et, d'autre part, les discussions du CAC, le système des Nations Unies se préoccupe sans cesse de renforcer son action et sa cohérence.

Le représentant du Canada a parlé d'informations additionnelles nécessaires. J'ajouterai simplement que le débat du Conseil, la semaine dernière, sur le sommaire de programme de travail de la FAO a, dans une large mesure, apporté une réponse à ces interrogations et à ces demandes d'information. Si j'ai bien compris la teneur de ce débat, le Conseil s'est en effet déclaré particulièrement satisfait des mesures proposées par le Directeur général pour le prochain biennium quant à la manière d'assurer le plus efficacement possible le travail technique de la FAO en limitant au maximum les dépenses administratives. Je pense que ceci devrait être de nature à rassurer le distingué représentant du Canada.

J'espère n'avoir pas oublié de questions importantes et que ces quelques commentaires vous seront utiles.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lamentamos intervenir nuevamente, aunque lo haremos de forma muy breve; sobre todo porque estamos pensando en el momento en que debamos discutir aquí el proyecto de informe, y por eso, nuestra intervención, en esta segunda ocasión, está dirigida a facilitar esa situación para evitar controversias prolongadas.

En primer lugar, queremos agradecer al Sr. Régnier las explicaciones que nos ha dado en cuanto a las organizaciones regionales y subregionales que obran en América Latina y el Caribe. Es satisfactorio lo que él nos ha dicho y, por lo tanto, nuestras observaciones al respecto ya están plenamente justificadas con la declaración del Sr. Régnier.

Hemos hecho dos propuestas concretas sobre recomendaciones, que a juicio de la delegación de Colombia deberían aparecer en nuestro Informe: en primer lugar, las negociaciones globales. Creemos que es indiscutible la importancia que la agricultura y la alimentación, - los campos de que se ocupa la FAO - tienen o deben tener en esas negociaciones globales, de manera que considero perfectamente normal que el Consejo manifieste su preocupación por la lentitud en el inicio de esas negociaciones y por la falta de progresos. Para ser objetivos, paralelamente después de esa preocupación, se puede agregar lo que dijo el colega Grabisch en nombre de la Comunidad Económica Europea, la actitud positiva que algunos países de otras regiones - de otros grados de desarrollo - están asumiendo también en relación con esas negociaciones globales. Yo creo que esto es perfectamente aceptable.

Además de esa recomendación sobre las negociaciones globales, también hice una referencia a la declaración que hizo el Presidente de los 77 en Nueva York, declaración que fue aprobada por la Comunidad Económica Europea, como así consta en el párrafo 13 del documento. De manera que tampoco creo que sea inconveniente que en nuestro informe se transcriba la parte esencial de esa declaración del Presidente de los 77, porque esto, sin duda, contribuye a que la FAO aporte, como estoy seguro que lo hará de manera eficaz, su contribución a la evaluación de la estrategia internacional, evaluación que se celebrará en el año entrante.

Hice también una última recomendación sobre el FIDA. Yo creo que aquí también se pueden matizar la posición y la declaración de una distinguida delegación respecto de lo que ese representante de Gobierno ha manifestado, la intención de nuestra delegación, desde luego. Nosotros, a veces, nos subimos de tono y nos entusiasmos cuando hablamos sobre temas que tenemos muy dentro de nuestra mente y de nuestro corazón. Nuestra propuesta no está dirigida tampoco a que hagamos aquí una referencia a los problemas del FIDA en la forma tan amplia como yo los traté, sino simplemente a aquel consejo como ya lo he hecho en otra oportunidad. Expresar la esperanza de que los recursos del FIDA sean suficientes y reconocer una vez más la importancia del FIDA para el aumento de la producción, para el aumento de los recursos externos de nuestros países, y pedir que la primera reposición se complete cuanto antes y que las negociaciones de la segunda reposición se inicien de manera satisfactoria. Una vez expresada esa recomendación sería también justo y coherente agregar las explicaciones que dio la distinguida delegación de Estados Unidos y los esfuerzos que los países están haciendo para que esa primera reposición se cumpla y se inicie la segunda, reconociendo las dificultades a que él hizo referencia. No quise entrar en muchos detalles, pero hace dos semanas, en mi calidad de Presidente del Grupo de los 77 visité al Sr. Al-Sudeary, porque el Grupo estaba preocupado por esta situación. El me dijo que acababa de regresar de Washington, que tenía noticias alentadoras, que la situación iba a mejorar positivamente. Todo esto estamos dispuestos a reconocerlo. A nosotros nos interesa, esencialmente, que se reconozca la importancia del FIDA, particularmente para los países menos adelantados, con bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos y la necesidad de que el FIDA subsista con recursos adecuados, de manera que estoy reiterando todo esto ahora, para facilitar la tarea del Comité de Redacción y evitar prolongadas discusiones posteriores en la Plenaria.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Just reacting to what was said by the distinguished delegate of Colombia. We are convinced that he didn't want anything else but trying to facilitate the work of the Drafting Group. Now at this time, unfortunately, the delegate of Colombia is not a member of the Drafting Group whilst on many occasions I enjoyed working together with him in that group. I think the Drafting Group itself, set up by the Council, is the first and proper forum to assess what it feels should go into the report and then presenting its report to the Council whose Member States will give their views on that draft report once it will be represented to them.

Therefore we have so far refrained in our interventions to pinpoint particular issues on a subject which in our view would have to go into the report of our Session. But I have no problems with what was spelled out and I am quite sure it was just with the aim of facilitating our work.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): First of all, may I congratulate you on your assuming the Chair on the podium; we are very delighted about it.

Mr. Chairman, if I am not asking for too much I have one suggestion to make which I am making with great modesty. As I have said in one of my earlier interventions, agriculture credit is, if I may use the word, the life blood of agricultural development. In this document there is no reference to FAO's interventions with international financing agencies. There are many such agencies within the United Nations system. One thought that perhaps FAO's report could cover not only

important international organizations within the United Nations system but also outside it, but I am not asking for going to the organizations or referring to the organizations outside the United Nations system, but instead the international financing organizations within the United Nations system; they contribute so much to agricultural development.

I would suggest that some comments or some reactions to the policy apropos these procedures etc. adopted by these international agencies in respect of giving soft loans or similar other loans to developing countries for including agricultural development, should find a place in such a report, so that the feelings of the Council and the Conference could be communicated or could be made available to such international agencies which will help them also to moderate their policies and programmes in tune with the aspirations, capacities, or lack of capacities of these developing countries. I would suggest that it could be found possible to have some portion of this report in the future to cover FAO's interactions and reactions to the policies and programmes of the international financing agencies within the United Nations system.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other interventions?

Perhaps Mr. Régnier, could we ask you to respond to the suggestion by the distinguished delegate of India - or perhaps the Deputy Director-General, Mr. West?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, this suggestion, if adopted, would of course materially change the scope of this item which traditionally has been concerned with a subject dear to the heart of some delegates, namely coordination of cooperation.

The material that the distinguished delegate of India is seeking is in fact already available, not only in the chapter of Programme of Work and Budget, Chapter III of our development support, but as he will also find in the Review of the Field Programme and also the Review of the Regular Programme which appear later in the Conference year, so I would suggest he considers his suggestion further in the light of what he finds in those documents which I hope in fact will fully satisfy him.

S.P. MUKERJI (India): I thank the Deputy Director-General for the clarification given by him, but I still feel that a paragraph on the general reactions and the general effects and consequences of the policies and programmes of such international agencies which go on changing, could very legitimately find a place in a general form in this document.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Well certainly if there are developments, basic changes for example, which would fall within the scope of this document, then certainly we would be happy to include reference to them. In general I do not think it will happen because we have our continuing agreement with the World Bank, the regional development banks and so forth, but should there be something which falls within the scope of this document then I think it should be included.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. West. Are there any other comments or observations?

Thank you very much, distinguished delegates. First of all, on behalf of all members of the Council let me express our appreciation to the Secretariat, and in particular to Mr. Régnier, for their very excellent presentation and for the clarity of the paper that we have all been dealing with today.

I think first of all that the report of this Council should compliment the Director-General for the excellent state of cooperation and coordination that already exists between FAO and the other agencies and organizations within the United Nations system. I think all the delegations that have spoken up in one way or another have referred to that. I think we should of course welcome the article already referred to by Mr. Régnier to include in the final report, the report that will go before the Conference, with references to the results of UNCTAD and any other developments that take place in the meantime, particularly the World Food Council meeting in New York, as well.

With respect to the question of how we deal with the global negotiations, it is clear that there is a divergence of views as to where the reasons for the failure to advance those negotiations lie. I would suggest that in our report we simply refer to the need to get on with the global negotiations as rapidly as possible but without any reference to any party as being responsible, and I think that our report should also express the concern that we all feel, I think, for the general shortage of development resources which was so eloquently referred to by the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia: We should call upon the Member States for reaffirmation of their commitments to the development process, and in that connexion we might say through the various multilateral agencies that are committed to development, including IFAD, and that should I think take care of that plus the expression of concern that was expressed by the distinguished representative of the United States.

I think that fairly summarizes the general tenor of our debate. Are there any further comments? If not, we adopt the report with those clarifications.

- 9.2 Joint Inspection Unit Reports:
 9.2 Rapports du Corps commun d'inspection:
 9.2 Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección:
- (a) Fourteenth Report on the Activities of the JIU (July 1981 - June 1982)
 - (a) Quatorzième rapport sur les activités du Corps commun d'inspection (juillet 1981 - juin 1982)
 - (a) 14º informe sobre las actividades de la Dependencia Común de Inspección (julio de 1981 -junio de 1982)
 - (b) Personnel Policy Options and Career Concept (JIU/REP/81/11; JIU/REP/82/3)
 - (b) Les choix possibles en matière de politique du personnel et la notion de carrière (JIU/REP/81/11; JIU/REP/82/3)
 - (b) Posibles opciones en materia de politica de personal y el concepto de carrera (JIU/REP/81/11; JIU/REP/82/3)
 - (c) Organization and Methods for Official Travel (JIU/REP/82/7)
 - (c) Organisation et méthodes pour les voyages officiels (JIU/REP/82/7)
 - (c) Organización y métodos respecto a viajes oficiales (JIU/REP 782/7)
 - (d) Communications in the UN System (JIU/REP/82/6)
 - (d) Les communications dans les organismes des Nations Unies (JIU/REP/82/6)
 - (d) Comunicaciones en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas (JIU/REP/82/6)
 - (e) Status of Women in the Professional Category and Above (JIU/REP/82/4)
 - (e) Situation des femmes dans la catégorie des administrateurs et des catégories supérieures (JIU/REP/33/4)
 - (e) Situación de la mujer en el cuadro orgánico y las categorías superiores (JIU/REP/82/4)
 - (f) Economic Commission for Africa (JIU/REP/82/1)
 - (f) Commission économique pour l'Afrique (JIU/REP/82/1)
 - (f) Comisión Económica para Africa (JIU/REP/82/1)

CHAIRMAN: We will be considering under this general item of the agenda a number of JIU reports which are listed in the agenda and which I am sure you have studied. I call now upon the chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees to report to you on the discussion that was held with respect to these items in their respective committees.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I think it goes without saying that I am very happy to work under your guidance, Mr Chairman. As you have already explained, the Committees - and I am referring on behalf of the Programme Committee now - reviewed in fact six of the JIU reports. I shall very briefly highlight the main points of these reports.

The first one is the 14th Report of the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit itself which contains, as you are aware, only a summary of all reports made by JIU in the period covered, that means July 1981 to June 1982. In such cases the Committee simply takes note of the report.

The second report is on Personnel Policy Options in the UN system and it contains also the second report on the Career Concept. The document incorporates the views of ACC on both JIU reports as well as the comments of ACC to the International Civil Service Commission, within the same context. You are fully aware that the first report deals with the concept of career in the UN system and the second also contains certain recommendations with regard to the concept, the very basis of it. The Committee had some doubts as to the so-called national civil service model, to what extent in fact inspectors faithfully reflected the national civil service concept. But what is certainly much more important is that the Committee expressed doubts with regard to the application of the national model in international organizations such as FAO. We felt that a more flexible and more practical approach was very much needed. In that regard we shared, by and large, the views expressed by the ACC, especially as they apply to FAO. To be more specific, I will say that the Committee disagreed in fact with the inspectors with regard to the linkage of grades other than at the level of P1-P2, as it would be in contradiction with the post classification system as applied in FAO and throughout the UN system. We fully agreed with the inspectors that geographical distribution and geographical considerations should be taken at the earliest possible stage, so that this factor should not withhold promotion at a later stage. In conclusion, we felt that the ACC in general expressed realistic views with regard to the reforms proposed by the inspectors and we especially welcomed the part of ACC views which referred to the differences between the needs of the various organizations.

The next report is on the Economic Commission for Africa. We expressed some dissatisfaction that inspectors were not able to include more information on FAO and the Economic Commission for Africa. Joint Division, especially with regard to the support and cooperation between FAO and ECA in the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. We again referred to the role of FAO as a lead agency between agriculture and rural development and we felt that further efforts were very much needed to improve cooperation between FAO and ECA. We advocated very much tripartite cooperation FAO/ECA/OAU. In general we were in agreement with the comments of the Director-General with regard to the recommendations of JIU in this particular area. May I add also that the Committee was very much satisfied with the report in the sense that it provided a realistic picture of the vastly complex structure of regional and sub-regional bodies that had already established or are seeking to establish certain relations with FAO.

The next report is on the Status of Women in the Professional Category and Above. This is a progress report and we welcome very much the JIU's views. Again, with regard to the target, we felt it was not yet the proper time for FAO to establish a formal target. The Committee was, I would say, very seriously concerned with the imbalance of geographical representation among female staff. To illustrate, we found in the JIU report that only two ladies from Africa were in the professional category or above in FAO. So in that regard we advocated more efforts in the whole UN system and in particular in FAO to improve the situation.

With regard to reporting and its periodicity, we felt that perhaps two biennia might provide a proper time span for efficient reporting.

The next is Communications in the UN system. It is basically a document which was intended to inform the whole system with regard to the status of communication in various parts of the UN and especially to bring attention to some new developments in this area. I do not think I need to be much more specific on communications. We offered some comments with regard to the application of certain new techniques and technologies within FAO.

The last report is on the Organization and Method for Official Travel. It does not, in fact, concern FAO at all. It is intended to review the situation in the United Nations proper but we merely wished to draw attention of the Council to the model of FAO, so to speak, in this area, which was very much underlined by the inspectors in paragraphs 38-42, where the inspectors paid special tribute to the FAO and its arrangements generally.

D. H. Y. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): First of all, let me say how deeply I appreciate working under your direction, Mr. Chairman, in this meeting. I want to avoid repetition because many of the points mentioned by the Chairman of the Programme Committee are very much in our line of thinking. To make a faithful report of what we discussed, I would like to highlight a few points.

The Committee discussed six JIU reports in all. First, the 14th Report on the activities of JIU is mainly for your information. The Committee recognized that the JIU activities were helpful to FAO since they analyzed at length many issues useful to the UN international agencies. FAO's continued collaboration with JIU was therefore greatly appreciated.

On the report of Policy Options in the UN and the second report on the Career Concept, the Committee concurred with the views of ACC. There are no financial implications in the recommendations of the JIU. The Committee's comments in regard to this report appear in paragraphs 3.1 - 3.106. Regarding the JIU report on the Economic Commission for Africa, the Committee noted in particular the recommendation and endorsed the comments of the Director-General on various recommendations. The Committee stressed the need for continuing close cooperation between FAO and ECA for the good of all African governments. It also felt that FAO could contribute towards the programmes of ECA within the resources made available to the joint ECA/FAO Division. For our comments please see paragraph 3.107.

On the report of the Status of Women in the Professional Category and Above, the Committee endorsed the report and felt progress made by FAO in this regard since 1976 had been satisfactory. It also recommended that the progress report on the study should be issued every four years.

Our comments regarding this report appear in paragraph 3.108 and in 3.109.

On the JIU report on Communications in the UN system, the Committee was in agreement with the views expressed by the ACC. It endorsed the FAO's view that establishment of a special inter-agency committee for developing or monitoring the UN system master plan was unnecessary; please see paragraphs 3.101-3.113.

On the report on the Organization and Methods for Official Travel the Committee endorsed the Director-General's comments on the recommendations and noted that arrangements introduced by FAO with travel agencies resulted in savings and that this arrangement "has been considered favourably as a "cost-effective and efficient arrangement" by the inspector.

T. AKMAD (Pakistan): First of all may I say it is indeed a great pleasure to see you sitting there and presiding over our deliberations.

As you will recollect, as Members of the Programme Committee we contributed our bit on various JIU Reports and our Chairman of the Programme Committee has expressed those views. However, I have instructions to intervene on one particular JIU Report, and that is the Status of Women in the Professional Category and Above and it might be pertinent to point out right away that the intervention that I have has been written by a highly placed woman in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in our Government and I will now read that.

We have with great interest read document CL 83/14. On behalf of the Pakistan delegation I would like to express our deep concern over the situation as reflected in the United Nations JIU Second Progress Report. You may recall that on this issue the Pakistan delegation had requested at the 79th Session of the FAO Council in 1981 that effective policies were required to increase women's participation and that challenging targets should be laid down in realistic terms and strictly adhered to. We have also suggested that these targets should periodically be reviewed in order to move towards equal representation. We had suggested more training facilities in career development and part-time jobs for women. Our suggestions were based on a strong belief that women have to be equal partners with men in the progress of development and that there can be no development of human resources if women are only marginally included in the development process.

I regret having to state that it is unfortunate that the position has not materially changed in the last two years. The Report under discussion is a repetition of the earlier recommendations and no new recommendations have been included to help move in the direction for greater representation of women in the UN System. It is also a pity that despite the commitment of executive heads there has been little change of the percentage of women in the professional category and it is equally unfortunate that some organizations have not taken action endorsed by the Executive Committee on Coordination and the United Nations General Assembly. There is no reason why women in professional categories in WHO should have decreased. This underlines that efforts have not only to be doubled but quadrupled to promote females and to promote them to higher levels. Women should be specially recruited for policy-making, preparation of programmes for projects and development. It would be in the fitness of things that all United Nations organizations establish targets and work towards their achievement. Besides I would urge the FAO to appoint them in country offices since capable women are available in the field of agriculture, economics, nutrition and home economics.

I would also request that all executive heads in the UN System should be asked to report regarding the action taken by the personnel officers to obtain the qualified women for appointment by making contacts with governments in countries and local organizations since the number of women employed in the UN System is actually pathetically low. The proportion of women among staff recruited in the UN organizations is only 25 percent and far lower than it should be. Apparently the situation prevails on account of the existing attitude of the male. May I state that unless views are changed women will not be able to participate fully on equal terms with men in the work of the Secretariat of the United Nations Organization. May I also state that Pakistan strongly feels that an appointment of a female assistant Secretary-General for the personnel service of the United Nations is not enough.

Could I bring to the notice of the Council that my Government is fully committed to enhance the role of women through integration. The creation of a women's division at the federal level is a reflection of this commitment. The major task of this division is to evolve a development oriented strategy which could reach out to the rural and poor urban schemes of women's population. As a result of this strategy women in Pakistan are being encouraged to participate in development activities. We realize even in my country women are behind. Yet the experience during the last twenty years shows in some fields women have made sufficient advances although wide gaps still remain. Our Sixth Plan therefore aims at greater employment of women and greater equality in jobs, by moving from less than 3 percent in the Government services to a target of 15 percent during the Sixth Plan and to ambitious programmes designed for rural uplift.

May I state in the end that lip service will not do. Let us set concrete targets, let us firmly resolve that these targets are achieved and above all let us change our attitude and set women as partners in the development process.

Señora Doña R.A. SUAREZ MELO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia se referirá solamente al documento CL 83/14 sobre la situación de la mujer, como acaba de hacerlo el distinguido delegado de Paquistán.

Una vez más debemos recordar que los gobiernos deben presentar candidatas calificadas para ir logrando equiparar la presencia de las mujeres con las de los hombres en los cargos de responsabilidad.

En el párrafo 8 de las Observaciones Generales se hace referencia a la distribución geográfica como impedimento para mejorar la proporción del número de mujeres. Nuestra delegación opina que la distribución geográfica debe aplicarse siempre y que así se puede aumentar el número de mujeres en posiciones de importancia. En efecto, hoy casi todos los países disponen de mujeres competentes y bien capacitadas.

En la sección III, medidas que se sugieren, no se presentan innovaciones. No basta tomar nota de los esfuerzos realizados por las Organizaciones del Sistema Común de las Naciones Unidas para lograr una mayor participación femenina, sino que es necesario convertir esos esfuerzos en realidades.

En el anexo III, entre las organizaciones analizadas aparece la FAO; todavía no hay ninguna mujer con grado D-2 en nuestra Organización, sólo hasta D-1 llegan los cargos en la FAO en manos femeninas.

Observamos también que si bien con respecto a 1976 esa situación ha mejorado en la FAO, en cambio se ha estancado trágicamente a partir de 1980. Habrá que insistir para que en la FAO más mujeres asuman posiciones directivas importantes.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): It is not my intention to pursue the discussion from the position of women in the United Nations organization but my intention is going to be mainly on document CL 83/21 which covers activities of the Economic Commission for Africa.

We have studied the document and in general we agree with the Director-General's comments on the Report. However, there are a few areas in the Report which we feel need mention. We share the view expressed at paragraph 25 of the Report that there is a growing concern in Africa that most countries in Africa have been overwhelmed by an increasing number of multilateral and bilateral organizations "selling" projects in their various areas of interest which do not add up to an integrated set of development activities. While we are aware that these usually have desirable objectives there is need for coordination to ensure that both duplication and waste are avoided. This in our view could easily be achieved if ECA plays its role of being the main general economic and central development center for the region within the United Nations System, as is pointed out at paragraph 22 of the Report. My delegation therefore supports the view expressed by the Joint Inspection Unit that ECA should strengthen its programming efforts.

Just to emphasize the need for strengthening the programme of effort I want to refer to paragraphs that deal with multinational programming operational centers in the Report. We note in the Report that in 1964 the MULPOCs were established, there are four of them in Africa. These never worked out well due to manpower and financial shortages. In 1970 these MULPOCs were replaced by United Nations international interdisciplinary advisory teams which also had problems and never worked well due to inadequate personnel and financial resources. We note again in 1977 the MULPOCs were reestablished and in 1978 ECA described their establishment as an important step towards the transformation of ECA into an operational institution. In the Report, paragraph 89, we note that the MULPOCs have a lot of problems and in paragraph 89 one of them has had five different directors in two years. At that rate of change of staff one wonders whether they are going to be as effective as is expected but there is need that ECA comes up and develops into a leader, as is expected.

Although the picture painted in the Report of ECA activities is not all that good we note with appreciation that there is already a joint ECA/FAO Unit and that some promising joint initiatives, such as preparing an African regional food plan, is already being undertaken by ECA and FAO. We feel encouraged by such joint ventures as there are means to cooperation and coordination effort that we require from United Nations agencies to spearhead development activities in areas where such activities are needed most.

In conclusion I wish to reiterate that there is need for integrated development activities in Africa. ECA must therefore strengthen its programming efforts as is recommended, to enable it to play its leadership role as is contained in paragraph 22 of the Report. This will ensure that programmes of Specialized UN agencies such as FAO blend well with other programmes be they multilateral or bilateral for the benefit of the nations or regions that the programmes are being implemented.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): The JIU Report that I would like to refer to is CL 83/20 concerning communications in the UN system. We examined this forward-looking document very carefully and would recommend that its conclusions receive careful scrutiny. From our point of view, as we have domestically gone through some of the difficulties of installing data transmitting systems in the past, we would advocate that a maximum degree of coordination be strived for among the agencies to ensure as high a degree of compatibility among the equipment as is possible, as this will reduce costs at a later date. We would also like to see that the use of the electronic data transmission be phased to ensure that the high installation costs can be met from existing technical equipment budget appreciation.

SRA. DOÑA G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Seremos sumamente breves, y sin menospreciar los demás documentos que se nos presentan en este tema nos referiremos al documento CL 83/14.

Nuestra delegación se asocia a las demás delegaciones que se han referido a la importancia y necesidad de que se incorporen las mujeres en el cuadro orgánico y en la categoría superior en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. El propio documento que se nos ha presentado nos informa de los escasos progresos que en ese sentido se han logrado en todo el sistema.

La delegación de Cuba siempre ha apoyado la integración plena de la mujer en todo proceso de desarrollo. En nuestro país el papel de la mujer en el desarrollo es fundamental y cada día se hacen más esfuerzos en ese sentido brindándoseles las facilidades posibles para lograr su plena incorporación a las tareas fundamentales de nuestro país.

Recalcamos, sin embargo, que el papel de los gobiernos en la presentación de candidatas mujeres con su curriculum adecuado a las plazas vacantes de Naciones Unidas para que puedan tener las mismas posibilidades que los hombres es fundamental para que pueda hacerse un mejor trabajo en la ubicación del personal femenino en puestos claves dentro del Sistema.

SRA. DOÑA M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): En lo que se refiere al documento CL 83/14 mi delegación desea apoyar los puntos de vista manifestados en el informe de la reunión conjunta de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas, especialmente en lo que se refiere al grave desequilibrio existente en la representación geográfica del personal femenino procedente de países desarrollados y en desarrollo.

Consideramos que, efectivamente, la FAO debe esforzarse por mejorar la situación y probablemente pueda hacerlo a través de su representación en los países.

Instamos, asimismo, a los Estados Miembros a que presenten candidatas profesionalmente bien preparadas para los diferentes puestos vacantes a todos los niveles, pero especialmente en las categorías superiores de nuestra organización, en las cuales la mujer no está representada como se desprende del anexo II del documento CL 83/14.

En lo que se refiere a la periodicidad de los informes, mi delegación aprecia que se sigan presentando cada dos años para estar en posibilidad de seguir más de cerca los progresos que se realicen.

Finalmente, la delegación de México hace un llamado al Director General para que, inspirado por el espíritu de las diversas Resoluciones de las Naciones Unidas al respecto, haga lo posible para que también en este campo la FAO ocupe un lugar preponderante dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

S. P. MUKERJI (India): I would like to submit a few general comments on the various aspects of the JIU Report. First, we are very much heartened by what we read in paragraph 3.114 of Document CL 83/4. May I have your indulgence to read out a few sentences from this?

"The Committee noted in particular that the Report of the JIU highly praised 'one organization (FAO) which, through an original approach had made important savings and which had introduced the most cost-effective and efficient arrangement (paras 4 and 38 to 42 of the JIU Report), and that the FAO arrangement of an in-plant travel agency had been recommended to all other UN agencies."

I must congratulate the Director-General and FAO on their achievements in this regard. The fact that the Director-General's action in attaining savings in avoidable expenditure has been indicated as an example for other organizations to follow is a matter of pride to all of us. We are already conscious of the Director-General's preoccupation with cutting out avoidable expenditure. His own Secretariat has been reduced by four posts. We are very much assured that all avoidable expenditure in FAO is being reduced.

So far as the status of women is concerned, my country heartily welcomes any step which will help in the induction of women in the higher echelons of FAO and other UN organizations.

With regard to geographical representation, which has been endorsed by the JIU in a number of documents, I have one suggestion to offer. Mere geographical representation will not suffice insofar as FAO and other organizations are concerned. The geographical representation will have to be made with due regard to country population also, so that there is truly equitable representation of the various sections of humanity in FAO and similar organizations.

Still another, the JIU is recommending development of international civil service or career service in the various organizations. My delegation has some reservations insofar as career service within FAO and UN organizations is concerned. For one thing, career service will mean inbreeding and people who are supposed to represent their countries once they are permanently seconded to such organizations after some years will lose touch with the ground truths in their countries and their truly representative character will be lost. Therefore while we can have some sort of career service for the lower levels, and also levels where continuity is more important than change, perhaps in those limited areas career service could be thought of, but apart from that my delegation would not recommend permanent career service for all people in all departments of FAO and UN agencies. On the other hand, tenure service for five to ten years of senior officers being brought from the countries and sent back will give built-in machinery for refreshing and reinforcing experience in the FAO Secretariat.

Insofar as promotional aspects of services are concerned, here again it has been suggested that direct recruitment should be only at the junior level and further admissions in the higher levels should be by promotion from the junior levels. This also has its own limitation because by then you will again be encouraging inbreeding and you may not be able to get people at senior level who are highly professional and highly knowledgeable insofar as the regional conditions are concerned. Therefore this controversy between lateral entry versus junior level entry is a field which we should tread very cautiously and we should not commit ourselves to any approach which will encourage inbreeding and alienation from the dynamic developments of food and agriculture in the various countries.

SRA. DOÑA E. HERAZO DE VITI (Panamá): Seré sumamente breve. Solamente para formular que la delegación de Panamá comparte plenamente las declaraciones de las delegaciones de los países hermanos de Latinoamérica sobre el documento CL 83/14 sobre la situación de la mujer en el cuadro orgánico y las categorías superiores, ya que Panamá ha incorporado a la mujer en todos sus cuadros orgánicos a un alto nivel profesional.

Tfoe meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 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 83/PV/12

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 12^a SESION PLENARIA (20 June 1983)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours, R.A. Sorenson, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de R.A. Sorenson, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 12^a Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de R.A. Sorenson, Vicepresidente 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, including:
- 9. Relations et consultations interinstitutions sur les questions d'intérêt commun, notamment:
- 9. Relaciones y consultas con otros organismos sobre asuntos de interés común, en particular:
- 9.2 Joint Inspection Unit Reports (continued)
- 9.2 Rapports du Corps commun d'inspection (suite)
- 9.2 Informes de la Dependencia Común de Inspección (continuación)
- (a) Fourteenth Report on the Activities of the JIU (July 1981 - June 1982)(continued)
- (a) Quatorzième rapport sur les activités du Corps commun d'inspection (juillet 1981 -juin 1982)(suite)
- (a) 14° informe sobre las actividades de la Dependencia Común de Inspección (julio de 1981 -junio de 1982)(continuación)
- (b) Personnel Policy Options and Career Concept (continued)
- (b) Les choix possibles en matière de politique du personnel et la notion de carrière (suite)
- (b) Posibles opciones en materia de política de personal y el concepto de carrera (continuación)
- (c) Organization and Methods for Official Travel (continued)
- (c) Organisation et méthodes pour les voyages officiels (suite)
- (c) Organización y métodos respecto a viajes oficiales (continuación)
- (d) Communications in the UN System (continued)
- (d) Les communications dans les organismes des Nations Unies (suite)
- (d) Comunicaciones en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas (continuación)
- (e) Status of Women in the Professional Category and Above (continued)
- (e) Situation des femmes dans la catégorie des administrateurs et des catégories supérieures (suite)
- (e) Situación de la mujer en el cuadro orgánico y las categorías superiores (continuación)
- (f) Economic Commission for Africa (continued)
- (f) Commission économique pour l'Afrique (suite)
- (f) Comisión Económica para Africa (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We continue our discussions this afternoon on item 9.2.

J. GORMLEY (United States of America): I would like to direct a few remarks to the JIU report on the Status of Women in the Professional Category and Above. The United States delegation generally finds itself in close agreement with the various delegates that have spoken on this subject. I would like to say the intervention by the distinguished delegate of Pakistan was especially well-prepared and comprehensive, and the United States delegation wishes to associate itself with the recommendations made by the Pakistani delegation.

J. MAJCHER (Poland): My delegation would like to present its comments on point 9.2(b) - Personnel Policy Options and Career Concept.

We fully realize the importance of personnel policy options and career concept taking into account the role of the Secretariat in the overall functioning of the Organization. The implementation of decisions of the Conference or of this Council or of other organs of the Organization depends among other things on the Secretariat and the competence of its staff.

The point of departure for considering all aspects of the personnel policy options should be the fulfilment of the Organization's tasks and purposes. It means that primordial importance has to be given to serving the Organization and its member countries. For this reason it is important that Member States submit their best candidates for employment in the Secretariat and such candidates only ought to be accepted. Poland does its best to abide by this principle and presents the

candidates with very high qualifications, capable of making an effective contribution to the work of the Secretariat and then, upon their return to Poland, of being able to use properly their skills and experience acquired while serving the FAO. We would like that candidates submitted by us be considered with due attention. Article VIII, paragraph 3 of our Basic Texts says: "In appointing the staff, the Director-General shall, subject to the paramount importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency and of technical competence, pay due regard to the importance of selecting personnel recruited on as wide a geographical basis as is possible."

My country attaches great importance to the principle of equitable geographical distribution of staff of international organizations. The Secretariat incorporating staff members from different countries with different experiences and cultural backgrounds can better understand and interpret the common interest of Member countries and therefore of the organizations. We realize that the report of the Joint Inspection Unit pays close attention to this aspect. We also know the Director-General attaches great attention to it and has instructed his services accordingly.

Nevertheless, it seems to us that there is still a lot to be done in this field. Of course, we appreciate the effort even if it falls short of our legitimate expectations. We would appreciate precise information from the personnel services as to which countries are still over-represented, not represented or under-represented. We must express our concern that my country for many years has been under-represented in the FAO Secretariat. It seems that at present we are below half of what we might expect. We are sure that with some goodwill it would be possible to correct this unsatisfactory situation. We are ready to cooperate fully in this direction.

For example, we would be in favour of a solution whereby, for an unlimited period of time, 50 percent of all available vacancies be earmarked for recruitment of candidates from unrepresented or under-represented Member States, and that a candidate from an over-represented Member State should be appointed only when no equally qualified candidate from an unrepresented or under-represented State is available.

We fully share the opinion of the Joint Inspection Unit that the agreement on the method of calculating desirable ranges unquestionably has the merit of clearing the political climate surrounding personnel questions and of showing that a harmonization of views on an extremely political subject is possible.

We should also like to say a few words on the subject of permanent contracts versus contracts of limited duration. We are in favour of contracts of limited duration. There are many arguments in their favour: first, the need to recruit for limited periods of time those staff members having specific knowledge; secondly, the need for changes in programmes. The predominance of permanent contracts makes it much more difficult to reduce or to cut the programmes with low priority or those which already have achieved their purpose and there may therefore be a tendency to extend the duration of already dead wood. On the contrary, the contracts of limited duration facilitate for the Director-General the adaptation of the staff qualifications to the needs of the Organization. Or course, this does not exclude for efficient staff members with contracts of limited duration the possibility of staying a long time in the Secretariat. The examples of the International Atomic Energy Agency, WHO, Unesco confirm this,

Thirdly, respect for geographical distribution of staff; this makes it possible to reduce the proportion of staff members from over-represented countries and to increase the number of staff members from under-represented countries. One additional argument in favour of contracts of limited duration is that it would provide more staff members in the various national institutions and universities with a good practical knowledge of the Organization. This would be very useful for further development of cooperation.

Taking the above into account, we were sorry to see that FAO is the only major organization of the United Nations family to have such a low percentage - less than 30 percent - of fixed appointments. We are preoccupied that during the period 1975-1980 the percentage of fixed-term contracts was declining. In the meantime it seems to us that in nearly all organizations of the United Nations family the proportion of staff holding permanent appointments has decreased markedly in recent years.

These conclusions result from the table in Annex IV on page 45 of the document of the United Nations General Assembly A/36/432. We would be happy to refer to the FAO updated document but unfortunately such documentation has not been provided to the Council.

Señora M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (Observador de El Salvador): Nuestra delegación, al igual que han hecho otras, se referirá únicamente al documento CL 83/14. La información que éste nos proporciona es en extremo importante y nos permite contemplar la situación de la mujer en el cuadro orgánico y las categorías superiores en los organismos de las Naciones Unidas, la cual, por cierto, en algunos aspectos no es muy alentadora, sobre todo cuando observamos las categorías P-4, P-5, D-1 y D-2.

Vemos, no obstante, una mejoría entre 1976 y 1981; esperamos continúe esta tendencia y se eliminen gradualmente algunos prejuicios que impiden una participación más activa de la mujer en estos estratos.

Nuestra delegación considera realmente importante y de justicia permitir una participación más activa de la mujer en los puestos de decisión; así como lo hicimos notar en su oportunidad cuando analizamos el papel que la mujer desempeña en el desarrollo rural de los países lo ratificamos hoy en este campo. Esa participación es importante a todos los niveles; por ello los Gobiernos tenemos la responsabilidad de lograr su incorporación y una manera de hacerlo en el contexto que estamos analizando es la de presentar candidatas calificadas.

Estamos completamente de acuerdo con lo manifestado por la distinguida delegación de Colombia en el sentido de que las medidas que se sugieren en la parte 3 del documento no son muy concluyentes y necesitarían reforzarse. No debemos solamente tomar nota, debemos actuar; por ello apoyamos lo mencionado en el párrafo 11 de la parte primera del documento en el cual la Comisión de Administración Pública Internacional convino en que los problemas relativos a la promoción de las perspectivas de carrera y la capacitación de la mujer deberían formar parte íntegramente de los programas generales de las Organizaciones en ese área. Una adecuada oportunidad de capacitación para la mujer a todos los niveles permitirá poco a poco ocupar el puesto que le corresponde, no sólo en los estratos superiores de los organismos, sino dentro de la sociedad misma.

Por último, nos hacemos eco de la propuesta hecha por la distinguida delegada de México en el sentido de que se informe cada dos años sobre los progresos logrados en la contratación de mujeres en las Organizaciones del régimen común de las Naciones Unidas.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Observer for Cameroon): I have a few brief comments as an observer to make on some of the JIU reports on personnel policy matters and the status of women on the Economic Commission for Africa. First of all, on the personnel policy options in the United Nations system, I do believe that most delegations who have spoken on this have stressed the fact that there would be well qualified and dedicated persons to serve the United Nations wherever it is needed. I think that also there is a well based principle of broader geographic representation whereby you can find people of equivalent qualifications, and I think I would not be out of order if I said that the staff of the United Nations system should, as much as possible, reflect the membership of the United Nations. I do think we want to interpret that very strictly, but I am sure that we all know of a particular region which has a very large membership of FAO but has a very small representation in the FAO staff or in the United Nations system.

I have heard some statements made that the positions in this Organization and in other organizations of the United Nations system should be on the basis of population. I rather think it should be on the basis of membership in the Organization but, if it were on the basis of population, I would venture to say that we could hand over the Organization to one of the most populous countries here which has been quiet on the issue; or, when we have any residual post, that we could hand it over to the most populous country and we would have no problem in having geographically balanced policies, but I think the geographical representation policy which has been adopted by the United Nations system and by FAO is very called for and should be taken even further so that countries which are not yet represented or not well represented should be able to be represented in the Organization.

I should also point out it is not a matter of geographical representation but also a reflection on the activities of an organisation such as FAO which is quite titanic and therefore can change from time to time.

The employment policy should not only be based on geographic representation but should also represent as much as possible the changing dynamics in FAO or the United Nations problems which have to be faced because we all realize that in the 1950s the problems concerned one particular region; in the 1960s they concerned another region and in the 1970s another region again. It would therefore be a little ridiculous to ask that it should be just people from one particular region who should be helped in solving the problems of, say, Africa for instance. This should also be taken into consideration; but I do not wish to belabour that point.

On the question of the status of women, I think it goes without saying that in the 1980s one would be called really afar out conservative if he did not say that he wanted an increased representation of women in the UN system. But that is not really the point. The point is that if we wanted an effective approach which is of interest to women and addressed itself to women, therefore we should as much as possible hire qualified women wherever possible.

I also wish to bring out that in the Joint Inspection Unit report, CL 83/14, which we have before us, as far as I can detect there were only two African women - I say two - in FAO in the professional category and above, out of 290. I think that is well worth noting.

The last point is on the report of the Economic Commission for Africa. My delegation believes that Economic Commission for Africa could play a very important role if it were strong enough to carry out its mandate. I only hope that the United Nations system will give the ECA the resources it requires to carry out its leadership responsibilities in the region. My delegation strongly supports the observations of the Programme Committee that there should be not only a relationship between FAO and ECA but a tripartite cooperation between FAO, ECA and OAU, the latter being a political organization which is trying to bring closer cooperation on the Continent.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): Just a short statement before because we would like to endorse the statement which has been made by the Observer from Cameroon. Indeed, the staff of the United Nations Organization should be on the basis of geographical representation reflecting the membership of the United Nations. To suggest that other criteria, for example, population, should be taken into accounts we consider as being an indication to have the United Nations Organization to be run by one, two of three countries, which is unacceptable to us, of course. Or maybe we should also start with those countries which have the highest population maybe they should pay higher dues to the United Nations system. That is one of the criteria which should also be taken into account if the basis of geographical distribution in the United Nations system is not enough which according to us is a system which satisfied all the parties and has been in force for quite some time and I do not think we can accept the suggestion that the population of a country should be taken into account.

M. BEL HADJ AMOR (Directeur, Division du personnel): Je voudrais d'abord remercier le Conseil pour les commentaires et les suggestions présentés à propos des rapports du Corps commun d'inspection, à savoir la situation des femmes et la question du concept des carrières. Il faut dire qu'il n'y a pas eu de questions précises qui aient été posées, mais disons des commentaires émanant des délégués qui appellent d'autres commentaires. C'est en ce sens que j'ai décidé de prendre la parole.

Concernant d'abord la question de la situation des femmes, cela a été largement débattu, cela a suscité énormément de commentaires que je trouve bien sûr intéressants. Cela a été exactement le cas quand cela a été discuté au Comité des finances et au Comité du programme, et j'ai bien peur de ne pouvoir répondre qu'avec les mêmes commentaires que j'avais présentés à ces deux Comités.

Pour le principe, l'Organisation est d'accord sur la nécessité d'améliorer la représentation des femmes au sein du secrétariat. Au point de vue pratique, c'est autre chose. Cela ne veut pas dire que nous ne sommes pas en train de déployer des efforts pour le faire. Cependant, il est quelquefois difficile d'allier à la fois, et la représentation géographique, et la représentation du pourcentage des femmes dans cette représentation géographique elle-même. Après tout, le secrétariat est aux mains des Etats Membres, lesquels présentent les candidatures. Aussi puis-je espérer que les Etats Membres nous présentent davantage de candidatures de femmes afin que le secrétariat puisse les considérer, je dirais, avec bienveillance. Donc, je crois que c'est une responsabilité partagée: d'abord les Etats Membres, ensuite le secrétariat.

Je voudrais maintenant faire un commentaire beaucoup plus spécifique que j'avais déjà présenté dans d'autres occasions, à savoir les compétences dont l'Organisation dont vous faites partie, c'est-à-dire la FAO, a besoin.

S'il nous est facile de trouver de très bonnes candidatures dans l'administration générale, ce n'est pas du tout le cas pour certaines activités techniques spécifiques dont a besoin notre Organisation, et je peux vous assurer que pour certaines vacances de postes, il n'y a pas une seule candidature de femme. Donc c'est à vous délégués, à vous Etats Membres, de susciter plus d'intérêt pour les vacances de postes de la FAO.

Concernant la politique du personnel, et notamment les remarques qui ont été présentées par l'honorable délégué de la Pologne, il a parlé tout d'abord d'un certain objectif. Il a dit: pourquoi ne pas fixer un objectif de postes qui doivent être remplis par les pays non représentés? J'estime que dans la politique du personnel, il est très difficile de manquer de flexibilité. Fixer des objectifs très rigides n'est pas souhaitable, et je dirais n'est pas faisable. Autrement, nous allons tout bloquer. On essaiera, dans la mesure du possible, et à la lumière des candidatures qui nous sont présentées, de faire en sorte qu'une meilleure distribution géographique ait lieu. Nous essayons également de susciter l'intérêt de certains pays qui ne présentent jamais de candidatures, donc qui ne sont pas représentés ici, ou bien qui présentent des candidatures qui n'ont pas les compétences nécessaires; nous essayons également de les encourager à présenter des candidatures et à postuler des postes. Mais cela ne signifie pas automatiquement que ces candidatures sont

prises. N'oubliez pas que le système de sélection à la FAO est très sérieux et très sévère. Nous sommes obligés de prendre les meilleures compétences pour les postes dont nous avons besoin, surtout pour satisfaire les besoins des Etats Membres et pour faire face à nos activités. Donc, nous ne pouvons pas sacrifier la compétence uniquement pour le plaisir de satisfaire une distribution géographique. Le délégué de la Pologne l'a dit lui-même: il faut de très hautes compétences pour remplir les postes.

Concernant les contrats permanents et les contrats à durée limitée, je tiens à dire qu'actuellement nous avons une étude en cours qui est considérée par le management pour essayer de rétablir cette situation disons sous un meilleur visage, à savoir moins de contrats permanents et un peu plus de contrats à durée limitée. Néanmoins, je vous précise que certaines natures d'activités exigent qu'il y ait toujours des contrats permanents. De même, le fait d'assurer une carrière aux fonctionnaires exige également qu'il y ait un certain nombre de contrats permanents. Cela ne signifie pas que nous sommes pour avoir 90 pour cent de contrats permanents et le reste de contrats à durée limitée. Nous sommes pour un "turn over" assez flexible de façon à avoir un certain équilibre entre les deux et nous espérons que la politique que nous sommes en train d'étudier nous mènera à cet objectif.

Je crois, Monsieur le Président, avoir répondu aux points qui appelaient une réponse ou un commentaire de ma part. Je suis à la disposition du Conseil si d'autres éclaircissements sont nécessaires.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): There is only one item which has obviously attracted the greatest attention of the Council and most of the debate. I am obviously referring to CL 83/14 and it is not necessary to explain why the Programme Committee felt and indeed reiterated that as far as FAO was concerned the target would not be suitable to adopt, for the time being at least.

I have to say firstly that we appreciate the progress made. It was mostly after 1976. Women in the professional category increased by 2 percent but still are far below the target of 22 percent to 25 percent as suggested in the first report of the Inspectorate and again recommended in the progress report. We felt and we indeed encouraged the Director-General to take every possible step to improve the situation and to pursue the line already undertaken and make sure that progress is speedy enough but we had also in mind that in certain cases, in certain fields of FAO competence the problems really existed as a reflection by and large of the situation in member countries. We specially realize that in the case of fisheries, forestry, crops, various disciplines, livestock and so on and so forth, indeed in our government, in most of the membership I would say women are not very well represented and it is a reflection of our educational system and the overall attitude. So in that case, basically having this in mind, we thought that the target would not be suitable to establish for the time being but I have to say again that we encouraged the Director-General to make every possible progress. I think the Committee almost concluded, and almost included in its report, to recommend to the Council the principle of positive discrimination this time in favour of those that are obviously discriminated against. That means whenever two equally qualified candidates are available, then the preference should be given to a female candidate and I hope the Members of the Council may wish to agree with such a principle, which we apply in a number of instances.

Again but in the same context, the role of governments, we felt that the Inspectors placed too much weight on that aspect. Of course it is realized that governments should play their proper role in submitting well qualified candidates but we also felt that it was an issue that FAO itself had to address and very seriously indeed. We felt that especially FAO representatives should play a special role in making sure that an adequate number of candidates is included in the FAO rostrum.

D. H. J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Much has been said on the JIU reports, particularly the one on the status of women in the professional category. I wish to make only one comment in response to a comment made by Mexico. Reference was made to a reporting frequency of every two years. In our Committee, which also has a female member, when we discussed the reporting of progress on this aspect we felt that we should be governed by two things - one, the period of reporting must not be too short, because then there would not be much to report on; two, neither should it be too long, because the subject would be completely forgotten. So we felt that a suitable time would be something like 4 years, not 2 years.

CHAIRMAN: Since these items on the agenda were for information and discussion only I think we can leave it to the Drafting Committee correctly to reflect the nuances of the debate.

I would just sum up by saying that the issue of the status of women in the UN system obviously received our overwhelming concern. It strikes me that the report of the Committee and this Council should reflect the fact that FAO has made progress, particularly since 1976, better progress, if I remember correctly during our discussion in the Programme Committee, than a good many other UN agencies. So while being cognizant of that I think the report should reflect the fact that it received a good many expressions of concern here and the Organization is of course urged to do even more.

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES(continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION - RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER(suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS - INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (continuacion)
16. Reports of the Forty-fourth Session of the Programme Committee and the Fifty-first Session of the Finance Committee(Rome, 25 April - 6 May 1983)
16. Rapports de la quarante-quatrième session du Comité du Programme et de la cinquante et unième session du Comité financier (Rome, 25 avril - 6 mai 1983)
16. Informes del 44° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y el 51° periodo de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (Roma, 25 de abril - 6 de mayo de 1983) Including: Notamment: En particulier:
- 16.1 Appointment of the External Auditor
- 16.1 Nomination du Commissaire aux comptes
- 16.1 Nombramiento del Auditor Externo
- 16.2 Procedures for Dealing with JIU Reports
- 16.2 Procédures applicables aux rapports du Corps commun d'inspection
- 16.2 Procedimientos para tratar los informes de la DCI
- 16.3 Personnel Matters
- 16.3 Questions concernant le personnel
- 16.3 Asuntos de personal
- 16.4 Other Financial Questions: Special Account for Prevention of Food Losses
- 16.4 Autres questions financières: Compte spécial pour la prévention des pertes de produits alimentaires
- 16.4 Otras cuestiones financieras: Cuenta Especial para la Prevención de las Pérdidas de Alimentos
- 16.5 Import Licences for Equipment for Official Use
- 16.5 Licences d'importations pour l'équipement destiné à un usage officiel
- 16.5 Licencias de importación de equipo para uso oficial

CHAIRMAN: The next item on the agenda is Item 16, the Reports of the Forty-fourth Session of the Programme Committee and the Fifty-first Session of the Finance Committee, including five specific items, which we will take up now.

D. H. J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Concerning Item 16.1, which appears under Any Other Matters. We reviewed this item under GRO XXVII-7 and recommended to Council the appointment of an External Auditor for the period 1984/85. The Secretariat provided the Committee with information regarding the present incumbent. After careful consideration of the explanations provided by the Secretariat, the Committee recommended the reappointment of the present External Auditor for a further period of two years, as appearing in the Draft Council Resolution in paragraph 3.26 of the report. It also considered that it would be in the interests of the Organization to give an opportunity in the future to Member Nations who considered that they possessed the competence, experience and knowledge required for this appointment and recommended to the Council to request the Director-General to formulate and submit for its consideration suitable alternatives for future appointments.

F. G. POULIDES (Cyprus): Is it possible that the Chairman of the Finance Committee could comment also on another subject so that we could concentrate on more than one subject and be quicker?

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps in treating this it would be better to go through all five items.

D. H. J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): As pointed out by the distinguished delegate of Cyprus, it is customary for the Chairman of the Finance Committee to introduce the report in general, drawing the attention of the members to the particularly important items. I take the floor this time to highlight the important items that should be considered by delegates.

The matters requiring the attention of the Council for discussion and/or decision are listed on pages ix to xii in document CL 83/4. They have been grouped separately under Budgetary, Financial and Organizational Matters. Since we have already dealt with items 9 and 12 it remains for me to highlight only those points pertaining to the remaining items considered by the Finance Committee. With reference to Items 13.1 and 13.2 on Budgetary Matters, both as regards performance in 1982 and programme and budgetary transfers, these items will be taken up when the substantive items listed in your agenda are taken up. The information given in this report is mainly for your information.

In considering item 14 under Financial Matters, regarding the Status of Contributions by Member Nations and Voting Rights, your attention is drawn to paragraphs 3.61 to 3.65. We will be dealing with this item perhaps tomorrow afternoon when item 14.1 is taken up. I would like to mention that this is also for information and the Secretariat will be providing further information on the latest position regarding particularly payment of contributions.

On item 14.2, which we will be dealing with tomorrow afternoon, relating to the scale of contributions for 1984/85, under GRO XXVII-71, the Committee is required to keep under review the scale of contributions and to make recommendations to the Council on any modification of the scale of contributions. The Committee is informed that in the past the FAO scale had been derived directly from the UN Scale of Assessments. Since there were no compelling reasons to deviate from this procedure the Committee recommended the adoption of the UN scale. The Finance Committee recommends to Council the approval of the resolution which is referred to in paragraph 3.73 of its report.

Regarding item 15 on Headquarters Accommodation, I would like to draw your attention to paragraphs 3.84 to 3.92 of the Committee's report. The Secretariat will no doubt provide the most recent information regarding the progress made on this question when the item is taken for discussion on Wednesday morning.

I wish to draw your attention to item 16.1, to which I referred earlier regarding the appointment of the External Auditor, on which I have already given you the latest position.

There is one more matter which was dealt with not only by my Committee but by the Programme Committee and at a joint session of both committees regarding the procedure for dealing with JIU reports. You may recall that at the last session of the Council some concern was expressed by certain members regarding the volume of JIU documentation, the cost of processing and distribution, and on the time the Council had to spend in considering the number of reports. The Council had also suggested that the feasibility of a system of periodic reporting on follow-up of JIU reports to Council should also be considered. In response to this request the Committee discussed this issue on the basis of a Secretariat document which described the manner in which JIU reports were dealt with in other major UN institutions. It also enumerated the amounts which would have to be spent if certain options were adopted. Both the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee discussed these programmes individually and together at a joint session. The report of the joint session is before you in document CL 83/4, pages 1 and 2. The procedure for dealing with JIU reports was agreed by both committees together and our joint recommendations appear in paragraphs 1.7 to 1.13.

In order to assist Council members in the discussion at this stage I would like to repeat very briefly some of the points which we took into consideration. The present FAO practice is to submit all JIU reports to the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee together with the comments of the ACC and/or with the comments of the Director-General as applicable. They are then submitted to the Council together with the comments and observations of the two committees as Council documents. Once the Council report is available the sections dealing with the JIU reports and the sections in the Committee's report dealing with JIU are sent to JIU and the participating organizations. Under the prevailing practice the processing, distribution, including translations, costs, we are informed, some \$80 000 per biennium. We were also informed that the practice in other major UN organizations differed. For example, in some the JIU reports were sent directly to governing bodies with no prior review by subsidiary bodies. In some only the comments of the executive head or the ACC were sent to the subsidiary bodies, which then sent their observations direct to the governing bodies.

The Committees were also informed of difficulties in implementing recommendations. There were recommendations which are directly relevant and others which are not, those which are unacceptable, those which do not call for progress reports, and so on. The Committees felt that the relevant applicable and accepted recommendations would in any case be covered by FAO's own day-to-day activities and as such no additional progress reports would then be necessary.

After very careful consideration of all the options presented to us the two Committees recommended to Council the following: (a) JIU reports would be submitted in their entirety as now to the two committees with the comments of the Director-General and/or the ACC; (b) as at present, the comments of the two committees would be submitted to Council as part of the report to Council; (c) JIU reports would be available to Council as information documents only. The adoption of this procedure, we were told, would result in a saving of approximately 50 percent of the present cost per biennium.

This is all I have to say by way of highlighting the main items which we will be looking at when we take up other items under the substantive items.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I have only one point to introduce. That is, Special Account on the Prevention of Food Losses. The Programme Committee was fully informed of the situation with regard to the Special Action Programme, Special Account, as well as the voluntary contributions under Trust Fund arrangements. We wanted to inform the Council first that as far as the Special Account is concerned the overall resources of \$18.3 million and 72 projects requiring \$40.5 million had already been approved.

Secondly, in addition to that, 21 projects have been funded at a cost of \$9.5 million, and that pipeline of 69 projects requiring \$44 million was awaiting financing. In light of these basic figures, and we had much fuller information provided by the Secretariat, first we expressed our full satisfaction with the efficiency of the programme. We also very much welcomed the information of the Secretariat with regard to some changes within the programme which are related to evaluation, but particularly with respect to the increased emphasis on socio-economic aspects and project duration, and we also decided that project duration should be extended.

Finally, we are painfully aware that additional resources were urgently needed, and we appealed again to the Council to pronounce itself this issue to ask all traditional as well as new donors to provide the necessary funds for the execution of the projects already in the pipeline which require, as I said, \$44 million.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Actually, I have very little to add after the very brilliant and lucid introduction by the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committee. However, only on one issue, that is, the External Auditor, do I have a procedural question, so to speak. My delegation thoroughly endorses the recommendations of the Finance Committee that the Director-General be requested with respect to consideration of alternatives, including the present External Auditor, for future appointments. We think it is a very wise request and a very wise suggestion.

I was only wondering whether this part should also be incorporated in the Resolution which the Council is supposed to adopt regarding the reappointment of the External Auditor. I believe the Secretariat would be more aware of the procedures of these issues. I was also wondering whether this should be part of the Resolution which we are to draw up.

K.A. BABIKER (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): First of all, I regret that I have spoken about the procedures for dealing with JIU Reports and the question of the appointment of the External Auditor before the item was due for discussion. Now that the item is under discussion, allow me to comment on the report of the 44 session of the Programme Committee, and that of the 51st session of the Finance Committee. I think I should first thank and congratulate the Chairmen and members of the two Committees on the excellent work they have carried out.

Having considered the reference in both reports to the JIU, we feel that the very large volume of the JIU Reports really does not make it possible for Council members to study these documents thoroughly or even to consider the recommendations therein. You no doubt agree that the large volume of these JIU Reports is in most cases a factor which certainly does not encourage thorough and careful reading. I am not saying this to underestimate the value of these Reports. They are very important and useful indeed and I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the JIU, for since its inception it is no doubt offering commendable services to the FAO. However, on the other hand I would like to endorse what was said by the two Committees, first the financial burden which the Organization has to bear because of the volume of the JIU documentation, and this financial burden is not offset by the benefits accruing to the FAO. The delegation of the Sudan feels that there should be a better way, like the practice followed in other UN agencies, to reduce this financial burden.

Secondly, we feel that it would be much more useful and economical - as has been stated by the Chairman of the Finance Committee - that it would be sufficient to present these JIU Reports to the Finance and Programme Committees and then to the Council for information and to draw the attention of the Council to the essential and important points in the JIU Reports.

Therefore we feel that the Council adopt the proposal contained in the Report of the Programme and the Finance Committees, because it serves the interests of the Organization and Member countries.

With regard to the appointment of the External Auditor, my delegation would like to strongly commend the present External Auditor for his competence.

At the same time, and for reasons we may state later, we deem it appropriate that the Director-General be authorized to submit alternative solutions for the appointment of the External Auditor; including the practice followed by the United Nations, namely the recruitment of a group of auditors including the present auditor.

The External Auditor should be chosen from among this group.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): First of all I would like to say that I am really happy to see you in the Chair.

As usual, the Programme and Finance Committees have been very thorough in their work and my delegation wishes to record its appreciation for the manner in which the two Committees are assisting the Council.

We have had occasion to refer to the views of the two Committees on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85. Under this agenda item, there are two specific subjects on which Council decision is required, and I wish to address myself to these.

Firstly, the question of the appointment of the External Auditor: not only the Council but also the Conference has traditionally expressed its satisfaction with the work of the External Auditor, who is presently the Controller and Auditor General of the United Kingdom. While we have the highest respect for the present External Auditor, we are nevertheless very forcefully struck by the fact that this function has been fulfilled by the same External Auditor since 1951. This certainly is an evident and fitting tribute to the present holder of the office. We also understand that the same External Auditor acts for some of the other larger specialised agencies in the United Nations system. However, we can only fully agree with the Finance Committee that it would be in the interests of the Organization to have the opportunity to consider the appointment of an Auditor General from another Member nation. A number of other Member nations provide for the office of External Auditor. For example, the United Nations system itself has a panel of External Auditors drawn from a number of Member nations. We would therefore agree that the Council should request the Director-General to submit alternatives for future appointments.

The second issue on which we need to decide concerns procedures for dealing with the report of Joint Inspection Unit. The Unit has done some valuable work, and over the years we have expressed our appreciation for it, but we also realised at our last session how the demands made on our own time by the consideration of JIU Reports have grown out of all proportion. Let us frankly consider what action the Council has found it necessary to take on the basis of the recommendations of the JIU. Almost invariably we found it sufficient to endorse the views of the Director-General of the Programme and Finance Committees. Let us also frankly question ourselves as to what extent we have taken the trouble to study the voluminous documentation submitted to us at each session. This documentation, while interesting and relevant, is several times in volume the documents that we have to consider on weighty matters of direct relevance to the Organization which are submitted to us by the Director-General on all subjects ranging from policy issues on food and agriculture to the Programme of Work, Constitutional, Financial and other matters.

My delegation therefore accordingly fully endorses and welcomes the suggestion put to us jointly by the Programme and Finance Committee. We should accept this suggestion wholeheartedly. There is nothing to prevent the Programme and Finance Committees from drawing any particular JIU Report to our specific attention in its entirety should it be of such monumental importance to the Council.

J. MAJCHER (Poland): With regard to point 16.2, Procedures for Dealing with JIU Reports, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for the Reports of this Joint Inspection Unit and to stress the relevance of the subjects studied by the JIU to the Organization, to the whole UN system as well as the thoroughness of the analyses done. The Reports of the JIU are very useful and helpful for a better understanding of the problems we are dealing with. Considering the value of the Joint Inspection Unit Report we are of the opinion that they should be available to the Council as documents and not only information papers. In our understanding, we as a Member of the Council cannot deprive ourselves of such an important work instrument as the JIU Report.

We would appreciate clarification as to how it is possible to reduce the present processing and distribution costs from about \$80 thousand to about \$40 thousand per biennium for the same documents if the same languages are supposed to be available to the Council. The only change, according to the recommendation, would consist of changing the qualification of the Reports, adding the indication that they are information documents only.

M.D. METELITS (United States of America): We have listened to the introduction of these items by the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees, and we cannot help but remark that a great deal of our work is facilitated and smoothed out by the enormous amount of work that the Programme and Finance Committee do for us. In this respect we turn to agenda item 16.2 and note that the recommendation we get is that these Committees should shoulder the burden for us of poring the Joint Inspection Unit Report.

The United States delegation supports the Joint Inspection Unit's activities and we agree that the FAO Council should be able to focus attention on those aspects of the JIU Report that require specific action by the FAO membership. The new procedure recommended should, in fact, make the work of our Council much more efficient in view of the important role that the JIU has for the entire UN system.

However, in supporting the recommendation my delegation would like to raise two questions, two provisos. First we feel somewhat reassured by the introductory remarks of the Chairman of the Programme Committee. We would hope that under the new procedure there would be a guarantee that in following the procedure we would comply with Article XI of the JIU Statute. In other words, the comments of the Director-General on the JIU Report would be given to the Council for information as well as the reports themselves.

Second, my delegation would hope that it would be clearly understood that any delegation would still retain the right to raise independently in the Council specific issues with respect to any JIU Report, whether or not the Programme or Finance Committee has made recommendations on that Report.

With regard to the agenda item 16.1 on the Appointment of an External Auditor, my delegation supports the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): At this juncture of our proceedings I wish to make three points on the agenda item before us. First, my delegation wishes to thank the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees and their members for the valuable services they have been rendering to the Council, and as such to the whole Organization.

My second point refers to agenda item 16.2, Procedures for Dealing with JIU Reports. You will recall, that my delegation favoured at the last Council Session a change in the procedure dealing with JIU Reports to save money and time, and we see the action taken by the Programme and Finance Committees as a follow-up to these ideas which were supported by other delegations.

It was however our understanding at the last Council Session that the recommendations of the JIU Reports together with the comments of the Director-General and/or the ACC would be made available as short, concise documents to the Council. This is slightly different to what we have here before us as a recommendation. We feel, that by making the recommendations of the JIU Reports together with the comments available as Council documents, which could then be studied like the other Council documents in capitals, this would better meet the needs of Member States. Of course, the Council would continue to rely on the comments of the Programme and Finance Committees which are anyhow contained in their reports.

Having listened to the interventions so far made, and also with regard to the concern raised by the distinguished delegates of Poland and the United States, we would like to know whether a compromise solution which covers both alternatives, while saving time and money, could not be found. After all the Joint Inspection Unit Reports are available at home and they will be available here at the documentation desk, giving Governments, if they wish to do so, a possibility to state their positions on the relevant issues.

My third point with your permission concerns 16.3, Personnel Matters. My delegation would be grateful to the Secretariat if it could have some information about how far the fully computerized personnel data system which also the Programme and Finance Committees had mentioned in connection with the overall assessment of the personnel situation in the Organization, has progressed and when we can expect that it is being fully used.

G. FRADIN (France): Je voudrais revenir sur le deuxième point abordé par le représentant de la République fédérale d'Allemagne. Nous avons également abordé lors du dernier Conseil ce point des rapports du Corps commun d'inspection et dans le souci d'économiser du temps, de l'argent et de l'énergie, nous souhaiterions appuyer la solution transactionnelle proposée par notre collègue et nous demandons que les réglementations du Corps commun soient soumises au Conseil en même temps que les observations faites par le Directeur Général et le document du CAC.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I would like to make a few points under this item, the first having to do with the Auditor General. As indicated by a number of my colleagues this afternoon, over the years we have recognized and appreciated the excellence of service we have received from the current auditor. While we have no objection to transferring the auditor's job to another country, and we certainly see no reason why that should not be from a developing country, we would of course hope that the excellence of service would be continued over the years and that the tradition established by a succession of British auditors can be maintained.

On the second question, the procedure for dealing with JIU Reports, as we said this morning we attach a great deal of importance to these documents and have made efforts over the years to give them the consideration and the study that they deserve. Mr. Chairman, we would have preferred to see the current procedure maintained as we believe the importance of the documents so warrants and we are not convinced by the argument of the economies involved which I believe are rather small.

Should this not be possible, should the Council decide to do otherwise, we would like to support the position put forward by our United States delegate colleague and obtain an assurance that these documents would be entirely available to those delegations who wish them in an early and timely fashion so that they have an opportunity to study them, and also should delegations wish to raise items that are not those recommended by the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees they would have the opportunity to do so.

J.M. SCOLAR (United Kingdom): First of all I would like to thank the delegates who have spoken for the tributes they have paid to the present Auditor General. I need hardly say that we ourselves have the greatest confidence in him. Indeed if we did not, the Council would have cause for alarm and despondency. We therefore support his employment for the next two years and agree with the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

The second point is the question of the JIU Reports. On this we have looked, as have other delegates, for ways in which we can simplify dealing with what is a very large amount of documentation, and I am really looking for clarification of this point because I had thought that these documents could be dealt with as normal documents; that is to say we could, if we wished, raise the questions put to us by these documents. As the Canadian delegate has just said, provided they are available and we can talk on them, I think we have no problem with the Programme and Finance Committees in this regard.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I would make a brief comment on only one point, and that is regarding the appointment of the External Auditor. As we know the Auditor General of the United Kingdom has been the auditor of the Organization for over two decades now, and it speaks volumes for the competence of the incumbent of that office that the accounts of the Organization have been properly audited all the time. While we have the highest confidence in the competence of the Auditor General of the United Kingdom in discharging this responsibility, we feel that the FAO should also have a panel of External Auditors as the UN has, and we feel that some of the auditory systems in the developing countries are fairly well developed and there should be absolutely no apprehension on this account, that auditors and controller generals from developing countries can provide an equally good service to the Organization. So we would strongly urge that the Council recommend to the Director-General maintaining a panel of external auditors and to give a chance to controller/auditor generals from developing countries to act as external auditors of the Organization.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I will be very brief, because I think the issue has been well covered by other distinguished delegates. I think on the JIU issue it seems to my delegation that there is a lot of sense in the complete document not having to be addressed in entirety as part of the Council debate, but that the proposal put forward by the United States that the documents could be available if required - and I think he said quoted from if necessary - seems to me to probably cover the position in that it will not be mandatory for delegations to have to wade through the wealth of material.

Secondly, I do not think my delegation has seen any problems or any criticism of the United Kingdom Auditor-General; quite the contrary, I think, as has been said by many delegates this afternoon. But there again it is up to the Council to consider what the Director-General comes up with à propos the report of the Finance Committee. But we certainly would reinforce or restate the confidence in the United Kingdom Comptroller and Auditor-General, as has been mentioned by the other delegates.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee) I am very grateful to my colleague and friend Mr. Abeyagoonasekera, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, for having so brilliantly presented all the procedure dealing with JIU reports. However, you will certainly recall that we in the Programme Committee discussed at length the whole matter and said that since it happened somehow that we discussed it after the Finance Committee, we did not actually want to make an impression that we differed in our views from those expressed by the Finance Committee. That is the reason why my colleagues authorized me to present orally to the Council one aspect with regard to the procedures, namely we in the Programme Committee felt that the best solution for dealing with JIU matters would be - if the Council agrees - to make an appeal to the JIU to prepare a very brief summary which would then precede all JIU documents. In that case there would be a brief summary prepared by JIU and we felt quite strongly that it would be highly inappropriate to ask FAO to prepare a summary of JIU matters; that should be done always by them, by the inspectors. And I personally very much hope that the JIU would go along and prepare a brief summary of the report. In that case the Council may then wish to have a brief document which would contain the summary made by the JIU and its recommendations. In that case, detailed views of the Director-General and/or the ACC would not then be included - provided that you agree - in that brief document. But certainly I think there is no doubt that the document, as we have suggested, would be always available on request, and will be here at the documents desk available to all delegations. Nor is it necessary to mention that all delegations, all members are fully entitled to raise any issue covered by the JIU report. If some delegates deem it necessary to be assured that the Council at future sessions will strictly follow that procedure, that should of course be covered by the report to the Council.

I think this would be, at least, the view of the Programme Committee - but we had no time to discuss jointly with the Finance Committee that particular aspect - so I am orally suggesting to the Council on behalf of my colleagues and I appeal to the inspectors to prepare a brief summary in the fashion that they already did, for example, when they refer to their own activities, something in that style.

My second point concerns reporting. In the Programme Committee we wished merely to draw attention of the Council to the fact that in all tentative matters inspectors usually prepare second, and even third and subsequent progress reports. And then I think it would be a perfect opportunity for the committees and the Council to review FAO's response with regard to the initial concept or the previous progress reports, and then the committees would offer their views and/or their advice to the Council on the action taken by FAO with regard to the previous JIU reports.

Those are the two points I wish to refer very briefly to the Council.

D. K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany raised an issue on the current status of the personnel automated data system. Although we have not progressed a long way, the development has begun and with the limited resources we have been able to begin the development of the personnel data system, to have the outline and the system's development work is ongoing. We do intend to give a very complete report of the current status of this development to the Finance Committee at its September meeting as we had promised earlier, and we will come prepared to do that. With short resources you have competition with the number of systems being developed at one time. This is an important system, it has priority; but we will give the full report to the Finance Committee on September.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): May I reply to some of the questions that have been raised regarding the procedures for handling JIU reports. One question raised was how could the cost of documentation be reduced by making the JIU reports available as Council information documents rather than as Council documents tout court. The reason is that the print runs in each language are different for information documents and they are a much smaller number than they are for normal Councils documents. To give you specific examples, I am afraid I can only quote figures referring to the documentation you received at your last session in November 1982, but the lesson is still valid now. For example, the JIU report on public information activities, as it was, a Council document, involved 2 550 copies in English, 1 060 copies in French, 750 copies in Spanish and 400 copies in Arabic. The respective costs were \$4 400 in English, \$2 100 in French, \$1 500 in Spanish and \$450 in Arabic. The document on the Status of Internal Evaluation, similar in print runs but a much larger document, involved \$5 680 in English, \$2 800 in French, \$2 800 in Spanish and \$1 860 in Arabic.

I do not need to give further examples but I hope the point is made.

On the related question of whether an information document can receive the same attention from the Council and be commented upon, of course this is a full Council prerogative: the Council address itself to any document it receives, whether it is an information document or a document for discussion and/or decision; so there would be no problem on that score.

A question was also raised as to whether the Organization would fulfill its observance of the JIU statute under article 11 of the statutes which requires each organization which has accepted the JIU statute to send the comments of its executive head and the comments of the ACC, where it concerns more than one organization, to its governing bodies. Well, the wording in the statute is to refer to the "competent organs of the Organization". In 1968 when the Council decided upon the procedures for the handling of the JIU reports, the Council at that time decided that the "competent organs" were to be itself, through the Programme and Finance Committees. It is hence entirely a matter for the Council decision now to say that we designate the competent organ as the Programme and Finance Committees to receive the views of the executive head of FAO and of the ACC, as applicable.

A number of delegations also referred to other possible compromises, in particular by having as a Council document a summary of each JIU report and of the recommendations together with the views of the Director-General and/or of the ACC. I should point out that summaries of JIU reports are already available in the annual report of the activities of the JIU which is itself issued by the JIU and is presently a Council document. For example, document CL 83/16 now before you gives the summary of each JIU report issued between July 1981 and June 1982. This is one source of summary. Each JIU report also contains a summary of conclusions and recommendations. This is the case with each of the reports which are presently before you and have been commented upon this morning and this afternoon.

Therefore, if the Council were to ask the Secretariat to make a separate summary of the conclusions and recommendations, this can only result in additional costs; and, as the Chairman of the Programme Committee said, it would be a particularly unenviable task for the Secretariat to summarize a JIU report, either in the conclusion or the recommendations.

I believe these were the three points which were raised in the debate. I hope I have answered them faithfully.

CHAIRMAN: We still have the question raised by the delegation of Pakistan asking whether the Resolution with respect to the External Auditor could not be rephrased so as to include a request to the Director-General to formulate and submit alternatives and would someone on the Secretariat wish to deal with that?

K. MEHBOOB (Chief, Office of Internal Audit and Inspection): In fact the delegate of Pakistan wanted to know whether there was any precedent for such a recommendation to be included in the Resolution. In fact we have only one precedent before, four years ago we did submit alternative proposals and at that time the recommendations did not go into the resolution but if the Council wishes it that way it can be done.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions of interest with respect to this question? In summing up then, with respect to the appointment of the External Auditor I take it that the Council has approved the recommendation for the Resolution as forwarded by the Finance Committee and since I did not hear anyone object to the proposal by Pakistan and since there appears to be precedent for doing it, unless I hear some profound objection I see no reason why we should not do it once again.

With respect to the procedures for dealing with the JIU reports, I must confess that I am at a loss to try and find some solution to the various positions that have been taken and I would like to throw out the following as a possible solution and I would welcome the views from my colleague from, the Programme Committee if he has any profound disagreement with what I propose and that is to take his proposal that we ask the JIU to prepare a summary of each of their reports and that we rely on the Programme Committee to prepare a report on the progress made and to include in their report summary comments of what the Director-General and the ACC have said. This I think would perhaps meet the comments made by the Federal Republic of Germany, France and others, and that it be understood that the full report be available if required and that the members of the Council could comment on them if they so desired. If that is agreeable we will declare that that is our decision on that.

I am just informed that I made a slight error. I did not quite understand Mr. Mehboob, in fact there is no precedent for including this request in the Resolution as suggested by our friend from Pakistan but nevertheless, since no one disagreed with my summing up, I do not see why we should not establish a precedent.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I was in fact very pleased with your summing up because if you did make a slight error it was in favour of our proposal and we again want to reiterate that that is an important part of the recommendation of the Finance Committee so it should be no problem if that is included as part of the Resolution so we will leave it to the Secretariat to incorporate that in the Resolution and we appreciate that.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Just a very small point for the drafters. I am sure we all want the Resolution to be phrased so that It did not criticise the United Kingdom Auditor General.

CHAIRMAN: It was certainly not my intention to imply any criticism of the present Auditor and I would think in fact that it should be so phrased so as to give him every chance to continue as this Organizations External Auditor.

Now with respect to the remaining items or sub-item under item 16, Personnel Matters, other financial questions and import licences for equipment for official use, in my notes I do not have any expressions of concern that differ markedly, if I remember correctly from the views expressed by the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee and so I take it that this Council adopts their views.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

13. Other Budgetary Matters:

13. Autres questions budgétaires:

13. Otros asuntos presupuestarios:

13.1 Budgetary Performance 1982 13.1 Execution du budget 1982

13.1 Ejecución del Presupuesto en 1982

13.2 Programme and Budgetary Transfers

13.2 Virements entre programmes et entre postes du budget 13.2 Transferencias presupuestarias y de programas

CHAIRMAN: We will continue on and take up other budgetary matters, item 13.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme and Evaluation): The subject of programme and budgetary transfers was submitted to the Finance Committee and appeared in paragraph 3.38 of the Report of the Finance Committee in document CL 83/4. This is a matter which is only for the information of the Council. The Finance Committee itself noted the two within-chapter budgetary transfers, one for the amount of \$78 400 from programme 5.2.4 on Personnel Services to 5.9.1 Programme Management and the other of \$30 600 from programme 5.2.2 Financial Services to Programme 5.2.1 Administrative Services. The explanations provided by the Secretariat were acceptable to the Finance Committee and are included in their reports.

If I may go on to the next item which you have also mentioned and that is the annual report of budgetary performance to Member Nations. This is also an item for information of the Council. The Finance Committee did receive a report on budgetary performance in 1982 which is attached as Appendix A of the report of the Finance Committee in document CL 83/4. This information document gives figures which are still subject to the audit of the account but it provides the overall situation of budgetary performance in 1982. The Finance Committee noted that expenditures and commitments were in line with the forecast, that the expenditures are normally higher in the second year of the biennium than in the first year for the usual reasons which it has specified in this report. It might interest the Council to note in particular that because of the favourable currency factor the amount of \$4 902 700 was credited to the special reserve account.

The views of the Finance Committee are fully explicit in its report and I believe I have nothing further to add unless any Member of the Council should wish for clarification.

CHAIRMAN: Item 13 is now open for discussion. Is there any delegation that wishes to take the floor? This item is for information only so if there is no delegation which wishes to ask any question or whatever we will simply accept the documents as they have been presented to us.

- 14. Financial Matters
- 14. Questions financières
- 14. Asuntos financieros
- 14.1 Financial Position of the Organization
- 14.1 Situation financière de Inorganisation
- 14.1 Situación financiera de la Organización

D. K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): I would call your attention to document CL 83/LIM/1, which has recently been distributed and sets out the contribution position at 15 June 1983. The updating information is contained in the report of the Finance Committee at paragraphs 3.56 and 3.66. We have received some additional contributions since 15 June, quite small, but the 15 June statement that you have in front of you is quite accurate. As a consequence, the percentage of current assessments collected for 1983 through May has been 45.58 percent. While this rate of receipt of contributions this year is considerably better than in 1982 or 1981, it still does not compare favourably with the rates of receipts in 1980 and several prior years. It will be observed from the appendix to the LIM document that you have that several of the large contributors, including the largest, have made no payment against their 1983 assessed contributions. While some Member Nations are known to have at present very critical financial situations it is disappointing that these Member nations which could meet their obligations have not yet done so within the time prescribed by the regulations of the Organization. It will be noted from paragraph 6 of the LIM document that nine Member Nations continue to be in danger of losing their right to vote at the Conference. The Council may wish to make a special appeal to these Member Nations to regularize their positions as far as possible and to communicate to the Organization their intent to honour their financial obligations.

CHAIRMAN: Item 14.1 is now open for discussion. Does any delegation wish to take the floor? If not, we will simply regard this as an information document, we will simply take note of it.

Then we have concluded all the items on the agenda that we can cover today. Thank you very much. With that I conclude this day's session.

The meeting rose at 16.30 hours

La seance est levée à 16 h, 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.30 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13^a SESION PLENARIA
(21 June 1983)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13^a sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, 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)
- 8. World Food Programme:
- 8. Programme alimentaire mondial:
- 8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos:
- 8-1 Eighth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme
- 8.1 Huitième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire "du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO
- 8.1 Octavo informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

CHAIRMAN: The first item on our agenda for this morning is item 8.1.

I am happy to welcome the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr. Ingram, in our midst, whom I will request to introduce his item.

J. C. INGRAM (World Food Programme): It is a pleasure to present to this Council the Eighth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes which cover the year 1982. As you know, the Committee is required by its general regulations to report annually to this Council and to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations as well as to submit periodic and special reports to the World Food Council. This requirement is in accordance with the nature of the World Food Programme which was created by the parallel and agreed action at the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference.

This year, 1983, marks the twentieth anniversary of the World Food Programme. Since it first commenced operations in 1963 the Programme has committed more than \$5 billion of assistance to over 1 100 development projects in 114 developing countries. In addition WFP has provided more than \$1 billion of food aid to almost 600 emergency operations in 103 countries. In total this assistance has helped 170 million people.

In addition in 1982 the World Food Programme committed \$613 million to 68 development projects in 37 countries, an increase of 13 percent over the value of 1981 commitments. In addition \$193 million was approved for 68 emergency operations.

The Programme is increasingly seen as a valuable multilateral development assistance organization. Indeed it is now the largest source of assistance apart from the World Bank group within the United Nations system. This situation casts a special responsibility both on the CFA as the governing body of WFP, and on the Secretariat which serves it, to make the best possible use of food aid to meet human needs and to make the maximum contribution to development.

Whatever WFP has achieved over these twenty years, and I think its achievements are substantial, must be set against the basic fact that the international assistance effort remains inadequate, that the numbers of the poor and hungry are growing, and if present adverse international economic conditions continue, will grow at an expanding rate. Measured against these grim facts the achievements of WFP are not a cause for self-satisfaction but for redoubling efforts in the light of critical examination to determine what we can do better.

This is indeed the approach being taken by the Programme itself with the endorsement of the CFA to mark its twentieth anniversary. Our efforts have been primarily directed towards making the Programme better known with a view to attracting additional resources. The modest steps being taken are described in the report before you. They include arrangements for the issuing of commemorative stamps and medals, the production of a booklet and a film, wall sheets and posters and articles in various journals. A number of governments are also giving recognition to the anniversary and information material is being distributed to assist them. Arrangements are in hand for a seminar later in the year to bring together some of the best thinking and experience on food aid issues from donor and recipient countries.

It is our hope that the conclusions of the seminar will help to devise new directions for food aid so that this form of assistance can make the maximum contribution to the solution of emergency development problems in the 1980s.

But the best contribution to this Anniversary would be to reach the target for the current biennium as well as the increased target for the 1985/86 biennium which has already been unanimously adopted by the CFA. The latter target of \$1.35 billion represents an increase of 12.5 percent over the current target of \$1.2 billion. I had proposed a larger figure because I am very conscious of the growing needs of developing countries in these difficult times and of the desirability of channelling more food aid multilaterally. In all the circumstances, however, I regard the unanimous endorsement of the figure of \$1.35 billion as a real achievement which will enable WFP to sustain its steady expansion of activities.

Moreover, since the agreed target represents the consensus of the Committee, I am hopeful that it can be attained and even surpassed. I am confident that this Council, as well as the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, will endorse the target adopted by the CFA and so lay a firm basis for the future activities of WFP.

The year 1982 saw a significant expansion in the activities and resources of the Programme. By the end of the year pledges for the biennium 1981/82 totalled \$838 million. While it is a matter of regret that the target was not fully achieved, the outlook for the current biennium 1983/84 is more encouraging. Before the beginning of this current biennium pledges totalled \$993 million or 83 percent of the target of \$1.2 billion. Because of the impact of currency fluctuations on pledges made in local currencies, the total value of pledges, even with five additional countries, was reduced to \$951 million at 31st May 1983. But this amount is still the highest ever pledged to the Programme.

Moreover, while the current low level of food prices and freight rates continues, WFP can in fact deliver larger quantities than a simple comparison of the figure with earlier years would suggest. We are nevertheless concerned at the decline in the number of donors. Pledges for the biennium 1981/82 were made by 99 donors, but for 1983/84 pledges have so far been received from only 65 donors. An analysis of the figures shows that of the major donors only two or three have not yet pledged. In their cases we can assume that the lag is accounted for by budgetary and other processes and that pledges will eventually be made. Our concern therefore is with pledges from developing countries.

Since its inception the Programme has been supported by developed and developing countries. Most of the latter are in a position to make only small contributions but these have never been regarded as merely tokens. The resources they make available can be particularly valuable in providing suitable foodstuffs within their own regions and in minimising transport costs. Moreover, their strong support for the Programme has made it a truly international organization.

While I realize that many developing countries are going through times of great difficulties, it is of the utmost importance that they continue their support for the Programme by making contributions, no matter how small, so that the number of developing country contributors will rise from their present level of 41 in the 1983/84 biennium to reach the level of 71 attained in 1981/82.

I urge the members of this Council to do everything they can to assist in achieving this result.

In developing its Programme WFP continues to give priority to the poorest people in the most needy countries. More than 80 percent of 1982 commitments were for development projects in low-income food-deficit countries, and about half of this amount was committed in sub-Saharan African. WFP is thus doing its best to contribute to the massive international effort which is required to reverse the deteriorating food situation in the African continent.

While this focus on the needs of low-income food-deficit countries will continue, it should not divert our attention altogether from the problems of middle-income countries. Many of these countries have been badly damaged by the contraction of the international economy. The structural adjustments which they are obliged to undertake inevitably cause additional hardships to the poorest of their people. WFP assistance can help such countries to ameliorate this hardship through careful use of food aid in association with other measures undertaken by their governments.

Of course, in making such assistance available, we look to a stronger commitment on the part of the recipient government and a higher standard of administration than one can reasonably require of most low-income countries.

Food aid is sometimes conceived as a limited instrument of development. In fact, as utilized by WFP, food has shown a remarkable versatility in the types of development it can support. This versatility requires a correspondingly wide range of technical support in the preparation and appraisal of projects. Members of this Council will be well aware that WFP has always drawn its technical support from the United Nations system. The FAO is involved in one way or another in virtually all the projects which come forward for approval, but assistance is also drawn regularly from the United Nations itself; notably its Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, from ILO - particularly for labour intensive works, for training and community institutions as well as cooperatives;

from WHO for health and nutrition projects and from UNESCO for projects such as school feeding. The services of these agencies are supplemented as required by drawing on the special expertise of other agencies such as UNICEF and UNFPA. Coordination of these inputs to achieve the best possible project is the key to the effective use of WFP resources.

In recent years we have moved increasingly into multi-purpose projects designed to achieve integrated action across a very wide range in the hope that thereby there would be a greater impact on national development. Many of these projects contribute to food security in terms of the wider definition endorsed by the FAO Committee on Food Security. Activities of this nature are complex and require not only a wide ranging appraisal but also cooperation on the ground with many other agencies, multilateral and bilateral, which are involved in the same endeavour.

The more complex the project and the larger the number of agencies involved, the more difficult implementation becomes. Members of the CFA have in fact from time to time expressed reservations about the problems inherent in particular, complex projects; but nevertheless they have encouraged us to continue with this approach as one of the best ways of using food aid for development. Clearly, what we need to do is to strike a balance between the fully integrated project which can be so complex as to be unworkable, and the simple, single purpose projects in which food objectives are more limited but for that reason more easily attainable. This we are endeavouring to do guided by our tradition of being a pragmatic organization devoted to making assistance available quickly and effectively. Some of the projects approved in 1982 illustrate the foregoing observations.

In Ecuador, for example, a \$15 million project was approved for the construction of rural infrastructure and support for productive activities by peasant communities, particularly in the most oppressed rural areas. The Government proposes to integrate the isolated actions carried out previously by a number of separate institutions, to promote cooperation in community development and facilitates the creation of peasant associations. Appraisal of this project required the cooperation of WFP, FAO, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and WHO.

WFP assistance to transmigration and settlement projects in Indonesia is part of a much wider international effort to assist that country to address the problems of over-population in the inner islands and achieve more balanced regional development. UNDP, FAO, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the European Community and a number of bilateral donors including the United States of America, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Federal Republic of Germany and France are all involved in this effort.

Evaluation of previous projects has already demonstrated that food aid, besides improving settlers' nutritional standards, encourages them to clear and cultivate larger areas of their land and so increases incomes and outputs. Given the wide range of assistance involved in these transmigration projects, we are presently examining the desirability of a collaborative evaluation with some of the other agencies concerned.

An even larger cooperative effort is associated with the multi-purpose rural development project in Benin for which the CFA has now approved a three-year expansion of \$13 million. This project brings together eight sub-projects embracing the development of human resources, economic and social infrastructure and directly productive projects. In effect, WFP food is being used as a key input in a major national effort to increase production and improve living conditions in the rural area of one of Africa's poorest countries. Assistance is also provided by FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, The African Development Bank, WHO, UNESCO and other United Nations agencies as well as a very large number of bilateral donors. The results of these efforts are already visible in an improvement of rural life and again demonstrate that food aid can make a powerful contribution to development when properly integrated with assistance from other sources.

There is one other project of more than usual interest approved by the CFA in 1982 which might also be mentioned. This is a \$24 million project for food aid to vulnerable groups in Vietnam. This project will assist the Vietnamese government to make use of a weaning food plant to combat severe malnutrition among young children and will also provide assistance to nursing mothers. The plant has been erected with equipment supplied by UNICEF which will also provide some of the inputs for its operations. When the project came before the CFA it received support from many delegations because of its humanitarian nature, but others expressed reservations about other aspects as well as the general circumstances relevant to the project. Although these differences ran deep, it was eventually decided that the project could proceed, subject to evaluation in the second year.

Given the nature of the differences involved, I regard the approval of the project as a valuable reaffirmation of the essential multilateral nature of WFP. Respect for the philosophy on which multilateral aid has been developed is the vital foundation of the Committee's work as the governing body of WFP and I am encouraged that it will continue along this path.

In addition to its developmental work, WFP has always played a special role in the provision of food aid in emergency situations. The need for such assistance has unfortunately grown apace in recent years, mainly on account of the increase in large scale manmade disasters. In 1982, the total value of emergency food aid approved was \$193 million, slightly above the previous high point reached in 1980. This sum provided more than 500,000 tons of food for distribution to more than 11 million people.

Almost 70% of this assistance was directed to refugees and displaced persons particularly for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the victims of the Kampuchean emergency, both in that country and along the Thai border, and the refugees in Somalia. In all three of these major relief operations, WFP has assumed a co-ordinating role on behalf of the international community; in one case, we are specifically co-ordinating food aid and related activities on behalf of the Secretary General of the United Nations and working closely with his Special Representative.

In order to better equip WFP to deal with emergencies, a number of administrative measures have been taken during the year. The Emergency Unit has been strengthened and raised to the level of a Service under the direction of an experienced Field Officer. Proposals for overcoming management and logistical problems in the developing countries concerned have been endorsed by the CFA and steps have been taken to evaluate selected emergency operations to provide better guidance for the future. In order to sustain within the Secretariat the sense of urgency critical to emergency operations, weekly meetings are held by WFP senior management with relevant staff, to examine new requests and follow up implementation of requests already approved.

In much of its emergency work, WFP has to work closely with a large number of international agencies, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations. Emergency assistance is a complex exercise and good co-operation between all those involved is essential - and, generally speaking, I am pleased to say, is very willingly given.

The General Regulations of the Programme provide that requests for emergency assistance will be made to the Director General of FAO who will then request the Executive Director of the Programme to examine the request and make a recommendation before taking a decision on it. A very close working relationship has been established between WFP and FAO in order to make these arrangements work satisfactorily; it is my intention to do everything possible to make this relationship even better.

The resources provided to meet emergencies now come primarily from the International Emergency Food Reserve with the funds allocated annually by the CFA from WFP's own resources being a small, but valuable supplement. In 1982, the IEFER provided \$172 million towards total emergency assistance of \$193 million.

While contributions to the IEFER have made possible the massive emergency operations already mentioned, they nevertheless in 1982 fell short of the target of 500,000 tons of grain - although more than 500,000 tons of food commodities were available. The latest figures indicate that 399,000 tons of cereals have been made available to the IEFER through WFP so far this year. In addition 65,000 tons on a bilateral basis and 24,000 tons of non-cereal products have been provided.

It has been pointed out that the IEFER is not functioning in the manner which seems to have been intended by its founders, with the result that it might be better described as a facility rather than a reserve. I share the point of view of those who want to see the magnitude of the Reserve increased and its multilateral character improved. However, if these objectives are to be shared by the international community, a much clearer articulation of the objectives and modalities of using food aid in emergencies may be required. It was with these considerations in mind that I came to the conclusion that the first step towards a larger, more effective and better structured system of international emergency food assistance was to consider more closely the various categories of emergencies and criteria for responding to them. Such an analysis should assist in establishing that climate of confidence in the international community needed to facilitate agreement on expansion of emergency resources and arrangements to guarantee that they will be available when required in a fully multilateral structure. In considering this matter further, I will of course be consulting closely with the Director General of FAO as well as with other agencies involved.

The issues about which I have spoken are only a few of the many challenges before the Programme as it seeks to make an ever more helpful contribution to meeting the needs of developing countries. These and other challenges were discussed in my recent statement to the CFA. Here I would simply like to repeat my commitment to do everything possible to raise the average standard of our operations, by project and by country, to the current best level - which, by any measure, is very good indeed. Success in this endeavour will justify even greater support by donors while maximising the developmental impact of our assistance to developing countries.

S.P. MÜKERJI (India): My delegation congratulates the United Nations/FAO World Food Programme and its Executive Director, Mr. Ingram and his staff on his completing successfully the teenage-adolescent period and entering the maturity of 20 years of life. The WFP is one of the largest resource giving organizations in the United Nations system for agricultural and rural development and for providing immediate relief to peoples in the developing countries afflicted by manmade and natural disasters. Naturally the Council is vitally interested in its activities and in the deliberations of the Committee on Food Aid which guides and monitors its activities.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the progress made by the WFP in collecting and distributing food aid multilaterally. In 1982 about \$600 million worth of assistance was committed to development projects of which 80% went to the low-income food-deficit countries, 70% of the development assistance was on agriculture and rural development. 85% of the purchases made by the WFP from its own resources were from developing countries.

The IEFR target of 500,000 tons was exceeded in 1982 for the first time. The food shipment target of 10 million tons was achieved to the extent of 8.9 million tons only during 1981/82.

India has been a regular and punctual contributor to the WFP. It also gave commodity loans to Bangladesh and Nepal through the World Food Programme. This was appreciated by the CFA and quoted as an example to be followed by others. I can assure the Executive Director of WFP that India would never be found remiss or defaulting in her contributions and assistance to the World Food Programme.

My delegation notes with some worry the steep increase in emergency assistance. There was a \$15 million increase in emergency assistance in 1982 over 1981 and a record number of 68 emergency operations were approved in 1982. 69% of emergency assistance went to manmade disasters.

Again my delegation would like to make some suggestions on the work and programme of the WFP as it did on an earlier date on the Work and Programme of the FAO. Firstly, the report of the WFP may bring out in sharp focus the various policy and programme issues which the CFA grappled with and those on which the collective judgement of the Council and the ECOSOC will be necessary. It would also help if a covering note giving the policy issues and problems on which some thinking would be necessary is appended. A little updating of the report since it was drafted would also be helpful.

Secondly, the report could be a little more informative. For instance the resources target of \$1500 million which had been considered as reasonable and necessary by the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the FAO for 1985/86 was scaled down to an arithmetic mean of \$1350 million between the present \$1200 million and the proposed \$1500 million. The justification of this arithmetical mean figure and the type of the discussions which the Chairman had with the Contact Group could have found an important place in the report. It is not clear whether the Chairman had some consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations or the FAO or the representatives who had endorsed the target of \$1500. For one thing, my delegation would suggest that apart from the target of \$1350 million the Council could suggest a new line of assistance of about \$150 million to be contributed in the shape of fertilizers which can be utilized by the WFP in productive programmes as part of the food security strategy. Further, the report could bring out how the WFP and FAO operations are integrated in the beneficiary countries. Both WFP and FAO are engaged in assisting the developing countries in increasing food production and to give an element of food security and to develop the infrastructure of rural development.

In an orchestrated manner these two streams of assistance can have a synergic effect - that is, the total benefit accruing to the country will be more than the sum of each one's activities. In a disintegrated manner they may be counter-productive and wasteful, if not confusing.

For instance, the construction of a road under the emergency food relief could be integrated with the agricultural development programme of the FAO by aligning the road between the growth center and the market. Likewise FAO's agricultural development programme and WFP's forestry programme can be integrated on a watershed basis. !

I think the CFA should go into these issues and give some policy suggestions in the annual report so that the Council can give a meaningful guideline for coordinating FAO and WFP programmes.

The figures of food aid distributed by the WFP are impressive. It would have been helpful if the report had given an indication how far the food aid contributed to the efficiency of food production and improving the nutritional status of the recipient countries.

In one of the meeting of the CFA a few years ago I said that food aid should be used to end food aid, meaning that the food aid should help countries to increase their food production so that the need for food assistance is reduced or removed. It is time that we should evaluate how far we have succeeded in doing so. Perhaps some sample studies could be undertaken. To what extent there has been interaction between WFP and its co-sponsors, the UN and FAO, on strengthening food security may also be mentioned. Perhaps an institutional arrangement is necessary and an organizational linking up with them.

The recommendations of the Committee on Food Security, the FAO Council or FAO Conference on matters of food assistance and food security could be considered by the CFA, and action taken thereon should be included specifically in a chapter of the CFA report. Action taken in achieving food aid targets and removing uncertainties of the IEFRR replenishments could have been of special interest to the Council. An organization like WFP, according to my delegation, could possibly draw up a chapter of its objectives and mandate derived from its own deliberations, from the general deliberations and also from the FAO objectives, as also from the World Food Conference resolution on an approved policy for food aid. Having spelt out the objectives and mandate one could translate that into policy and tasks and programmes from year to year. A continuous evaluation of these programmes and policy could be made at CFA level in the context of these objectives.

Policy changes could be made or projected to the Council or ECOSOC in the annual reports or otherwise. This would assist not only the WFP, but FAO and ECOSOC in their policy, in their programmes and in achieving an integrated approach.

On the 20th anniversary of the WFP, let us initiate a new approach, a new emphasis on results, a new emphasis on objective-oriented programmes on which evaluation from within and co-ordination with other agencies.

I am sure that under the leadership of the Executive-Director these qualitative changes will be brought about without much difficulty. I again congratulate the Executive-Director, Mr. Ingram, and his staff on the 20th Anniversary of the World Food Programme and the massive assistance and relief that it has been extending to the suffering and deprived peoples of the world.

A.F.M. de FREITAS (Brazil): I would like to thank Mr. Ingram for his comprehensive and enlightening introduction to this subject. The Council has now at its disposal not only the report dealing with the World Food Programme but also the policy indications and the clear outlines of the action of the World Food Programme as described by its Executive-Director.

The 8th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes addressed to the FAO Council, ECOSOC and the World Food Council, as contained in document CL 83/6, indicates some of the highlights for the activities of the World Food Programme in 1982.

Among them I would like to mention the 13% increase in new commitments as compared with the level of the previous year. I also notice that 80% of all commitments for 1982 were for development projects in the low-income food-deficit countries, while 20% were assigned to projects in the other developing countries.

My delegation wholeheartedly supports this proportional distribution of the resources of the Programme and expresses the view that this percentage apportionment is fully respectful of the principle of universality which should preside over the agencies which deal with development assistance and emergency aid.

My delegation would also like to underline the special emphasis given by the World Food Programme to countries in sub-Sahara Africa which for the last few years have been suffering from a particularly distressing food situation and therefore deserve special treatment from the international community.

With respect to the pledging target for the period 1985/86, while acknowledging that both the growing needs of the developing countries for food aid and the capacity of the Programme to manage resources would fully justify the proposed target of \$1500 million, my delegation had to admit the fact that this target would not be acceptable to the most important donors. Under these circumstances a more modest target of \$1350 million was generally supported by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes•

My delegation associated itself with the consensus and it wishes now to express the hope that both additional and new donors may join efforts to reach this proposed target.

This year is also the 20th anniversary of the World Food Programme. My delegation wishes to convey to Mr. James Ingram and to his colleagues, who now have the responsibility to direct the activities of the Programme, the gratitude of all those who have benefited from its action throughout the world. The achievements of the Programme during this period are known to all of us and to all developing countries in particular. I do not need to dwell on them, but I would like this Council to put on record the recognition of its members for the task accomplished by the World Food Programme and its good wishes for the work to be done in the future.

TESSEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): We have listened to the introductory statement by the Executive-Director. We have also studied with great interest the 8th Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

We fully agree that WFP is one of the success stories of the UN system. According to the report before us, document CL 83/6, and as mentioned by the Executive-Director, during its twenty years of operation the Programme has committed about \$5.3 billion of assistance to over 1,100 development projects in 114 developing countries. About 170 million people are estimated to have benefited directly from the Programme's development and emergency assistance.

During this period the Programme had undergone both qualitative as well as quantitative transformation and, as indicated in the report, has now become one of the major funding programmes of the United Nations system.

In 1982 alone WFP committed \$613 million, or 13% more than the preceding year, for 68 development projects. Two million tons, or 35% more, of food aid has been shipped.

On the other hand, the last CFA meeting approved the target of \$1.35 billion pledged for the regular resources of the Programme for the biennium 1985/86. Considering the budgetary growth trend in other UN systems and the tight financial situation in donor countries, this is the most commendable achievement, although far short of the actual need.

We have also noted that countries rated "X" by certain donor nations have started benefiting from WFP's assistance, which is additional witness for the even-handed approach in managing the Programme.

All these clearly demonstrate the success story I have mentioned earlier, for which the CFA, the Executive Director and his able staff should be commended. Our special tribute goes particularly to the Executive Director, Mr. James Ingram, for his persuasive personality, compassionate and evenhanded leadership, which must have enabled the World Food Programme to attract unprecedented resources and confidence both from developing and developed countries. We strongly urge the Executive Director to make every effort through continuous interaction with traditional as well as new donors to ensure that previous as well as new targets are met and surpassed. We too consider the achievement of these targets the best contribution to the 20th anniversary of the Programme.

Ethiopia is one of the many countries that have benefited from WFP's food aid assistance. The famous Project Ethiopia 2488, WFP's water and soil conservation project, is well known to every member of the CFA. The Project, considered the most successful and most impressive by all standards, is a living monument testifying to the viability of food aid and WFP's use of food as a development agent.

A large quantity of emergency food assistance has reached the neediest sector of our population, especially those affected by recurrent drought over the last several years. We are thankful to WFP for these assistances and to those who enable the Programme to attain to our needs through their generous contributions.

No country wishes to be on the receiving end of a food aid programme. To fall under such a category is not an honour or a privilege either. Thus, we fully endorse the present criteria for food aid biased in favour of the neediest sector or region. We welcome the share of food aid, constituting about 80 percent, directed to low-income food-deficit countries. The proportion that went to Africa, which stands at about 40 percent of WFP's total development resources, although low in relation to the need of the region, can be considered quite satisfactory, especially considering overall situations in other developing regions.

We are happy to note WFP's continuous efforts to use food aid, including a portion of emergency aid, for productive agricultural undertakings. We fully support project-oriented food aid which has shown a rapid increase during the last years. Any effort to integrate food aid with overall development programmes deserves every support.

WFP's triangular transactions have proved to be most successful both in terms of cost and speed of delivery. We therefore strongly urge WFP to continue with such transactions whenever conditions permit. We also commend the Programme's innovative approach in cutting down on transportation costs and encourage further the use as much as possible of developing country vessels.

The continuous increase in the number of emergencies due to man-made or natural disasters necessitates special attention. The resources for relief and emergency assistance need to be augmented and the effectiveness of emergency operations further improved. Any efforts by the World Food Programme towards this end should be given the fullest support of the Council.

Finally, my delegation fully supports the adoption of the draft resolution which appears as Annex II in the report before us.

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): To begin with, my delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation for the excellent performance record which WFP has maintained throughout its twenty years of existence. In the beginning, WFP started out on an experimental basis and gradually developed into an effective international agency by implementing food aid in order to assist developing countries by promoting their economic and social development. My Government appreciates very much the recent efforts made by WFP to utilize its resources in creating agriculture and rural development projects especially in the low-income food-deficit countries. We hope that WFP will continue to carry out its duties, keeping in mind the need for effectiveness and efficiency in applying food aid.

In regard to the new target of \$1.35 billion for the period 1985-86, my delegation would like to place emphasis on the fact that this new target has been approved by consensus at the Fifteenth CFA Session in a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding despite the existence of the present serious problems facing all countries in the world today. Considering the circumstances, my delegation strongly feels that the burdens involved in making contributions should be shared not only by the traditional donors but also by all possible new donors.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar, Señor Presidente, quisiera felicitar al Señor Ingram por la completa exposición de la importante labor que realiza el PMA.

Debido a que la Argentina este año ha concurrido en calidad de Observador al Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, es que vemos con gran placer la oportunidad que tenemos como miembros del Consejo para expresar nuestra opinión sobre la importante labor de este Organismo. En este sentido damos nuestro total apoyo al Octavo Informe Anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria y al documento que se refiere a los veinte años de actividades del PMA. Ambos son expresión, de que los veinte años de experiencia del Programa han dejado un balance muy positivo que se refleja en que el crecimiento del Programa lo fue no sólo cuantitativamente, sino también en lo cualitativo en cuanto a instrumento de desarrollo económico y social.

Sin ninguna duda nos hubiera gustado que el objetivo propuesto de 1 500 millones de dólares para el período 1985/86, fuera el que hoy aprobáramos; no obstante coincidimos en que debería lograrse un consenso sobre los objetivos, y en este contexto manifestamos nuestro acuerdo con la cifra de 1 350 millones de dólares.

Queremos también referirnos a una cuestión que nunca hemos dejado de hacerlo cada vez que analizamos la labor del Programa; esto es el criterio de universalidad que debe primar en las autoridades del Programa al estudiar las distribuciones regionales de las asignaciones para el desarrollo agrícola y rural. En este sentido hemos visto con satisfacción la declaración del Sr. Ingram durante el último período de sesiones del CPA, declaración que hoy fue reiterada en la presentación de este punto cuando se refirió al papel que le correspondería jugar dentro de las asignaciones a los países de ingresos medios.

Tener criterio de universalidad, implica compatibilizar el hecho de que siga destinándose la mayoría de las asignaciones a proyectos en países de bajos ingresos, con déficit de alimentos y a la vez atender también el desarrollo agrícola y rural del resto del mundo en desarrollo. Nosotros creemos que ello es posible y la orientación que parece empieza a prevalecer en las autoridades del Programa va encaminada hacia ese fin.

La Argentina apoya este esfuerzo y queremos asegurar nuestro compromiso para cooperar con él.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Comme je dois m'absenter dès cet après-midi pour me rendre dans mon pays au deuxième Congrès du Parti, je m'excuse auprès de vous M. le Président et auprès des délégués car mon intervention sera un peu longue étant donné que je dois la faire sur deux documents très importants, le document CL 83/6 et le document CL 83/19.

Tout d'abord, nous tenons à associer notre voix à celle des délégués qui nous ont précédés pour féliciter M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour la remarquable présentation du Programme et du travail important du PAM.

Permettez-moi d'abord d'attaquer la question par le document CL 83/6. J'ai quelques problèmes avec ce document. J'ai d'abord remarqué que c'était un document du PAM pour la session du CPA d'avril auquel on avait mis une nouvelle couverture et je me suis posé la question: est-ce un document du Secrétariat du PAM ou le rapport du CPA lui-même? Ensuite, j'ai été quelque peu dérouté si vous me permettez cette expression, par le titre du document: il s'agit d'un rapport annuel et effectivement la première partie et l'annexe I donnent des informations sur ce qui s'est passé en 1982, mais au paragraphe 42 du même document on traite des objectifs des contributions pour 1985/86. Alors je ne comprends pas très bien le format de ce document et je me demande pourquoi on n'y parle pas aussi de ce qui se passe en 1983 et de ce qui est prévu pour 1984? Enfin, je me pose la question: qu'a dit la CPA sur les résultats obtenus en 1982 par le PAM et quel est maintenant le rôle du Conseil en examinant ce document?

Aussi j'appuie sans réserve toute proposition qui permettrait au Conseil de mieux connaître les problèmes dont le CPA a eu à débattre et les observations du Comité sur les réalisations du Programme.

Si vous le permettez, je passe maintenant au document CL 83/19. Ma délégation a lu avec grand intérêt le document en question qui nous est soumis. Elle voudrait appuyer sans réserve la proposition du Directeur général visant à associer la FAO, son Conseil et sa Conférence, à la commémoration du vingtième anniversaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO. Elle marque en particulier son accord sur les paragraphes 22 et 23 de notre document.

C'est avec un sentiment de fierté que j'ai pris connaissance, aux paragraphes 11 à 15, des performances remarquables du PAM au cours de ses vingt années d'existence. Engager six milliards de dollars d'assistance dans plus de 1 100 projets de développement dans 114 pays n'est assurément pas une mince entreprise. En utilisant avec efficacité l'aide alimentaire comme un investissement, comme un outil de développement sans décourager la production locale, le PAM a su habilement se conformer aux vœux et répondre aux espoirs de ses fondateurs et des Etats Membres de l'ONU et de la FAO.

Evidemment, la PAM n'a pas été créé dans un vacuum. Ce fut une entreprise conjointe de la FAO et des Nations Unies et il n'a cessé de recevoir de ces organisations, comme cela était prévu dans ses règles et procédures, tout l'appui et toutes les directives nécessaires.

Comme le document le mentionne d'ailleurs, il y a une complémentarité naturelle entre la FAO et le PAM puisque près des trois quarts des engagements du PAM sont consacrés à des projets de développement agricole et rural, priorité numéro un et responsabilité constitutionnelle de la FAO.

Nous apprécions que ces performances du PAM aient pu être réalisées avec des dépenses d'administration fort modestes, de l'ordre de six pour cent. Nous savons évidemment que ceci n'a été possible que parce que le PAM a toujours bénéficié de l'infrastructure de la FAO dans le domaine administratif et de sa capacité et de ses connaissances techniques dans la formulation des projets. Il est bon qu'il en soit ainsi.

D'ailleurs cette coopération ne peut que se renforcer encore si l'on veut mettre en pratique ce que le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire a souligné récemment, à savoir l'intégration toujours plus poussée de l'aide alimentaire dans les programmes et plans nationaux de développement. Pour mon pays c'est une chose très importante. Seule la FAO a la capacité technique nécessaire pour aider le PAM à réaliser un tel objectif.

En terminant, je voudrais féliciter le Directeur général de l'initiative qu'il a prise pour commémorer les vingt ans du PAM et l'assurer de toute la coopération de mon pays à cette occasion.

Nous appuyons son intention d'adresser un message, d'émettre des médailles commémoratives et d'organiser une exposition au moment de la Conférence. Nous marquons aussi notre accord pour que le Conseil et la Conférence fassent appel aux donateurs traditionnels et potentiels pour que les objectifs fixés au PAM soient atteints, tant pour les contributions ordinaires que pour la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence.

CHAIRMAN: I thank you, delegate from Cape Verde, for your intervention and wish you a safe journey home.

I would request the subsequent speakers not to refer to Item 8.2 just now because Mr. West will introduce it a little later, and I ask them to confine their remarks to Item 8.1.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panama): La delegación de Panamá desea felicitar al Sr. Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, tanto por la presentación del tema como por sus ejecutorias en el año y meses que lleva al frente del PMA.

Sobre la discusión del tema 8: Octavo Informe Anual del CPA al ECOSOC, al Consejo de la FAO y al Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, la delegación de Panamá desea expresar el reconocimiento de nuestro Gobierno por la eficacia y la efectividad del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/ FAO, que naciera hace veinte años como brazo para la ayuda alimentaria del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas con objeto de proporcionar alimentos, como recursos de capital, en apoyo de proyectos de desarrollo económico y social y en tiempos de situaciones de urgencia en países en desarrollo.

Interpretamos la ayuda alimentaria como una acción que debe estar efectiva e íntimamente vinculada a los programas de desarrollo para beneficiar directamente a los grupos mal nutridos y a otros grupos económicamente vulnerables de la población e, igualmente, como bien se señala en el párrafo 10 del Documento CL 83/6, si bien su labor se viene a concentrar primordialmente en esfuerzos que tienen que ver con el desarrollo, debe destacarse en su justa medida la labor del PMA en la atención a situaciones de urgencia.

El Gobierno de Panamá lo ha comprobado en distintas oportunidades y recientemente en la respuesta que estamos recibiendo del PMA en relación a serios problemas que ha tenido mi país por causas de una prolongada sequía que afectó fuertemente a importantes zonas agrícolas. A este propósito, agradece y aprecia la prontitud con la cual el Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha atendido nuestras necesidades.

Por otra parte destacamos como muy positivas las conclusiones que se desprenden del séptimo examen anual de las políticas y los programas de ayuda alimentaria al referirse al aumento relativamente rápido de la ayuda alimentaria destinada a proyectos, lo que viene a ser interpretado como esfuerzos conjuntos realizados tanto por los países donantes como por los beneficiarios para vincular la ayuda alimentaria a los planes y políticas nacionales de desarrollo de estos últimos.

Muy especialmente, con relación a las operaciones de urgencia, y conforme expresamos en nuestra declaración inicial a este Consejo de la FAO, deploramos el hecho de que el año 1982 el 69 por ciento del valor de la ayuda de urgencia se haya tenido que destinar a refugiados y personas desplazadas a consecuencia de las calamidades de origen humano, mientras que sólo un 20 por ciento benefició a damnificados por la sequía, y un 11 por ciento a los perjudicados por calamidades naturales repentinas. Ojalá encontremos muy pronto acuerdos que pongan fin a estas situaciones.

La delegación de Panamá felicita a todos los Estados Miembros donantes que conforme a la nota informativa preparada por el Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos han anunciado promesas ordinarias para el bienio 1983/84 que alcanzan la suma total de 951 millones de dólares americanos, esperando que el número de contribuyentes aumente.

Para terminar, Señor Presidente, solicitamos a este Consejo que adopte los objetivos de promesas procedentes de aportaciones voluntarias para los recursos ordinarios del Programa para el bienio 85/86, equivalente a 1 350 millones de dólares.

M. BENNIS (Maroc): C'est avec plaisir que la délégation du Maroc présente ses félicitations au Directeur exécutif du PAM, M. Ingram, pour son exposé clair et concis sur les activités et les objectifs du Programme alimentaire mondial, et pour les résultats qu'il a pu réaliser.

Nous voudrions féliciter également le secrétariat pour la qualité et la précision du document CL 83/6 qui comporte des indications très intéressantes et dont la lecture a été rendue très agréable, malgré la quantité de chiffres qui y figurent nécessairement et qui, dans d'autres cas, pourraient paraître rébarbatifs.

Le Maroc étant membre en titre du Comité des politiques et programmes, il a fait part, au niveau des travaux de ce Comité, de ses observations sur certains aspects particuliers des activités et perspectives du Programme alimentaire mondial. Aujourd'hui ma délégation entend limiter son intervention à des considérations d'ordre général.

En effet, ma délégation estime très sincèrement qu'à travers le bilan très positif des réalisations du PAM, et à la lumière des objectifs visés par cette politique, nous devons mieux prendre conscience du rôle de cette institution dont la place sur la scène internationale ne cesse de se rehausser. Ce succès et cette réussite, le PAM ne les doit pas seulement aux aides alimentaires d'urgence distribuées en faveur des pays en développement confrontés à des catastrophes de diverses natures, aides humanitaires dont les effets sont très efficaces mais qui demeurent souvent provisoires. Le mérite du PAM réside aussi et surtout dans ses actions ayant pour objectif de soutenir les projets de développement économique et social, dont les retombées sont peut-être moins spectaculaires dans l'immédiat, mais certainement plus profondes, plus durables et plus rentables dans le sens économique du terme, en raison des effets induits et multiplicateurs qu'elles engendrent dans l'Organisation générale de la production et du développement.

Ma délégation souhaite que cette orientation soit maintenue dans la politique d'intervention du PAM, et il lui est agréable de remarquer que celui-ci est devenu désormais l'un des principaux programmes de financement du système des Nations Unies.

Mais le bilan largement positif du PAM que nous constatons aujourd'hui n'a pu être rendu possible que grâce aux contributions substantielles des pays donateurs d'une part, et grâce d'autre part au dévouement du personnel du PAM et de celui de la FAO en général qui l'assiste, car ce sont là les moyens et les instruments de travail.

S'agissant des contributions, notre satisfaction ne peut que se manifester largement devant la progression qui s'est réalisée depuis les trois premières années expérimentales 1963-1965, jusqu'à la période biennale en cours 1983-1984. En remerciant les pays donateurs pour les efforts déjà accomplis en matière de contributions, nous les exhortons à maintenir, ou plutôt à développer leur bienveillance à l'égard du PAM, afin que celui-ci puisse satisfaire les demandes de plus en plus nombreuses et pressantes des pays en développement, dont la situation risque de se détériorer davantage, notamment en cette période de crise économique mondiale.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le personnel, et à sa tête le Directeur exécutif M. Ingram, la délégation du Maroc voudrait lui faire part de son admiration et lui rendre un hommage particulier pour sa haute compétence, ses efforts inlassables, son audace devant les risques encourus, et son dévouement total à la noble cause entreprise.

En définitive, ma délégation se réjouit des résultats auxquels le PAM est parvenu, et c'est pourquoi elle estime que le Conseil se doit d'encourager cet organisme, afin qu'il puisse atteindre les objectifs qu'il s'est assumés- Le Conseil se doit également de renouveler sa confiance à cette institution qui, vingt années durant, a fait preuve de maturité et d'efficacité incontestables.

A. H. EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): The Egyptian delegation would like to congratulate Mr. Ingram, The Executive Director of the WFP, for his most interesting introduction, and we would like to give our full support to the WFP in its efforts to help low income level developing countries particularly in the African continent. We hope that this level of assistance can continue in the future.

We would also like to support the present level of commitments for the 1983/84 period as well as the commitments which have been made for emergency operations.

We would also like to support the target endorsed by the CFA of \$1,350 million for the next biennium. We have studied the report of the Executive Director on the triangular operations; we endorse them and wish their recurrence in some developing countries as they constitute a facet of technical cooperation among developing countries.

The Egyptian delegation would also request that the donor countries continue to increase their pledges so that the one-third figure for cash or services can be reached which is so necessary for the effective activities of the WFP.

My country is particularly concerned with the question of training of staff so that they can better implement their activities in their assistance to programmes and projects. We also hope that food aid can be integrated in the training programmes at the national level, as is the case with the project of the rehabilitation of the Suez Canal zone.

The Egyptian delegation would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the WFP on its twentieth anniversary, and we would like to express our sincere thanks to the WFP for the assistance it has given to our country since its creation, which was instrumental in Egypt's economic and social development.

Finally, The Egyptian delegation would like to congratulate the Executive Director for the efforts that he has been making since his appointment and since he has taken office, and we hope that he will continue to be successful in the future.

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): May I congratulate the Executive Director of WFP for his very excellent presentation of the report.

The World Food Programme, besides its own emergency relief operations, has also proved invaluable as an instrument of agricultural and rural development with its blend of welfare for the disadvantaged in the process.

It has been proved that in this kind of development-oriented welfare operation, the fear at times expressed that food aid might discourage national food production goals in developing economies, either through its effects on the supply market or by creating a sense of dependence...(at this point the interpreters requested the speaker to speak more slowly). It has been proved that in this kind of development-oriented welfare operation the fear at times expressed that food aid might discourage national food production goals in developing economies, either through its effect on the supply market or by creating a sense of dependence, is quite unfounded. Our own experience has been that the WFP Programme is possibly the best available means at the moment of implementing at the local level many projects which can provide a quick return to investment, at the same time providing food to disadvantaged groups in the rural communities. Implementation of such mini-projects in conjunction with major projects is essential not only for a balanced overall development but also quite frequently to complement the major projects without which optimum return to major investments cannot accrue. Our experience also has been that with resource constraints in a developing economy, undertakings of these essential mini-projects in a more conventional manner is quite difficult both resource-wise and management-wise. WFP assistance in our Food for Work Programme has thus been of utmost importance in meeting this gap area. Moreover, frequently many projects have to be conceived and implemented at short notice to meet emergencies in areas where the vagaries of nature precipitate acute distress. Such operations would have been difficult to undertake without WFP assistance: for instance, in our northern districts it was possible, during last season's drought, to have more than a hundred thousand dug-wells excavated not only saving a considerable crop acreage, but also providing food to thousands who would otherwise have starved, since the drought also stopped other avenues of employment.

Except for situations requiring emergency relief in most of the low-income food-deficit countries, the vulnerable groups are generally dispersed, except in a few pockets of concentration. The in-depth studies and evaluations under way to assess the impact of WFP supplementary feeding projects are very welcome, necessary steps. However, our experience has been that the same objectives can be met which also need to be met through an integration of the same with development project implementation. The WFP has not been working in isolation and the complementarity of FAO, WFP and other UN organizations has been most valuable in our agricultural and rural development programmes. In the context of our national development strategy, we feel it essential that the WFP continues to provide its most vital support. We also fully endorse the target of \$1 350 million on which consensus was reached.

In conclusion, my delegation congratulates the WFP on its 20th Anniversary and the highly efficient manner in which it has been conducting its various programmes at the country level. May I also congratulate the Executive Director of the WFP.

LI CHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): My intervention will be very brief. Please allow me, Mr. Chairman, to begin with to make a few points on the 8th Annual Report submitted by WFP. Twenty years have passed since the UN/FAO World Food Programme started its operations. According to the information provided in the report and our own observations over the past few years, WFP has adhered to the objectives set forth at its inception in carrying out its activities. We should say that WFP has achieved fruitful results in its work. The food assistance of WFP has benefited 170 million people through development projects and emergency operations. Another 100 million people have been beneficiaries of relief assistance. Furthermore, the experience of our cooperation with WFP has proved that food assistance and food for work projects have helped recipient countries increase their local food production by enhancing water conservancy works, agricultural infrastructure and soil improvement, thus strengthening their self-reliance capacity. We therefore fully appreciate the work done by WFP in twenty years and will continue to lend our support to the Programme in its future endeavours.

Though WFP's food aid commitments have increased, they still fall short of the requirements by the developing countries. On the other hand, the volume of food imports in many developing countries has been increasing in the last decade. This state of affairs cannot but cause us concern. That is why we hope that WFP will take the above mentioned situation into consideration when programming the future target for food assistance and will play an even better part in promoting the social and economic development of the developing countries, with a view to realising the goal set forth by the International Development Strategy of the Third Development Decade of the United Nations.

At the same time we hope that all countries, especially donor countries, will render active support to the operation of WFP in a common effort to fulfil or over-fulfil the pledging target of \$1 350 million approved by the 15th session of the CFA for the period 1985/86. We on our part will make our best possible contribution in this regard within our financial capabilities.

Before concluding my remarks, I wish to express our pleasure in seeing Mr. Ingram with us today as well as our appreciation for his comprehensive statement made prior to our debate.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): The Thai delegation has studied document CL 83/6 with interest. The document will be submitted as the eighth annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to the Economic and Social Council, and also the FAO Council and the World Food Council. The Thai delegation fully endorses the report and wishes to congratulate the World Food Programme on its successful operations over the past twenty years. It is an undeniable fact that the Programme now becomes one of the major funding programmes of the United Nations system.

The year 1982 has seen a significant expansion in the activities and resources of the Programme. The recorded amount of two million tons of food aid was shipped and the highest amount ever, or \$993 million was pledged by the end of 1982.

Although consensus could not be reached on the proposed pledging target of \$1.5 billion for the Programme's regular resources for the biennium 1985/86, the new pledging target of \$1.35 billion is considered a fair compromise by all sides, and the donor countries in particular should be applauded for their efforts to help this new target to reach consensus. We hope that by pledging time the target will be fulfilled.

My delegation supports the emphasis and priority given by WFP to agriculture and development and production, particularly to low-income food-deficit countries, but at the same time the Programme should not lose sight of the importance of the Programme's emergency operations. My delegation is grateful to the WFP for its past operations and hopes that the Programme will follow in the same direction. The Thai delegation also supports the practice of triangular transactions, since this practice not only helps the developing countries themselves but also helps reduce cost of transport and speed up food delivery to the needy.

From the Executive Director's statement we learn that the WFP's total commitment over the past twenty years was \$5.3 billion, to 144 countries. It would be useful if the Secretariat could prepare a fact sheet containing the level of World Food Programme assistance to each recipient country. This would not require much expense or work. The sheet could be either in the form of a table or a summary of a few lines, as seen in the project for CFA approval during the 15th session this year.

Finally, my delegation would urge that the Council adopt the draft resolution on the target for WFP pledges for the period 1985/86 as it appears in Annex II of the document.

A. NTEZILYAYO (Rwanda): Je vous remercie de m'accorder la parole à ce stade des débats. Ma délégation aimerait profiter de cette occasion que vous m'offrez pour souligner l'importance que revêtent pour nous les activités du PAM menées sur le terrain, qu'il s'agisse des projets de développement rural, de l'aide aux groupes vulnérables comme les réfugiés, les enfants en bas âge, les mères allaitantes. Si chez nous certains programmes donnent satisfaction dans une certaine mesure, quelques points d'inquiétude subsistent.

En considération de cette situation que nous vivons sur le terrain, j'estime, comme d'autres délégués l'ont exprimé avant moi, que le rapport présenté aurait pu nous éclairer davantage en ce qui concerne les activités réelles du PAM sur le terrain, leur impact quant à l'amélioration des conditions alimentaires des populations, l'augmentation de la production, les problèmes connexes à l'adoption d'habitudes alimentaires souvent étrangères au milieu traditionnel, en quelque sorte un aperçu des succès et des échecs rencontrés par le PAM sur le terrain, et cela dans un contexte général de la situation alimentaire mondiale. Je pense que les problèmes que je cite et bien d'autres ont pu trouver des solutions mais je me demande si ce Conseil n'aurait pas pu être l'occasion de les évoquer.

Je voudrais donc me joindre à mes collègues qui ont demandé que ce rapport du CPA soit présenté de façon à faciliter les discussions du Conseil, en insistant sur les difficultés réelles rencontrées sur le terrain. Je pense également que cette présentation nous aurait permis de mieux appréhender la politique de l'aide alimentaire dont le débat est loin d'être terminé.

Nonobstant ces quelques considérations de forme, nous voudrions encore une fois exprimer notre soutien et notre satisfaction pour les activités menées par le PAM dans le monde, et spécialement dans les pays à déficit alimentaire.

A l'occasion du vingtième anniversaire du PAM, nous félicitons toute l'équipe de M. Ingram pour sa réelle contribution au développement.

W. HERMKES (Germany, Federal Republic of): First of all my delegation thanks and congratulates the Executive Director for his comprehensive and clear introductory statement complemented by the information note distributed in which an overview of latest developments has been given.

As far as the Eighth Annual Report of the CFA of the World Food Programme is concerned, my delegation welcomes this report. It is in our opinion an impressive document, which does not only describe the activities of the World Food Programme in 1982 and the measures taken during that year, but gives also a survey of the activities of the WFP during the 20 years of its existence. During these years the WFP has fulfilled, from our point of view, a really humanitarian task, which cannot adequately be expressed and appreciated in terms of figures alone about the extent of the measures implemented, figures, impressive figures which have already been mentioned by other delegations and which therefore I should not repeat.

In its operations WFP has not disregarded the related development aspects. In the last few years it has given increasing attention to these operations so that it has project/programme related food aid and also through large triangular transactions with non-food-aid food-deficit countries which was particularly welcomed and appreciated by many CFA members, also by our delegation.

During the discussion about the annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme it was pointed out by several donors that not only the volume of the grain granted by the WFP is important but also its policy and its development policy effects. I should like to emphasize this aspect again before this audience.

From our point of view WFP has not only done useful but also good and successful work and we also wish it further success in the future in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. As regards my Government's longstanding fruitful cooperation with the WFP I can happily state that it will, as in the past, support also in the future the work of the World Food Programme to the very best of its possibilities.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Antes que nada queremos felicitar al Programa Mundial de Alimentos ampliamente por los logros obtenidos para ayudar a la humanidad en sus 20 años de vida. También felicitamos al Sr. Ingram por su clara presentación al tema que recoge en buena medida las deliberaciones del último período de sesiones del CPA, y al equipo de colaboradores que han hecho posible que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos logre los objetivos generales que se ha propuesto. Como lo hicimos en la reunión del 15° período de sesiones del CPA, apoyamos los esfuerzos del Programa Mundial de Alimentos para alcanzar la meta que se había propuesto de 1 500 millones de dólares para el próximo bienio.

También aprobamos que, después de las largas y complejas sesiones del grupo de contacto, se hubiera negociado una cantidad menor de 1 350 millones de dólares, que representa, en nuestro concepto, un incremento modesto sobre el programa en curso que permitirá atender escasamente las necesidades más amplias del programa.

Esperamos que realmente se logre cubrir esta cantidad que consideramos solamente como indicativa. Quisiéramos apoyar por otra parte los comentarios de la delegación de la India en el sentido de actualizar el reporte que se nos presenta.

También pienso que el distinguido delegado de Rwanda habló sobre el particular. La mayor parte de la información que estamos viendo en este documento es prácticamente historia antigua, y sería conveniente una actualización, por tanto, que le permitiera al Consejo operar con datos más recientes. Como insistimos en la reunión del Comité del CPA, es fundamental que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos mantenga su trabajo en la amplia esfera del multilateralismo, limitando las actividades que tienden a favorecer, propiciar o canalizar las donaciones bilaterales.

En la medida en que el multilateralismo sea el rector de la política del PMA se podría evitar que los alimentos se utilicen como instrumento de presión política y aquí debemos de tomar el ejemplo del programa de Vietnam mencionado por el Sr. Ingram, experiencia que esperamos se repita sin los tropiezos y demoras que tuvo ésta.

También debemos evitar que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos se convierta en una agencia comercializadora de excedentes de cereales de países desarrollados.

En relación al pragmatismo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos estamos de acuerdo, siempre y cuando éste no sea determinante en la concepción global de programa, en que éste debe ser pragmático en la acción pero debemos tener cuidado en no mezclar el pragmatismo en la planeación y en los objetivos del Programa.

El Programa Mundial de Alimentos tiene que plantearse objetivos claros y precisos, planes y programas para alcanzar lo adecuado a las necesidades que plantean las naciones, y un sistema de evaluación que permita corregir el camino cuando éste sea erróneo. Aquí, el concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria adoptado por el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, que fue ratificado por el mismo CPA, debe normar las actividades futuras del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

En nuestro concepto, debe preservarse el sistema actual de otorgamiento de ayuda alimentaria de urgencia que consideramos un sistema ágil, flexible y expedito. Burocratizar la selección de los países al derecho de dicha ayuda podría desvirtuar el Programa en su totalidad por dejar de enfrentar a la brevedad las situaciones de emergencia que surgen en el mundo. Reiteramos que el Director General de la FAO y el Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos son instancias suficientes para decidir los casos en que la ayuda es procedente, necesaria y urgente. Por otra parte, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos debe enfatizar proyectos que favorezcan la autonomía de la ayuda alimentaria en el mediano y largo plazo, por tanto, deben priorizar proyectos que impliquen modificaciones sustanciales a la estructura productiva. En particular, nuestra delegación apoyó el sistema de alimento por trabajo que crea fuentes de trabajo duraderas y estables.

Finalmente, nos preocupa conocer los resultados de la promoción para utilizar, en mayor medida, los productos pesqueros en las actividades del Programa como se menciona en el párrafo 9 del documento CL 83/6. Asimismo queremos insistir en el apoyo que puede prestar el Programa Mundial de Alimentos a la realización de proyectos integrados de desarrollo pesquero.

Asimismo, quisiéramos conocer las razones por las que América Latina ha disminuido su participación del 17,5 por ciento en 1980 al 5 por ciento en 1982 en el volumen de la ayuda prestada. Creemos que ante los problemas de la región esta tendencia debe revertirse.

Mrs. M. RAVN (Norway): Again I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries. I would first like to thank the Executive Director, Mr. Ingram, for his comprehensive introduction to our discussions.

The Nordic countries have studied the annual report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes with great interest and we would like to compliment the World Food Programme for the excellent work it is carrying out. It is no small feat for an organization which was established on an experimental basis twenty years ago to have developed into one of the major funding programmes of the UN system and based on voluntary contributions. The Nordic countries have consistently supported the WFP since its inception and we will continue to do so in the years ahead.

From the report we learn that the year 1982 was marked by a significant expansion in the activities and resources of the Programme and that record levels of commitment were attained both for development projects and emergency operations. We have noted with satisfaction that the Programme's assistance more and more focuses on the poorest people in the most needy countries and that over 80 percent of WFP commitments in 1982 was for development projects in the low-income food deficit countries. The proportion of resources going to the LDCs has also increased. In order to carry out this policy the Programme's administrative resources would necessarily need to be strengthened.

Also in 1982 a considerable proportion of the Programme's own resources was utilized in emergency operations which have now reached an unprecedented number. Discussions on the Programme's emergency operations are being pursued in the CFA and the Nordic countries will continue to take an active part in these discussions.

With regard to resources for emergency operations, we would like to emphasize the importance of the joint pledging conferences giving the opportunity for pledging both to the regular resources and to the International Emergency Food Reserve. The first joint pledging conference in March 1982 was successful in our opinion. We hope that this common pledging will give even better results in the future, leading to an improvement in the level, predictability and continuity of IEFER resources. This would enable the Programme to improve its response to requests for emergency assistance.

This brings me to the question of future regular resources to the Programme. The Nordic countries are pleased to join in the consensus on the new pledging target of \$1.35 billion for the biennium 1985/86 approved by the last meeting of the CFA. We would like however to underline that this target can only be reached if new donors join it. In periods of scarce resources it is important that these be utilized as effectively as possible. The Nordic countries are of the opinion that it would lead to a better utilization if food aid were channelled to a greater extent through the WFP. In our view it would also be important if increased quantities of grains under the Food Aid Convention could be placed at the disposal of the WFP. In order to assure maximum flexibility for the World Food Programme in utilizing its regular resources the Nordic countries would underline the importance that all donors comply with the Programme's general regulations, stipulating that donors should aim to contribute a cash and service component of at least one-third of the total contribution.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate the World Food Programme on its first twenty years of operation and to express our satisfaction with the work carried out by the Executive Director and his hard-working staff. They may be assured of the continued support of all the Nordic countries.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation de la République populaire du Congo souhaite s'associer aux félicitations que nombre de délégations ont adressées au Secrétariat du PAM et à M. Ingram, son Directeur exécutif, pour l'excellent rapport soumis à notre Conseil. Nous apprécions tout particulièrement les progrès réalisés par le Programme en vingt ans d'existence. Il est encourageant de relever que le petit programme expérimental d'il y a vingt ans soit devenu l'un des principaux programmes de financement du système des Nations Unies, puisque les promesses de contributions volontaires de 84,5 millions de dollars fournies durant les trois années expérimentales 1963/65 sont passées à 993 millions de dollars engagés dès la fin de 1982 pour la période 1983/84; 5,3 milliards de dollars, plus de 1 100 projets de développement destinés à 114 pays pauvres sont des chiffres qui se passent de tout commentaire et qui illustrent à suffisance la vitalité et l'intérêt que ce Programme a suscités et doit continuer de susciter dans tous les pays. Abordant les faits saillants de 1982, ma délégation se félicite de l'expansion continue des activités et des ressources du Programme qui a pu organiser des expéditions pour près de deux millions de tonnes de produits alimentaires, soit une augmentation jamais enregistrée de près de 35 pour cent sur l'année 1981. Nous nous félicitons de ce que l'assistance du Programme ait été axée particulièrement sur les populations les plus défavorisées des pays les plus nécessiteux, puisque plus de 80 pour cent des engagements du PAM en 1982 ont été consacrés à des projets de développement agricole et rural. C'est dire que le PAM ne s'est pas écarté de sa principale orientation à laquelle ma délégation reste attachée.

Tout en étant sensibles aux efforts faits par les pays donateurs pour accroître leurs contributions au PAM, beaucoup reste à faire pour atteindre les objectifs du Programme, nous encourageons l'initiative de certains pays donateurs qui se sont efforcés d'annoncer à l'avance leurs contributions à la RAIU et invitons les autres à suivre cet exemple.

Pour ce qui concerne l'examen des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, ma délégation s'inquiète de ce que l'aide alimentaire continue à demeurer en-deçà de l'objectif minimum de 10 millions de tonnes fixé par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation en 1974. Il est nécessaire et primordial que l'aide alimentaire multilatérale continue à croître au profit de l'aide bilatérale, ceci pour garantir l'indépendance des pays assistés, outre le fait qu'on devrait travailler à ce que l'aide alimentaire ne soit jamais utilisée comme instrument de pression politique. A cet égard, nous nous félicitons des résultats que le Directeur exécutif a obtenus en faisant approuver le dernier projet vietnamien après que le premier a connu des difficultés qui ne cadrent guère avec les principes ci-dessus énoncés. Notre Conseil devrait appuyer le CPA lorsqu'il encourage les transactions triangulaires puisque, de toute évidence, elles contribuent à soutenir la production locale et permettent au Programme de faire des économies de frais de transport.

Nous sommes d'avis que l'aide alimentaire doit avoir un caractère temporaire et viser à élever la production vivrière des pays bénéficiaires jusqu'à ce qu'ils soient parvenus à l'autosuffisance. C'est pourquoi l'aide alimentaire devra s'inscrire dans les plans ou stratégies nationaux de développement.

Ma délégation, comme il est dit au paragraphe 9, note que les produits de la pêche sont insuffisamment utilisés dans les livraisons de vivres du PAM et souhaite que cette tendance soit inversée. Elle appuie l'idée que le PAM devra promouvoir les projets pêche dans les pays à déficit alimentaire et s'efforcer d'utiliser ces produits dans les transactions triangulaires.

Les opérations d'urgence qu'entreprend le PAM à travers le monde en développement constituent une activité dont l'importance est perçue chaque jour davantage. Il importe donc que le Programme les mène avec tout le sérieux et toute la rigueur nécessaires pour qu'elles servent véritablement les populations éprouvées. Ici plus qu'ailleurs, la rapidité d'intervention doit aller de pair avec l'efficacité d'organisation. C'est pourquoi ma délégation pense que l'étoffement des effectifs de terrain du Programme doit être conjugué à des efforts de formation appropriés.

Nous sommes partisans du maintien des critères actuels en ce qui concerne les conditions à remplir par les pays pour pouvoir bénéficier d'une aide d'urgence du PAM, car ils sont souples et adaptés.

Pour ce qui concerne le vingtième anniversaire, la délégation de mon pays souscrit aux principales activités prévues pour commémorer cet important anniversaire. Nous espérons que ces activités contribueront à mobiliser les opinions publiques des pays membres et à sensibiliser sur le rôle du PAM à travers les pays en développement. Mais nous pensons également que cet anniversaire constitue une excellente occasion de réflexion sur les questions d'aide alimentaire, et, à cet égard, l'idée de réunir un séminaire rencontre tout notre soutien. Nous soutenons l'accent mis par le PAM sur les projets de développement, notamment ceux qui contribuent à accroître la production vivrière et, par conséquent, aident à se passer de l'aide alimentaire. Même nous marquons notre appui à la priorité accordée aux pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire et singulièrement au PAM dans la répartition des ressources. La répartition régionale des engagements requiert l'assentiment de ma délégation puisque le PAM affecte une forte proportion de ses ressources au développement de l'Afrique, au sud du Sahara, rudement affectée par diverses calamités et qui constitue le principal théâtre des pénuries alimentaires. Nous espérons d'ailleurs que cette priorité se maintiendra jusqu'à ce que cette situation s'améliore irréversiblement.

Ma délégation est inquiète de l'accroissement des situations d'urgence et est consciente que certaines d'entre elles peuvent être évitées. C'est pour cette raison que nous pensons que le PAM ne doit rien négliger pour apporter de plus en plus de ressources aux projets qui continuent à atténuer les souffrances des populations en proie à la sécheresse et aux mauvaises récoltes chroniques qui affectent certaines régions. Le rôle du PAM, dans la coordination des opérations d'urgence de grande envergure, fait désormais autorité et nous ne pouvons que nous en féliciter.

Face à une situation alimentaire qui connaît une dégradation dans certaines régions, nous voudrions exprimer nos préoccupations au sujet des objectifs de contribution qui ne sont pas atteints puisque seulement 84 pour cent de l'objectif de un milliard ont été atteints pour la période 1981/82. Cette inquiétude hélas ne sera guère estompée pour la période 1983/84 malgré les espoirs qu'avait suscités la réussite de la Conférence des contributions qui s'est tenue à New York le 2 mars 1982. Au contraire, on note même une diminution des donateurs qui passent de 99 en 1980/82 à 65 en 1983/84. Cette situation sans être alarmante doit forcément susciter des réactions de notre Conseil. Il conviendrait, en effet, qu'un appel soit lancé par cette instance en direction de tous les pays donateurs actuels ou potentiels pour qu'ils accroissent et apportent respectivement les ressources dont le PAM a besoin pour remplir, correctement sa mission. Cette situation est d'autant plus préoccupante que l'objectif de un milliard et demi proposé par le PAM n'a pu être retenu en raison de l'opposition farouche de certains gouvernements qui, tout en acceptant l'analyse de la situation préoccupante de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, rejettent les solutions proposées pour atténuer les souffrances des peuples qui ont faim.

Néanmoins, ma délégation souhaite apporter son appui à l'objectif de contributions de un milliard 350 millions, fruit d'un compromis obtenu au terme de longs et laborieux efforts déployés par le Président du CPA avec le Groupe de contact au sein duquel nous avons nous-mêmes sièges. Tout en regrettant que l'objectif de 1,5 milliard n'ait pas été reconnu, nous sommes certains que le PAM pourra aller de l'avant si tous les donateurs traditionnels et potentiels manifestent la même volonté d'atteindre ce modeste objectif. C'est pourquoi ma délégation n'a pas de peine à appuyer le projet de résolution annexé au document CL 83/6 avec l'espoir que le Directeur exécutif du PAM mettra à profit ses qualités de bon gestionnaire dont il a fait preuve jusqu'ici pour réaliser les résultats auxquels il nous a habitués.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): First, could I place on record my delegation's appreciation of the comprehensive introduction to this item given by Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director. New Zealand has always been a firm supporter of the World Food Programme since its inception in 1963. The Programme has achieved a great deal over these twenty years, and New Zealand has contributed in a very modest way to this achievement. We would like to express in brief terms our sense of satisfaction with the report which is before us. The Programme has clearly operated well in 1982 and has, we feel, achieved a great deal. My delegation notes the increase in the Programme's operations to cover shipments of nearly 2 million tons of grain and it is particularly pleasing to see that record levels of commitments were achieved last year, both for development projects and also for emergency operations. In this respect, the New Zealand delegation would like to mention the appreciation of countries in the South-West Pacific region of the quick action programme mounted in 1982 by the World Food Programme in Tonga following a devastating hurricane in that country. We are nevertheless fully in accord with the World Food Programme's general thrust to assist low-income food-deficit countries, particularly in Africa.

The New Zealand delegation is appreciative of the international support the World Food Programme receives. The World Food Programme receives close to a billion dollars in voluntary pledges to its regular resources for the biennium 1983-84, and this, I think it should be noted, is at a time of general economic international restraint. At this point it is appropriate to note New Zealand's general support for the figure of \$1.350 millions that has been targeted for the next biennium. This target was, we feel, a satisfactory compromise worked out at the last CFA. My delegation looks forward to receiving the review of the administration of the Programme which was promised by the Executive Director last year. We all require the Programme to be administered with an eye to efficiency and economy, but of course it should not be forgotten that as the resource base of the Programme expands, it does become important that an appropriate balance between these two factors is maintained, in other words, that efficiency does not suffer purely at the hands of economy.

Mr. Ingram also highlighted this morning in his statement the balance the World Food Programme needs to strike between what he described as fully integrated complex projects and the single purpose on the grounds of effective use of the complex and wide range of resources often involved. In this regard, we are pleased to note and commend the pragmatic approach the World Food Programme continues to adopt to the leadership, coordination and implementation of its complex activities, with the prime objective being the most effective use of resources. We note the examples quoted by Mr. Ingram of complex projects being carried out successfully under this approach.

The New Zealand delegation would also like to take this opportunity to endorse the work being carried out by the non-food unit. This unit is becoming increasingly important as an integrated part of the development impact being made by the World Food Programme. The resources contributed to non-food items in 1982 have enabled significant approaches to be made, especially bearing in mind that these funds go primarily towards small but necessary items to complement general World Food Programme-assisted projects.

Finally, my delegation would like to record New Zealand's appreciation for the excellent work the Executive Director, Mr. Ingram, and his staff continue to carry out in the administration of the very wide range of activities which make up the World Food Programme.

W.E. ADERO (Kenya): We shall begin by expressing our Government's support to the World Food Programme and express our thanks to Member Governments of the United Nations and especially donors for their efforts and determination to ensure the success of the Programme over the last twenty years. It is indeed our wish that this human spirit will continue and will increase in response to the evidently growing needs of developing countries.

We are also grateful to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programme for their work which is here before us for discussion. This was excellent work, which my delegation approves.

During discussion on the report of the Committee on World Food Security, and more specifically on the Director-General's paper on Concepts and Approaches to World Food Security, my delegation made some comments on food aid policies and programmes. These comments referred to among others the need for integration of food aid and nutrition aspects in national development strategies and triangular arrangements as one of the means to stimulate national and regional food production and also trade in the true spirit of economic cooperation among developing countries. We shall not elaborate on them as we already did this at that time.

Regarding the target for the biennium 1985-86, my delegation would have liked it to be at the level of US \$ 1.5 billion, as originally proposed by the Executive Director. However, since CFA had reached consensus on US \$ 1.35 billion, we endorse it and urge that all countries, especially the most able ones, ensure that this target is reached or even exceeded so that the World Food Programme continues to meet food aid and emergency needs of developing countries.

The World Food Programme is already twenty years old, and the report before us reviews some of its successes. My delegation, however, feels it is relevant to ask ourselves at this juncture whether there shall be no need for food aid in the next twenty years to come. Shall developing countries now receiving food aid under this Programme have eliminated the need for food aid? Of course, there may be need for emergency assistance. The food aid must be used to eliminate the need for food aid, as was mentioned by India, and that is by increasing food production. The Programme must therefore intensify increased food production in food-deficit countries being assisted.

Sra. D. SANCHEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia considera que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos es un válido instrumento para el desarrollo. Al llegar a los 20 años de existencia el PMA ha logrado notables avances que es necesario fortalecer y considerar.

Lamentamos mucho que, no obstante el PMA goce de general buena reputación y prestigio en la Comunidad Internacional, en ninguno de los períodos últimos se haya cumplido el alcance de las metas recomendadas; ese es otro caso irónico dentro de la falta de sinceridad en la cooperación internacional. Por ello la delegación de Colombia piensa que este Consejo debe hacer un llamado a todos los donantes para que ofrezcan o aumenten sus contribuciones a fin de que se obtenga el objetivo para el bienio en curso.

Asimismo, la delegación de Colombia apoya la meta de 1 350 millones de dólares que ha sido recomendada por el CPA. Lástima que la propuesta del Director Ejecutivo, apoyada por el Secretario General de Naciones Unidas y el Director General de la FAO, que era de 1 500 millones de dólares para 1985/86, no se haya adoptado, aunque en verdad dadas las experiencias negativas anteriores a que nos hemos referido, a lo mejor más bien debe interesarnos ahora que si bien a nivel inferior ese objetivo es de 1 350 millones por lo menos pueda alcanzarse.

Esa cifra, ya disminuida, es la base de un consenso logrado en el CPA, y la delegación de Colombia la apoya como un verdadero mínimo.

Las operaciones de urgencia del PMA han seguido adquiriendo importancia creciente. Todas las propuestas y medidas dirigidas a reforzar esas actividades deben adelantarse en pleno acuerdo absolutamente en cooperación con la FAO por la función esencial que el Director General de la FAO viene cumpliendo en la aprobación de las operaciones de urgencia por la experiencia que tiene nuestra Organización en ese campo y por los buenos resultados logrados hasta ahora.

Paradójicamente, en los organismos internacionales suelen cambiarse aquellas cosas que funcionan bien; ojalá que no sea así en relación con el papel de la FAO en las operaciones de urgencia; hay que preservar la permanente, seria y positiva acción de la FAO en acuerdo con el PMA.

La delegación de Colombia opina que los recursos del PMA deben seguir siendo distribuidos particularmente en favor de los países menos adelantados y con bajos ingresos y déficits de alimentos, sobre todo africanos. Después de ello, con cierta flexibilidad, los recursos restantes podrían otorgarse a aquellos países que se interesen por la elaboración de proyectos que generen empleo, agroindustrias, o toda actividad que contribuya al aumento de la producción.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que el sólido prestigio logrado por el PMA en sus 20 años de existencia ha sido fundado esencialmente en el equilibrio político con que ha sido manejado el Programa. Ojalá que en el último año no se hayan alterado la objetividad, la imparcialidad y el respeto por los representantes de nuestros gobiernos. Consideramos que la Secretaría del PMA debe respetar y seguir las orientaciones de quienes representamos a nuestros gobiernos; las actividades del PMA deben adelantarse en forma objetiva y seria con la adecuada participación de los representantes de todos los países y regiones, sin discriminación.

Finalmente, de acuerdo a la brevedad que se nos ha sugerido por el señor Presidente, la delegación de Colombia apoya las declaraciones, entre otros, de India, México, Rwanda, y el Congo, el gentil vecino de la derecha.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos felicitar al señor Ingram por su objetiva y clara exposición del tema en esta mañana.

La delegación Cubana siempre ha apoyado la magnífica labor que ha desplegado el PMA desde su creación. De este Programa mi país es beneficiario y también paradójicamente contribuye al mismo de manera constante, independientemente de la difícil situación de los precios de nuestro azúcar, que es el

principal rubro de exportación y con el cual contribuimos al Programa con 5 000 toneladas cada dos años. Hemos contribuido en igual medida lo mismo en época de bonanza que en época de bajos precios, como las actuales, sencillamente porque la vocación de Cuba es de que los principios de universalidad, de colaboración y de solidaridad hay que mantenerlos con hechos.

Siempre hemos elogiado el carácter universal que tiene este Programa, así como la dirección de sus proyectos hacia la acción en pro del desarrollo.

Estamos de acuerdo en felicitar, al igual que muchos de los colegas que lo han hecho hoy por la mañana en esta sala, al PMA porque creemos que ha desarrollado en sus 20 años una extraordinaria labor en apoyo de los países del Tercer Mundo; y también creemos que la clave del éxito obtenido en 20 años ha sido los mecanismos y relaciones de trabajo junto a la FAO, los que no deben alterarse, llamo la atención sobre esto, en momentos en que la situación internacional demanda que organismos de las Naciones Unidas que deben laborar en un mismo contexto puedan defenderse de los ataques al multilateralismo, que es la esencia de la ayuda al Tercer Mundo para que puedan realmente desarrollarse sin dependencia económica.

Creo que la existencia misma de los objetivos del PMA lo ligan a la cooperación más firme y reforzada con la FAO.

En el documento que analizamos se nos han indicado algunas acciones que fueron tomadas por el Programa en 1982, donde llama nuestra atención el incremento de la ayuda al desarrollo de los países menos adelantados.

También es digno de elogio el hecho de que alrededor del 40 por ciento de esa ayuda proveniente de los recursos del PMA pase al desarrollo y se destine a los países africanos, al Sur del Sahara. Este ha sido un apoyo de nuestro país y lo mantenemos.

Señor Presidente, hay otras cuestiones que en aras del tiempo debemos de ir matizando algunas, porque de todo este Programa podríamos hablar encomiásticamente mucho, pero queremos tocar algún punto vulnerable; la operación de urgencia se nos presenta notablemente incrementada en esto últimos años; esta es una preocupación de nuestro país, porque somos muy conscientes de que en estos momentos se han conjugado fatalmente en forma negativa factores climáticos con la mano del hombre, las dos cuestiones son lamentables y con las dos tenemos que enfrentarnos en función de la solidaridad internacional; y en este sentido creemos que el trabajo realizado hasta estos momentos, en cuanto a los mecanismos de la determinación de urgencia, debe mantenerse en estas condiciones en que se ha venido ejecutando desde hace años y que han demostrado su eficiencia y rapidez, y además han sido calificadas de buen mecanismo.

Consideramos que las políticas y criterios en general al otorgamiento de la ayuda, como se desprende de los documentos que se nos presentan, son adecuados y cuentan con nuestro apoyo.

Las actividades llevadas a cabo en estos 20 años justifican más que suficientemente la existencia del Programa y justifican nuestra felicitación al señor Ingram y a su equipo para que sigan con la dedicación de hasta ahora apoyando al Tercer Mundo que necesita de este Programa.

Seguimos compartiendo el criterio de que la ayuda alimentaria debe estar íntimamente vinculada a los programas de desarrollo; así se expresó en el CPA, para beneficio directamente de los grupos económicos más vulnerables de la población y para contribuir, como han dicho distinguidos colegas en esta sala hoy, a la eliminación paulatina de la necesidad de la ayuda alimentaria.

Continuamos apoyando el hecho de que el grueso de la ayuda vaya destinado a los países gravemente afectados y que, siguiendo el criterio de universalidad, se tenga en cuenta a los países de ingresos medios que hacen esfuerzos internos para mejorar cada vez más el nivel de vida, de sus poblaciones más pobres que en estos momentos de crisis mundial ya no podemos hablar de poblaciones no pobres porque inclusive países altamente desarrollados tienen zonas, diríamos, bolsones de pobreza que hay que atender.

Continuamos apoyando también las operaciones triangulares mediante las cuales los países en desarrollo se benefician con la compra de productos por el Programa.

Finalmente, mi delegación apoya, igual que lo hizo en el CPA, con el ánimo de aceptar un consenso, el objetivo de promesas para el bienio 85/86 propuesto por el Director Ejecutivo y que no se pudo lograr en los 1 500; apoyamos los 1 350 como un, diríamos, mal menor. Consideramos que estos objetivos representan una modesta respuesta a las crecientes necesidades de ayuda alimentaria de los países en desarrollo que es totalmente insuficiente; sin embargo, fuimos testigos de excepción de la larga, tediosa y esforzada negociación que se tuvo que desarrollar en el CPA pasado para lograr esta cifra.

Nos unimos a los colegas que han planteado que hay que apoyarla y que auguramos que por lo menos se cumplan específicamente estas cifras en su totalidad.

Por ultimo, queremos expresar que, por principio, nuestra delegación no puede aceptar el condicionamiento de la ayuda en este contexto, por lo que apoyamos lo expresado por la delegación de México. Creemos que realmente el ejemplo de Viet Nam fue un ejemplo deprimente, de pequeneces, en cuanto a la altitud que debe tener la solidaridad internacional, y que no debe repetirse.

L. MOHAPELOA (Lesotho): Allow me first of all, to record our delegation's acceptance of the report as presented by the Executive Director. The report makes some pertinent observations and recommendations on the role of food aid both in the short run and the longer run. Indeed, it is gratifying to find an increasing awareness as reflected in the report of the fact that food aid should not and ought not to be seen as a permanent feature.

We note with regret the consistent failure to reach the targets set by the World Food Conference in 1974. One can only be but an optimist when reflecting on the matter, and hope that it is not an accurate reflection of the attitudes towards, and certainly not on, the commitments to the World Food Programme and its role as understood by the unprivileged millions of this world. In this regard we accept the contents of the Draft Resolution by the CFS as shown in Annex II of the report. We should not however fail to congratulate those donors that have made their contributions. In the same stroke we would like to call on all countries to make their contributions towards the achievement of the \$1.35 million target for the next biennium.

We always say of experts that they should work themselves out of a job. Drawing a parallel we say the same of food aid, thus like many delegates that have spoken before us this morning, we are in full support of the Committee's view of the need to link food aid to national development plans and policies. In this regard we strongly support the idea of a seminar on food policies for the donor and recipient countries. There is an urgent need, it seems to us, for a synchronisation of the framework of priorities and for development in the best interests of progress.

Paragraph 35 of the report mentions non-food items. Our view is that these certainly have a role and that the importance of such contributions can be enhanced by directly linking them to development programmes. Further, in what might appear by now to be an obsession on our part on the need for coordination and integration, we wish to support the Committee's view on the desirability of channelling all food aid through the WFP. If for no other reason, this would contribute towards greater integration and coordination, leading to higher levels of achievement in our programmes and bringing hope to those under-privileged millions in whose interest we claim to talk, mean to talk, or indeed talk, as we sit here.

Lastly, we wish to congratulate the Executive-Director and the WFP on the positive contributions towards lessening the extent of human suffering over the past twenty years.

ABDUL WAHID bin ABDUL JALIL (Malaysia): Malaysia was an Observer in the CFA and therefore would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the WFP, its Executive Director and its staff for the excellent contribution they have given to the development of the developing countries. My delegation has read the document with satisfaction and, after listening carefully to Mr. Ingram's very clear introduction on the activities of the Programme during 1982, we would like to give our full endorsement to the report.

The increasing role of the Programme now is indicative of the confidence the international community has in the work and management of the Programme. It also reflects the confidence we have in the excellent work of its Executive Director and his staff. We are pleased to note that there have been very many innovative efforts made in the Programme in the past which improved the performance of the Programme's activities. We hope the Executive Director and his capable and dynamic staff will continue to develop further innovations to enable it to further improve and to overcome the problems on the ground so as to enable it to play a more effective and efficient role in support of economic and social development projects in the developing countries.

We hope the Programme, based on its excellent performance in the past, will further attract the attention of both traditional and new donors who, we hope, will respond positively to the call for increasing contributions to increase the resources for it, so that the Programme could increase and raise the standard of its operation. We are appreciative of the contribution made by these Member nations.

Finally, my delegation would like to congratulate the WFP on its 20th Anniversary and hopes the Programme will continue to perform its valuable work to provide assistance to the developing countries in their efforts to improve their livelihood. We will continue to give our full support to Mr. Ingram and his staff in all their endeavours for this very noble cause.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We wish first of all to convey our appreciation to Mr. Ingram for his very comprehensive and articulate statement this morning in introducing the subject. As usual we found it very thought-provoking, very interesting, full of conceptual framework as well as pragmatic. We are particularly happy to see that this is the 20th year of the World Food Programme; and in these twenty years the World Food Programme, from a very modest start has achieved a status which is perhaps the highest in the UN system: and we commend the qualities of the WFP and wish it every success in the future.

However, we agree with Mr. Ingram, when he said this morning that this achievement, which is very substantial, has to be viewed in the context of the need of developing countries which is much more than can be foreseen immediately; and here we are reminded of the recent deliberations in the CFA where it was pointed out that by 1985, a twenty million cereal aid would be needed for developing countries. While reviewing the resource position of the Programme, we share the concern of the Executive Director that the number of donors has declined from 99 to 65. However, we wish to place on record here that we, in our modest way, have been contributing to the Programme and will continue to do so. We are not among those who have got out and we therefore take the liberty of urging both developed and developing countries to come forward so that the number of donors, which was a very welcome wide spectrum, can remain the same wide spectrum.

We also wish to speak about the WFP target of \$1.35 billion. We were indeed very happy with the original target of \$1.5 billion proposed by the Executive Director and endorsed by the Director-General of FAO and by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. During the CFA we supported that \$1,500 million target but also discovered that some members of the CFA could not agree with that target; and, in an effort to achieve a consensus we also agreed to the lower target of \$1,350 millions. We wish to record our appreciation to the major donors and the members of the CFA who, in a spirit of constructive consensus, agreed to a target of \$1.35 billion; though we are not happy with this, we still feel it is much better than the \$1.2 billion that we were struggling for earlier.

We wish to record our appreciation at this juncture to the Chairman of the CFA who, in his sagacity and wisdom, synthesised the divergent views of various members of the CFA and helped in achieving this consensus of \$1.35 billion. We find this to be a modest and realistic target and hope it will be met and that it will be not only achieved but satisfactory.

We are indeed satisfied with World Food Programme priorities, particularly for low-income food-deficit countries and agree that this focus should continue to be on these countries, but we also wish to highlight that attention to the problems of middle-developing countries should not be diverted and that the WFP intervention, particularly from a developmental aspect, can be a great incentive to the efforts of these countries in achieving food and agriculture production, particularly if it is integrated within their own agricultural policies and achievements, and we feel WFP should continue to do this.

We also very strongly endorse and support triangular transactions and have been repeatedly saying that they are indeed very important for developing countries, particularly to give them an incentive for food production. We made a proposal during the CFA and we wish to repeat it: that WFP may consider the possibility of purchases within countries which they are assisting. We are aware that within those developmental projects when WFP, in order to complete food aid, does make purchases but on a smaller level. We were thinking of bigger purchases, particularly when big emergency operations are being undertaken so that purchases of commodities could be made to help the developing countries while at the same time solving logistical, transport and many other problems which large transactions can entail. We feel this is a proposal which the WFP may examine as to its feasibility.

Before concluding, we wish to record our appreciation to WFP and FAO for the substantial assistance we have been getting for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and we also wish to convey our appreciation to a number of major donors who have come to help us in this context. We have been one of the bigger recipients of emergency aid during recent years and we wish to record our satisfaction with the procedures and decision-making process which WFP goes through to respond to the emergency needs of various developing countries. We feel it is very efficient, effective and flexible and that it responds very rapidly to the needs of developing countries; and we wish to convey our appreciation for that.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je prends deux minutes de votre temps pour vous présenter, au nom du Directeur général, le tout dernier né de nos ouvrages, dénommé "Rapport sur l'alimentation mondiale". La première publication, naturellement, porte sur l'année 1982.

Je voudrais tout d'abord saisir cette occasion pour remercier de leur compréhension les délégations de pays de langue arabe qui ont bien voulu accepter que le rapport soit distribué dans les versions existantes, sans attendre la sortie de l'édition arabe qui, elle, sera publiée dans les tout prochains jours.

Cette brochure, qui à certains égards prend la suite de la série "La FAO en 1981 ou 1982", n'est pas conçue comme un document technique. Son but est de présenter, à l'intention notamment des non spécialistes, un compte rendu de la situation alimentaire mondiale et des activités menées en 1982 par la FAO à l'appui du développement agricole et rural. Elle sera publiée chaque année, dans le cadre des efforts que déploie l'Organisation pour faire connaître et comprendre les problèmes du développement agricole et de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition, dans un public beaucoup plus vaste, les media, les organisations non gouvernementales et toutes les personnes qui s'occupent de mobiliser les appuis en faveur du développement agricole et rural.

Préparé par notre Division de l'information, avec l'appui des différentes divisions techniques de l'Organisation, et en coopération avec la Division des publications, ce rapport répond au vœu émis par le Directeur général lors de la première journée mondiale de l'alimentation en 1981. Il s'agit de mettre le grand public au courant des problèmes du développement et de stimuler, dans l'opinion publique, un débat plus éclairé sur ce problème capital de notre siècle, c'est-à-dire: que faut-il faire pour garantir le droit fondamental de tous les humains à la nourriture?

Nous espérons beaucoup que cette publication plaira et sera utile à nos Etats Membres, et nous serions heureux de recueillir leur opinion à son égard.

CHAIRMAN: I think this publication contains a wealth of very valuable information presented in a very readable and appealing manner. We want to thank FAO for this document.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 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

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Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 14ª SESION PLENARIA (21 June 1983)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14,30 hours

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 14ª Sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, 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)
- 8. World Food Programme; (continued)
- 8. Programme alimentaire mondial: (suite)
- 8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos (continuación)
- 8.1 Eighth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme (continued)
- 8.1 Huitième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (suite)
- 8.1 Octavo informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (continuación)

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): After the statements of my colleagues there is very little that I can add to their comments. I would like however to say a few words and first express the congratulations of my delegation to the Executive Director, Mr. Ingram, for his comprehensive and clear statement and for the most impressive development of the World Food Programme in its twenty years of existence. There is no doubt that the World Food Programme has become a valuable multilateral development assistance organization. The target for the biennium 1985/86 of \$1.35 billion unanimously accepted by the CFA is the most positive proof of the importance and confidence that the donor countries attribute to the future activities of the World Food Programme. I think the best and most appreciable birthday present for its twenty years would be for the Council to endorse the target adopted by the CFA. On this point I would like to express our hope and wish that this target can be attained and even surpassed. Although Cyprus unfortunately is not a member of the CFA, nevertheless we follow its activities with all the attention that they merit and we appreciate particularly the assistance given to the developing countries and the priority to the poorest people in the most needy countries.

I wish also to avail myself of this opportunity in order to thank Mr. Ingram warmly for the assistance given to my country.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): La Delegación del Ecuador considera clara y ampliamente satisfactoria la información presentada por el Señor Director Ejecutivo del PMA. En consecuencia, expresa su apoyo irrestricto a la brillante labor que viene realizando el PMA bajo su acertada dirección.

De manera especial quiero hacer llegar el agradecimiento del pueblo y el Gobierno ecuatorianos por el socorro prestado durante la grave situación que nos afectó, que nos continúa afectando y que, desgraciadamente, proseguirá durante los próximos meses.

La Delegación de la República del Ecuador considera que con motivo de su vigésimo aniversario, y en base a la felicitación prácticamente unánime que se ha expresado por los miembros de este Consejo, se haga constar en el informe un especial homenaje de reconocimiento al PMA, al Dr. Ingram y a sus colaboradores.

Queremos agregar, finalmente, que para nosotros la instancia del Director Ejecutivo del PMA es más que suficiente para tomar decisiones respecto a ayudas alimentarias de emergencia. En éste aspecto específico pensamos que la relación adecuada con el Director General de la FAO debería ser solamente de carácter informativo urgente. Este criterio lo manifestamos con espíritu constructivo y basado en la observación efectuada sobre el procedimiento que actualmente se practica. Deseamos quede bien establecido nuestro respeto, respaldo y aplauso a la labor del Dr. Sapuma como Director General de la FAO, pero desde el punto de vista de la racionalización administrativa, consideramos que su intervención en la aprobación de esta ayuda es un mero rito burocrático que bien puede ser eliminado. Pienso que el Director General, con una información inmediata y urgente del Director Ejecutivo del PMA, puede, si lo considera oportuno, hacer, solicitar o sugerir modificaciones a la ayuda que se preste, ya que pienso, que cuando esto llega a sus manos está ya definido.

Este criterio lo pongo a la consideración del Consejo.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I would like to express my delegation's sincere appreciation to Mr. Ingram and to the World Food Programme's Secretariat for the very informative and constructive information base given this morning in the introduction to the report of the CFA. My delegation at this time would like only to highlight a few points.

My delegation fully supports the aims and objectives of the World Food Programme. We have been and we are conscious of the manifold difficulties involved in effectively programming food aid for development assistance. Yet in spite of these difficulties our own assessment confirms that of Mr. Ingram, that the World Food Programme has been and is indeed a valuable multilateral development assistance organization.

We strongly support Mr. Ingram's call for increasing the donor base of contributors, and we all recognize the formidable development problems faced by all developing countries, and especially those of the low-income food-deficit countries. Yet often even a small contribution from these countries is critically important for demonstrating to larger donor governments like my own that yes indeed the World Food Programme is truly a multilateral organization and its members, including the developing countries, in spite of the difficult circumstances, support it to the best of their ability. Mr. Ingram has rightly pointed out that these are not tokens, they are symbolic and indicative of the support of the developing countries themselves and the importance that they attach to the World Food Programme. Indeed, as India, Pakistan, Brazil and others have pointed out, there are amongst the developing countries large, meaningful, consistent and rapid donors. Some of them are even more rapid than the major donors, and this is very important to the Programme. My Government certainly appreciates this. My delegation supports the target of \$1.35 billion as reached by consensus in the CFA. We believe it is realistic, and hopefully will be attained. If all of us do our part there is a good chance that it will. We support Mr. Ingram's efforts to review the criteria and allocation procedure for the IEFER, and, we might add, even the regular programme. We have appreciated greatly the candour with which the Secretariat of the WFP presents to CFA members its evaluations of its own on-going projects, and we expect that there are and that there will be problems with the effective utilization of food aid, or any aid for that matter, and our job in the CFA and in this Council, if you wish, is to assist the WFP with encouragement and support and with ideas in order to make it more effective. New ideas were already expressed in this meeting this morning by Congo, Mexico, India, Cuba and many others. My delegation looks forward to the opportunity of discussing some of these ideas further with those delegations and others on the Secretariat.

If we were being told that, as we are in some institutions, there are no problems, that everything is running on time everywhere, then I think that the members of the CFA would have a right to be somewhat suspicious that perhaps the institution was trying to hide something; for problems are in the nature of development and we certainly are not afraid to face these, so we would encourage the review of the emergency procedure, not to make it more bureaucratic, as some members have feared, but to increase its viability and its utility to the developing countries.

Another point I would like to make just for the record : at the last session of the CFA, the final report of the Committee - let me read from the verbatim that I have: "The Committee drew attention to the broader and revised concept of food security adopted by the Committee on Food Security of the FAO. Many delegates stressed the importance that they attach to that revised concept as a basis for food aid. Other delegations stressed that assistance for that purpose should form a part of a well-defined programme and should be considered on a case-by-case basis". I add that because my delegation feels that at no time in our history do we necessarily arrive at the ultimate definition of what this Group would consider food security to be; rather we see it as an on-going process, and that is what that statement reflects, I believe.

I will come back at a later point to talk about the Twentieth Anniversary of the WFP, but at this time my Government would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Ingram for his courageous and humane efforts to assist the developing countries. His task over the past year has not been any easy one, but we are pleased indeed to give him our full and sincere support. I should add that this appreciation extends to his staff also. Mexico, Germany, a few others have already made this point. Many of the Secretariat have been with this Programme since its inception. They have given to us twenty years of their lives and we should not be ungrateful to them for this. I personally deal with the WFP on a weekly basis, and I have always been impressed with the professional quality, objectivity, the courtesy, dedication and hard work of the staff at all levels. These are the ones who execute our wishes. Once in a while we believe it is important to say "thank you" to them, and perhaps on this Twentieth Anniversary this is what we should do.

The WFP as an institution also deserves our congratulations on their Twentieth Anniversary, it has, as I have said, become a very effective development institution. It has, as Pakistan has already said, achieved the highest status in the UN system. We have, however, viewed over the past two years growing food aid targets as a matter of serious concern, for it in reality represents our collective failure, nationally and internationally, to produce enough. No one wants to be dependent on food aid, either on a bilateral or a multilateral basis, nor on any kind of aid in general, and to the extent

that in the years or the decades to come, to the extent that we can reduce the demand for food aid, then we will truly have cause for celebration, and I was happy to see that Kenya, India and Lesotho and others have already stressed this point this morning. We therefore support WFP's efforts to utilize food aid as a development tool, either in single-purpose or in multi-purpose projects but especially when its focus is on assisted agricultural production. I take pleasure in supporting the report.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): After the previous speakers who have shown their support to the Executive Director of WFP and his colleagues, there is little that I can add. Therefore, my delegation wishes to compliment and thank the Executive Director, Mr. Ingram, and his colleagues for the comprehensive and excellent presentation of the report. I also wish to congratulate WFP on its Twentieth Anniversary and look forward to continuing cooperation.

To be brief, I have analyzed the Eighth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, which is supported by my delegation. However, with respect to the pledging target for the period 1985-86, my delegation would have liked the attainment of the proposed target of \$1,5 billion, but taking into account the consensus reached in the CFA, my delegation wishes also to endorse this consensus and express the view that both traditional and new donors may join their efforts to reach the proposed modest target of \$1.35 billion.

My delegation cherishes the principles of multilateralism as one of the best features of international cooperation. Therefore, it is vital that multilateral food aid should continue to grow and the bulk of it ought and must go to the low-income food-deficit countries.

My delegation wishes to record its appreciation for the emphasis given by the WFP to countries in sub-Saharan Africa which have lately been suffering from an acute and distressing food shortage stemming from natural and manmade disasters - and here I do not want to go into detail on the question of manmade disasters in the context of Southern Africa.

Finally, my country has benefited from the practice of triangular trade and wishes to commend the Executive Director of WFP and his hardworking colleagues for this practice and looks forward to its continuation and increase. Mr. Chairman, I take pleasure and honour in supporting the report.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Executive Director for his impressive presentation of this item. We note with appreciation the steady growth of the WFP over a period of twenty years from an Organization of an experimental nature to one which has committed about \$5.3 billion of assistance to over 1,100 developmental projects in 114 developing countries. It is also important to note that WFP has been directing its efforts in a balanced manner to meet the priority needs in projects which directly contribute to food and agricultural production, in meeting the emergency situation and in projects for the development of human resources. My delegation supports the efforts of WFP in its fund-raising programmes and would join the call of other delegations for more voluntary contributors to come forward with pledges to the Programme.

I just wish to make one comment on the presentation of the Eighth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. This Report undoubtedly provides the Council with much useful information. However, it appears to my delegation that the Council's discussion on this item in the future could be further stimulated if the information presented is more updated, as mentioned by India. It also would seem worthwhile if the Report could give the Council some indicators of its views which could not be agreed upon or for that matter which were deferred for further consideration so that the Council may be in a position to make an input in such matters. My delegation feels that this would be helpful to the CFA, to WFP and the Executive Director. We believe that updating and improving the annual report, as suggested, would provide the Council with an on-going awareness of the issues influencing the course of the Programme and facilitate the CFA's search for solution for the problems encountered.

Finally, my delegation wishes to place on record its gratitude for the assistance which the WFP has been giving to Barbados in the area of its school feeding programme. This programme makes an important contribution to our national development. We therefore wish to put our full support behind the work being done by the WFP.

AMIDYONO MARTOSUWIRJO (Indonesia): I will follow your advice to be brief. To start with I wish to restate that at the very outset the Government of Indonesia gives full support to this Programme.

Mr. Chairman, it is heartening to know the very significant achievement of the Committee in channelling food aid to needy countries during the period under review. The report also reflects the impressive progress made so far since the inception of the Programme more than two decades ago.

The delegation of Indonesia takes note of its development with high appreciation. It is significant to note that a major part of the food aid is to stand to be utilized in development projects in low-income, food-deficit countries. Realizing the merits of such policy my delegation would like to suggest that this policy be pursued in the future.

The operation in the framework of WFP will be preferable to those developing countries which fortunately have been able to boost food and agricultural production by way of expanding triangular operations. I believe that the reasons underlying such operations and the aims are justified so that there is no need for it to be repeated over and over again. In the light of the foregoing my delegation would suggest that the Programme should develop further triangular operations insofar as the cash resources permit it to do so.

Also the reduction in triangular action in 1981 should be regretted although it reflected a lower rice requirement for Kampuchean food aid operations. Mr. Chairman, from the valuable information we note that assistance to fisheries development is less than that given to food crops. Furthermore we also note that fishermen are less fortunate in economic terms than farmers who grow food and other agricultural commodities. Hence there would be advantages if the Programme would consider further the use of marine and fresh water fish products which could be obtained from efficient producing developing countries through triangular connections.

As regards emergency food aid, my delegation notes with some concern that more than half of the aforementioned aid has been sent to refugees in manmade disaster areas. It is true that such operations are based on humanitarian considerations which cannot be ignored. However we wonder whether such high aid would not lead to the emergence of a situation in which many more innocent and hapless people are driven out of their villages and out of their countries.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion my delegation would like to endorse the Annual Report of the Committee while expressing its hope that the WFP operations in the future will achieve more progress and contribute more substantially to the economic and social development of countries of the Third World.

Finally my delegation would like to congratulate Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director, and the staff for its excellent job in channelling food aid to the Third World.

J. GORMLEY (United States of America): My delegation was very impressed by the cogent and thoughtful report given by the Executive Director to preface this agenda item.

As to the question of the target, my delegation was pleased to go along with the target formulated at the meeting of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. We had some hesitation about the higher figure and I would concur with the remark made by the distinguished delegate of Norway that if indeed the \$1.35 billion target is to be met it will require contributions by new donors, or by contributions of a much larger size by donors who in the past have not been large donors.

In the course of the discussion this morning and this afternoon there have been various references to the revised concept of food security as formulated by the Committee on Food Security. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes did take into account this formulation of the Committee on World Food Security. In the course of one intervention this morning which was not made in English and therefore I cannot exactly interpret the remarks of the original, but in English we were told that the decisions of the CFS should govern activities of the World Food Programme. If indeed that was what was said, and again I am not sure that that was exactly what was said, but if indeed that was what was said we do not believe that that is the case. The Committee on Food Security is a technical committee of limited competence and its decisions do not govern another agency. The only governing body that governs the World Food Programme is the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

There has been much said on emergency procedures and the general conduct of how emergency operations are carried out. This again has been a subject for a number of sessions of the CFA in which the United States delegation has had an active part. There was almost an implication in some of the statements today that the emergency procedures are perfect. We would not like the Council to be seen as pre-empting decisions which rightly belong to the CFA.

K. A. BABIKER (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): First of all the delegation of Sudan would like to congratulate the Executive Director, Mr. Ingram, and his colleagues of WFP, which has made, and is still making, substantial contributions to development over the last twenty years. This Programme has participated very efficiently in supporting development and social projects and has helped in particular in reducing the effects of natural and manmade disasters. We would also like to stress the importance of WFP on the economic, social and humanitarian levels in the developing countries, and in particular the least developed.

In Sudan we attach particular importance to WFP because we need its assistance for our economic and social development, and in order to have its assistance at difficult times. I would also like to mention here that WFP carried out its first project in Sudan, which is a resettlement project, in the valley of Haifa in the northern part of the country. We also wish to thank the donor countries for the very appreciable aid they have given to the Programme. There is no doubt that without this considerable assistance from the donor countries and the competence of the WFP staff we would not have been able to achieve what we have attained so far. We support the figure for the 1984-85 budget amounting to \$1,350 million, and I invite the donor countries to increase their support to this important Programme.

Mr. Chairman, the Sudanese delegation would like to express its agreement with the points referred to by the distinguished delegate of India. The delegation of Sudan also wishes to pay tribute to the annual report and the efforts which have been made in order to prepare it and the information contained therein and the activities mentioned. However we would be very glad if future reports were to reflect, by way of example, the philosophy of the programme, and the guidelines to be followed in order to improve its strategy, so that it will become compatible with the changes that occur every year in the needs of the developing countries, and if these needs were scientifically assessed.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to reiterate our congratulations to the Executive Director and his staff on the twentieth anniversary of WFP.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Pour suivre votre conseil et être très bref et en même temps très clair, je dirai que la délégation italienne partage entièrement les considérations et appréciations faites par mon collègue canadien à l'adresse de M. Ingram et des activités du PAM. Nous pensons que l'objectif fixé est réaliste, pas suffisant mais réaliste. Nous souhaitons que les pays donateurs, parmi lesquels se trouve l'Italie, fassent un double effort pour atteindre cet objectif.

M. L. BALUCHZADAH (Afghanistan): Mr. Chairman, my delegation read the WFP's excellent document very keenly, and I wish to congratulate Mr. Ingram and his staff.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation supports WFP's humanity and assistance for developing countries, and particularly its role in emergency assistance. Indeed, emergency assistance is very important and my delegation strongly supports it. But my delegation does not support the emergency assistance under the name, so-called, of Afghan refugees in Pakistan as is mentioned in some document of WFP.

Mr. Chairman, please allow me to make a statement in this particular case. While the question of so-called Afghan refugees has been raised for no particular reason, everybody suspects that perhaps it is right, but, Mr. Chairman, it is not quite right and my delegation rejects it. The fact is this. I wish to point out that the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has two and a half million or even three million nomads. They have been accustomed to travelling to and from Afghanistan, previously to India and at present to Pakistan. Afghan nomads from ancient times cross the borders of the two countries with their livestock during winter and spring, when the climatic conditions are favourable. These 2.5 million or 3 million Afghan nomads are, most of them, livestock owners. In order to graze their sheep and cattle they cross the two borders every year.

Therefore my delegation appeals to the WFP to delete the words, the so-called "Afghan refugees" from its documents.

D.C.W. KANBAUWA (Malawi): We shall be as brief as possible. We wish to associate ourselves with those who have already spoken on this item in thanking the Executive Director of the WFP for his excellent introduction and summary of the 8th Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, and also in congratulating the World Food Programme on its commendable achievements in the period it has been in existence. Both the Director and the Committee could not have done a better job.

We also wish to indicate that we are in full agreement with the general thrust of the report before us. We fully endorse, for example, the view that food aid should be a temporary, short-term measure and that its main objective, apart from providing immediate relief in times of emergencies, should be to release resources for utilization in development activities.

We also endorse the view that, in order that the Programme's operations and activities be as effective as possible, managerial and logistical problems encountered so far should be tackled speedily and possible solutions found. As one of the countries that are both a donor to and recipient of aid from WFP, Malawi is heartened to see the encouraging trend in the pledging of resources to the Programme. We do hope, however, that pledges at the earliest possible opportunity will materialise into actual resources and that still more pledges will be forthcoming. It is only with adequate resources that the commendable work of the Programme among disadvantaged groups can be maintained.

In conclusion, permit me, Mr. Chairman, to say that the proposal to hold a seminar on food aid policies has our full support: new ideas could only be of benefit to the efficient activities of the World Food Programme.

G. DESESQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne): La Communauté économique européenne intervient en qualité d'observateur mais aussi au nom des Etats Membres qui la composent. La Communauté économique européenne et ses Etats Membres marquent leur accord sur le huitième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, session à laquelle ils ont participé activement. De ce fait, nous approuvons notamment et pleinement le nouvel objectif de 1,35 milliard, de dollars pour les ressources ordinaires du Programme pour l'exercice 1985-86 visé au paragraphe 42 du rapport.

Par ailleurs, d'une façon générale et compte tenu des débats qui se sont instaurés depuis le début du Conseil, la Communauté économique européenne et ses Etats Membres tiennent plus particulièrement à rappeler que plutôt que d'envisager d'augmenter les objectifs de l'aide alimentaire, notamment dans le cadre de la Convention d'aide alimentaire et de la Réserve internationale d'urgence, il est indispensable que les objectifs actuellement en vigueur soient atteints. Avant de regarder le futur, réalisons le présent. A cet égard, la Communauté économique européenne et ses Etats Membres espèrent notamment que le nombre des donateurs à la RAIU, qui est en diminution, augmentera; de même dans les domaines de la Convention d'aide alimentaire nous espérons aussi qu'il y aura d'autres donateurs.

Srta. R. LIEBERS (Observador de Bolivia): Señor Presidente, quiero pedir disculpas a todos los aquí presentes por, tal vez, tratar un tema que está fuera de las deliberaciones de esta sesión, pero me permito hacer un paréntesis para referirme en forma muy breve a un problema que afecta gravemente a centenares de comunidades campesinas en Bolivia.

Considero que el 83 período de sesiones de esta Organización constituye el foro más adecuado para plantear la situación actual de mi país, súbitamente confrontado a dos consecutivas tragedias: graves inundaciones en la zona oriental y una sequía sin precedentes en este siglo en el sudeste del país. El Gobierno constitucional de Bolivia ha informado oportunamente a la FAO y al PMA acerca de la magnitud de ambos fenómenos y su dramático impacto social. Al proporcionar los datos y estadísticas que ilustran por sí solos esta situación, mi Gobierno formulo también a los organismos internacionales y a los países que se encuentran en condiciones de contribuir con alimentos, medicinas y ayuda técnica, a fin de tratar de mitigar las vicisitudes de los sobrevivientes y las víctimas de esta catástrofe. Lo hizo porque es consciente de que la solidaridad entre las Naciones constituye un pilar fundamental de las relaciones internacionales, y el instrumento más útil para actuar con celeridad en situaciones como la presente. Las perspectivas de producción agrícola en vastas regiones rurales de Bolivia se perfilan desoladoras después de que lluvias torrenciales en la región de Santa Cruz anegaron más de 50 000 hectáreas de terrenos cultivables, mientras que cosechas enteras de productos básicos se perdieron bajo el azote de la sequía. El problema gravita sobre el futuro de un millón y medio de campesinos, y ha comenzado a dar señales de una crítica escasez de alimentos. Según cálculos conservadores, la sequía ha convertido fértiles zonas de cultivo en inmensas zonas improductivas que cubren decenas de miles de hectáreas. Al margen del elevado costo humano, más de 200 muertos sólo en los primeros meses del desastre, las inundaciones han causado la destrucción de cerca de 60 000 viviendas. Los daños en términos económicos no conocen antecedente alguno en la historia reciente de Bolivia. En zonas económicamente deprimidas como la vasta planicie, zona montañosa de Potosí y otros centros mineros, la falta de agua ha causado estragos en una región que el campesino cultiva para subsistir en un medio en el que la desnutrición ha catapultado el índice de mortalidad infantil en más del 30 por ciento.

Asimismo, las inundaciones y la sequía se desencadenaron en el peor momento para mi país. Bolivia, como todos ustedes señores delegados bien saben, atraviesa una de las peores crisis económicas de su historia. Fuertemente endeudada, producto de políticas cerradas que el Gobierno constitucional está tratando de corregir en el más breve plazo posible, la economía boliviana se ha convertido al mismo tiempo en, quizá, la más dura prueba para el reordenamiento democrático que todos los bolivianos, trabajosamente, procuramos consolidar después de casi 20 años de regímenes militares de facto.

No quiero dejar pasar esta oportunidad para expresar el reconocimiento del Gobierno de Bolivia a aquellas naciones y organismos internacionales, la FAO, el PMA, que están manifestando diligentemente su solidaridad con la situación de las familias afectadas. Hemos encontrado una prueba que valoramos y agradecemos, pero hoy deseo llamar la atención de esta sala para invocar nuevamente esa solidaridad con la esperanza de que se traduzca en una pronta ayuda para aliviar la situación de los hombres, mujeres y niños del agro boliviano que viven diariamente el drama del hambre, las enfermedades y la incertidumbre.

Como dije anteriormente, se trata de una situación humanamente sensible en momentos cruciales para asegurar un proceso de desarrollo estable y armónico. El apoyo internacional que Bolivia puede encontrar, para superar sus más inmediatos problemas, jugará un importante papel en alcanzar esa meta.

CHAIRMAN: Our sympathies go to the affected people and I hope your appeal will get some response.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ (Observador de Perú): Habiendo leído el informe anual del CPA al ECOSOC, tengo que declarar que quedé gratamente impresionado por el dinamismo y la acción de este Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Estoy seguro de que bajo la mano experta, dinámica y capaz del Dr. Ingram este Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha tenido unas sorpresas extraordinarias. He podido observar, y digo que he podido observar que, por mi doble función de Embajador, por un lado, y Miembro del Comité de Finanzas, por otro, tengo acceso a algunos datos y he podido observar que este Programa Mundial de Alimentos está tomando acciones novedosas, acciones creativas. He visto, por ejemplo, que no obstante el crecimiento de su actividad, ha tenido un crecimiento en sus gastos del orden del 1,4 por ciento; igualmente, el estudio meticulado que han podido hacer de los gastos de transporte, ha podido racionalizar el uso de los transportes más apropiados y ha tenido una meta bastante difícil de alcanzar en una reducción global del 26 por ciento en el gasto de esta actividad tan importante en el Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Es importante notar que además han sido creativos porque esa operación: Maíz-Zimbabwe, para destinarlo a otros países africanos, ha sido una operación novedosa, eficiente, y que justamente usa en los dos casos países en vías de desarrollo, tanto como centro de obtención de la materia alimenticia, tanto como centro de distribución. Nos interesa saber el desarrollo que puede dar y veo que ya han comenzado el mayor uso de productos pesqueros, puesto que una de las grandes deficiencias, aparte de ser la deficiencia calórica de los países malnutridos, es la deficiencia proteica y los productos pesqueros llevan a la dieta proteica una serie de aminoácidos que no llevan otros productos proteicos de origen vegetal. Luego podemos mencionar también que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos no sólo está llevando a la ayuda de emergencia o la ayuda de urgencia cuando hay casos de desastres, sino también está, a través de su programa de alimentos por trabajo, fomentando el desarrollo rural porque muchas veces algunas obras de infraestructura no pueden hacerlas nuestros países por falta de medios, y este sistema que se llama Alimentos por Trabajo ha dado excelentes resultados en mi país, en Perú.

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecer acá, en esta Plenaria, la valiosa ayuda del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y de la FAO a un problema que ha surgido con carácter de gravedad en el Perú. Hemos tenido por primera vez cuantiosas lluvias en la zona costera norte que a veces llegaban a 100 mililitros en un día. Se ha estimado que la destrucción de las cosechas es del orden de mil millones de dólares; igualmente, hemos recibido, con toda celeridad, la ayuda en la zona del altiplano, la zona de Puno, donde hemos tenido una de las sequías más fuertes y menos conocidas en los últimos 50 años.

Yo creo que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos requiere más ayuda, si bien la meta para 1985-86 de 1 350 millones, en realidad, creo que es un poco escasa. Si los donantes se dieran cuenta de que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos es el programa que llega directamente, que llega casi sin intermediarios, sin ninguna intermediación de carácter burocrático al usuario, es una de las formas más eficientes de apoyar a los países en vías de desarrollo.

Quiero con toda hidalguía reconocer el dinamismo que he encontrado en la jefatura del Departamento Latinoamericano, en donde uno asiste diariamente con alegría a hacer sus peticiones porque encuentra un eco amistoso, un eco técnico y un eco ejecutivo en el Subdirector responsable.

Por consiguiente, felicitamos vivamente al Programa Mundial de Alimentos por el éxito que está teniendo, que significa hacer mayores cosas con menores gastos. Quiero invocar a la sensibilidad de los grandes donantes de este Programa para que hagan un esfuerzo, aún mayor del que hacen, porque toda la donación que den al Programa Mundial de Alimentos llegue eficiente y oportunamente a nuestros países y creo que el Consejo debe apoyar, en toda su plenitud, a este Programa e, inclusive apoyando la solicitud del señor Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, en cooperación con el Director General de la FAO, convoque una conferencia de promesas de contribución en la Sede de las Naciones Unidas, como se propone a principios del año 1984, porque este tipo de reuniones son muy fructíferas y en ellas, verdaderamente, con elementos de juicio apropiados, se pueden tomar acciones que signifiquen tranquilidad y sosiego a los grandes problemas que tenemos los países en vías de desarrollo.

H. BENATTALLAH (Observateur pour l'Algérie): Après de laborieuses tractations le CPA était parvenu à un accord sur l'objectif de un milliard 350 millions de dollars pour les ressources ordinaires du PAM pour l'exercice 1985-86 et ce bien que ne correspondant pas aux besoins évalués. La cause étant entendue, il peut paraître superflu de gloser sur la question. C'est pourquoi la délégation algérienne s'en tiendra à des commentaires de deux ordres. Considérant que dans le concept actuel des rapports nord-sud les raisons commerciales ont tendance à prévaloir sur les exigences nouvelles de stratégie alimentaire, les exigences de l'approche d'aide alimentaire développées par le PAM sont induites des besoins évalués selon les différentes méthodes qui s'accordent sur l'étendue des besoins en 1985. Elles résultent aussi de la volonté traduite en principe de l'intégration de l'aide alimentaire dans les programmes nationaux de développement.

Faut-il rappeler que cette transition s'est opérée sur les instances des principaux pays donateurs qui, après coup, limitent les moyens de cette politique, ce qui signifie que cette approche spécifique évoluera au rythme que ces initiateurs originels lui imprimeront. Il faut néanmoins tenir pour contradictoire la fixation d'un profil de ressources assez bas par rapport aux ambitions proclamées. Ce niveau de ressources ne permet pas non plus de corriger des incidences résultant du rôle déterminant d'un nombre limité de donateurs et de bénéficiaires. En dépit du fait que la majeure partie de l'aide alimentaire continue d'aller dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire, ceux-ci perçoivent une part peu importante de l'aide allant à des programmes et il est même probable, comme cela a été souligné, que la part qu'ils reçoivent n'atteint pas les groupes les plus déshérités. Enfin il décourage les efforts tendant à encourager les transactions triangulaires concernant des excédents lorsque des excédents sont dégagés dans un pays en voie de développement et ceci au motif que l'aide alimentaire doit essentiellement provenir de la production des principaux pays donateurs et s'intégrer à leur condition politique spécifique.

Il n'ouvre pas davantage de perspectives au développement des pêches ni à l'utilisation des produits de la pêche dans l'aide alimentaire par le biais d'opérations triangulaires.

Il semble au contraire que la dégradation des termes généraux de l'aide alimentaire coexiste avec des préoccupations commerciales qui paraissent moins souffrir du contexte général de crise des ressources.

A ce sujet, nous formulerons trois observations: alors que les livraisons de céréales au titre de l'aide alimentaire ont diminué pour la deuxième année consécutive, les pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire ont eu davantage recours aux importations commerciales amenant le niveau de déficit global des balances commerciales pour les produits vivriers à quatre milliards de dollars. Les engagements d'aide à l'agriculture se situant à 7,5 milliards de dollars, il y a ainsi une ponction au travers des échanges commerciaux de l'ordre de 60 pour cent des engagements de l'aide publique à l'agriculture en 1981. Il nous faut alors admettre que le principe selon lequel les pays bénéficiaires de l'aide prennent l'engagement de maintenir le niveau de leurs échanges commerciaux reçoit une application très vigilante. Bien que le recours aux ventes liées va à l'encontre des principes de la FAO en matière d'écoulement des excédents, 36 pour cent des seuls fonds fournis par des pays donateurs bilatéraux ont été utilisés dans les pays développés parce que ces contributions étaient assorties de l'obligation d'acheter dans les pays donateurs eux-mêmes. En outre, 67 pour cent des fonds de la CAA sont retournés dans les pays développés sous forme d'achats.

Enfin les contributions à la RAIU et à la CAA et les sacrifices consentis au titre des ressources ordinaires devraient être selon nous relativisés si on les rapporte à certaines retombées commerciales, connexes bien sûr mais significatives, tirées des activités du PAM. Si l'on considère très sommairement le seul paramètre des frais de transport du PAM pour 1982, toutes activités confondues elles se sont élevées à 144 millions de dollars dans lesquels le fret maritime a absorbé 65 586 000 dollars dont près de 53 millions de dollars ont été encaissés par les pays développés et 11 171 000 dollars par les pays en voie de développement.

Le montant encaissé au titre du fret maritime représente plus que le double du montant en espèces versé à la CAA en 1982 par les principaux pays donateurs et environ 34 pour cent des contributions à la RAIU en 1982. Le deuxième pays développé, par exemple, bénéficiaire des expéditions par fret maritime a encaissé près de 7 300 000 dollars en 1982 pour une contribution à la RAIU équivalent à 1 869 000 dollars. Le troisième pays bénéficiaire a retiré 4 079 000 dollars de ces affrètements pour une contribution à la RAIU en 1982 équivalent à 2 394 000 dollars et une contribution en espèces à la CAA, en 1982 toujours, de 1 800 000 dollars. Un autre pays développé ayant contribué à raison de 1 408 000 dollars à la RAIU et 3 305 000 dollars à la CAA a encaissé du PAM près de 4 millions de dollars au titre du fret maritime.

Nous sommes convaincus que la mise de 1 350 000 millions de dollars représente un effort assez relatif. Nous sommes persuadés aussi, à la décharge du PAM, que vingt années d'expérience offraient effectivement l'opportunité d'un bilan qui ne s'en tienne pas aux seules quantifications des performances ou à la mise en valeur de certains faits saillants, mais davantage à une évaluation des politiques et programmes du PAM depuis vingt ans.

Srta. M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (Observador de El Salvador): Atendiendo a lo solicitado seremos suinamente breves.

Nuestra Delegación desea ratificar nuevamente en esta oportunidad el total apoyo del Gobierno de El Salvador al Programa Mundial de Alimentos como instrumento eficaz que ayuda a los países en desarrollo a lograr mejores niveles de vida. Sobre la validez y eficacia del Programa Mundial de Alimentos existen pruebas abundantes y no podríamos hacer aquí referencia a todas ellas; pero creemos que hay dos de primer orden. En primer lugar, demostración clara de esta validez y eficacia son los veinte años de funcionamiento del Programa que estamos celebrando, por lo cual expresamos a sus personeros nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones. Evidencia clara, igualmente, son los datos que se nos proporcionan en los párrafos 3 y 4 del Documento que estamos analizando, sobre los cuales ya se ha opinado en extensión en esta Sala. La confianza que los países donantes tienen en el PMA es evidente, pero creemos que en honor a la misma es necesario hacer un esfuerzo más y lograr el 100 por 100 de los objetivos fijados. Tenemos puesta nuestra esperanza en los acuerdos logrados durante el desarrollo del 15° período de sesiones del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, y no dudamos que el objetivo mínimo, y recalco mínimo, de 1.350 millones de dólares, fijado para el bienio 1985-1986, será alcanzado plenamente: las poblaciones de nuestros países se lo agradecerán.

A este punto valdría la pena poner de relieve una idea que todos conocemos pero sobre la cual no se insistirá nunca suficientemente. Es ésta: el hambre la provocan actos humanos como guerras internas o internacionales, sobre las cuales unos pensarán que son justas y otros pensarán que son injustas. O las generan hechos de la naturaleza sobre los cuales no caben los juicios de valor. Pues bien, cualesquiera que sean sus causas no le interesan a quienes sufren el hambre, los dolores que ésta provoca no distinguen entre orígenes ideológicos o naturales, ni si la víctima es independiente y desde cuanto tiempo. Ahí está la grandeza del PMA que no hace ningún tipo de diferencia para "dar de comer al hambriento", como nos lo pidió un gran Maestro. Por eso, todos los gobiernos que puedan hacerlo están obligados a dar su aporte al PMA.

Para concluir, Señor Presidente, queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento al Señor Ingram y a sus colaboradores, especialmente los que tienen a su cargo la región de América Latina, por la ayuda que han proporcionado a nuestro país. Los programas que lleva adelante el PMA en El Salvador son de un valor inestimable para ayudarnos a salir adelante de la difícil situación por la que estamos atravesando, y estamos seguros, Señor Presidente, que seguiremos contando con ese aporte y agradecemos desde ya al Programa y a los países donantes que hacen posible que este instrumento de desarrollo funcione y lo haga en manera tan eficiente.

M. ABDELHADI (Observateur pour la Tunisie): Je suis peut-être le dernier orateur à intervenir sur le document CL 83/6. Je vais en conséquence être bref, d'autant plus que plusieurs délégations telles que celle du Maroc, du Congo, du Pakistan, et tout à l'heure celle d'Algérie, ont déjà développé certains aspects du sujet soumise à l'examen du Conseil, et ont exprimé des opinions auxquelles ma délégation adhère entièrement, en ce qui concerne notamment les opérations d'urgence, les opérations triangulaires, l'aide au développement, etc.

Nous voudrions exprimer le même souhait que celui exprimé par l'Observateur de la CEE, à savoir que le nombre des donateurs à la RAIU augmentera, ainsi que les contributeurs dans le cadre de la Convention de l'aide alimentaire.

La Tunisie a toujours prêté une attention particulière, en dépit de son statut d'Observateur aussi bien au Conseil de la FAO qu'au CPA, à tout ce qui touche de près ou de loin le Programme alimentaire mondial, que nous considérons comme étant un instrument de développement efficace au service des pays en voie de développement.

Ma délégation se réjouit des résultats considérables obtenus par le PAM, grâce notamment à la contribution substantielle des pays donateurs et aux efforts louables déployés par le Directeur exécutif et ses collaborateurs au PAM, et également grâce à l'assistance efficace de la FAO.

Ma délégation a déjà exprimé ses vues en ce qui concerne les orientations et les objectifs du PAM, et a souligné l'importance de la liaison des projets du PAM avec les objectifs des stratégies de développement des pays concernés. En ce qui concerne les objectifs du PAM pour 1985-86, ma délégation aurait souhaité un objectif fixé à un milliard et demi de dollars comme proposé initialement par le Directeur exécutif du PAM. Toutefois, nous appuyons le chiffre proposé par le CPA, soit 1,35 milliard de dollars pour le biennium 1985-86, que nous considérons comme un minimum.

La Tunisie entretient depuis plusieurs années des relations étroites et fructueuses avec le PAM, qui a contribué pour une bonne part à la réalisation de nos objectifs de développement en matière de développement de la production agricole et de développement rural. Le Directeur exécutif a pu se rendre compte sur place lors de sa dernière visite en Tunisie en mars dernier de la manière dont la Tunisie tire le plus grand profit de l'aide alimentaire consentie par le PAM, et notamment de l'impact de cette aide sur la population rurale des régions déshéritées.

Je ne voudrais par terminer mon intervention sans exprimer la vive satisfaction de la Tunisie premièrement pour la qualité de l'aide que reçoit mon pays dans le cadre du PAM, deuxièmement de l'aide efficace que le PAM consent aux pays à faible revenu, et notamment aux pays africains.

C'est pour toutes ces raisons que mon pays appuie sans réserve les objectifs du PAM et recommande que ses moyens soient à l'avenir davantage renforcés afin qu'il puisse répondre aux différentes demandes d'aide émanant des pays qui en ont besoin, dans le cadre de la solidarité nationale.

A.G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Observer for Cameroon): I am sorry to take the time of the Council at this late hour, but this being a very important programme my delegation would like to associate itself with some of the points raised by Council members.

First, the Cameroon delegation appreciates very much the work being done by WFP. We are happy to note that the Programme has gone from very humble beginnings twenty years ago to become a very major assistance organization in the 1980s. It has reached a capacity of handling commitments of almost \$ 1 billion per annum.

We are confident that the Programme will not only consolidate the achievements which have been made during the last twenty years but that under the competent leadership that it has now and with the guidance of the CFA if will carry on with greater energies and emphasis so as to contain the spread of hunger and malnutrition, if not banish it from this planet, altogether.

Secondly, we agree with the emphasis placed on agriculture and rural development and we hope that more of the resources of the Programme will be devoted specifically to those programmes aimed at boosting food production. We realize that a high percentage has already been given to agricultural development but we hope that the complement of food production will be increased.

We appreciate also the emphasis which has been placed on the African region south of the Sahara as indicated in paragraph 17. This is an area which is facing great difficulties at the moment and we agree that this concentration is justified owing to the great difficulties which are being faced and the great problems faced caused by drought and displaced persons. We hope that this high emphasis will not be interpreted otherwise.

Thirdly, on emergencies, my delegation regrets that the international community has to spend its resources on emergencies, especially those caused by human factors. But we do realize that it is a fact of life and we appreciate the great efforts being made by WFP in conjunction with FAO in handling emergencies. But we hope that the resources of IEFR will be put on a more predictable basis so that the scarce resources of WFP will not have to be diverted to handle emergencies.

On resources, we appreciate the efforts of the international community, especially the principal donors, the efforts they are making to meet their pledges and commitments so that the Programme can meet its objectives. We hope that existing donors will make additional efforts so that the \$1.2 billion target for the 1983/84 biennium will be met. We hope also that the Council will approve the objective of \$1.35 billion for the 1985/86 biennium and that new donors will also join so that this objective will not only be met but that it can be surpassed. We hope that existing donors will assist WFP in attracting new donors.

CHAIRMAN: That brings us to the close of the interventions of Council members and observers. If no other speakers want to take the floor, may I request Mr. Sonneveld, the Chairman of CFA, to make a few brief remarks.

J. SONNEVELD (Chairman, Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes) : With document CL 83/6 the Council got also a draft resolution on the target for the World Food Programme pledges for the period 1985/86. I think all delegates who have spoken so far have addressed themselves to this item. I noted with great satisfaction that the consensus which occurred in the last session of the CFA on the target figure \$1 350 million also exists in this Council. Some delegates referred specifically to the informal contact group I had composed to try to work out a decision. As I am the one who was responsible for that working method in the last CFA session I would appreciate having an opportunity to make some remarks on those events.

In the Plenary the Executive Director had introduced his recommendation to the CFA to agree on a target of \$1 500 million, a target which has been endorsed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by the Director-General of FAO. It was pointed out to the CFA that it was highly desirable that the CFA would take a decision on the target in its 15th session. Otherwise the ECOSOC would not be able to approve the CFA recommendation before the pledging conference at the beginning of 1984. There would be only one session of ECOSOC in between and more precisely in July of this year. Both the Executive Director and myself have urged the CFA to respect this time schedule. When it appeared in the first round in the Plenary that no agreement existed on the proposed target of \$1 500 million, I decided to suspend the discussion in Plenary and to consult informally by means of a Contact Group consisting of five recipients and five donor countries. On his request, the Executive Director gave in the first meeting of the Contact Group his views on the

necessity of the proposed target and its endorsement by the Secretary-General and the Director-General. The Contact Group continued its deliberations without the participation of the Executive Director. Although we tried hard to come to an agreement, it appeared impossible to get a consensus on \$1 500 million. On the other hand I noticed a strong desire of the Group to come to a decision in order not to allow for any doubts about the strong support to the Programme and its continuity. Many members were constantly in contact with their capitals. There was a genuine wish to cooperate and to work for a compromise. Finally, we all agreed on \$1 350 million. The members of the Group would inform the members of the CFA so that the decision could be taken over by the Plenary. When the Executive Director got to know that the agreement on the \$1 500 million would not be possible, of course he regretted that his recommendation was not followed, and he said so in Plenary but he was most satisfied with the fact that a decision was taken by consensus and that the new figure constituted the aspiration of the whole Committee and that it could be expected to be reached. That would allow the Programme to continue with increased resources.

He observed that it was his responsibility to make proposals, it was the CFA's to make decisions. He applauded the spirit of give and take and the democratic process by which the Committee reached decision. The Committee on the other hand expressed understanding for the recommendation on the target in view of the undeniable need to increase food aid for developing countries, in particular to low-income, food-deficit countries.

I found it appropriate to give this detailed account of how the CFA came to its decision and how this decision was taken with great care and caution. I hope and trust that the spirit of cooperation with which the decision was taken in the CFA will be appreciated both by the FAO Council and the ECOSOC and that they will decide accordingly, and as far as the Council is concerned, I know now that this hope in fact has already been fulfilled.

J.C. INGRAM (World Food Programme): Mr. Chairman, through you I would like to thank the delegates for a most informative and instructive debate. Some very useful new ideas have been produced. As several delegates said it is new ideas we need in relation to food aid, and I think we got some from this debate, so I thank you for that. I also thank you for the strong continuing support for the Programme which virtually every delegate who spoke has expressed. That indeed is extremely gratifying. I think, in fact, if I may revert to something Pakistan said, that WFP enjoys the highest status in the United Nations system. It would not be for me to say that, I am glad that he said that, because the truth of the matter is that wherever one goes, one finds that the Programme does stand in very high esteem, but of course I would like to say straight away that that esteem is in no way due to my own personal efforts. It is of course entirely due to the staff of the Programme who support me. I have been with the Programme now for a little more than one year, and I must say that I have been tremendously impressed by the sense of dedication and by the professionalism that the entire very small staff of WFP shows - indeed, so much so that I am really very pleased indeed to be able to number myself as a colleague among them.

We also had in the discussion this morning and again this afternoon many useful suggestions that were made by delegations about the format and content of the report before you. So many suggestions have been made that I do not think there would be much to be gained by seeking to comment on them at this point of time, nor indeed would it necessarily be appropriate to do so. I shall, however, give very careful consideration to all the suggestions that have been advanced so that when the next report is prepared it may better reflect the desires of governments.

But there are some constraints in this matter which I think I should set before you, and the first of them, of course, is that the report is not a report by the Executive Director, it is not a Secretariat report, it is a report by the Governing Body of the World Food Programme, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

The second constraint is that in terms of the basic context of the Programme, the report is indeed an annual report. It is by its very nature necessarily historical, relates to the previous year. If any additional factual information is supplied, it really has to be supplied by the Executive Director, and indeed we did submit for your information on this occasion an information note which showed the status of resources for the 1983-84 biennium. This being so, it is not really possible for the Executive Director to update a report which relates to a particular year and reflects the work of a particular Committee. If additional information is to be given, as is being given on this occasion, it must necessarily be of a factual nature.

The third constraint is that this report is a report to three bodies. It is not a report merely to the FAO Council, it is also a report to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and to the World Food Council. So what it really seeks to do is to essentially summarize for the needs of each of those deliberative bodies the main highlights of the Committee's work during the previous year.

As a brief summary, it is prepared always with the thought in mind that delegations have available to them the full reports of the Committee itself which do of course go into detail in relation to the substance of the debates and policy issues. It is also prepared against a background that there is in fact a very voluminous documentation before the CFA which it would not be appropriate to reproduce again.

For example, one delegation referred to the desirability of WFP evaluating its performance in terms of development criteria. But of course each session of the CFA has before it very complete evaluation reports doing precisely that, and indeed, again if I can introduce another note of congratulation to WFP, these evaluation reports which increasingly stress developmental objectives have been commended by the body within the United Nations which looks at things of this kind, the JIU, as being in fact models of their kind for the whole United Nations system.

So given the very important need for economy, the need to produce a report that will go to three bodies, there is in fact a very real practical limitation on how much can be included, and then of course finally, and this is very much related to what I have said, the staff available to WFP for preparing reports of this kind is also extremely limited. The more reports are expanded, the greater the requirement for a staff.

I do not think there is any need for me to say any more about the target. As the Chairman of the CFA has just said, I too have also noted with great pleasure that there is a consensus here in this Council for the target of \$1.35 billion. As I said this morning, it is regrettable that the original proposal was not acceded to, but on the other hand, the fact that this figure, which does allow a measured advance in the work of WFP, was agreed on holds out very good prospects that the target will be reached and possibly even surpassed.

There was this morning one mention about the possibility of adding a new dimension, so to speak, to the pledging conference. The concept of including fertilizer was mentioned. Again, the Basic Texts of the World Food Programme provide for contributions to be in the form of food, in the form of services and in the form of money, and much as I would like to see WFP expanding into new fields, I think that the restraints are very real in this regard. We would be expected to stick to our last, which is the provision of food aid.

Again, I do not think I need to say very much more over and above what I said this morning about how WFP projects fit into concepts of food security, in particular the concept advanced by the Committee on World Food Security. It is nothing new, in fact, for WFP to be seeking to integrate its projects into national development strategies nor to ensure that overall they make a maximum contribution to increased food production.

I gave some concrete examples of that this morning. I also drew very much attention to the intimate relationship that necessarily exists between Programme and the specialized agencies, particularly FAO. There is in fact a day-to-day working relationship going on all the time in relation to the appraisal of projects. It would in fact be hard to envisage a more intimate relation.

I think I should add though that food aid does present special problems as a development tool. If we are going to use it positively and while avoiding the negative effects that can arise from it, we need in fact the particular sort of expertise which resides only in WFP. While food aid can be used in some ways as money is used, because it is something in kind it poses very special problems in its use; it is not always suitable for every kind of development situation and certainly not every kind of agricultural development situation.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of fisheries has been raised by several delegations. I would like to say that while the impetus for further consideration of this matter which is alluded to in the report came from the main fish producers, the aspect of greatest interest to WFP has been the one that was also alluded to this morning; the possibility of using food aid to stimulate the development of fisheries in developing countries.

In relation to the provision of fish itself, it has never amounted to more than 6 to 7 percent of the total value of commodities pledged, and in terms of tonnage it is less than 2 percent. Now this seems rather paradoxical really because it is obvious that in many developing countries where fish is often the principal source of protein, it seems a pity that the use of fish cannot be expanded. It seems natural that one should be able to use a great deal more fish. I personally am committed in fact to finding ways of using more fish for this very reason. It seems a very appropriate form of supplementary food in many developing countries and we have in fact been making a new effort beyond what is referred to in the report before you to make a greater use of fish, but I must say that my own enthusiasm has been somewhat tempered by my much more experienced and wiser staff. They have told me some of the problems and they relate to, for example, the relatively short life in the tropics of some forms of fish, the unacceptability taste-wise of some of the more abundant species, and of course the problem of cost, which inevitably arises when one seeks to overcome some of those problems of short shelf life and so on. So what I am really saying is that we certainly agree that we should try to include more fish within the Programme but there are real constraints in that regard.

As regards the stimulation of fisheries in developing countries, that is the production of fish for their own use, a very real constraint is the fact that very few developing countries ever request support for fisheries development. The figures will no doubt astound you but I assure you they are correct. As of the beginning of last year, out of 1106 requests only 26 were for the development of fisheries. One of the reasons for this relative lack of interest on the part of developing countries is that fishery development is not usually very labour-intensive, so it does not lend itself very readily to fit-for-work projects which are the basis of the developmental activities of the Programme. Mr. Chairman, again the concept of triangular transactions was raised, a very important subject and one in which the World Food Programme has in a very practical way done a great deal to promote cooperation, north/south or south/south cooperation, cooperation between developing countries, but of course the limit - and this was stated by at least one delegation this morning - the limit of what we can do in relation to triangular transactions is the available cash resources. Within that limit it is certainly our policy to increase triangular transactions to the maximum.

In this regard it was also mentioned that perhaps the Programme should purchase more, not only in developing countries, not only by way of triangular transactions but for use in the developing country where the purchase was made. Well I am very pleased to say that in some limited emergency type situations we are already doing that and expect to do more.

I would also say that in situations where freight costs are very high in relation to local production costs, we are looking more and more at the purchase of food from within the country itself.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I am sure you will be glad to hear me say "finally", another step that has come up one way or another in the past - no doubt many times but in the short time that I have been with the Programme - is this issue of relative shares, particularly geographical regions, and it comes up of course because the data that is before you relates to one year, but in practice the share of any one region varies from one year to another. What really counts is the share over time, not the fluctuation from one year to another, the reason of course being a programme with very large projects such as WFP has and some of which are \$80 million or more, you inevitably get lumpiness from one year to another. So while it is perfectly true that the share of the Latin American and Caribbean regions has reached the level of 5.5 percent in 1982, that should be looked at in terms of the twenty year history of the Programme. The average share of the Latin American and Caribbean region has been 10 percent throughout the twenty years, but during that time it has fluctuated from a low of 1 percent in 1979, to a high of 17.7 percent in 1980, and again while it was 5.5 percent in 1982, if the CFA approves all the projects in relation to that region that will be coming before it in 1983, the percentage will in fact rise to 12 percent. The same applies to every other region. There is a natural fluctuation but one should not see in the annual fluctuation some sort of policy decision.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Ingram. I would also like to join the chorus of well deserved appreciation expressed by nearly 36 members and seven observers for the valuable and dedicated work being done by the Executive Director and Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed, his Deputy, and all the other staff members of WFP. I think we should also record our thanks both to the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO for their strong support to this Programme, and of course this Programme would not be there but for the donors to whom we are exceedingly grateful, and we hope additional donors will join.

I want to make a few comments after we have had the next presentation by Mr. West on 8.2, the Twentieth Anniversary of the UN/FAO World Food Programme, but at this stage I would like to get our business part out of the way, and I take it there is unanimity in the Council with reference to our support for the Draft Resolution, Annex II of document CL 83/6, the Draft Resolution for the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council on the Target for WFP Pledges for the period 1985-86. Have I your approval that we unanimously concur with this Draft Resolution so that the Drafting Committee can then put it in an appropriate way in our report? Well I see nods around and I thank you. So we approve this Draft Resolution and the Drafting Committee can incorporate it in the report.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I take the floor with great apology and I do not wish to interrupt the proceedings, but we believe Mr. Chairman that our distinguished friend from Afghanistan raised the issue of Afghan refugees, and it was pointed out that instead of being refugees they are nomads and therefore do not deserve the aid and assistance they are getting from multilateral agencies. Mr. Chairman, we assure you we do not wish to enter into any kind of political debate. We feel sure it is almost basically a semantic problem because, as we understand, nomads are people who move from place to place in order to search for grazing ground or are seeking outlets for production, and in our area, Mr. Chairman, they come down in the harsh winters and go back in the summers, but we have had these nomads from Afghanistan for four years or more than four years and they now number two million.

Mr. Chairman, we wish to reassure our friend from Afghanistan and other members of the Council that throughout the international fora, the UN bodies and everywhere, we are seeking that those friends that have sought shelter with us and to whom we have given shelter on purely humanitarian grounds, should be in a position to go back to their own land and live there with security and dignity.

M.L. BALUCHZADAH (Afghanistan): It is true, Mr. Chairman, that the Afghan nomads are there in Pakistan for about three or four years but may I ask a question to my friend, the distinguished delegate of Pakistan? Who closed the border so that they could not return to Afghanistan? I suggest this stems from the Pakistan Government, and I want the members of the Council to try to solve these things, and the Pakistan Government to give permission for these Afghan nomads to go securely, and return to Afghanistan as their own country and their own home.

8.2 The Twentieth Anniversary of the UN/FAO World Food Programme

8.2 Vingtième anniversaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO

8.2 El 20º Aniversario del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On behalf of the Director-General I should like to say that we too are glad that in your debate just finished you have expressed support for the World Food Programme and, incidentally, for the cooperation between the World Food Programme and FAO, in ensuring its efficient functioning and satisfactory projects. Also, I should like to note with satisfaction the unanimous adoption of a target which, while it was not the one recommended by the Executive Director and supported by the Secretary General and the Director-General, was nevertheless the result of extensive and careful discussions and agreements between Member governments. This makes it all the more fitting that the Council now turns to give its attention to the question of FAO's celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the World Food Programme, because the Council is one of the two parent bodies, along with the Economic and Social Council, of the World Food Programme.

Moreover, as noted by the Executive Director in his opening statement, FAO is involved in one way or another in virtually all WFP projects and, as indicated in the document, has special responsibilities for the functioning of the Programme. As many of you will already know, the World Food Programme owes a great deal for its existence to the initiative of the former Director-General of FAO, Dr. B.R. Sen, an initiative which he took in 1960. Then there was a significant General Assembly Resolution of October 1960 asking FAO to study the feasibility of arrangements for the provision of food surpluses to food deficient peoples, including multilateral arrangements under the auspices of FAO. A decisive contribution was then made by the representative of the United States. The document makes particular reference to Mr. George McGovern who went on to become a United States senator and a presidential candidate. But of course others were involved too.

As you will see from paragraph 5 of the document, the Committee on Commodity Problems as well as the FAO Council played a further important part in the formal creation of the World Food Programme and its establishment in 1963. Then in 1965 came the decisions of the FAO Conference and the General Assembly to extend the Programme on a continuing basis, so long as food aid was required.

As already indicated, the creation of the Programme was a joint effort between the United Nations and the FAO governing bodies. The basic regulations and procedures of the Programme are, in fact, unique in the UN system. They reflect the joint responsibility and also the singular special responsibilities of the Director-General, particularly for the financial and administrative aspects of the functioning of the Programme as well as for making decisions on the provision of resources for meeting emergency needs which now include the resources of the IEFER.

As one delegation said, nothing is perfect; and I suppose he would also say that no-one is perfect on this earth. But I am glad to take this opportunity of noting that there has not, in fact, been any difference of substance so far between the Executive Director and the Director-General on emergency allocations. The Executive Director makes the recommendations and the Director-General has been able to agree with them.

The Programme has, of course, greatly developed in ways other than the creation of the IEFER, as indicated in paragraph 8 which describes the transition from the old Intergovernmental Committee. The Intergovernmental Committee was in fact the first body in these buildings that I attended when I began my contacts with FAO and WFP, more years ago than I now care to remember. After the World Food Conference the existing Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes was established in place of the Intergovernmental Committee and, as noted a few moments ago, the Committee on Food Aid still reports annually to ECOSOC and the FAO Council as well as submitting reports to the World Food Council.

In this connection I was glad to note that the Executive Director just said that he would carefully consider the suggestions made in the Council for improving the annual report which - like other things - cannot be perfect. Despite his reference to various constraints, I am sure that he will in fact help the CFA find some ways of improving it.

The complementarity of the functions of the World Food Programme and of its FAO parent are referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the document. Paragraph 10, incidentally, includes a reference to the FAO Principles on Surplus Disposal and the machinery established concerning this, which do not often receive notice in discussions. In connection with these paragraphs I should also note that there is a mutual reinforcement between FAO's Regular and Field Programmes, and WFP projects for which FAO provides backstopping after examining them for economic feasibility, technical soundness and conformity with various requirements, including the just mentioned FAO Principles on Surplus Disposal.

As you will see, however, from paragraph 19, there is no complacency about past performance and achievements. Indeed, it is planned to review the orientation of FAO's policies and programmes in the light of the CFS discussion and adoption of the revised concept of World Food Security, and it is suggested in paragraph 20 that the Committee on Food Aid might review policies, criteria and modalities governing food aid, as an essential component of the revised concept.

It is also suggested in paragraph 21 that we should look further ahead to:

"Mutual reinforcement of its projects in agricultural and rural sectors with those of FAO, broadening and increasing its resource-base, enhancing its multilateral character by evolving procedures to maximise the quantum of untied aid and establishing linkages for increased flow of resources from the Food Aid Convention through the Programme, and refining the criteria and modalities, especially of emergency aid and the International Emergency Food Reserve to reflect changing circumstances, are but a few of the issues that suggest themselves in this context."

Finally, I would draw attention to paragraphs 22 and 23 of the document. As regards paragraph 22 I can mention that there will also be a joint message between the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director-General.

As regards paragraph 23, I am confident that the Council will have no problem in endorsing the suggestions made therein.

To sum up: the document reflects FAO's pride in the performance and achievements of the WFP and its abiding faith in the Programme's future as the pre-eminent instrument for the use of food aid to stimulate agricultural and rural development, to improve nutritional levels and to provide infrastructure for food security as also for the humanitarian purpose of alleviating human distress in times of emergencies.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. West. I think most delegates have already given their endorsement to the proposals for commemorating in an appropriate manner the 20th Anniversary of the World Food Programme.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La excelente presentación que de este tema ha hecho nuestro Director General Adjunto, el Sr. West, confirma la satisfactoria relación de cooperación que existe entre la FAO y el PMA.

En el párrafo 1 de este documento se hace referencia a la experiencia que ha consolidado el prestigio y el buen nombre del PMA a través de sus primeros veinte años de existencia, todo lo cual nos complace muy de veras.

En los párrafos 3 y 4, aparece claramente delineada la función importante, positiva y constructiva, que a través de todo ese largo período el Director General de la FAO ha mantenido en la orientación política y programática del Programa.

En los párrafos 9 y 10 se detallan claramente la manera como se complementa la labor de la FAO y del PMA. De los párrafos 11 a 14, las cifras por sí solas confirman esta importancia. Respecto a esas cifras, la delegación de Colombia quiere apoyar una vez más la necesidad de que los recursos del PMA se destinen preferencialmente a los países africanos, tal como se dice en el párrafo 14, particularmente.

En el párrafo 16 hay dos principios, Señor Presidente, sobre los cuales se ha basado esencialmente la vida del Programa. Nosotros queremos apoyar estos dos principios, pero agregar otro también. Los dos principios actuales son sobre que se debe evitar la discriminación del aumento de la producción en los países en desarrollo y de que la asistencia alimentaria debe suministrarse de la manera más

eficaz. El mejor homenaje que podemos hacer a los veinte años del PMA es consagrar también en esta ocasión un tercer principio que ya ha sido aceptado en todos los Organismos Internacionales, y que es el de condenar el uso de los alimentos como arma política; de tal manera que la asistencia alimentaria del PMA se ofrezca en atención a las reales necesidades humanas y sociales sin discriminación política.

A este respecto, la delegación de Colombia desearía expresar la esperanza de que no se repita el proceso lamentable que precedió al apoyo de la ayuda alimentaria al país del Viet Nam y que se siga ayudando a ese país y a todos aquellos que lo necesiten sin discriminación política.

En los párrafos 19. y 20 hay una referencia muy importante y la delegación de Colombia piensa que el excelente informe del Director General sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial que fue acogido por el CSA y refrendado por el Consejo, contiene aspectos muy interesantes que estén llamados a causar impacto igualmente en las actividades del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Creemos que en nuestro Informe deberemos decir que esas recomendaciones del CSA y del Consejo sobre el Informe del Director General, en materia de seguridad alimentaria, deben ser tenidas muy en cuenta por la Secretaría del PMA.

Estamos muy satisfechos y agradecidos a la FAO por esta iniciativa de celebrar los veinte años del PMA. La FAO, como todos sabemos, es uno de los padres del PMA, y es justo que nuestra Organización esté orgullosa de los logros obtenidos por este Programa.

Apoyamos plenamente los párrafos 22 y 23, y estamos seguros de que el Director General y el Sr. West tienen imaginación fértil y constructiva y seguramente va a hacer realidad la frase final del párrafo 23, en la cual se dice que la Conferencia debe poner de relieve la importancia de la ocasión. Nosotros quisiéramos complementar ese principio general de destacar la importancia de esa ocasión, tal vez proponiendo que durante la Conferencia, en el debate general, cuando estén presentes los Ministros, se lleva a cabo una celebración especial a través de la cual el Presidente de la Conferencia y el Director General de la FAO pronuncien sendas alocuciones sobre esta celebración. La próxima Conferencia nos ofrece una coyuntura favorable, sabemos que va a ser presidida por el Sr. John Block, Secretario de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, país que como se demuestra en este documento, y como sabemos todos, ha tenido gran importancia, y sigue teniendo, en la vida del Programa Mundial de Alimentos; de manera que, ojalá, si el Consejo estuviera de acuerdo, pudiéramos hacer esta recomendación para que esa celebración en el seno de la Conferencia, tenga una importancia específica y destacada.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia desea reafirmar lo que manifestamos esta mañana al final de nuestra intervención sobre el tema anterior. Creemos que el prestigio que se ha ganado el PMA en estos veinte años está basado en la forma seria, ordenada y equilibrada como ha trabajado la Secretaría del PMA, y todos cuantos han pasado por su Secretaría.

Por esto, a la delegación de Colombia le preocuparía que particularmente en este último año se vaya a deteriorar esa posición de prestigio y seriedad de que goza el PMA. Creemos que es necesario que en la Secretaría del PMA se comprenda y se ponga en práctica la natural relación que debe existir entre una Secretaría y los Representantes de los Gobiernos, que somos los mandantes de la burocracia internacional a cualquier nivel. Si cualquier representante de Gobierno de cualquier país presenta una queja, hace una observación o solicita una información, creemos que la Secretaría de ese organismo tiene el deber y la obligación de dar explicaciones del caso y no de asumir actitudes arrogantes en reuniones públicas manifestando que esas quejas son inexactas, sin serlas, porque, naturalmente, esa actitud de irrespeto no podríamos aceptarla.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): We would like to make a few remarks. We did not say very much this morning so I fear there may be a little duplication but I hope not too much.

As the performance of the World Food Programme over the past 20 years is reviewed the United States is proud of its participation since its inception. From the modest beginning as an experiment which arose, as Mr. West said, from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of 1960 the World Food Programme has developed and grown to become the largest source of development assistance in the United Nations system, apart from the World Bank. The encouragement and support that the United Nations Secretary General has provided WFP over the years in the areas of economic and social development is commended. Efforts of the Director-General of FAO in maintaining the accounts of the World Food Programme fund and in support of those technical aspects, the important technical aspects which include securing nutrition improvements, and efficiencies, of food production and distribution, are equally commended.

WFP's experience has shown that integrating food aid international plans and programmes of developing countries is most beneficial, promoting development efforts and availing disincentives and continued dependence on food aid. In particular the WFP policy which gives highest consideration within its priorities to requests for assistance for national food reserves, when it clearly demonstrates that such reserves could have a positive effect on food security, production and supplies within the recipient country, reiterates WFP's support of the efforts of others in food security.

The US delegation would like to reiterate what the governing body of the World Food Programme said in its Fifteenth Session a statement with which we fully concur, "The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes congratulated WFP on 20 years of distinguished service to humanity. It expressed its pride in the impressive record of achievements attained by the Programme in carrying out its mandate which was testimony to a well-functioning organization and a hardworking and dedicated staff. WFP is one of the success stories of the United Nations system. The Programme has nurtured and strengthened international cooperation for development through its activities. The Committee recognized that the considerable achievements of 1982 accrued from the dynamic leadership that the Executive Director had given to the Programme since taking up his post one year ago."

My delegation encourages those efforts that are being undertaken to acknowledge WFP's successful 20 years and launch it full speed into its next decades of assistance to development. The United States stands ready to participate appropriately in these efforts of acknowledgement.

As a footnote I hope that the statement by the delegate of Colombia is not taken as implying that WFP uses its resources as a political weapon.

A. ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Panamá): Sobre el tema en discusión, el 20° aniversario del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO, la delegación de Panamá desea hacer las siguientes tres puntualizaciones:

Primera, consideramos que el PMA se ha esforzado y se esforzará porque, aparte de los dos principios esenciales que ha observado en sus actividades, indicados en el párrafo 16, está también el principio básico de no dejar que sus actividades estén influidas por consideraciones eminentemente políticas que conlleve a la utilización de los alimentos como arma política.

Segunda, apoyamos lo expuesto en el párrafo 23 del documento CL 83/19 en el sentido de que este Consejo concluya formulando un llamamiento a los donantes tradicionales, así como a otros posibles nuevos donantes, invitándoles a cumplir los objetivos ordinarios del PMA y la reserva alimentaria internacional de emergencia.

Y tercera, tal y como lo expresó esta delegación en su intervención anterior, somos partidarios de que este 83° Consejo de la FAO debe dejar sentado su reconocimiento por la labor que ha realizado el PMA desde su creación, el primero de enero de 1963, y ofrecerle su apoyo para que siga logrando éxitos en el futuro, por lo que bien se debe proponer a la Conferencia que destaque este 20° aniversario del PMA.

Esta delegación destaca el carácter de complementariedad de las funciones del PMA y la FAO y destacamos igualmente este hecho por los frutos positivos que ha dado y que todos hemos estado de acuerdo en reconocer.

Finalmente, Panamá, como miembro de este Consejo de la FAO, se solidariza y pide amplío apoyo concreto con lo expuesto por la distinguida Observadora de la hermana República de Bolivia, así como por lo expuesto igualmente por el distinguido Embajador de Perú en su calidad de Observador.

F.G. POULIDES (Chypre): Je voudrais féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO d'avoir inscrit le point 8.2 à notre ordre du jour "Vingtième anniversaire du Programme Alimentaire Mondial ONU/FAO".

Nous avons lu avec intérêt la genèse et l'historique de ce Programme lancé à la suite d'une initiative conjointe du Directeur général de la FAO et du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies.

Le Programme Alimentaire Mondial pendant ces 20 ans a amplement montré sa vitalité et apporté une aide incontestable à des dizaines de millions de personnes de par le monde. Il est devenu un instrument indispensable pour l'utilisation de l'aide alimentaire à des fins de développement agricole et rural, stimuler la production, améliorer les niveaux nutritionnels, fournir une infrastructure pour la sécurité alimentaire et intervenir promptement en cas d'urgence.

Le document souligne justement que le PAM n'a pas seulement apporté une dimension nouvelle à l'aide alimentaire en élargissant sa portée et son champ d'action, mais qu'il a représenté une étape importante dans la campagne mondiale contre la faim et la malnutrition lancée auparavant par la FAO.

Il était donc naturel que le PAM relève de la FAO et des Nations Unies qui en assurent la responsabilité conjointe.

Le document a d'ailleurs le mérite de détailler certains domaines dans lesquels le Secrétaire général et le Directeur général sont conjointement responsables du bon fonctionnement du Programme.

Il mentionne aussi la responsabilité particulière du Directeur général dans un certain nombre de secteurs administratifs et financiers ainsi que dans le domaine des aides alimentaires d'urgence.

Ces détails ne sont généralement pas connus et méritaient d'être cités. Ces dispositions sont la base solide et bien fondée sur laquelle le PAM peut et doit travailler et se décharger du mandat qui lui a été donné par les Nations Unies et la FAO.

Nous considérons donc comme très naturel que des liens étroits et harmonieux existent entre la FAO et le PAM qui ne font que renforcer leur prestige.

Nous apprécions donc l'occasion qui nous est donnée d'associer la FAO - l'un des deux parents du PAM - à cette commémoration et nous pouvons marquer notre accord sur les arrangements qui sont suggérés aux paragraphes 22 et 23.

En particulier, nous avons pris note avec intérêt et appuyons l'intention du Directeur général de diffuser un message et d'organiser une exposition au moment de la Conférence. Tout ce qui peut mettre en lumière la façon dont le Programme contribue aux objectifs de la FAO est le bienvenu.

C'est certes un plaisir, même un devoir, pour le Conseil et plus tard pour la Conférence, d'exprimer son appréciation pour le travail accompli.

Mais, Monsieur le Président, il n'y aurait pas de meilleur moyen d'exprimer sa confiance et sa reconnaissance au PAM que de lui donner les ressources nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs fixés, tant pour les contributions ordinaires que pour la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence.

Dans cette perspective nous approuvons l'idée que le Conseil et la Conférence fassent appel aux donateurs traditionnels et potentiels pour que les objectifs du Programme soient atteints et si possible, dépassés.

M. BENNIS (Maroc): Mon intervention ne traitera que de la célébration proprement dite du 20ème anniversaire du PAM.

En effet, la délégation du Maroc ne voudrait pas laisser passer l'occasion de cet anniversaire sans adresser au PAM, en tant qu'institution, un message de bon anniversaire, et sans présenter à son personnel, à travers son Directeur exécutif, ses chaleureuses félicitations.

Ma délégation voudrait que l'accent soit suffisamment mis sur le bilan largement positif des activités du PAM depuis sa naissance et pendant les vingt années écoulées. Les chiffres sont très significatifs et parlent d'eux-mêmes. Je ne veux pas y revenir. Je rappellerai brièvement que plus de cinq milliards de dollars ont été engagés, 1 100 projets de développement ont été mis en oeuvre, 114 pays en ont bénéficié, un milliard et plus de dollars d'aide alimentaire d'urgence, 600 opérations de secours dont 103 pays ont été le théâtre.

Monsieur le Président, ceci se passe de tout commentaire et nous nous en réjouissons.

C'est pourquoi, et concernant la préparation de l'anniversaire du PAM à la FAO, ma délégation voudrait appuyer les propositions du paragraphe 23 du document CL 83/19 pour que le Conseil formule une appréciation à l'endroit du PAM. Cette appréciation ne devrait être qu'un sentiment de satisfaction et d'éloge et une expression d'encouragement et de fierté.

Ma délégation voudrait également que le Conseil adresse une recommandation dans le même sens à la prochaine session de la Conférence de la FAO.

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): My delegation compliments and congratulates FAO on its initiative in the observance of the 20th anniversary of the WFP. The WFP in the 20 years of its existence has not only helped alleviate the distress of millions all over the world by providing food and relief and supplementary nutrition to disadvantaged groups, but also equally, if not more importantly, opened up a new horizon in national development strategy by providing food as an input resource, market windows for agro-based developing economies, encouraging triangular transactions, and assisting and supporting the establishment of grain reserves and price stabilization.

It is regretted that in spite of its eminently outstanding performance, a fact obviously recognized by the world community, the WFP continues to fail in achieving its resource targets against a backdrop of increasing demands on the Programme from all corners of the world.

My delegation fervently hopes that in the days ahead response to the requirements of the Programme would be more encouraging and that the WFP would find itself better equipped to carry forward the excellent work which has distinguished its first 20 years.

It has been very correctly observed in document CL 83/19 that what has been accomplished is but a beginning compared with the tasks and opportunities ahead.

We fully agree with the Brandt Commission's observation that it is not food aid that should be objected to, but poorly used food aid. In fact, objecting to food aid is tantamount to the denial of the most basic human right.

What is required is that the paramount necessity of the proper utilization of food aid is recognized, especially by the national governments, as also by the international organizations and agencies, and such recognition is reflected in the national, regional and global programmes and their proper implementation and management.

In conclusion I would again like to re-emphasize the necessity that we in Bangladesh feel for the further strengthening of the WFP, both resourcewise and managementwise, so that it can meet the mounting demands and accomplish the tasks ahead with the same high degree of performance par excellence that has been the WFP's hallmark in the past two decades.

N.S. COOK (Canada): Paragraph 18 of document CL 83/19 refers to a recent estimate of food aid requirements at 20 million metric tons of cereals. We do not want this Council to be caught up in a misunderstanding in accepting or adopting document CL 83/19 that we implicitly accept 20 million metric tons as the agreed established food aid target for even that amount is needed. This amount of 20 million metric tons is only one of many estimates. The governing body of the World Food Programme is the CFA, not the FAO Council or the CFS. We wonder if Mr. Ingram or Mr. West can assure us that this document has been discussed by the CFA. We should not want to be seen as only trying to offer constructive suggestions to the World Food Programme, not issuing directives to it, or its governing body for that matter.

In response to another intervention, delegations, rather like the Secretariat, in the view of Canada should not be seen as arrogant. I can only repeat the observation made by another colleague, that the World Food Programme has shown great courtesy, and indeed patience, with various member governments, including our own.

My government would like to take this occasion, like many other governments, to congratulate both the executive and the staff of the World Food Programme on twenty years of outstanding humanitarian service, but remains conscious nonetheless that celebration is somewhat premature. It is our belief that when we no longer need to provide food aid, then indeed it is time to celebrate. Food aid targets of course represent a continuing collective failure.

Finally, my government plans to pay homage to the World Food Programme in a forthcoming publication describing the cooperation between Canada and the World Food Programme over twenty years, and that publication will be made available here in Rome.

LI CHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): I would not like to repeat what other delegations have already said before me, but the Chinese delegation would like to say we give our full support to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 22 and 23 of document CL 83/19 and in particular to three proposals contained in paragraph 23 - that is to say, first that the Council should appeal to donors to fulfil the target, secondly that it should express its appreciation of the work of the Programme, and thirdly that the Council might propose to the Conference that special note should be taken of the 20th anniversary of the World Food Programme.

L. ARIZO HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos felicitar al Director General y al Dr. West por su presentación; creemos que es un documento muy ilustrativo y para nosotros, en lo personal, significa una ayuda muy importante para conocer su realización y actuación futura. Por nuestra condición de ser realmente nuevos aquí, en Roma, creemos que en la mañana y parte de la tarde se expuso con bastante amplitud y claridad la importancia del Programa, su significación, su trabajo, sus logros y lo que significa realmente para la comunidad que necesita la ayuda alimentaria. Esto merece una celebración digna de su responsabilidad y logros.

En ese contexto apoyamos el documento en toda su extensión, específicamente en los párrafos 22 y 23, pero queremos también apoyar la proposición de la delegación de Colombia en un sentido: en el sentido de que, realmente, incluyéndolo exaltaría el verdadero sentido del PMA. No creo que restaría al PMA, puesto que la situación lamentable, que todos recordamos, del Proyecto Viet Nam realmente no se pudo aplicar un bloqueo como arma política, realmente no se pudo, pero sí se le mantuvo durante un año sin poderse aprobar, a pesar de que las veces que se le discutió, la Secretaría, con versiones técnicas, consideradas como perfectas, probaba la idoneidad del proyecto; luego entonces, realmente creemos que la celebración de este Programa se tiene que garantizar sin condicionar las concepciones políticas y se puede incluir lo que ha planteado la delegación de Colombia, y de esta forma exaltar el verdadero sentido de este Programa.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I wish to begin by complimenting Mr. West on the introduction to the document. We find the document itself very lucid and very informative. We wish to place on record our appreciation of the WFP work in the last twenty years and want to be associated with the 20th anniversary of WFP. I may point out here that my government is also actively participating in this 20th anniversary by issuing a commemorative postage stamp for the WFP.

Some parts of the document we find very informative and we find that they warrant our wholehearted support. I am particularly referring to paragraphs 17 and 18. We feel that what has been stated in paragraph 18 is true and depicts the effectual picture as far as the food aid requirements of developing countries are concerned. We also feel that the 20 million target, although it is only an estimate, is an indication of the direction in which WFP should be moving so that the needs of the developing countries can be fulfilled.

We also endorse paragraph 22 and particularly paragraph 23 and we feel that the Council should place on record its appreciation of the work of the World Food Programme and the Conference should be recommended to do the same.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am very grateful for all the remarks that have been made and the support which has been given, and on that basis the Director-General will be able to go ahead and I believe formulate the detailed arrangements for use in the Conference. The suggestions made in this regard will have very careful attention. There was only one delegation that raised a question, criticized the document or criticized the idea of the celebration and in fact, as I said, asked a question. I therefore am obliged by the question to give an answer, which I shall endeavour to do with all patience and courtesy even though I have to single out one delegation.

I do not think I can see anything in paragraph 18 which amounts to a directive to anyone, and if I remember right, although it is not mentioned here, the Committee on Food Security did discuss this figure of 20 million tons in cereals and said something to the effect that it found it a useful indicator; it did not say it was a target, this does not say it was a target, it is just a useful indicator, and of course, it is up to the responsible organs to decide what targets it wants to establish at any time, but in this regard I must add that the responsible organs are not solely the CFA, as was suggested. The responsible organs, as shown by your debate today, are the FAO Council and ECOSOC, and the FAO Conference and the General Assembly; they will decide what to do about the Resolution concerning the resources of the World Food Programme.

Finally, I should hate to leave the impression, which is suggested might be the case, that we are celebrating the need to continue food aid. Of course we are not. What FAO wants to celebrate is two things. First is the performance and achievements of the World Food Programme over the years on which such satisfaction has been expressed today, and secondly, the generosity of the governments who have made it possible.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ingram, would you like to say anything?

Well, I do not see anyone else. We will first get to the business part of our work and I shall then conclude with a few remarks of my own. I am going to adjourn this meeting after this item because we have to show some consideration to the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee. They have a lot of work to do. What we will do tomorrow is first take up items 14.2, that is the Scale of Contributions and then 15 and 18.1. For these three items I shall take the Chair, and I have requested my colleague the distinguished Vice-President, Dr. Hamdi, to assume the Chair from item 18.2, and hopefully, we would like to complete the entire agenda tomorrow, and then the Drafting Committee will continue its work.

Well, this will be the kind of programme we shall follow. I will request you to cooperate tomorrow in getting through our entire agenda. We will start promptly at 9.30 on the Scale of Contributions.

Fellow members of the Council and ladies and gentlemen: As one who has had contact with the World Food Programme from about 1965 or 1966, it is my duty to add my words of sincere appreciation for all those who conceived the Programme and who have built it over the years. I am happy that we all heard both Mr. Ingram and Mr. West outline various measures which are proposed for commemorating this Twentieth Anniversary in a suitable manner.

I believe that in our world which is beleaguered by a sense of negation and despair, WFP represents one of the most meaningful affirming flames we have alive. We are grateful that this truly multilateral development assistance effort has grown in magnitude, variety and relevance during the past twenty years. As many delegates said here, the World Food Programme is not only helping to alleviate human distress, both in normal times and during emergencies, but is also increasingly helping to prevent distress sales of food grains by small farmers by making purchases from its own resources in developing countries. I think we are all agreed that the WFP has become a powerful

instrument for alleviating human suffering arising either from the famine of food or from the famine of job, and in many instances the famine of job is really the mother of the famine of food. Therefore, the Twentieth Anniversary of the World Food Programme provides an opportunity for both looking back and looking forward.

As stated in the Eighth Annual Report presented by the Executive Director, during the last twenty years, 170 million people have been helped by WFP through both development and emergency assistance. Last week, Council Members may recall hearing when we discussed the Report of the Committee on Agriculture that at least 500 million, an estimated 500 million people, may be undernourished in the world today. To all such people, these 500 million or whatever the number is, God is Bread. That is what the leader in my country Mahatma Gandhi, once said: to those who are hungry, God is Bread.

It is thus clear that the World Food Programme and similar initiatives at the national, regional and global levels deserve rapid expansion. From my personal experience with food for work, rural employment and what we call the Employment Guarantee Scheme in the State of Maharashtra, I fully endorse the statements made by several delegations that a well-planned food for development programme is a very effective instrument for the elimination of hunger as well as for the development of rural infrastructure essential for accelerated agricultural advance.

I often observe that when mothers from poor families receive wages partly in the form of food grains, the children become the most immediate beneficiaries. In fact, an integrated Food for Development Programme catering to the needs of all able-bodied persons in search of work and of food and a Food for Nutrition Programme catering to the needs of children, pregnant and nursing mothers and old and infirm persons is the immediately feasible method of assisting the economically deprived sections of the population of any country. It is in this context that we welcome the extensive and appropriate steps taken to commemorate the Twentieth Anniversary of the World Food Programme. We have just heard that the commemoration programme includes the issue of messages, medals, stamps, organization of seminars and exhibitions. I wonder whether if in addition to all these worthy steps the Executive Director and his competent staff can prepare with assistance from FAO a portfolio of Twentieth Anniversary Commemoration Action Plans for implementation by interested national governments and bilateral donors as their contribution to the commemoration of what I consider to be one of the most exciting adventures in recent human history.

Let me cite an example of innovative local initiatives. A project being prepared by the Society for the Promotion of Wastelands Development in India involves linking provision of mid-day meals to school children to promoting a school forestry programme designed to provide the fuel needed to cook the mid-day meal. Also in the school kitchen, low-cost smokeless stoves will be used, therefore demonstrating to mothers who bring the children to the school how to avoid harm to their eyes and health from smoke.

Council Members and Observers: Let us all try to do whatever we can individually and collectively to spread the World Food Programme message by deed in addition to words on the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary.

I thank you very much and we adjourn until 9.30 tomorrow morning.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 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 83/PV/15

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 15ª SESION PLENARIA (22 June 1983)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième seance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª Sesión Plenaria a las 09.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: We shall resume our discussion on the items of the Agenda. As you will notice from the Order of the Day, we are hoping that today we will be able to complete all the items and take up consideration of the Draft Report tomorrow. I know the Drafting Committee worked late last night -until midnight in fact - and we are grateful to them for the work they are doing.

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LE FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION - RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS - INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (continuación)
- 14. Financial Matters: (continued)
- 14. Questions financières: (suite)
- 14. Asuntos financieros: (continuación)
- 14.2 Scale of Contributions, 1984-85
- 14.2 Barème des contributions 1984-85
- 14.2 Escala de cuotas para 1984-85

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): First, I would draw your attention to the paragraphs cited by the Chairman, 3.71, 3.72 and 3.73 of the Report of the Finance Committee, CL 83/4, relating to the Scale of Contributions for the 1984-85 biennium, including a Resolution recommended by the Finance Committee for submission by the Council to the I Conference. As usual, the proposed scale has been derived directly from the current United Nations scale of assessments, taking into account the differences in membership between the UN and FAO. The practice of deriving the FAO scale from the United Nations scale was established by decision of I the Eighth Session of the Conference in 1955 and confirmed after a very thorough and detailed review by the Eighteenth Session of the Conference in 1975.

While reservations have been expressed from time to time by certain Member Nations concerning the most appropriate basis for arriving at the FAO scale, it has been recognized at all times by an overwhelming majority of Members that the United Nations Committee on Contributions is the most qualified body for assessing Member Governments' ability to pay, as well as the other factors entering into the computation of an equitable scale of contributions. The desirability of harmonization of scales of assessment of organizations within the United Nations system has been acknowledged in order to avoid *inter alia* duplication of the work of the UN Committee on Contributions. Any break away from use of the United Nations scale as the basis for the FAO scale would have undesirable repercussions throughout the United Nations system.

The Director-General supports the recommendations of the Finance Committee that the Council should submit to the Conference for its approval the scale set out in appendix C of the report of the Finance Committee.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Under General Rule XXVII-7 (j) the Finance Committee is required to keep under review the scale of contributions and to make recommendations to the Council of any modifications in the scale of contributions.

During our discussion the Committee was informed that the UN scale of assessments for the triennial period 1983/85 was adopted by the General Assembly. Since the FAO scale of contributions is directly derived from the United Nations scale of assessments as enforced during the year of the Conference session and is applicable to the two following years and since the Committee saw no compelling reasons to deviate from this procedure the Committee recommended the adoption of the United Nations scale. The draft of the resolution to be placed before the Conference, as appearing in paragraph 3.73 of its report is placed before the Council for approval.

A.F.M. de FREITAS (Brazil): Paragraphs 3.71 and 3.73 of document CL 83/4 remind the Council that the FAO scale of contributions derives directly from the scale of contributions of the United Nations, with the necessary adjustments due to the differing composition of the two organizations.

The Brazilian Government has continuously indicated, both in the General Assembly and in recent sessions of the specialized agencies, that it is not satisfied with the criteria adopted by the United Nations to establish the scale of contributions of the member countries. Such criteria are limited to the national income and a discount formula based on the per capita income level presented by the countries.

The Brazilian Government is of the view that such criteria are insufficient to allow a correct evaluation of the relative capacity to pay of each Member Country. Accordingly Brazil voted against the Resolution 37/125 of the General Assembly of the United Nations which adopted the United Nations scale of contributions for the period 1983/85. The Brazilian delegation in the Committee on Contributions in the United Nations and in the General Assembly has proposed in a positive manner and in a constructive spirit proper and more objective criteria for the preparation of the United Nations scale of contributions, according to the principles of the Resolution 36/231. With your permission I will refer to the criteria suggested by the Brazilian delegation. One, better comparability of national income statistics. As we know, comparability is effected by the existence of different methods of national accounting and also by different inflation rates. Two, the national accumulated wealth should be included in these criteria. The developing countries in general have to face high expenditures in infrastructure works which in the industrialized countries have been amortized long ago. Three, the criteria should also take into consideration the difficulties, the balance of payments of member countries and their different capacity to obtain foreign currency. Four, special attention should be given to countries whose export earnings depend basically on a single or a few products. Five, the criteria should also take into account the multiple circumstances which may actually affect the capacity to pay of Member Countries. Sixth, and finally, special consideration should be given to the developing countries in general and to LDC countries in particular which have to struggle against special economic and financial problems.

I believe that many, if not all of the elements should be taken into account by FAO in its preparation of its scale of contributions. We should try to prevent burdening even more the contribution of the developing countries by adapting mechanically the new United Nations scale of contributions on a purely arithmetical basis.

My delegation wishes to address itself to the Director-General of FAO and ask him to promote a study on the subject with a view to obtaining a more equitable calculation of the contribution of Member Countries. I would appreciate it very much if some information on this subject could be prepared and circulated before the next Council.

My delegation is not in a position to support the scale of contributions as proposed in document CL 83/4. In fact my delegation feels that this proposal merely transposes to FAO the scale of contributions of the United Nations and it does not respect the principle of equality and it does not either take into consideration the capacity to pay of the Member Countries.

My delegation also requests the Director-General to transmit to the Secretary General of the United Nations the concern expressed in the FAO Council with respect to the objectivity of the criteria, the method and the procedure followed by the United Nations in the preparation of its scale of contributions for 1984/85 and their frustration with the present one.

My delegation would also appreciate if the Secretary General could on his part transmit this concern to the Committee on Contributions of the United Nations and request it to establish more objective methods and criteria to determine the relative capacity of the Member Countries, in accordance with Resolution 36/231 of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

W. HERMKES (Germany, Federal Republic of): On behalf of the ten members of the European Community I would like to make the following statement on the scale of contributions. During the discussion of the new UN scale in New York in the Fifth Committee as well as in the General Assembly the members of the European Community, among others, expressed their serious concern about, and their disapproval of, the new UN scale and they voted against that scale. The reasons for our attitude were the procedure chosen by the General Assembly to resolve the problems which had arisen over the scale. Through this procedure the independent status and the integrity of the Committee on Contributions had been severely diminished and damaged. The new United Nations scale had not been elaborated on the basis of objective statistical and economic data made available to the Committee on Contributions, nor on the real capacity of Member States to pay, but on an essentially political criteria. The fact that Member States paying more than 70 percent of the regular budget were unable in the General Assembly to support the adoption of the scale is, in our opinion, a clear reflection of the unsatisfactory procedure and the unsatisfactory result in arriving at a new scale. However, the decision was taken by the General Assembly. Consequently, although these reasons are still valid, we accept the new cooperation and consensus between all member states of the FAO which will certainly facilitate and foster the work of our Organization. The members of the European Community on the other hand will continue to support all efforts to come to more objective criteria for the United Nations scale of contributions. We fully trust that the views expressed will be adequately reflected in the report for our Council session. Nevertheless we would appreciate it if this statement were to be annexed to the report.

CHAIRMAN: I think that as regards your request that your statement should be annexed to the report, normally, we have not been adding any statements to the report so I will have to refer to the Chairman and the members of the Drafting Committee. It is a drafting exercise and we do not normally append statements but anyway I will leave it to the Drafting Committee to discuss this issue and come with the recommendation.

A. PEREZ-MARSA HERNANDEZ (España): La delegación española quisiera hacer una declaración en relación con el informe del 51 período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas contenido en el documento CL 83/4, y en especial a las escalas de cuotas de la FAO propuestas para el próximo bienio.

A pesar de que se nos indica que la contabilización para el cómputo de las cuotas ha sido hecha basándose directamente en las escalas de cuotas de Naciones Unidas aprobada por la Asamblea General en su Resolución 37/125 del pasado 17 de diciembre, mi delegación quiere hacer constar, al igual que hizo en la Comisión de Cuotas de Naciones Unidas, en la que España está representada en la V Comisión, así como la 103 Sesión de la Asamblea General celebrada el 17 de diciembre pasado en la que España votó en contra de la Resolución antes mencionada, repito, señor Presidente, que mi delegación quisiera hacer constar su desacuerdo con la escala de cuotas propuesta y solicita se prevea una revisión de la misma antes de su definitiva aprobación.

Señor Presidente, como usted ya conoce, el porcentaje del presupuesto global de Naciones Unidas que le corresponde a España para el próximo bienio es del 1.93; el incremento de la cuota española respecto del último bienio fue de 20 centésimas; en la FAO, por su menor número de miembros, España partía de una cifra superior al 2 por ciento en su participación al presupuesto de la Organización, y en la escala prevista el incremento de la cuota española es de 25 centésimas. A decir verdad no creo que la situación económica de mi país, comparada con la de otros Miembros en estos últimos años, haya sido tan buena como para que en la revisión de la escala de cuotas a España le corresponda el cuarto incremento en importancia respecto al bienio anterior.

En consecuencia, teniendo en mente la situación económica y financiera de mi país, me permito solid citar la revisión por el Comité de Finanzas de la escala de cuotas propuesta y solicita la búsqueda de otros medios más reales para su determinación.

Por último, espero, señor Presidente, que dicha escala no sea aprobada hasta lograr una distribución más justa y adecuada de las cuotas.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Al analizarse en el seno de las Naciones Unidas la escala de cuotas para el trienio 83/85, que es la base para establecer la cuota de todo el sistema de Naciones Unidas, la delegación de México manifestó su inconformidad con la misma debido a los siguientes argumentos:

Primero: Por falta de tiempo dicha Comisión no pudo cumplir debidamente con el mandato de la Asamblea.

Segundo: Unicamente un tercio de la tasación de contribuciones se basó en estadísticas de ingreso nacional bruto proporcionadas por Estados Miembros. En gran parte se basó en estadísticas existentes en la Oficina de Estadística de las Naciones Unidas.

Tercero: Hubo sobrevalorización de tipos de cambio y de estadísticas sobre el ingreso nacional basado en precios constantes, sin tener en cuenta la inflación real.

Cuarto: La nueva escala que se propone para 1983/1985 presenta una transacción anómala e incompatible con los principios de justicia y de equidad.

Por otra parte, es claro que el mayor impacto de aumento se presenta en los países petroleros en vías de desarrollo y los parámetros y argumentos utilizados por la Comisión de Cuotas de las Naciones Unidas no son reales a la luz de la grave situación económica y financiera de los países en vías de desarrollo. Al adoptarla no se consideró la capacidad real de pago y el nivel de endeudamiento de los países, ni otros problemas económicos causados por la desigual relación de intercambio en el comercio internacional que se ha agravado, aún más, ante la caída de los precios de las materias primas.

Por todas estas razones, nuestra delegación en Nueva York se vio obligada a votar en contra de la Resolución 37/125 A, ya que el Gobierno de México consideró que la Comisión de Cuotas no se apegó a las instrucciones que previamente le había dado la Asamblea General en su Resolución 36/231 A.

La posición de México en todos los foros internacionales ha sido siempre congruente, y por lo tanto, tengo instrucciones precisas de mi gobierno de manifestar que México no puede aceptar la escala de cuotas que estamos analizando ya que el porcentaje de contribución que pretende asignársele a nuestro país representa 18 puntos más de los que tiene asignados en la ONU y aun cuando se mantuviera el porcentaje actual de nuestra contribución el aumento de la misma sería aproximadamente 150 mil dólares. Quiero insistir en que, así como se ha tomado en consideración la difícil situación económica mundial al reducir el porcentaje de contribución de muchos países en desarrollo y algunos desarrollados, la crisis específica de algunos países también debe ser tomada en cuenta para que la escala de cuotas refleje con justicia las posibilidades económicas reales de todos los países.

Es más, insistimos en que en todo caso la adaptación de la escala de cuotas de la FAO no se haga exclusivamente sobre una base aritmética, sino teniendo muy en cuenta factores económicos y financieros. En el caso de nuestro país plantearemos una situación concreta. Por lo tanto, proponemos concretamente que este Consejo no adopte el contenido de los párrafos correspondientes del documento CL 83/4 y especialmente el 3.73 en lo que se refiere a la Resolución para dar así oportunidad a que el Cornitele Finanzas revise nuevamente la escala tomando en consideración los argumentos mencionados y presentándonos una nueva escala al Consejo inmediatamente anterior al próximo período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

Por último, queremos manifestar que apoyamos plenamente en todos sus puntos la declaración formulada por la distinguida delegación de Brasil, dado que se presentó de una manera muy comprensiva y tiene soluciones y propuestas positivas y concretas que esperamos que este Consejo tome en consideración.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): I think you will remember that two or three days ago we touched upon the scale of contributions. We were addressing our speech to developing countries and we said that we felt that the general tendency now is to burden developing countries. This is clearly borne out in the scale of contributions for 1984/85,

In the Finance Committee - as you well know, we are members of this Committee - we have raised the subject and I was among the first speakers to touch upon this item when it was presented to us. We have asked for clarification. We tried to find facts. At the time we were told that the scale - and we know that this is a fact - was devised and adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations - that is, that the Finance Committee does not have much choice apart from accepting the scale of contributions.

We have listened to some fellow delegates who have just said that this is unjust. We would go even further than that and say that it is totally unjust. It means that developing countries should be vigilant and should look with extreme care at the situation, because in fact this is the first step towards the future of the whole Organization. So we should be vigilant, we should take care, and we should look always to the future. If the increase in the contributions goes only to developing countries without a decrease in the developed countries - and here I repeat, when I speak about developed countries I am not speaking only about rich countries, I am speaking about all these countries which do have money, financial resources, natural resources, know-how, etc. Hence I repeat my appeal for vigilance on the part of developing countries which should always look to the future. Here I am addressing myself to developing countries and I have already informed my government of this situation after the meetings of the Finance Committee.

In the Resolution in front of us, paragraph 3.73, there is one word which raised our attention and we do want to know what is meant by it. In line 2 of this Resolution - and here I am reading what is mentioned - Confirming that the Organization should respect the rule aiming at applying the scale of contributions in the United Nations /subject to adaptation'. / This is the clause that raised my attention. What do you mean by 'subject to adaptation'?

As a representative of my country in this august assembly I do add my voice to those who asked for a reappraisal and a review of the scale of contributions, and I thank you.

CHAIRMAN: I find in the English text what you said probably reads: "As in the past, FAO should follow the United Nations scale of assessments subject to adaptation for the different membership of FAO". That is probably what you call "amendment", so I would request Dr. Crowther at this stage to explain the meaning of this sentence.

D. K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The adaptation between the UN scale membership and the FAO scale membership is a rather simple one in that there are a few Members of FAO that are not Members of the UN, and similarly, there are a few Members of the UN that are not Members of FAO. This has to be taken into account in deriving the final rate.

However, those countries who are not Members of the UN but are Members of the FAO do participate in special UN programmes and have a derived scale established by the UN Committee on Contributions, which we use in establishing the FAO scale. Those are the small adjustments that are made for the difference in membership between the UN membership and the FAO membership.

CHAIRMAN: Is this explanation satisfactory, Saudi Arabia?

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I asked the same question in the Finance Committee, but the reply I get here is slightly different. After having listened to this reply I think I understand that it is the Organization which has introduced this change in order to arrive at a percentage of 100 percent. Is this correct? Have I understood this correctly?

D. K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Yes, it is correct that we must arrive at the 100 percent, and in so doing we accept the UN scale established for those Member Countries who are not Members of the UN who participate in other UN agencies, and that makes up the difference then between the UN derived scale and the FAO derived scale.

CHAIRMAN: Does any other Council Member wish to speak before I give the floor to the Observers?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je m'excuse d'intervenir si tard dans ce débat, mais je voudrais, au nom de mon Gouvernement, appuyer la proposition faite au Conseil par le Comité des finances. En effet, depuis toujours, nous avons adopté le barème des Nations Unies au niveau de la FAO, c'est pour cette raison que, pour notre part, nous ne voyons pas de difficulté à approuver ceci, dans la mesure où l'Assemblée générale elle-même a déjà adopté ce barème. Nous pensons que les adaptations qui ont été faites ici tiennent compte de certaines améliorations des situations économiques dans certains pays, et pour notre part nous pensons que ce barème s'appuie sur une situation de fait, et nous félicitons certains pays qui ont pu réaliser des progrès économiques au moment où la crise sévit. Les augmentations que nous voyons ici témoignent de l'effort fait par ces pays et nous souhaiterions que d'autres pays suivent ces exemples pour que la part de chacun soit la plus modeste possible.

KWANG-HEE KIM (Observer for Korea, Republic of): I am grateful to be finally given the floor. I think it is a pity to confuse you as to which Korea has the floor.

I listened to the interventions of the previous speakers with great interest, especially how to establish the appropriate scale of contributions. I think it is a very difficult task to set up objectively a scale of contributions which would satisfy every country, taking into consideration the various variables which differ from country to country.

Turning to the scale of contributions for my country, we are one of the few countries for which the budget scale is going to be considerably increased during the forthcoming biennium. When we take a quick run-down on the list of the budget for the scale of contributions, the proposed scale for my country is going to be increased considerably by 23 percent, from 0.18 to 0.22 for the coming biennium. This means if the proposed budget level is to be approved as it stands now, we would have to pay \$650 000 to \$1 million for the forthcoming biennium.

I made just a quick run-down on the list of the proposed budget scale to check where we stand in the order of the budget contributions for this Organization. I found we are between 35th and 40th among all Member Countries. We know although the rates which are going to be applied to my country as the past practice, it derives from the UN assessment.

However, we would like to reserve our position on this matter until we can make our final position known.

S. CADENASSO (Observador de Chile): Mi delegación estima que la nueva escala de cuotas para los años 1984-1985, basada en la escala de las Naciones Unidas que a su vez se basó en estadísticas que no están de acuerdo con la realidad económica que viven algunos países en desarrollo, y me refiero especialmente al nuestro que atraviesa por una crisis económica aguda por motivos de la recesión mundial y por la baja de los precios de su principal producto de exportación: el cobre. Por lo tanto, Señor Presidente, estamos totalmente de acuerdo con lo expresado y con la proposición expuesta por el distinguido Representante del Brasil y, por lo tanto, solicito se realice una revisión de la escala propuesta.

Sra. Dra. M.I. CASELLAS O. (Venezuela): En primer lugar pedimos disculpas por haber pedido la palabra en el último momento.

Hemos estudiado con detenimiento el Documento CL 83/4, en especial el Informe del 51º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas en su Apéndice C, en el cual observamos que en la Escala de Cuotas de la FAO, propuesta para el bienio 1984-85, a Venezuela le corresponde un incremento de 5 centesimos, en comparación con la escala de 1982-83.

Al respecto, y tomando en cuenta que este incremento propuesto está basado en la resolución 37/125 de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, mi delegación considera necesario hacer del conocimiento de este Consejo lo siguiente: En la trigesimoséptima Asamblea General, durante la discusión del tema relativo a la escala de cuotas de los Estados Miembros para el prorrateo de gastos de las Naciones Unidas, la posición de Venezuela fue la de no aceptar un aumento en dicha escala, en vista de que el criterio utilizado por la Comisión de Cuotas para hacer el cálculo de las contribuciones, fue el ingreso nacional y la escala propuesta, no guardaba correlación con las actuales condiciones económicas de muchos países en desarrollo.

Venezuela expuso en esa ocasión que la escala debería revisarse de forma que se ajustara a los principios de equidad y justicia y a las disposiciones de la Resolución 36/271 A. Expresó igualmente que la Comisión de Cuotas debería dedicar más tiempo a la preparación de una metodología de cálculo y a presentar una nueva propuesta para el período 1984-1986, en la que se tuviera en cuenta, además de los indicadores sociales y económicos, las necesidades de utilizar estimaciones corrientes del ingreso nacional, el efecto de la inflación nacional y las variaciones de los tipos de cambio sobre la cuota. En la votación de la Resolución 37/125 A, Venezuela votó en contra. Sin embargo, se adoptó por unanimidad la Resolución 37/125 B, en la cual se dispone que el criterio fundamental que debe utilizar la Comisión de Cuotas será "la capacidad real de pago" de los Estados Miembros.

Así pues, con concordancia con nuestra posición en la trigesimoséptima Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, reiteramos lo expuesto por Venezuela en ésta y manifestamos nuestro desacuerdo con el proyecto de resolución contentivo de la escala de cuotas de la FAO para 1984-1985, en lo que respecta a Venezuela. Esperamos, al igual que otros países, que esto sea tomado en cuenta a la hora de redactar el Informe final de este Consejo.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ (Observador del Perú): También quiero hacer una observación respecto a la escala de cuotas de la FAO propuesta para 1984-85. Recuerdo claramente, en una reunión tenida en el Comité de Finanzas, del cual soy miembro, expuse mi extrañeza porque existen muchos casos en los cuales algunos países desarrollados tienen disminución de cuota y, en cambio, algunos países en vías de desarrollo y con tremendos problemas en la balanza de pagos y en la balanza económica y con deuda externa, tienen un incremento. Es el caso del Perú que pasa de 0,07 a 0,08, o sea, un país que en este momento, como todos sabemos, tiene problemas de balanza de pagos, tiene problemas de ingresos per capita, tiene problemas de producto nacional bruto, y lo que aquí se quiere es que no se adopten parámetros que, digamos, no guardan relación; si se adoptan parámetros occidentalizados no se puede hacer esta comparación. Por ejemplo, el país sigue figurando con un ingreso per cápita de alrededor de 1 000 dólares por persona; pero este dato es de 1980, cuando el dolar se cotizaba a 400 soles. Hoy en día está a 1 600 soles por unidad. Por consiguiente, habría que pedir a los organismos -en este caso a Naciones Unidas- que se usen otros parámetros para los países en vías de desarrollo.

Manifiesto mi desacuerdo con este incremento de cuota para el Perú. Una cosa es lo que quisiéramos pagar, porque en relación a los servicios que nos da FAO quizá esta cuota sea todavía mínima. Pero otra cosa es lo que podemos pagar en relación a lo difícil de la situación de muchos de nuestros países.

LI HYOK CHOL (Observer for Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor and I am sorry to say what is not related to the main subject of the debate. I would like to express disappointment when there was a mix-up in the name of Korea, and at the same time I would like to make it clear that the mix-up was not the making of the Koreans themselves, and when the foreign elements are relieved from Korea and Korea is reunified, such disappointment or mix-up will not cause any difficulty or embarrassment to the Council.

CHAIRMAN: We have to consider the Finance Committee's recommendation, and we must consider whether the enabling Resolution mentioned in paragraph 3.73 should be adopted so that it goes to the Conference. The suggestion has been made that a further study should be done and that the Finance Committee should re-examine this question in its September meeting, and that at our meeting on November 1st this matter should come up again. I would like to have the views of Mr. Abeyagoonasekera on this suggestion.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): We discussed this item in the Finance Committee. I represent a country where the scale has been revised downwards. I did anticipate that there would be a discussion because of the many increases, and that prompted me to not only look into past documents but also to rely upon the experience of the Secretariat to see if there had been precedents in the past when this question could have come up, and whether there could have been expressions of dissatisfaction with the way in which the scale had been calculated. I did a bit of homework in what took place in the 1974/75 biennium budget, when there were similar expressions of dissatisfaction stated by the Council, and the Finance Committee was asked to look into this, particularly the question of whether it would be feasible and possible to have FAO's own scale of contributions. I think on that issue a brief study was done and the outcome of that report is in the Council's reports for the following biennium. The Committee had felt that a further exercise would incur much expenditure. In fact if it was to be based on data to be supplied from the UN Statistical Office and from the FAO here in its headquarters, it would come to something like \$85 000 per biennium so the question of cost was considered.

Second, the question of parameters if the FAO is to have its own scale of assessments. What are the parameters? There is agriculture, there is forestry, and fisheries, and rural development; so the question was which sector was going to get priority, and then the question arose what priority do you give in deciding on the kind of parameter that we should adopt.

The other thing, the Committee felt that there should be conformity as far as possible with other UN agencies and the Committee found there were other major UN agencies which did follow the UN scale, and therefore it was more suitable to follow the same scale as has been followed by the major agencies. So the recommendation by the Finance Committee was that we continue to rely on the FAO scale and that there was no need to change it. This question will keep coming up as and when the scales are revised, but as far as past experience is concerned, Mr. Chairman, these are the facts that I have been able to gather, The Finance Committee has not seen any compelling reasons than what I have mentioned, since as the cost of doing the exercise by ourselves, and has decided on the scale of assessments that is applicable to all countries in general.

CHAIRMAN: In the light of this explanation given by Mr. Abeyagoonasekera, can we adopt the resolutions subject to the reservations mentioned by a few members?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que la conclusion de este debate debería reflejar las posiciones que se han expresado. Entiendo muy bien la posición de nuestro colega y amigo el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, pero creo que ese Comité, como organo asesor del Consejo, debe tratar de recoger las expresiones que se han manifestado en esta reunión durante el debate. Este Comité de Finanzas podría hacer un esfuerzo más en su reunión de otoño para revisar este asunto y pienso que esa revisión debería estar basada esencialmente en una orientación fundamental: tratar de obtener los medios, las recomendaciones más aconsejadas para que aquellos pocos países desarrollados que tienen disminución en sus cuotas en la escala de contribución no aparezcan en esa situación; è igualmente a los países en desarrollo que están en difícil situación económica no se les aumente su contribución en esa escala.

Basado en estas consideraciones creo que el Comité de Finanzas podría revisar esta situación en la reunión de otoño y presentar un informe al Consejo en noviembre antes de que pase a la Conferencia para su aprobación en el próximo período de sesiones.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic): I would like to second what we said by the Ambassador of Columbia. I would also like to give my support to what was said by the Chairman of the Finance Committee except for one point, and that is that he indicated that there was a single country among the developed countries, the contribution of which has been reduced in line with this scale of contributions. However, a number of rich developed countries have also had their contributions reduced while the contributions of certain developing countries have increased, and these countries are very poor or depend on the export of a single commodity, so I think that it is wrong to say that it is only one developing country which is rich that is involved.

What made us raise this question was the tendency, or rather the orientation, in the United Nations, and the developing countries in the Council have not raised this question because their contributions were not increased under the scale of contributions, but these countries will find that in the future their contributions are obviously going to be increased. That is what we are concerned about. We are speaking about this trend towards a progressive increase of the responsibility of the developing countries for the budget of the Organization while these countries are poor and have to count on the help of the wealthy countries of the world. If this question is not reexamined by the Finance Committee then I would like the reservations of my country to be embodied in the report of the Council session.

A.F.M. DE FREITAS (Brazil): My delegation would like to support the proposal by the distinguished delegate of Colombia to the effect that the Finance Committee should take up again the study of this topic with a view to trying to restore at least the previous contribution of industrialized countries whose contributions have been lowered in the present scale of contributions, and with a view to lowering the contributions of developing countries which have had their contributions raised in the present proposed scale of contributions.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Nuestra Delegación interviene para apoyar enfáticamente, en base a lo que declaramos en nuestra intervención original, la proposición del Sr. Embajador de Colombia en el sentido de que el Comité de Finanzas vuelva a estudiar este problema. Pensamos que es injusto que se trate igual a países con situaciones desiguales; por tanto, esperamos que esta sea la recomendación que salga de este Consejo.

J. MAJCHER (Poland): First of all, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his additional explanations which we consider very useful and helpful.

To our understanding the discussions in the UN Committee on Contributions have taken a long time, and it would not be justified to repeat the discussions which our representatives have conducted in the UN Committee on Contributions. These will take us eventually to a difficulty to accept the scale of contributions, even during the Conference, and it seems to us that taking the long tradition and long habit and the sort of cooperation inside the UN family of organizations and also taking into account that some tasks are conducted by some specialized well equipped bodies, I am afraid that even in our case it would be difficult to have all the necessary elements for conducting a really deep, profound discussion on this subject.

Therefore, taking this into account, we consider that it is fully justified to follow the tradition, which means that the FAO scale of contributions should derive from and be based on the United Nations scale of contributions. And, taking the above into account, of course, my delegation is in favor of and supports the Resolution as proposed in the paragraph 3.73.

W.A. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The delegate of Poland has made it very easy for this delegation to give its view again on the subject before us. We stated our reservations but nevertheless we agree with what was stated by the delegate of Poland and also the delegate of the Congo, and others. We do feel it would be very difficult to get to a complete assessment between now and the Council, and with all the reservations which we have made, we would therefore support that the proposed Scale of Contributions, derived from the United Nations scale of contributions, as presented to us by the Finance Committee, should find our support at this stage.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): May I briefly add my words to support the views just expressed by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany. I am a little worried about the way this discussion is going. We have heard the Finance Committee Chairman's explanation and advice on this matter, based on research and on the very thorough examination which took place in the Finance Committee, as my colleague from Germany has said. The United Kingdom of course stands by the statement which he made on behalf of the ten Member States of the European Community, but in our view we would be making a very grave error if we made any move which was intended to depart from a practice in which the FAO's scale of contributions was based on and related to the United Nations scale.

I say this notwithstanding the reservations which we and others have on the revised scale, as presented from the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly, but I believe that what we should do and indeed I wonder if it is anything other than what we have any alternative to - is to adopt the Resolution and to allow those who have reservations to have them expressed in the terms of the Report.

CHAIRMAN: I will also say, personally, that a number of new criteria for assessment have been mentioned by different delegations and at any rate, we may not be any wiser between now and November. I would therefore endorse the suggestion that we adopt this Resolution, subject to the reservations expressed by Members.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, yo respeto mucho su opinión personal, pero creo que en este asunto debe contar la voluntad de los miembros del Consejo,

Yo creo que la propuesta que hice ha recibido el apoyo de la mayoría de los Miembros del Consejo. La interpretación que da el colega del Reino Unido a la forma como se pueden expresar las reservas eso sería más bien aplicable a ellos, a la minoría. De manera que mi propuesta concreta es que el Consejo decida enviar este proyecto de Resolución nuevamente a la consideración del Comité de Finanzas y que en el informe consten las reservas de la minoría que no están de acuerdo con esa propuesta.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne suis pas tout à fait d'accord avec mon voisin et eminent collègue, l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos, et je pense que ce n'est pas la majorité qui s'est exprimée ici. Nous pensons pour notre part que nous ne pouvons pas compliquer la tâche du Conseil et encore moins celle du Comité financier. Ils ne sont pas suffisamment armés pour pouvoir, dans ce laps de temps, procéder à une réévaluation du barème. Pour cette raison, nous pensons qu'il est vraiment sage d'adopter ce barème quitte, si le Conseil veut faire des propositions, que pour l'avenir on puisse avoir un barème différent. Dans ces conditions, il faudra mettre tous les éléments à la disposition du Comité pour lui permettre de réviser ce barème. Mais pour l'instant il n'y a pas d'autres solutions que d'adopter le barème tel qu'il nous est proposé.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Nuevamente para insistir y apoyar lo expresado por el distinguido embajador de Colombia. Realmente lo que estamos viendo en el seno de esta reunión es que no hay consenso y que de ninguna manera se podía adoptar una resolución si no existe el consenso del Consejo.

Sugerimos, para evitar discusiones adicionales, que este asunto regrese al Comité de Finanzas dado que un buen número de la mayoría de los Miembros del Consejo ha expresado su insatisfacción con esta proposición, y que el Comité de Finanzas nos lo vuelva a replantear en la futura reunión del Consejo.

Concretamente ésa es nuestra propuesta, apoyando a la declaración del distinguido embajador de Colombia.

Sra. Dra. M.I. CASELLAS O. (Venezuela): Sólo queremos apoyar la propuesta de la delegación de Colombia y sugerimos, al igual que México, que este asunto sea llevado nuevamente al Comité de Finanzas.

B.N. SEQUEIRA (Angola): The delegation of Angola has not intervened on this subject under consideration because we consider that the Fifth Committee in the United Nations in New York has gone in depth into this and has studied all the variables and taken all of the major factors into consideration. That is why we have not intervened, because we consider the main arguments have already been advanced and it would be a needless sort of exercise for us here to repeat them again. That is why we support the arguments advanced by the delegates of Poland and Congo and we accept the Scale of Contributions as proposed.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We also have not intervened on the subject so far and have been listening to the debate with great interest. We feel this is a matter of crucial importance to Member States of FAO, the scale of contributions; but the way things are, and since it is derived directly from the United Nations system of assessment, perhaps at this moment we have very little option but to adopt the Scale of Contributions as suggested by the Finance Committee.

However, I endorse the words of wisdom spoken by the delegate of Congo that if the Council so decides at a future time, it may look at alternatives other than what is being used now. But at this particular moment, when we have the contributions derived directly from the assessment of the United Nations system, there is very little that the Finance Committee will be able to do; even if we send it back to them and try and get it back by the next Council.

My delegation therefore supports the Scale of Contributions while at the same time we feel it is the desire of the Council to have another look at it; and the whole question of the scale: this can be looked into at a future time.

Sra. Dra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Mi delegación, en realidad, no se había expresado en este tema porque entendíamos que se habían planteado aquí los distintos elementos que manejaban nuestros distinguidos colegas. Sin embargo, a estas alturas mi delegación, siendo coherente con su planteamiento en los distintos órganos de Naciones Unidas, acepta la escala de cuotas aprobada en Naciones Unidas y que, tal vez, pensamos que el Comité de Finanzas pudiera hacer otros ajustes con las sugerencias hechas por los distintos Estados Miembros en este Consejo. Pero en lo que sí estamos de acuerdo es que nosotros no podemos, ni vamos a cambiar aquí lo ya hecho en Naciones Unidas.

En consecuencia, apoyamos los planteamientos de nuestro vecino el distinguido embajador del Congo.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): Although my country is one of those being called upon to make additional contributions in the proposed 1984-85 Scale of Contributions, my delegation feels that not much can be achieved by asking the Finance Committee to re-examine the exercise. Even if the former scale of contributions of those that now have to make reduced scales were restored, it would still not make any significant difference in the scale for other delegations.

My delegation therefore supports the suggestion that the Resolution should be adopted. The reservations of certain delegations could be recorded in the Report of the Council.

A. PEREZ-MARSA HERNANDEZ (España): Muy brevemente, señor Presidente. Solamente reiterar mis anteriores palabras apoyando las voces de las delegaciones que solicitan una redistribución más justa y adecuada de las cuotas, rogando al Comité de Finanzas que en su reunión de otoño recoja todo lo expuesto en este Consejo.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La propuesta que había hecho la delegación de Colombia y que ha recibido apoyo por parte de algunos miembros de este Consejo estaba basada en el hecho práctico de que no hay prisa para que este Consejo haga una recomendación a este respecto, porque será la Conferencia de noviembre la que deba tomar la decisión final.

En ese principio estamos basados; sin embargo, como delegado de Colombia queremos ser realistas frente a la situación que se ha presentado ahora a través del debate que estamos celebrando, y particularmente acogidos a lo que ha dicho mi distinguido vecino de la derecha, el embajador del Congo, que fue apoyado por Pakistán, creo que queda flotando como conclusión de este debate, cualquiera que sea nuestra recomendación, el hecho de que convendría en el futuro realizar una revisión de esta escala de cuotas.

A la luz de esas consideraciones y con espíritu constructivo, la delegación de Colombia podría aceptar una solución de compromiso para facilitar a este Consejo la decisión sobre este tema. Podríamos aceptar que se recomiende a la Conferencia esta escala de cuotas que aparece en el Apéndice C del documento, pero que a la vez el Consejo pida al Comité de Finanzas que en su sesión de otoño, o en el momento en que lo considere más oportuno, ese Comité revise nuevamente esa situación basado en el concepto fundamental de que ningún país desarrollado debería tener cuota inferior y de que, en la medida de lo posible, sería conveniente evitar que a los países en desarrollo se les aumenten sus contribuciones; con esta posición la delegación de Colombia puede contribuir a que se tome una decisión acertada, pero repito, en el informe debe constar claramente esa posición nuestra.

A. A. SOW (Observateur pour le Mali): Je suis très soulagé d'intervenir immédiatement après M. l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, parce que je me préparais justement à suggérer à Monsieur le Président, compte tenu des divergences de vues au sein de ce Conseil, d'entendre chaque délégué représentant chaque pays au sein du Conseil. Comme il me semble qu'il existe une certaine harmonisation au niveau des positions, nous estimons que la proposition faite par le distingué représentant du Congo, et qui a été appuyée par le distingué représentant de la Pologne et le distingué représentant de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, mérite d'être considérée, compte tenu du fait qu'il ne serait pas selon moi prudent pour le Conseil d'adopter un barème différent du barème de l'ONU. J'estime que les explications données par le Président du Comité des finances sont suffisamment correctes et en tout cas assez convaincantes. Nous souhaiterions donc que le Conseil ne se hasarde pas sur une nouvelle voie, car cela risque de mettre en jeu l'équilibre qui s'est fait au niveau des Nations Unies et qui a été obtenu difficilement. Je doute que le Comité des finances puisse être capable de

proposer de nouveaux barèmes réunissant le consensus unanime du Conseil et de la Conférence. Il est donc plus prudent de s'en tenir aux barèmes retenus au niveau de l'ONU. Dans le sillage des interventions de différents distingués représentants qui ont conseillé la prudence en la matière, il serait assez sage d'adopter la résolution telle qu'elle nous a été proposée.

Y. A. HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation has followed the discussion with great interest. It seems to us that the Council has two questions to settle. First of all there is the approval of the report of the Finance Committee on the scale of contributions, and the Council should express an opinion on this matter and this will certainly have repercussions on the work of the Finance Committee and on the work of the General Assembly. Secondly, it is a question of referring the report back to the Finance Committee so that it may revise the scale of contributions. However, there are questions which arise. Can the Finance Committee actually carry out its task? Can the Finance Committee actually do this? Do they have the possibility of doing it? Can they take into account the criteria which have been mentioned by a number of delegations? My delegation has certain doubts in this respect and therefore I fully agree with the report of the Finance Committee, and I recommend that the Finance Committee should take these recommendations into account in its future work.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Nuevamente queremos insistir en que de todas formas no vemos consenso en el seno del Consejo, y normalmente los acuerdos del Consejo se toman en un clima de consenso, en un clima agradable que se presta para el consenso, para que la Organización pueda seguir adelante con sus trabajos.

Por otra parte, lo que estamos planteando es un planteamiento de fondo, es decir, se está utilizando un sistema en base a una extrapolación ilógica de otra Organización que, si bien es la Organización más importante del sistema internacional, tiene características, miembrecia y una composición completamente distintas a la nuestra: en nuestro caso, como se dijo anteriormente hay menos miembros.

Algunas veces los Miembros son diferentes, hay Miembros muy importantes de las Naciones Unidas que no lo son de la FAO y que, por tanto, eso representa una redistribución de cuotas importantes entre muchos de los Miembros de la FAO y pensamos que este caso, si bien se estudió en 1974 y se resolvió en esa manera, lo que está representando es un poco cierta pereza en cuanto a la capacidad técnica y la capacidad de readaptar nuestra organización a sus propias condiciones; en lo que no estamos de acuerdo es en que se hagan extrapolaciones ilógicas; consideramos que se tiene que revisar este tema y no aceptarlo nada más porque es muy fácil aceptar cosas que se manejan en otro foro; tenemos que considerar nuestro propio contexto y muchas veces he oído al Director General de la FAO que la ONU si bien nosotros participamos y tenemos todo el respeto para ambas organizaciones, pensamos que cada una de las organizaciones tiene que tener su propio sistema y sus propios mecanismos para considerar estas cosas. Por tanto, volvemos a insistir en lo que se ha planteado anteriormente, en que esto se estudie nuevamente en el Comité de Finanzas y que en base a nuestras condiciones, en base a parámetros como los que sugería el distinguido embajador de Brasil, pudiéramos nosotros establecer cuotas, inclusive recomendar una metodología a las Naciones Unidas que fuera más adaptada a las condiciones presentes de la economía internacional, especialmente de los países en desarrollo.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de Haute-Volta, tout en comprenant les arguments avancés par certaines délégations demandant la révision du nouveau barème, estime néanmoins qu'il serait plus sage de recommander l'adoption de ce barème. En cela, la délégation de Haute-Volta rejoint celle du Congo et d'autres délégations qui estiment à juste titre qu'il serait très difficile de pouvoir réunir tous les éléments nécessaires pour la révision de ce système avant la prochaine réunion.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): With your permission, I would like just to ask the Chairman of the Finance Committee what is the Committee going to do if the Council sends back this resolution to them? Is there any criteria they can give us besides the United Nations scale of assessment?

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): I think the delegate of Thailand has asked a very pertinent question. I wish I could give him an answer but I think in trying to work out criteria the time that we have between now and the autumn session is so short, by the time we get through our papers I do not think it can be done, because we do not have a set of criteria as such. Even if we wanted to base it on the kind of thing we have been speaking of today in this forum, then we have to work out parameters for each of them and that would take a lot of time and I do not think we have the technical expertise in the Finance Committee. We would have to rely on

others. That is why I said in my intervention that in 1974-75 when this was discussed they worked out the cost and they said you had to base it on statistics from another unit and that alone, including the cost of travel will come to about \$80 000 per biennium. So it can be done but it is a question of time. Whether it is worth doing it, that is an entirely different question, but that is the difficulty we have if we are to do it before the autumn session.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): En fait le distingué délégué de Thaïlande m'a précédé sur la question que j'allais poser. Effectivement, je crois que nous ne pouvons pas discuter en l'air ici, nous devons avoir des éléments précis, parce que si nous demandons du travail qu'on ne peut pas nous fournir, nous perdons du temps. Je pensais également qu'il faudrait poser la question au Président du Comité financier et au Secrétariat, pour savoir s'ils seraient à même de nous fournir des éléments précis nous permettant de nous prononcer en octobre ou novembre prochain. S'ils ne le sont pas, je pense sage que tous les délégués comprennent que cela n'est pas possible, et qu'il convient d'attendre un peu afin que le Secrétariat et le Comité financier puissent étudier la question en profondeur et nous faire des propositions lors de sessions ultérieures. Mais nous ne pouvons pas lier les mains de tout le monde ici, pour dire qu'il faut absolument que le Comité financier se saisisse de l'affaire. Nous voudrions savoir si cela est possible; dans le cas contraire je pense qu'il convient simplement d'adopter le projet de résolution et, comme je l'ai proposé tantôt, permettre au Secrétariat et au Comité financier d'étudier ultérieurement la question et nous soumettre leurs propositions.

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): From the debate that has been going on it appears that it is going to be difficult to reach a consensus, which hopefully we should have tried to reach. It is doubtful even if the matter is referred back to the Finance Committee that they will be able to come up with something workable for the next Council session in November before the Conference. As such, I would support the alternative compromise proposal from Colombia, that the resolution be adopted with the stipulations as suggested.

W.H. ADERO (Kenya): I have listened to the discussions with great interest and have gone through the documents. Given the time that we have left before the next Council meeting it is apparent that we may not end up with any useful changes if we take this back to the Council. The relevant question has been put to the Chairman of the Finance Committee and he has given an answer which I think is very clear. While appreciating the opinions of Members of the Council we feel that the scale of contributions should be looked into again. I wish to support the scale of contributions as given now and I wish to say that the views expressed now could be considered in future recommendations. But my delegation right now supports the scale as it is given now and supports the Resolution as in the document.

F. BREWSTER (Barbados): It seems to me that Council is agreed on two matters here. The first is that we are not going to arrive at a consensus on adopting the Resolution as presented. The second is that we are not going to arrive at a consensus to refer the matter to the Finance Committee. As such the practical situation is that in the light of the time which we have it would be preferable to proceed with the adoption of the Resolution as it is and consider the issues at a future time, and this is what was presented by Congo and others. My delegation's position is that we would support the scale of assessment as presented by the United Nations, as it is one model which we think this Organization should follow. I think we should pursue that line at this stage.

A. ACUÑA HUMPHRIES (Panamá) : Respetando mucho los señalamientos de fondo que han formulado los miembros de este Consejo, la delegación de Panamá considera que este Consejo debe adoptar la Resolución sobre la escala de cuotas para 1984-85. Son razones de orden práctico las que imponen la adopción de esta Resolución, tomándose en consideración las observaciones formuladas por miembros de este Consejo.

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho): Having heard all the interventions made by delegates, I find myself compelled to support Congo and Nigeria in their request that the Resolution be adopted as it stands.

Mlle E. RAVAUUX (France): La position de la France est identique à celle exprimée par la République fédérale d'Allemagne au nom de la Communauté économique européenne en ce qui concerne les réserves émises à l'égard du barème des contributions de la FAO. Toutefois, dans un esprit de modération, et rejoignant le point de vue d'un grand nombre de délégations, la France estime qu'il est nécessaire de faire preuve de conciliation et d'adopter la résolution en l'état et le barème tel qu'il est retenu pour l'instant.

J. GAZZO FERNANDEZ (Observador del Perú): Nuevamente insisto porque yo me siento responsable, como miembro del Comité de Finanzas, no sólo por haber representado al Perú sino a todos los que me eligieron. Entonces, esa responsabilidad no la puedo tirar por la borda. Yo recuerdo que cuando discutimos la escala de cuotas de la FAO para el año 1984-85 tuve gran sorpresa cuando, tomando como parámetro, por desgracia, porque era el único que tenía elementos de juicio, mi país, que había empeorado en todos los sentidos su situación económica, su balanza de pagos, sus ingresos por capita, etc., tenía un incremento de cuota. Nosotros creemos que más todavía deberíamos dar en relación a lo que nos da la FAO, pero lo que no encontramos es un paralelismo, porque no quisiera ir a lo casuístico, pero voy a tener que ir a lo casuístico. Encontramos que había países como Australia, Canadá, Checoslovaquia, Finlandia, Hungría, etcétera, que habían disminuido sus cuotas. Yo creo que al cien por cien hay que llegar siempre. No es que se quiera que la FAO reciba menos, pero recuerdo, y el Presidente del Comité de Finanzas no me dejará mentir, que yo manifesté una extrañeza porque todos los datos que había recibido de mi país, en relación al año 1982-83, contra la proyección de 1984-85, eran tremendamente negativos. Sin embargo, había un incremento de cuotas que no guardaba relación con el bienestar de otros países a los cuales se les había disminuido la cuota. Ahora, digamos que algunos países tenemos situaciones análogas, tenemos problemas económicos, problemas hasta políticos. El caso, por ejemplo, de un delegado que opina - con toda razón y con toda justicia - apoyando esta metodología y esta escala, es el caso de Polonia que baja de 1,52 a 0,87. Una rebaja considerable. No quiero ir a lo casuístico, pero quiero decir que yo estudio los documentos, yo no voy al Consejo de turista, y esto me llamó mucho la atención y le manifesté al Presidente que yo no entendía este prorrateo. Me fue dicho que era lo que hacían las Naciones Unidas, pero nosotros no debemos adoptar, debemos adaptar. No se trata de que porque Naciones Unidas se equivoque nosotros avalemos el error. Yo creo que no debe ser así, Sr. Presidente. Ahora, estoy de acuerdo con el distinguido y mi querido amigo- delegado de Colombia en que no queremos hacer cuestión de estado. Debemos aprobar esto, pero que queden claramente las reservas de que cuestionamos la metodología, porque no concuerda el estado real de los países con la cuota que se les ha asignado.

Eso es lo único que queremos hacer, pero no queremos vacas sagradas que nos impongan una cuota y que nosotros a fardo cerrado la aceptemos. Yo creo que FAO es más vieja; ha nacido antes que algunos otros organismos y por consiguiente debemos (no será en esta próxima sesión de noviembre) pero debemos hacernos la firme voluntad de que haya un paralelismo, que no hayan estas incongruencias de que países que están más o menos con cierto bienestar, tengan cuotas disminuidas, y que países que están casi en la bancarrota, tengan sus cuotas incrementadas.

C. DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Observador de Costa Rica): Sí, Sr. Presidente, es muy cierto que la decisión de Naciones Unidas, a la que se refiere este proyecto, ha sido tomada en diciembre; pero según nos consta, esta decisión está basada sobre estadísticas y sobre datos muy anteriores, que son completamente superados, especialmente para lo que a Latinoamérica se refiere por cambios gravísimos en la situación monetaria. Yo creo, apoyando al delegado del Brasil, que la escala de cuotas debería basarse únicamente en la situación actual de los países.

Además, el delegado de México y ahora el delegado del Perú han puesto muy en evidencia el concepto de que hay muchas diferencias entre la estructura y las necesidades de las Naciones Unidas y la estructura de la FAO, la estructura de miembros, la cantidad de miembros, los que son miembros y los que no lo son. Me doy cuenta de que es imposible en este momento cambiar lo que nos viene propuesto, y apoyo plenamente la adopción de la proposición actual, pero con las reservas hechas por el Embajador Bula Hoyos, el complejo de cláusulas que él propuso, o sea, que se mencione expresamente que la escala de cuotas adecuada viene aprobada, pero que después tiene que ser revisada por alguna sección del Comité de Finanzas y en lo sucesivo por el Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: Since some speakers are taking the floor for the second and third time may I clarify the issues which have come out so far. What the Finance Committee has recommended is the submission of the Resolution to the Conference, not adoption by the Council but to forward the Resolution to the Conference. That is the recommendation. Secondly, the suggestion has been made that the Finance Committee may keep this matter under review and study. I would like subsequent speakers to keep this in mind.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Just for clarification. If the Council submits a resolution to the Conference it means that the Council has approved it. It cannot submit it without expressing an opinion. Maybe you could say it had been endorsed by the Council. But perhaps if you would give the floor to Mr. West to answer a question it may help further discussion, because there is some important clarification to be given about the possibility of the Finance Committee undertaking further analysis or not.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The first point I was going to make if I had to intervene at all - and I can assure you that I was not anxious to intervene in this debate - was that in principle of course the FAO Conference is sovereign, it is not obliged to follow the UN scale. On the other hand, it has always done so, apart from the very beginnings of FAO, for very practical reasons, one of them being that the Members of FAO are members of the United Nations and when their representatives adopt something in the General Assembly, generally speaking they adhere to their decisions and repeat them elsewhere on this very, very important subject of contributions.

The curious thing on this occasion is that there have been some reversals. Some people who voted against the scale in the Fifth Committee have said here today that nevertheless they will accept the scale here, and some who voted in favour of the scale in the Fifth Committee have reversed their position here - and I am not talking about developed and developing, it applies to both, it all depends whether you have to pay more or you have to pay less.

As to the feasibility of making changes, the fact is that the process is a very complicated and lengthy one. I have here with me the Reports of the Committee on Contributions of the UN and they start off by explaining how they came to their conclusions, and the first step they took was to prepare a set of guidelines for the collection and presentation of data by Member Nations, and these guidelines have to be prepared so that the information could be collected on a uniform and comparable basis. For this purpose, *inter alia*, the United Nations Statistical Office prepared a paper dealing with such subjects as compilation and estimation of national income, related statistics, computations of relative capacity to pay on average taxable income, the question of a low per capita income allowance formula, estimates of national income and national currency, exchange rates for converting them into US dollars and population estimates.

Having prepared these guidelines, they sent out questionnaires to Member States one year in advance of the decision to be taken, and the information covered data on averages with three-, five-, seven-, nine- and twelve-year based periods. From countries in market economies, data was sought on aggregate national incomes at market prices according to the present system of national accounts, etc. etc. There is a lot of this, it is very complicated, it is very technical, it is very extensive. One hundred and ten Member States replied to the questionnaire, but only half or approximately one third of the membership provided complete data.

Then follow many paragraphs examining the difficulties presented by the data and how they tried to work this out for fiscal years starting with or close to the second quarter of the year. One quarter of the data for the previous fiscal year is added to three quarters of the data for the current fiscal year.

I am sure I have already lost you because I have lost myself in this. It is very, very complicated, but in the end, they decided to take a period of ten years as a data base, and then they went into the question of per capita allowance for poor countries; then they went into the subject of mitigation of changes in the scale, at which point we find in paragraph 26 differences of opinion arose in the Committee over the justification of further mitigation, and then it rehearses all the argument.

Then there is a long section of representations made by Member States in writing; there is a long list of Member States who made representations in writing, including some of those who have voted today.

Finally, they presented this scale, and in conclusion they said: "Many Members of the Committee recognized the inherent difficulties in reaching a scale that is satisfactory to all concerned. Nevertheless, they considered the recommended scale the best alternative, given the constraints laid down by the General Assembly. As noted elsewhere, the recommendation contained in the Report was adopted despite reservations by certain countries."

Now, that was not so abnormal, but what happened in the General Assembly this time was that this led to a great controversy which was resolved at the last minute by a sort of mediation based on an intuitive process rather than an analytical process.

To conclude, to sum up, I cannot but echo what the Chairman of the Finance Committee said. The Finance Committee does not and could not possibly have in the time available the information on which any rational formula other than what you had in the past could be based. It could be done perhaps some time in the future, but it would be a long process. It cannot be done in the time remaining between now and September, nor could the Secretariat possibly provide relevant information. We do not have it either, so those are the facts. The decision, is yours.

D. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Après l'intervention de M. West, la délégation de mon pays pense qu'il faut quand même tenir compte des réserves émises par certains pays particulièrement par la délégation du Pérou. Mais, dans un esprit de collaboration et d'efficacité, la délégation de mon pays pense que le Conseil devrait adopter le barème des contributions tel qu'il figure dans le document conformément à ce qu'a dit le délégué du Congo.

C. KAREKEZI (Rwanda): La délégation rwandaise a attentivement suivi les débats relatifs au problème posé pour la période 1984/85. Compte tenu du manque d'éléments suffisants pour réviser ce barème avant la prochaine Conférence tel que cela nous a été précisé par le Président du Comité financier, ma délégation appuie la proposition des représentants du Congo, de l'Angola et autres et demande que la résolution soit adoptée.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): We all know that the Finance Committee cannot do the impossible. Actually, it can do nothing about this matter. The opinion of the Finance Committee was based on information received from the Secretariat at the time of the preparation of this report. This information might not be sufficient. Hence, we were not able to express our opinion more clearly. Nevertheless, we also know that this Council is the body which decides to accept or not to accept even the Report of this Finance Committee. Then after that, of course, this Council submits the Report to the General Conference, which means in other words that our decision is the final one, practically speaking.

When we discussed this item here I spoke as a representative of my country, not as a representative of this Council in the Finance Committee, so when I touched upon this issue, I was speaking particularly to certain principles, which I presented when I discussed the item, and I did not do that simply because my country is going to be paying more now in terms of contributions. This to us seems secondary if we compare it to the points and principles which I mentioned when I intervened. These principles were mentioned by several Members, and lastly were touched upon by a Member of the Finance Committee and here I am speaking about Ambassador Bula Hoyos who spoke about the principles that should be taken into account by this Council.

I do not want to be lengthy. We will support any decision taken by this Council, and we will not speak again about this issue, but as I have said, if this Council decides to accept the scale of contributions and to submit it to the General Conference, we do ask for our reservation to be included in the Report.

TESSEMA NEGASH (Ethiopia): FAO can be requested to establish its own system, as suggested by Mexico, or adapt the existing UN system to its own situation. However, whether to establish a new system or adapt the existing UN system to its own special situation, one, requires a considerable length of time and, as explained by Mr. West, it is quite a complicated process. Thirdly, even to do so, we should study, analyse and properly evaluate the present existing system.

Until such time, my delegation strongly supports that we adopt the Resolution as presented before us, taking into account, of course, the views and situations of Mexico and Colombia.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We spoke earlier on the subject, and we do apologise that we have to take the floor again. However, we think that we are going into a very deep and controversial debate. The fact of the matter is that there are certain parameters and a certain scale on which this scale of contributions was assessed by the Finance Committee. Those are obviously derived directly from the assessments of the UN system, as was explained by Mr. West, that in itself was a very lengthy and laborious process.

We would suggest that the mere fact that we want to attempt or duplicate the same process here should be viewed with caution. As far as the shifting in the various contributions of the various Member States are concerned, as long as the yardstick and the parameter are applied uniformly, we personally feel there should be no problem. We do agree that there are some countries whose scale has increased and there are some whose scale has decreased, but that we find not a matter of principle. On principle, we feel that the parameters adopted are a yardstick which once adopted should be applied with a fair hand to all Member States.

We personally - emotionally perhaps - agree and perhaps intuitively agree with the suggestions made by Brazil and so eloquently supported by Peru and Mexico, but rationally, we also have a certain misgiving there and we would advocate a little caution, because if you are going to evolve a scale and a parameter to fit into a certain situation, you will get into a lot of trouble. What you need is a yardstick and a parameter and then apply it fairly. If you want to look first at the end and

then derive a parameter or a yardstick to fit into that, that would create problems not only for Member States who are now finding difficulties but may create problems for Member States who would find difficulties in those scales and then it would become an endless process of mutual recrimination, so personally, we think that we should view the future work we want to do with caution.

As we stated earlier, we can go with the Resolution as suggested by the Programme Committee, but we are willing to go along with some Member States who wish that this question may be reviewed at a future date, but it would be too optimistic to presume that the Finance Committee by the next Council can do anything meaningful on that, so we would advocate caution,

J. MAJCHER (Poland): First of all I would like to state my delegation's appreciation for the clarification given to us by Mr. West, the Deputy Director-General.

It is not the intention of my delegation to repeat the arguments on the position that my country has already stated; we considered it stated already. We are in favour of the resolution as it is submitted.

The purpose of asking for the floor was to give an answer since my country has been called by the distinguished observer from Peru. This answer will be very short in the form of information. For this reason, and only for this reason, I am going to some elements of substance on the discussion in New York when discussing the scale of contributions. For a number of years the Government of Poland has maintained that my country's assessment in respect of the United Nations and other international organizations has been calculated in considerable excess of Poland's potential and capacity to pay. In particular we have questioned the exchange rate applied to convert data on Poland's national income from zloties to United States dollars for the purpose of the scale of assessment. As a result of the application of an incorrect Methodology Poland was in the past substantially over-assessed in the range of too rigid a percentage.

The scale of assessment for 1983/85 adopted at the 37th Session of the UN General Assembly has decreased Poland's contribution. The reduction of Poland's contribution has been welcomed as an act of justice towards my country.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): We have listened with great attention to the debate that is going on on the scale of contributions. We have heard the statement of the Chairman of the Finance Committee that at this time it would not be of very much use to send back the report to them and make a new study, and he categorically stated that there is very little that they can do at this point between now and the Conference.

We heard also the statement of Mr. West about the theoretical difficulties that would be involved if we tried to elaborate our own system on the scale of contributions. In fact in the past this Council has taken the practical course of following the UN assessment. I do not see any other practical course of action at this point. We therefore would like to express our support for the scale of contributions with the proviso, of course, that the views that have been expressed by delegations should be taken into account at some future date.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I guess first it might be more customary in commercial matters that one should declare one's interests, because the way the numbers fall New Zealand has a slight reduction.

Having said that, Sir, I think Mr. West has explained in very clear detail the problems of trying to unscramble this between now and the end of November. The position of my government is quite simply that we accept the principle of FAO following the UN assessment formula, and as such, support the figures in front of us.

This I do not think, though, would preclude the Council or the Organization at some later date, as has been said by a number of delegations, looking again at whether or not the FAO should follow the UN system or whether it should not, and this, as I think has been said by both the Finance Committee Chairman and Mr. West, is not done over night. It may be that if it is decided to adopt the resolution, and as I said my government is in support of it for the reasons outlined, noting at the same time the reservations of those delegations who want them recorded, at this or some other time we could set up a special group, if you like, to look specifically at an FAO scale versus the UN scale on the whole issue, but I do not think it can be done between now and the end of November.

H.F. NAJEB (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): In fact, we did not ask for the floor earlier because the delegates had agreed on the need for the Finance Committee to re-examine this question. Given that there are very clear differences among the views of members of the Council, and such categorical ones, we can only express our support for the proposal made by the representative of Colombia, the compromise that he has suggested and which includes a recommendation according to which we should approve the scale of contributions before us, and ask the Finance Committee once again to examine the scale in an attempt also to examine the various criteria which are applied if we take into account what was said by Mr. West; that is to say that the establishment of the criteria is not made on the basis of a solid scientific analysis.

Finally, the views considered before the Council must be taken into account.

Y.A. HAMDI (Egypt)(original language Arabic): I apologize for asking for the floor once again. I wanted once again to present my country's position which is in full agreement with the view expressed by the representative of Colombia and also by other delegations, that is to say that we approve the proposed scale of contributions and that in the future this question should be examined by the Finance Committee on condition that the necessary funds, information and sufficient time be available. All these data are very complex, lengthy and costly, as Mr. West said, and also as the Chairman of the Finance Committee has already pointed out.

A. PINOARGOTE (Ecuador): La delegación del Ecuador no desea simplemente adherirse a la postura latinoamericana de desconformidad respecto a este tema; fundamentalmente considera oportuno señalar la idoneidad de la última propuesta del señor embajador de Colombia, puesto que recoge el hecho virtualmente consumado de aprobar la escala tal como está presentada por el Comité de Finanzas, y adicionalmente la aspiración de muchos países que no solamente son los latinoamericanos, pues Bangladesh, Etiopía, Pakistán, Nueva Zelandia, Irán, y Egipto, entre otros, han manifestado su apoyo en el sentido de revisar para el futuro esta escala de acuerdo a los parámetros peculiares de la FAO, que no son exactamente los mismos de otros organismos.

No veo ningún inconveniente en adoptar esta recomendación para el futuro, pues si siempre tenemos que resignarnos a los hechos consumados, ocurriría que este Consejo perdería su objetivo fundamental que es el de precisamente aconsejar a la Conferencia y a todos los órganos de la FAO respecto a asuntos de trascendental importancia como éste.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Agradecemos sinceramente las aclaraciones del señor West, e insistimos que éste es un problema de principios porque es injusto tratar igual, como ya lo hemos mencionado, a países en situación desigual. La aplicación indiscriminada de una base aritmética a la escala de cuotas es a todas luces injusta e inaceptable. Los principios no los podemos pisotear en función de la situación de privilegio o desgracia en lo que cada quien, o cada país, se encuentra.

El propio bamboleo en la posición y las actitudes de aceptación o rechazo de ciertos países que claramente describía el doctor West denotan la forma inapropiada e injusta en que la escala de cuotas se ha aplicado.

No hemos encontrado, en fin, un sistema justo, equilibrado, ágil que responda congruentemente y rápidamente a las circunstancias económicas y financieras de los países y sus perspectivas. Por tanto, no apoyamos, por razones de principio, no de conveniencia, la resolución que el Comité de Finanzas ha puesto a consideración de este Consejo. México, en todo caso, podría aceptar el aumento del presupuesto de la FAO, pero de ninguna manera el incremento propuesto en la escala de cuotas para nuestro país, que representa trece puntos de aumento, pero de cualquier forma, también por razones de principio y de solidaridad con este Consejo, nuestro país estaría dispuesto a que si el Consejo adopta la resolución ésta, se lleve junto con nuestras diferencias, con nuestras reclamaciones a la Conferencia para que allí se discuta nuevamente y apoyamos desde ahora, y lo haremos también en la Conferencia, el que el Comité de Finanzas estudie la forma en que puede aplicarse un sistema más equilibrado para respetar y responder a la situación en la que cada país se encuentra, y evitar así este tipo de bamboleos que afecta unas veces a unos países y otras veces a otros países, y en algunas circunstancias terriblemente a ciertos países.

Estamos conscientes de que este Consejo debe llegar a una conclusión; reiteramos que por razones de principio no estamos de acuerdo, pero que también por razones de solidaridad con este Consejo estaríamos dispuestos a que si se adopta la resolución, repito, se incluya también nuestras reservas y nuestras diferencias y se presenten a la Conferencia.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): Listening to the opinions, I will not enter into details because all the opinions have been expressed, but listening to the opinions expressed by the Chairman of the Finance Committee and particularly the opinion expressed by Mr. West on the complicated system that is applied by the 5th Committee of the United Nations, I am sure we all agree that we are not at all prepared for such a task which, when, and if decided, will need money and time. I consider therefore that at this stage there is no other alternative than to strongly suggest that the Resolution is adopted as it stands. If as a matter of principle we all agree, we might express the wish that the Finance Committee continue its studies for a revised FAO Scale, but without imposing time limits on it.

A.T. KEITA (Observateur pour la Guinée): A l'impossible nul n'est tenu, et à la lumière de la question combien pertinente posée par le représentant de la Thaïlande et de la réponse objective donnée par le Président du Comité financier et par les explications honnêtes et claires données par M. West, notre délégation estime sage d'adopter le barème proposé par le Conseil. Cependant, elle apprécierait beaucoup que la FAO puisse avoir ses propres méthodes de calcul adaptées à ses réalités propres. C'est peut-être là encore faire preuve d'une plus grande originalité. Néanmoins, nous nous prononçons en faveur du projet de résolution et nous nous associons intimement aux nombreuses interventions faites dans ce sens.

M. TRKULJA (Observer for Yugoslavia): It is obvious that my delegation did not want to pronounce itself on this issue. Let me first briefly establish my credentials. Yugoslavia's contribution has increased, so this is in contradiction with what I am going to say, notwithstanding the remarks made by Mr. West. I suggest that the only issue that the Finance Committee should consider in future is the possibility of applying a different scale of contributions to FAO, that is, different from the one adopted in New York. On that issue I think we have to be very realistic. I do not think there is any possibility here in Rome of studying and going through the same painful and difficult procedure and applying a different scale. It would be a futile exercise.

We do not want to influence the position of the Council on this matter but in November we will make our views very clear in that respect, that we have to follow the scale of contributions adopted in New York as a matter of principle in the future. There is simply no basis for FAO and my delegation is very much afraid that if we try something along the lines suggested, then the scale might become one of the overwhelming issues in FAO; and we are painfully aware that there are much more important and tangible things that we have to address than the one of the scale.

I would therefore at this stage very humbly suggest that we do not insert in our Report something on the lines suggested, that we should study the possibility - even just study the possibility - of applying a different scale.

CHAIRMAN: We have had a very intensive discussion on this important topic. Shall I conclude that we accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee as stated in paragraph 3.73, and the Report of our Council Meeting will reflect the various reservations and opinions expressed? Well, I am very grateful to you for accepting; thank you very much.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

15. Headquarters Accommodation

15. Locaux du Siège

15. Locales de oficina en la Sede

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): I am afraid I have only bad news to give to the Council. In fact, since the last session of the Finance Committee which ended only six weeks ago, the situation has worsened. But before I give details of the latest developments, I wish once more to emphasize the underlying reasons for which this problem has been on the Agenda of the Finance Committee and the Council for many years, and lately even on the Agenda of the Conference.

It is the main preoccupation of the Director-General that FAO and WFP have been suffering for many years from lack of adequate space. We are of course also providing accommodation to the World Food Council. We are forced to continue to rent office space, and even that is insufficient. In addition to the cost of renting and the cost of duplicating certain essential services, there is a tremendous loss of staff time and efficiency through the constant movement of staff between the two locations, which are six kilometers apart. A conservative estimate of the cost of staff time lost in waiting for buses and travelling between buildings easily exceeds \$200,000 a month, representing more than 2,500 man-days every month.

Also, as we are now, there is no possibility of any growth ever. The Organization is choked; it is condemned to inertia for at least the next ten years because, even if decisions are taken now on the construction of a new wing, it could well take ten years - probably more - before it is completed and ready for occupation. So if the Host Government does not take any decisions shortly, the Organization will be in the same position even in the next decade, until the year 2000.

Now to give some details on the latest developments: on the question of building 70 rooms on the 8th floor of building D we have accumulated one more approval in the series of approvals that seem to be necessary in order to implement this project, and that is that the Regional Administration of Lazio has formally communicated to us its approval of the project. But despite assurances, one and a half years ago, by the Ministry of the Treasury that the financing of the construction was secured and that the necessary funds would be made immediately available, after the various approvals of the Regional and Communal authorities were obtained, we have now been told that there are no funds. This has been quite a shock and we can only anticipate that it might take several months before funds can be made available. And this is only in connection with that minimal relief that can be obtained by the acquisition of an extra 70 rooms; and even for that relatively small project, the Host Government is not in a position to this date to give us a concrete timetable for its execution.

The Director-General therefore hopes that the Council will address itself to the Host Government and emphasize the emergency aspect of the problem, requesting once again some concrete action for construction to be initiated without further delay. The cost of constructing these 70 rooms has recently been estimated at 2.5 billion Lire, roughly \$1.6 million at today's exchange rate. If there is further delay, the Director-General might well propose to the Council financial arrangements with the assistance of the Organization, in order to speed up construction.

On the other front, the question of the new wing, the situation is far more gloomy. Despite pressures by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at inter-ministerial meetings which we attended, representing FAO, for the Superintendency of Archaeology to complete the excavation work before the previously announced target date of December next - the end of this year - or if possible by September, the Superintendency suspended all activities on the site last month for, again, lack of funds. We are told that additional funds have been requested, but there is no indication whatsoever as to if and when they will be made available; and, if they are made available whether they will be sufficient to complete the excavations.

So, prospects of completing the excavations within this year are now remote and, considering that no other steps can be taken before the Superintendency of Archaeology gives its clearance to the construction project, the Council will appreciate that this is a complete standstill.

It should be remarked here that the Superintendency of Archaeology is generally not well disposed towards any construction on an archaeological site, and that their first report was rather negative.

I should also highlight another point that is quite clearly stated in the Finance Committee Report: that no meeting has yet taken place between the President of the Council of Ministers and the Working Party appointed by the last Conference; and we are less than five months away from the next Conference. The Director-General regrets to have to provide such information. He follows the situation daily, but, despite all his efforts, finds himself in a deadlock with no possibility of solving the problem of Headquarters accommodation during the next five to ten years. The Host Government has not offered us any concrete solution so far. A first possibility of constructing a new building complex away from here has been discarded as too expensive and impractical.

The second possibility - one we have been pursuing for the last two years - of constructing a new wing adjacent to the Main Buildings here, together with the 70 rooms on Building B, seems to be totally blocked at present. It might be remarked here that even if the second possibility were eventually implemented, it would merely serve to house the existing numbers of staff of FAO and WFP. It would only enable us to bring over here the staff of FAO and WFP now located in Building F, without any reserve whatever for the slightest future expansion by either. So it may be necessary to start thinking of a third possibility, and that is why it is extremely important that the Working Party appointed by the Conference should meet with the authorities of the Host Government at the highest level, as soon as possible. The matter is extremely important, it is urgent and it is vital for the Organization to continue its work with the minimum acceptable efficiency.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Since Mr. Georgiadis has given you a complete picture of the headquarter problem I do not need to say much. Since the Finance Committee had this item on the agenda at several meetings it is nothing but proper that I voice the sentiments expressed by our members.

Basically the headquarters' problem revolves round two issues, the measures proposed by the Director-General; one is the construction of 70 rooms on top of the eighth floor in building D the second proposal is the construction of a new wing on the side of building C. Now our comments on the progress of these projects are in paragraphs 3.84 to 3.92 in our report. All I wish to state at this stage is that the Committee was very disappointed with the very little, or no progress made in this regard. The Committee therefore requested the Secretariat to keep this item on the Finance Committee's agenda at future sessions as well. It was because of the importance we attach to the subject and the need to press the authorities that we invited the Host Country's Ambassador to FAO to the present at our deliberations. I am sure His Excellency the Ambassador to FAO from Italy, whom I am pleased to see present at this meeting, would have known and felt how very deeply concerned we were on this question. We earnestly requested him to impress upon the authorities the urgent need to resolve this problem by taking speedier steps than now to expedite the approval of the two projects; bring pressure on the several agencies concerned at the highest point or level and also to hasten the allocation of funds and to entrust the work to the appropriate ministry concerned without delay and at the same time to exercise greater control and coordination centrally at all stages to ensure completion of the work with the minimum delay. We also stress once more the need for a meeting between the President of the Council of Ministers and the working group appointed by the Conference since it has taken more than 18 months since the Director-General conveyed the Conference decision with accompanying reminders to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for which there has still not been any response.

M. FRANCISCI DE BASCHI (Italie): J'ai écouté avec grande attention les exposés des directeurs du Service administratif et les commentaires du président du Comité financier. Je comprends très bien le climat d'impatience, peut-être même d'exaspération que pose ce problème; néanmoins je pense que sur ce secteur particulier des locaux du siège on a fait des progrès; il sont partiels, ils ne sont pas définitifs, mais je pense qu'il ne faut pas être trop pessimiste. J'ai fait mon possible dès que j'ai pris cette nouvelle tâche, et comme le Directeur général, je m'occupe quotidiennement de ce problème à mon niveau. Malheureusement, il n'est pas très facile de conduire les procédures et de concilier les compétences des services italiens, surtout dans la situation actuelle. Je peux malgré tout corriger d'une façon substantielle les dernières nouvelles données à ce sujet.

La construction de nouveaux bureaux au huitième étage a fait un progrès remarquable. Les difficultés découlant des différentes lois et règlements italiens ont été surmontées et le Ministère des travaux publics est décidé à accorder les autorisations et les fonds nécessaires à cette construction, évaluée à 2,5 milliards de liras. Donc, puisque le délai de construction a été estimé à 18 mois, puisque d'autre part ces travaux seront confiés à une seule firme pour en accélérer l'exécution, je pense que l'on peut raisonnablement espérer ce projet particulier réalisé vers la fin de l'année 1984 ou le début de 1985. C'est un succès partiel dont il faut tenir compte.

Quant à la construction de l'aile nouvelle à côté des vieux bâtiments, vous savez qu'il s'agit d'un problème difficile, mais pour le moment je ne crois pas qu'il faille envisager une autre alternative, il faut insister et aboutir à une situation claire sur la possibilité de construire ce bâtiment - ou pas - dans ce lieu qui a une très grande importance archéologique. Il est vrai que dernièrement les fouilles exploratoires ont été suspendues par manque de fonds, mais samedi dernier j'ai appris que le Ministère des biens culturels (Ministero dei Beni culturali) autorisait la poursuite des fouilles en fournissant les moyens nécessaires, selon les prévisions établies dans le passé. Je pense que la Surintendance à l'archéologie de la ville de Rome sera en mesure de donner un avis sur la possibilité de construire la nouvelle aile avant la fin de l'année. Il est absolument nécessaire d'attendre ce résultat avant d'envisager une autre solution. C'était mes observations pour le moment.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je remercie M. l'Ambassadeur d'Italie pour les informations qu'il a bien voulu nous donner et pour son optimisme. Nous avons besoin d'un peu d'optimisme.

M. l'Ambassadeur, cela fait deux ans que nous discutons de ce huitième étage. Vous nous dites qu'il faut encore attendre deux ans, cela fera donc quatre ans. Pour ma part, je ne pense pas que dans deux ans nous pourrions inaugurer cet étage. M. Georgiadis a dit à juste titre qu'il faudrait dix ans pour construire une aile de plusieurs étages pour environ 1000 personnes. M. le Président, il s'agit de l'avenir de la FAO et je souhaite que les délégués sentent comme nous l'importance de cette affaire.

Lorsque le building D, l'ancien Ministère des postes et télégraphes, a été évacué comme promis par le Gouvernement italien, il a fallu 10 ans pour que cet immeuble soit débarrassé, remodelé, alors qu'il existait, pour que nous puissions en disposer. Je pense qu'il faudra plus de dix ans pour disposer d'un immeuble de même dimension qui n'est pas encore construit. Donc, je ne pense pas qu'il sera prêt avant 1993.

On rencontre d'ailleurs dans chaque pays des difficultés administratives semblables que ce soit pour restaurer un immeuble ou pour construire un métro, surtout dans les grandes villes, comme Rome. Avec les problèmes de coordination entre les différents services, je pense qu'il faut compter dix ans pour construire cette aile nouvelle, si jamais elle est construite. Par ailleurs, M. l'Ambassadeur, je ne crois pas du tout qu'il soit possible d'obtenir le permis du Service archéologique, et je vais vous dire très franchement pourquoi.

Le premier rapport d'Italia nostra" était négatif, ils ont indiqué très clairement qu'à leur avis il était impossible de construire ici pour des raisons archéologiques, (ils ont trouvé un ancien mur, quelques poteries, etc.). Je crois qu'après avoir dépensé d'abord 32 000 dollars donnés par la FAO, ensuite peut-être 100 000 par le Gouvernement italien, plus environ encore 200 000 qu'ils demandent maintenant, soit environ 400 000 dollars, il sera difficile aux fonctionnaires du Service archéologique de dire "oui, vous pouvez maintenant construire". Ils risquent de confirmer ce qu'ils nous disent déjà, qu'on ne peut pas construire pour des raisons de protection des biens culturels et du patrimoine historique.

D'ailleurs ce ne sont pas eux qui disent le dernier mot puisque d'autres services doivent encore donner leur accord. D'autre part, comme on nous l'a dit, le Gouvernement italien, la ville de Rome en particulier, ne veulent pas voir la circulation s'intensifier dans cette partie de Rome.

Je suggérerais qu'une autre solution soit envisagée parallèlement, toujours aux Thermes de Caracalla, mais ce n'est pas le moment de l'évoquer ici.

Je voudrais rappeler que la Conférence de la FAO, formée de 152 pays, a voté une résolution à l'unanimité, priant le Premier ministre de recevoir une délégation de sept ambassadeurs représentant tous les groupes régionaux. Cette demande est jusqu'à présent restée sans réponse. Je l'ai transmise au Premier ministre. Vous avez émis tout à l'heure deux recommandations, mais nous restons dans la même situation. Nous n'arrivons pas à démarrer et je suis irrité car en tant que Directeur général, j'ai la responsabilité d'assurer l'avenir de cette Organisation. Ce sera la sclérose, si nous ne pouvons pas espérer avoir dans huit ou dix ans de meilleurs locaux et envisager l'expansion de la FAO.

Depuis des années, la FAO est scindée en deux parties. Le Département des pêches et le Département des forêts sont à six kilomètres d'ici, pour combien de temps? Faudra-t-il pendant dix ans encore que ces départements restent ainsi éloignés? Il faut plus d'une demi-heure à un fonctionnaire de ces départements pour quitter son bâtiment et venir ici. C'est une demi-heure de perdue.

Nous avons les mêmes problèmes avec le Programme alimentaire mondial. L'année prochaine, je peux être obligé de dire au Conseil mondial de l'alimentation que je ne peux plus lui donner 22 bureaux ici parce qu'il faut que je les donne au PAM qui en a besoin. Il faudra faire un choix entre le PAM et le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. L'affaire est donc urgente.

Je sais Monsieur l'Ambassadeur que personnellement vous êtes animé de la meilleure volonté, je comprends votre situation. Nous sommes à la veille d'élections en Italie. Mais je voulais vous dire ceci, en espérant que le prochain Premier ministre, le prochain Conseil des ministres nous fera l'honneur de nous recevoir quelques instants avec les ambassadeurs de ces sept pays afin que nous puissions porter vraiment l'affaire au plus haut niveau. Nous n'avons aucun engagement écrit du Gouvernement italien qui m'ait été adressé; on me rend compte de conversations, mais il n'y a rien d'écrit. Ce n'est pas seulement une question d'argent; on pourrait procurer une avance de fonds, mais il y a encore certainement des papiers à signer, des autorisations à obtenir. Le ministère concerné n'a pas encore pris de décisions par écrit; il ne nous a encore rien notifié.

J'ai voulu prendre un peu de votre temps pour essayer de vous faire ressentir avec moi la complexité des problèmes et les difficultés devant lesquelles nous nous trouvons. Je voudrais cependant exprimer ma sympathie à l'Ambassadeur qui reçoit tous nos griefs et qui, je le sais, fait de son mieux personnellement et avec qui je suis d'ailleurs toujours en contact. Je le remercie d'avance de tout ce qu'il pourra faire à son niveau.

M. FRANCISCI DE BASCHI (Italie): J'ai écouté les commentaires du Directeur général et je peux comprendre son impatience étant donné l'expérience qu'il a eue et qui est beaucoup plus longue que la mienne. Ce que je peux confirmer, c'est que dix-huit mois ne nous conduisent pas à l'année 2000. C'est une information, certes, que j'ai eue. Peut-être y aura-t-il des papiers à signer, il y en a toujours, mais les moyens financiers ont été affectés à l'exercice. 1983, donc ils sont disponibles. Il faut penser, comme je l'ai dit, que c'est une solution très partielle concernant le huitième étage du bâtiment D qui sera réalisé dans le temps voulu, c'est-à-dire dans dix-huit mois, ce qui nous reporte à la fin de l'année 1984, ce qui ne veut pas dire l'année 2000, c'est une avance de quinze années sur la fin du siècle.

Pour le reste, je pense qu'il serait opportun d'attendre le résultat final des fouilles parce qu'il n'est pas exclu que la surintendance archéologique puisse donner un avis positif. S'il en était ainsi, les choses seraient beaucoup plus faciles. Je suis parfaitement d'accord que si cette solution n'était pas réalisable, il faudrait penser à une solution de rechange dans un autre endroit.

Quant à la visite du Comité du travail nommé par le Conseil, la raison peut-être est tout à fait conjoncturelle étant donné que la situation politique et gouvernementale en Italie est toujours difficile et je pense que le Président du Conseil avant de recevoir le Groupe de travail et vous-même, Monsieur le Directeur général, aurait bien voulu donner une réponse concrète qui n'existait pas à l'époque.

Pour ma part je m'engage à présenter au gouvernement, à la Présidence du Conseil, ce désir exprimé par vous-même et par le Groupe nommé par le Conseil.

Le DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Ayant plus d'expérience que d'autres, comme vous le dites, j'ai de grands doutes sur les possibilités de terminer cette construction en 1984. Personnellement, je ne crois malheureusement qu'aux choses qui sont écrites et je n'ai aucune confirmation écrite que l'argent est disponible et que l'on va nous construire un bâtiment au huitième étage. Je n'ai aucune lettre du ministère des Affaires étrangères avec qui je correspond comme avec vous-même. Nous n'avons fait, depuis des années, qu'exprimer ici des espoirs.

J'ai l'expérience du même building où le septième étage existait déjà et où il a fallu seulement élargir certaines pièces, refaire l'électricité et pour cela il a fallu dix ans. Alors, construire un nouvel étage en dix-huit mois !...

M. Georgiadis nous a informés qu'il n'y a pas de fonds. Vous dites gentiment que ces fonds existent. On vous a dit ça mais pourrais-je avoir une lettre de confirmation et la communiquer au Conseil ? Vous pouvez nous donner des espoirs. Il faut être réaliste et la FAO est quelque chose de sérieux, de très sérieux. Vous faites une déclaration nous disant : "oui, cela va aller mieux..." parce que ce sont vos informations. Cependant, entre temps, il y a un problème d'urgence. Peut-être certains gouvernements, qui sont pour la croissance zéro, en seront-ils satisfaits. Ce qui signifie que nous n'aurions pas de nouveaux locaux; ce sera également la croissance zéro des bureaux, mais je dis à ces gouvernements qu'il s'agit seulement de faire venir ici les pauvres fonctionnaires du Département des Pêches et des Forêts qui sont exilés ainsi que le Programme alimentaire mondial à six kilomètres et de plus il faudrait quand même avoir un peu d'oxygène pour les années 2000.

Pour le moment, la situation est vraiment bloquée. Le Service archéologique a écrit un rapport que Monsieur West a étudié, rapport en italien, disant qu'ils ont trouvé quelque chose et qu'ils ne sont pas près de conclure.

Ils vont vous faire dépenser à vous 400 000 dollars pour trouver quelque chose et ils vont dire après : nous nous sommes trompés, il n'y a rien. 400 000 dollars, c'est difficile de dire cela après les avoir dépensés.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Dans le budget italien on a choisi cette procédure qui est la seule à courir. J'espère que ces millions ne seront pas dépensés pour rien, c'est-à-dire que l'avis sera positif.

Le DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je serais prêt à proposer au Conseil de dépenser 200 000 dollars si l'on nous promet de nous donner le permis de construire. Nous observons ces travaux. J'espère qu'ils vont se remettre au travail lorsqu'ils auront reçu l'argent nécessaire. Un jour ils veulent faire des fouilles dans un sens, et après ils annoncent qu'ils doivent creuser dans un autre sens. Ce sont des archéologues, ils sont obligés de tout étudier. Ils sont descendus à neuf mètres et maintenant ils travaillent plus lentement parce qu'ils sont arrivés à une zone très délicate. Nous suivons de très près ce qu'ils font. Maintenant ils sont arrêtés car ils ont besoin d'argent. Il faudrait quand même étudier une troisième solution. Je crois qu'il serait très apprécié que le Premier ministre nous fasse l'honneur de nous recevoir, même s'il n'a pas d'informations importantes à nous donner, seulement pour nous écouter et peut-être à la seconde visite pourra-t-il annoncer des résultats décisifs.

CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank both the Director-General and the Ambassador of Italy for giving us the present position. Let the Council reiterate our request that the Working Party nominated by the General Conference, and the Director-General may as soon as possible have an opportunity of calling on the Prime Minister to follow up this matter.

We will now adjourn for lunch and meet promptly at 2.30.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 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

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Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 16ª SESION PLENARIA (22 June 1983)

The Sixteenth Plenary meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La seizième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 16ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS
- 18. Constitutional and Legal Matters Including:
- 18. Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:
- 18. Asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:
- 18.1 FAO's Immunity from Legal Process
- 18.1 Immunité de juridiction de la FAO
- 18.1 Inmunidad de procedimiento judicial de la FAO

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am afraid I have bad news for you also on this item. You will recall that the question of FAO's immunity from legal process was on the agenda of your last session. The document that you have now brings the Council up to date on developments since then. Annex I of the document contains the Resolution adopted, number 12, on the last occasion. You also have the report of the Finance Committee, of which paragraphs 3.93 to 3.98 set out the views of the Finance Committee when it considered the question last month.

As already indicated by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the distinguished Ambassador of Italy, the Host Government, kindly attended informally the session of the Committee when it discussed the matter. As the Director-General said in his opening statement, the situation has deteriorated rather than improved since the last Session. As you will see from the document, there has been no progress since the judgement rendered by the Corte di Cassazione when it reached that judgement at the end of last year.

The Council requested the Host Government to deal with two questions. The first was to find a suitable way of resolving the specific dispute with INPDAI, the lessors of Building F, without further recourse to the Italian Courts; secondly, to take remedial action if necessary through legislative measures to ensure that our immunity from legal process was respected in future.

However, the Italian Courts have since then resumed hearings in both cases brought by the landlords against FAO. As instructed by the Council, we have not been taking part in those proceedings, but I can tell you something about what has happened in those cases which is additional to the information in paragraph 18 of the document.

In the eviction case, the Court of Appeal disregarded FAO's immunity from legal process, I presume because it was following the judgement of the Corte di Cassazione, and rendered a judgement on the merits. In fact, the Court of Appeal held that INPDAI did not have valid grounds for evicting FAO, so our position on that was justified by the Court. However, there are two problems. One is that they did consider the substance, and therefore, our immunity has suffered a further blow, and secondly, this protection from eviction lasts only for about two years.

Under the law on which they have made this decision we are in principle liable to new proceedings two years from now.

In the other case, the case for retro-active increases in rent, we have heard that the Pretore held a hearing in May, last month, and has set the case down for a final hearing in October. A judgement on the merits will be issued some time after that.

The situation is even worse than that, Mr. Chairman, because we are informed that at any time between now and when the case is finally dealt with by the Italian Courts, the landlords, the INPDAI, could ask the President of the Tribunale di Roma to order what would in effect be precautionary measures against FAO. That is to say the INPDAI could seek an order sequestering the Organization's assets such as the funds provided by you which are deposited in banks in Italy and earning interest which contributes to miscellaneous income which eventually comes back to you in offset of your contributions, so they would be attacking not just the funds of the Organization but your money.

We believe that this would be completely contrary to section 17 of the Headquarters agreement which expressly provides that FAO's property is immune from any form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action. But we have ample evidence already that the Italian Courts are not likely to pay much attention to this immunity, not at any rate judging by the way they have treated similarly categorical wording in section 16 regarding our immunity from legal process. Therefore the Director-General strongly recommends that the Council urge the Italian authorities to bring section 17, the one I have just referred to, that provides we are immune from any form of interference as regards our property, to bring section 17 of the Headquarters agreement to the attention of the President of the Tribunale di Roma who, we understand, would be the judge to whom an order for such sequestration would be addressed, as soon as possible so as to obviate a possible violation of another provision of the Headquarters agreement concerning our immunity.

So that is the first action proposal that the Director-General recommends to the Council.

Now apart from the litigation with the lessors of Building F, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that, as shown in paragraph 18 of the document, a judgement has been rendered against FAO in one case, and two further actions have been brought against FAO of a different type, and, we see this as evidence of the detrimental consequences of the judgement of the Corte di Cassazione, and it is to be expected I am afraid that unless measures are taken there will be further cases even affecting the status of staff or representatives. It is impossible to say because what we consider to be fair and indisputable has been breached, not once but more than once, and no action has been taken so far to stop this happening. We feel therefore that it is necessary for the Council to take appropriate action such as is within its power to try and stop this deterioration.

Now in accordance with paragraph 5 of Resolution 1/82, which is an annex document, the independent chairman here today sent letters to the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Director-General has also written more than once to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but as you will see, these efforts have been to no avail. We have not been informed of any action taken to give effect to the Council's resolution. I hope that at this meeting the Italian delegation will be able to give the Council some reassuring news, in fact some concrete evidence that specific and expeditious measures are being taken by it to remedy this situation and to give effect to the resolution. It is only in this way that we can have the hope of being protected from a continuing deteriorating situation including an attack on your funds. In any event you will note from paragraph 23 of the document that you are invited to consider as a matter of urgency the measures and further guidance for the Director-General that would be appropriate to protect the Organization's status in Italy, and I would suggest that as you did at the last session you may wish to adopt a resolution which we would be glad to prepare indicating the measures that should be taken in the current circumstances.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): En effet, la situation actuelle est celle décrite dans les documents CL 83/4 et CL 83/23, et M. West, notre Directeur général adjoint, vient de faire une dernière mise au point de cette situation.

Je dois admettre tout à fait franchement que le Gouvernement italien s'est également préoccupé des conséquences à court terme et à long terme du jugement de la Cour de cassation (Corte di Cassazione) dans le cas d'espèce FAO/INPDAL. C'est un jugement qui a un caractère définitif et reconnaît comme point de doctrine la compétence des tribunaux italiens toutes les fois qu'un sujet de droit international tel qu'un Etat étranger ou la FAO agit dans la sphère de droit privé et non dans celle de la souveraineté et de la réalisation de fins institutionnelles. Ce jugement de la Cour de cassation, comme je l'ai dit, a des conséquences immédiates et des implications à plus long terme. Pour l'immédiat, je ne peux que répéter ce qu'a dit le Représentant italien dans le dernier Conseil, et moi-même dernièrement, lors de la session du Comité financier. Le Gouvernement italien estime que, dans la phase d'exécution des jugements de tribunaux ordinaires italiens, les immunités de l'Organisation sur la base des sections 16 et 17 de l'article 8 de l'Accord de siège sont pleinement et dûment protégées, qu'en tout cas l'application concrète de toute mesure d'exécution rentre dans la sphère du pouvoir exécutif. Ce dernier peut recourir à certaines procédures d'urgence pour faire valoir, je répète, dans la phase d'exécution, le manque de juridiction.

Donc je pense que, dans l'immédiat, je peux donner cette assurance au Conseil, au Directeur général et aux Etats Membres, c'est-à-dire que sur la base des sections 16 et 17 de l'article 8 de l'Accord de siège toute mesure d'exécution, telle que la séquestration des biens ou des comptes courants, peut être empêchée et bloquée par une intervention du pouvoir exécutif. Je ne peux pas ici décrire quels sont les moyens, mais on peut naturellement développer cette argumentation dans des conversations directes entre le Directeur général, ses collaborateurs et la délégation italienne.

A plus long terme, nous avons plusieurs options à choisir. On pourrait inclure le problème de l'immunité de juridiction dans les négociations pour l'interprétation de l'Accord de siège, on pourrait réaliser un échange de lettres entre l'Organisation et le Gouvernement italien, ratifié par le Parlement et cette ratification donnerait à cet échange de lettres la forme d'une loi nationale ou bien on pourrait modifier de façon, je dirais, unilatérale la législation italienne existante. Finalement, on pourrait aussi recourir à la section 35 de l'article 17 de l'Accord de siège, qui prévoit une procédure particulière d'arbitrage en cas de différend sur l'application de l'Accord. Toutes ces options que j'ai énumérées pourraient résoudre le problème à long terme, pas dans l'immédiat. Dans l'immédiat, je répète que la solution consiste dans l'action du pouvoir exécutif vis-à-vis de certaines mesures d'exécution qui pourraient être réalisées grâce aux jugements des tribunaux italiens.

Je pense que cette déclaration sera rassurante dans l'immédiat, même si la situation reste, je ne dirais pas "dramatique", mais difficile. Il s'agit d'une situation qu'il faut suivre de très près pour faire face à certains événements qui pourraient se produire, comme l'a dit M. West, d'un jour à l'autre. Mais je répète que la situation n'est pas tragique sur le plan de mesures d'exécution, et c'est cela qui nous intéresse pour le moment.

M. le Président, à plus long terme, je voudrais préciser un point. Dans la lettre que le Président du Conseil et notre Ministre des affaires étrangères, M. Colombo, a adressée au Directeur général, est proposée l'inclusion du problème de l'immunité de juridiction dans les négociations pour la mise à jour de l'Accord de siège. De la part du Directeur général et, je pense, avec l'appui du Comité juridique ou du Comité financier, on a manifesté l'opinion que cet argument était trop important pour être inclus dans la négociation de l'Accord de siège. Je voudrais dire aussi au Conseil et au Directeur général que sur ce point la position du Gouvernement italien n'est pas figée. Nous sommes prêts à considérer le problème de l'immunité séparément, étant donné l'importance fondamentale de ce problème pour l'Organisation, pour les Etats Membres, et, cela va sans dire, pour les autres pays aussi.

Le Parlement italien a été dissous, les élections sont très proches, un nouveau gouvernement sera formé dans les semaines qui viennent, et je veux souligner ici qu'une de ses tâches reste l'ouverture, aussitôt que possible, de négociations sur l'interprétation de l'Accord de siège, et aussi l'examen, avec le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs, de moyens et de mesures à adopter soit au niveau national, soit au niveau bilatéral, pour mieux garantir à l'Organisation, dans un contexte juridique plus clair, l'immunité de juridiction telle qu'elle est définie dans l'Accord de siège.

M. le Président, je pense en répétant à la lettre les déclarations faites par mon collègue lors du dernier Conseil avoir rassuré le Conseil sur la situation immédiate. Pour l'avenir, je répète que le Gouvernement italien est prêt à prendre toutes les mesures sur le plan national et même en collaboration avec l'Organisation, pour faire face aux implications du jugement de la Cour de cassation.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the distinguished Ambassador of Italy suggesting short-term measures to execute administrative action and long-term measures to give constitutional authority to the principles of the headquarters settlement. Mr. West at the beginning said that the Council would agree and you could suggest a resolution containing some specific measures. I think it might be useful for the members to listen to what kind of measures you feel that the Council would support.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: If I may clarify a point: I am grateful to the Permanent Representative of our Host Government and we recognize his close attention to the matter and his goodwill. We note again the categorical but oral guarantees he has given in respect to the short-term situation.

What I am bound to point out is that this is no different, or nothing additional to what was said in the last Council by his predecessor, or what he said himself in the Finance Committee; and meanwhile the situation is deteriorating. If I brought up the question of sequestration, it was not because we thought of the worst that might happen and invented that, and tried to construct - I think the word 'tragic' was used - a tragic situation. On the contrary, we see it is a real possibility for tomorrow or the day after, literally. And I think, whilst loss of governments' money is not exactly a tragedy, it is not exactly taken lightly by auditors and by governments. So I brought it up because it is something which is a real possibility, and there might be other things on the way too.

I therefore do think that, while we note the statement - categorical repetition - concerning executive measures, we are by no means certain that such statements here will stop the courts or the offices of the courts - as distinct from the executive branch - from trying to impose new breaches in our immunity. That is why the Director-General hopes that the Council will express firm views, and why he has suggested these two particular steps that I mentioned in my opening statement. And if there are further steps of which the Council can think, so much the better. So I am very anxious now to hear what the Council has to say.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Agradecemos mucho la explicación que nos ha dado el Sr. West y la que nos dio el Director General en la sesión de mañana sobre estos problemas que son grave preocupación para nuestra Organización. Reconocemos, por otra parte, las explicaciones y el esfuerzo que seguramente ha realizado el distinguido Embajador de Italia para aminorar y resolver los problemas que tratamos; pero consideramos que el Gobierno huésped debería considerar todos estos problemas en conjunto y darles una rápida atención que no le ha dado.

Algunos mecanismos internacionales, algunos acuerdos de tipo jurídico, algunos acuerdos de tipo interno, alguna disposición del Congreso, en fin, algo que de acuerdo con sus normas jurídicas fundamentales permita que la FAO opere con libertad y sin cortapisas burocráticas, como operan otros organismos internacionales en otros países del mundo. La bondad, la utilidad y los servicios que le ha prestado a la humanidad la FAO, harían que cualquier país del mundo se sintiera orgulloso de tener la Sede de nuestro importante organismo que, por otra parte, crea una gran cantidad de beneficios económicos y empleo para el país huésped. Es por esto que apoyamos ampliamente las medidas propuestas por el Director General, tanto las que se mencionaron en el tema 15 como las que mencionó el Sr. West sobre el tema 18. El apoyo de nuestra delegación a la Resolución que se presente a la gestión es que realice, en el futuro, la Dirección General sobre este tema.

R.C. GUPTA (India): Mr. Chairman, we commend your efforts as our Chairman and those of the Director-General in trying to find some acceptable solution to this unfortunate problem. In our understanding all organizations of the United Nations system, if they are to function effectively and to come up to the expectations of the world community, should enjoy this immunity; otherwise it is very difficult for them to function. In this context we are grateful to the Ambassador of the Host Country for assuring us that no executive action will be taken by the Host Government in pursuance of the decrees of the Court.

We in India also have a very long tradition of an independent judiciary and we accord it the highest deference to the pronouncements of the courts. The solution does not lie in stopping the execution of a decree of the court; the solution does not lie in taking executive action. The solution does lie in changing the law so as to give a clear interpretation as to the intentions of the Host Country, to give a clear understanding to the international community that the Host Government is concerned about the matter, that it is serious, that this diplomatic immunity - or the immunity of an international organization - has to be honoured at all costs. While we appreciate the assurance of the Ambassador that no executive action will be brought against our Organization, we would strongly urge that legislative measures should be taken immediately, either through an exchange of letters ratified by the Italian Parliament, or even a change of law, to assure us on a long-term basis that the immunity of FAO will be respected.

We strongly feel that this immunity is not negotiable, that this cannot be negotiated together with other clauses of the Headquarters Agreement. This is too serious a matter, too important a matter to be negotiated and we strongly urge the Council, through you Mr. Chairman, to pass a resolution requesting the Host Government to provide appropriate legislation as soon as possible so as to assure us on a long-term basis that this immunity will be respected.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): During the previous Session of the Council, that is the Eighty-second Session, my delegation, while appreciating the efforts being made by the Host Government, very strongly urged that these matters should be resolved in such a manner that the next session of the Council, that is the present, Eighty-third Session, instead of being involved in issues such as immunity of FAO from legal process, should be able to devote its time to more pressing issues of the food and agriculture sector. I must confess that at that time while making an intervention on behalf of my delegation, I did say that perhaps I was being overly optimistic in hoping there would be something tangible coming out of the whole issue by the next Council. Therefore we view with great concern that the lapse of time has not really achieved anything substantial or tangible.

We therefore strongly urge, through you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council, the Host Government to really intervene on the issue on a more immediate and drastic level to ensure that FAO's legal immunity is respected by all Courts of Law and all places of jurisdiction within the State; and would be willing to participate in any resolution which the Council could come up with to speed up the issue.

C. DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Observador de Costa Rica): La redente intervención del Embajador de Italia lleva un poco de tranquilidad en un momento en el cual estamos realmente preocupados, y estamos realmente preocupados, porque el Documento CL 83/23 pone de relieve que la situación está empeorando cada día más, y es preocupante no solo para la FAO, cuyo funcionamiento se ve, digamos, en cierto sentido amenazado, sino porque crea todo lo que está ocurriendo un precedente peligroso para todas las Organizaciones Internacionales, que hasta ahora han podido funcionar con pleno respeto del Acuerdo.

Yo creo que en el dictamen de la Corte de Casación ha influido una cierta diferencia entre los textos ingleses y los italianos del Artículo 16; en el raccolta oficial de la Ley de 1951 resulta que en inglés se dice shall enjoy from every form of legal process. En el texto italiano se dice simplemente acuerdo de "immunità di giurisdizione". Esto puede prestarse a diferentes interpretaciones; o sea, que en ciertos casos podría no haber inmunidad de jurisdicción; pero es cierto que every form es extremadamente categórico. Yo creo que lo que se necesita con absoluta urgencia es volver al espíritu con que fue redactado el Acuerdo de Sede; o sea, que se necesitan medidas legislativas. Como puso de relieve recientemente el Delegado de India, no puede ser objeto de negociación sobre interpretación. Yo creo que técnicamente después de ese fallo de la Corte de Casación hay sólo una medida legislativa que puede reconducir la situación en lo que se quiso que fuera en el momento exacto en que se firmó el Acuerdo de Sede, en que la Organización se trasladó acá.

En lo que se refiere al pleito específico con el INPDAI yo creo que también mediante la ayuda del Gobierno italiano, cuyo Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores demostró tan buena voluntad y comprensión, se podrían empezar negociaciones para una transacción; o sea, yo creo que se podrían dividir los asuntos. Uno, pedir al Gobierno italiano, mediante la Resolución, que está a la vista de la Secretaría, y que nos presentará usted, que se llegue a un procedimiento claro, legislativo, lo más pronto posible, y el otro, tratar de acercar las partes para ver si es posible ponerse de acuerdo sobre alguna forma de transacción.

M.D. METELITS (United States of America): The United States delegation has a great deal of sympathy for the rather difficult position that the Host Country delegation finds itself in and we appreciate their enormous efforts to be as forthcoming as possible. Likewise we appreciate your efforts, Mr. Chairman, and those of the Director-General and the secretariat management in seeking a specific and rapid solution to the problem.

In Resolution 82/1, operative paragraph 6, the Council requests the Director-General to keep the Council and the CCLM informed of developments in these areas. We find ourselves at this session of the Council in the unfortunate position of having to consider possibilities of language for a resolution that is not even before us yet. It might have been helpful if the CCLM had been consulted on this legal matter and had made its contribution before this session.

I.O. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Pero el estudio del Director General señala que sobre el jure gestionis no hay consenso en todos los países, algunos dan la inmunidad en ese caso, otros no dan la inmunidad. En Italia nunca se ha reconocido por los tribunales la inmunidad en materia del jure gestionis y, en efecto, la Corte de Casación hace de la naturaleza del contrato de arrendamiento entre FAO y el INPDAI la columna central de su razonamiento.

Señala en la pagina 10 de la sentencia que con, cito entre comillas, con un conspicuo número de decisiones la sentencia dice: "hay un abundante número de decisiones de esta misma Corte", es decir de la Corte de Casación, "en las cuales se ha sostenido la sujeción de los organismos internacionales a la jurisdicción italiana cuando ejecutan actos privados", y cita varias sentencias. Luego demuestra

la Corte con argumentos que por desgracia no podíamos detenernos a analizar pero que yo los encuentro muy fundados, uno puede no estar de acuerdo con ellos pero no puede dejar de reconocer que son argumentos sólidos, demuestra con argumentos que el contrato entre la FAO y los propietarios del edificio "F" es un acto de naturaleza privada y que de cualquier modo que lo llamen las partes sigue siendo un contrato de naturaleza privada y, por consiguiente, dice la Corte aunque la sección 16 del Convenio lo decía claro, lo que hizo la FAO cuando contrató como un particular fue renunciar a su inmunidad y, por consiguiente, en ese caso dice la Corte "por la propia actuación de la FAO la inmunidad no se aplica".

Hay dos cosas que me parecen dignas de hacer constar a propósito de esto: ¿Por que esas sentencias, abundantes según la Corte de Casación, no fueron tomadas en cuenta?. No se citan en el estudio del Director General y hay algunas sentencias que hubieran sido muy ilustrativas, por ejemplo la número 1778 del 13 de mayo de 1963, es decir dictada hace 20 años, en la cual la NATO tenía un conflicto muy parecido al de la FAO. Había contratado con una firma privada italiana la construcción de alcantarillas en una base. La NATO pretendió que éste era un acto, cuando fue demandado por la empresa constructora, que era un acto de jure imperi, y la Corte de Casación sentenció que entre los fines de la NATO no estaba la construcción de alcantarillas, que era un acto de derecho privado que podía haberlo hecho de diversas maneras y el contrato no estaba sujeta a la inmunidad.

Hay otro caso, opuesto, entre una ciudadana italiana y la Orden de los Caballeros de Malta. Esta ciudadana trabajaba en un hospital que no pertenecía a la Orden de Malta, pero trabajaba dando asistencia a los enfermos. Demandó a la Orden de Malta ante los tribunales ordinarios y la Corte de Casación sentenció que en ese caso curar a los enfermos era un fin público de la Orden de Malta y, por consiguiente, sujeto a la inmunidad de jurisdicción.

La segunda pregunta que se puede uno hacer es por qué se recurrió a la Corte de Casación entonces.

Por lo que se ha planteado por algunos que creen que habiéndose presentado a la Corte de Casación la FAO renunció a su inmunidad, no se ve por qué se presentó a la Corte de Casación cuando podía verse con anticipación cuál era el criterio de la Corte, lo que se hizo fue darle una gran ventaja a la contraparte de la FAO. Un abogado astuto, como yo los he visto actuar, en vez de presentarse a la Corte de Casación se hubiera presentado al Pretore y hubiera dilatado el juicio uno, dos, tres, diez años y mientras tanto ofrecería a la contraparte una negociación, una transacción. Eso es lo que hacen los abogados aquí. Contratiamente, se le ahorró tiempo a la contraparte porque de una sola vez se le dio el arma para llevarnos a juicio.

No es que yo esté haciendo estos recordatorios para juzgar ni para echar la culpa a nadie porque, repito, son cuestiones en las que no se puede decir quién tiene la razón, sino porque pienso que lo más importante es plantearnos qué hacer para el inmediato futuro.

A nuestro juicio, dejemos una vez más aclarada y analizada la doctrina internacional, si analizamos el derecho internacional la FAO tiene la razón de su parte, pero, desgraciadamente, ya sea en un proceso judicial como en un juego de ajedrez o en la guerra no siempre gana el que tiene la razón o el que tiene la teoría a su favor. A nuestro juicio está bien, y ratificamos, que el Director General no se presente a juicios a los cuales venga demandado, pero nos parece que el Consejo debiera

dejarle flexibilidad para que si lo estima conveniente para los intereses de la Organización en un momento determinado se presente ante un tribunal, Imaginemos que el Pretore de Roma, y saben ustedes que los Pretores en Italia tienen un poder increíble, son los jueces de nivel más bajo pero son capaces de procesar a la figura más alta, y muchas veces lo hacen sin miramiento de ninguna especie, supongamos que el Pretore de Roma decreta una medida cautelar, como se llama, contra las cuentas de la FAO, ¿qué hace la FAO esperando a que la legislación se cambie para darle la razón?. Me parece imposible tendría que actuar de alguna forma y sugiero que el Consejo autorice al Director General para que tenga flexibilidad, que se mantenga en la defensa aferrándose a la inmunidad, pero que tenga la flexibilidad para que si lo estima conveniente se presente a los Tribunales.

Ahora bien, en un proceso judicial, como en un juego de ajedrez o en la guerra la mejor defensa es el ataque, A nuestro juicio, y así lo habíamos planteado, podríamos considerar la posibilidad de demandar a Italia conforme al Convenio de Sede o en un organismo internacional. No puede la FAO seguir esperando hasta que el Gobierno italiano tome las medidas que se le pidan; es necesario actuar e inmediatamente salir al paso, y esto no implica, desde luego, ninguna, en absoluto, actitud inamistosa para un país al cual estoy seguro que nadie en esta sala le tiene tanto cariño como el que habla y ninguna delegación tiene tanto sentimiento de agradecimiento, pero se trata de defender un juicio particular y creo que valdría la pena considerar esa posibilidad.

Realmente, dado que el señor representante de Italia no nos ha explicado cuáles son las medidas, cómo piensan ellos detener la acción de un Juez, no podemos analizarlo, pero por lo menos podemos ver a la luz de las informaciones cotidianas que nosotros tememos que se puedan quedar en el plano de las buenas intenciones.

En conclusión, nuestra delegación ratifica la plena confianza en el Director General, en la forma que ha llevado este proceso. Segundo, pide que mantenga como línea la defensa de la inmunidad irrestricta sin perjuicio de que se presente en un tribunal si no implica renunciar a la inmunidad. Tercero, que se busque una transacción con la contraparte, Cuarto, que se pase al ataque, no nos quedemos esperando pasivamente: y lo anterior, sin perjuicio, desde luego, que se pida lo que se ha planteado: que el Gobierno italiano, mediante una ley o mediante otro procedimiento, interprete de manera indiscutible el Acuerdo de Sede,

Para terminar, y me temo que una de las aspiraciones que tenía era no ser excesivamente prolija, no he podido por menos que expresar algunas dudas sobre la forma y la sustancia de este problema. He pensado que era mi deber exponérselas al Consejo, no porque este en contra de la posición de la FAO, todo lo contrario, precisamente porque quisiera dar la mayor contribución a su más adecuada defensa.

Quisiéramos comenzar por advertirle que puedo ser un poco largo en mi intervención. Le pido disculpas, pero es que yo soy un abogado y aparte del cariño que le tengo a la FAO este tema me resulta particularmente importante. Por lo demás, todos sabemos que a los abogados algunos los consideran que nacieron para eso, para hablar; otros dicen que existen para enredar las cosas que están claras. Espero no incurrir ni en lo uno ni en lo otro.

Nuestra Delegación en el curso del anterior período de sesiones del Consejo intervino en este punto y sostuvo lo siguiente:

1°) Que la letra de la Sección 16 del Acuerdo de Sede no dejaba dudas sobre la irrestricta inmunidad de jurisdicción que gozaba la FAO.

2°) Que una autorizada doctrina internacionalista y un ejemplo de la jurisprudencia italiana confirmaban lo anterior. Por cualquier problema de interpretación quisiéramos aclarar que la palabra jurisprudencia, jurisprudencia en el sentido de case law, es decir, las sentencias pronunciadas por los tribunales italianos; y nos referíamos a un trabajo del Profesor Ricardo Monaco y una sentencia del Tribunal de Trieste que él mismo citaba.

3°) Que la FAO no había cometido ningún error al presentarse a los tribunales.

4°) Que el Director General debía abstenerse de comparecer a los tribunales italianos y basar su defensa en la inmunidad irrestricta de la FAO.

5°) Que la FAO debía estudiar la posibilidad de recurrir a un Tribunal Internacional para que dirimiese esta cuestión en forma general y obligatoria, a fin de que no permaneciese como una espada pendiente sobre la cabeza de nuestra Organización.

6°) Que era conveniente dar a conocer el texto de la sentencia de la Corte de Casación al menos a los miembros del Consejo.

Esto último de dar a conocer la sentencia, no se hizo; de modo que como la sentencia no vino a nosotros, fuimos nosotros a la sentencia. Hicimos un viaje a la Corte de Casación y a través de su magnífico sistema de informática jurídica obtuvimos tanto la sentencia que afecta a la FAO como otras

sentencias muy interesantes. Obtuvimos allí también un elenco de trabajos jurídicos sobre la inmunidad de los Organismos Internacionales. Por desgracia, no tuvimos el tiempo de buscar y estudiar estos últimos; pero no era indispensable hacerlo, porque entretanto, hemos podido leer el excelente estudio que el Director General presentó al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, en el cual se pasa revista a la mejor y más reciente doctrina en la materia.

Este último, el estudio, que reúne la seriedad y superior calidad de los documentos de la FAO, junto con la lectura de la sentencia, y la jurisprudencia de la Corte de Casación, nos ha reiterado nuestra convicción de que la FAO ha actuado correctamente. De nada se puede inculpar al Director General ni a su Oficina Jurídica. Conocemos muy bien tanto al Señor Roche como a su predecesor el Sr. Dobbert y nos consta que la competencia y honestidad profesionales de ambos, así como la de sus colaboradores, son de la más alta calidad que se puede encontrar en el mundo.

Sin embargo, hay otros aspectos sobre los cuales ahora no estaríamos tan seguros, como en la precedente sesión del Consejo. Y aclaramos que no poder pronunciarse con certeza en el campo del Derecho, es decir, no tomar posición firme en materia jurídica, es de la esencia de la materia jurídica y nadie puede en materia legislativa, en materia judicial pretender estar en posesión de la verdad absoluta.

La primera cuestión sobre la que se nos plantean dudas, es sobre la oportunidad y la justicia de haber empezado el presente asunto.

Como sabemos, su origen estuvo en la reclamación por parte de los propietarios del Edificio F de un aumento en el alquiler, con base en el índice que se había previsto en el contrato suscrito por la FAO. La FAO se negó a reconocer el aumento alegando que las cláusulas de indización habían sido prohibidas por la legislación italiana sobreviniente.

No sabemos si el reclamo era injustamente oneroso, no sabemos si lo que reclamaban los propietarios era inicuo o si se ajustaba a las cláusulas que se habían pactado libremente. En el primer caso, es decir, si lo que se reclamaba era excesivamente oneroso, se hizo bien en no pagar; en el segundo caso, si el propietario reclamaba lo que se había pactado inicialmente, se hizo mal en no pagar. Hay una cláusula que todo el mundo conoce: en materia jurídica pacta sunt servanda, los contratos deben cumplirse. La buena fe en la aplicación de los contratos es una de las normas esenciales para su aplicación y su interpretación.

Por añadidura, la FAO invoca la ley italiana para anular la cláusula de la indización; pero invoca la cláusula de arbitraje contenida en el contrato. Esta parece, según el estudio que elaboró el Director General, que no se adapta a cláusulas semejantes que en otros Convenios de Sede reclaman las legislaciones que dan la inmunidad irrestricta. Hay países que dan la inmunidad irrestricta en cualquier campo, pero exigen que los Convenios de Sede, en los contratos, se establezca un procedimiento de derecho privado para dirimir las posibles controversias. Parece ser, repito, que esa cláusula del contrato de arrendamiento no se ajusta a esos principios. Tan es así, que los Tribunales italianos dicen que esa cláusula de arbitraje prevista en el contrato de arrendamiento es nula conforme a la legislación italiana; ahora la FAO parece invocar la ley italiana para anular una cláusula y desconoce el Derecho Internacional o le niega validez a la ley italiana para hacer valer otra cláusula. Caemos en una contradicción que habrá que aclarar.

Además, habría que hacer examen de conciencia: ¿Se debía o no la suma pactada?

Parecería mala tesis hablar mal en un momento de crisis económica, cuando la FAO tiene graves problemas económicos, pero lo que nosotros queremos hacer es proponer a la FAO lo que creo que cualquier abogado que estime a su cliente haría, y con mayor razón cuando se trata de dar un consejo, hacer una sugerencia a la propia familia cuando tiene un conflicto planteado. Nos planteamos que se busque una transacción, transacción que puede buscarse en la mejor forma posible; muchas veces la transacción se lleva al 50 por ciento del valor reclamado, no tiene porque ser pagado inmediatamente todo; puede pedirse una dilación para cinco o diez años, y esto me parece que es conveniente aclararlo, no está en contradicción a nuestro juicio con lo que determina el GATT, el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos ni con la Resolución precedente del Consejo.

Otras dudas que se nos plantean, que fue alrededor de las cuales que centramos nuestra intervención en el Consejo pasado, es la indiscutibilidad del texto literal de la sección 16. Tanto el estudio preparado por el Director General, como la sentencia de la Corte de Casación, señalan que es de universal aceptación una teoría que distingue entre "jure imperii" y el "jure gestionis". El "jure imperii" existe cuando el Estado o un Ente Internacional actúan cumpliendo sus fines propios de derecho público, y el "jure gestionis" existe cuando se adapta a una transacción de derecho privado. Un Estado, un Ente Internacional, puede actuar con su derecho de imperio, o actuar como un ciudadano particular.

Tanto en el estudio del Director General como en la sentencia de la Corte, se reconoce que en materia de "jure imperii", la inmunidad de jurisdicción es absoluta, no hay ninguna duda.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for studying this problem in such great detail and sharing your analysis with us.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): La délégation de Haute-Volta constate avec regret que les recommandations du Conseil tenu en décembre de l'année dernière n'ont pas reçu un début d'exécution favorable. Notre délégation pense que le pays hôte n'a pas pris toutes les mesures adéquates pour faciliter le bon fonctionnement de l'Organisation, bien au contraire. Cette attitude reste à nos yeux incompréhensible et difficilement tolérable. La délégation de Haute-Volta renouvelle le souhait qu'elle avait formulé lors du dernier Conseil, à savoir que la FAO ne soit plus traînée devant les tribunaux, et cela conformément aux textes qui lui donnent l'immunité de juridiction.

La délégation approuve la proposition tendant à faire une recommandation appropriée en vue de résoudre le problème.

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho): It would seem to us that the whole approach to this question is a little bit wrong. We feel that there is no need for FAO to contact landlords direct. In our opinion the Minister of Foreign Affairs can provide a very good media of communication between FAO and landlords or the national cause.

We fully appreciate all that has been done by the Ambassador of Italy and the Director-General to try to resolve the question of FAO's immunity to legal procedures. However, what we would like to have clarification on, and perhaps the Ambassador of Italy would help, is what role the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Republic of Italy has played or tries to play in order to insulate FAO from aggression originating from landlords or national cause.

As several delegates indicated in last year's FAO meeting, FAO is an international organization of the United Nations and it must retain its immunity against being sued by landlords. If there is any case of contention between FAO and the host government or the landlords we feel that it is for the parties involved to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs to mediate. Then if the Minister of Foreign Affairs finds difficulty in dealing with the bone of contention FAO can refer the matter to the United Nations or to the International Court at the Hague.

Our delegation takes the cue from the delegates of India, Pakistan, the United States of America and other delegates who have spoken, that this Council has a resolution requesting the host government to enact appropriate legislation that will ensure immunity of FAO against legal processes. I am not a lawyer, but I believe somebody can draft such a resolution.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): This is one of the important problems which the Director-General brought to our attention once again. We are glad to have the benefit of such a detailed introduction by

Mr. West.

Let me say at the outset that my delegation is extremely concerned about the seriousness of the problem and the lack of a solution, despite having been identified by the Director-General and despite his strenuous attempts to achieve satisfaction from the host country.

We appreciate very much the efforts of the Italian government to resolve this serious problem. We are dealing with one of the most fundamental issues affecting the location of our Organization. The question of immunity for an intergovernmental organization, as we all know, is less than the question of sanctity of a place of worship.

Immunity has been accorded and assured to our Organization by the Government of Italy through the headquarters agreement and the law of the Italian parliament. We are therefore amazed that despite this immunity guaranteed under Italian law, developments have taken a strange course-, as reported to us by the relevant document.

Furthermore it is difficult to understand that the action specifically requested from the Government of Italy by our Council at its last session has not been considered, and this despite the urging of the Independent Chairman of the Council and the Director-General. There is no written confirmation by the Government which assures the Director-General that no measures of execution would be taken against the Organization, although we appreciate the reassuring declaration of the Ambassador of Italy.

In the past we have requested the Director-General not to respond and not to participate in any legal proceedings. But such actions are an obvious stress on the smooth-running of the Organization and tend to besmirch its image and good name.

My delegation therefore suggests that the Council once again requests the Government of Italy as a matter of urgency to take steps first to provide written confirmation that no measure of execution will be taken against the Organization, and secondly that it will take steps through the necessary legislative measures to ensure FAO's immunity from the legal process.

We would furthermore suggest that the response of the Government of Italy on this issue should be brought to our attention at our next session and perhaps to the attention of the forthcoming Conference.

CHAIRMAN: I think it is obvious that Council Members would like to give their full support to the Director-General in helping the Organization to get the problem solved. We expressed our serious concern last time, and I must say that the replies of the Government of Italy have been very helpful. In fact you have asked me also to supplement the efforts of the Director-General by writing letters, and Mr. West and the documents mention this. I will read a sentence from the reply received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Colombo. There is a sentence of the Corte di Cassazione on this subject: "... and I think we should take it as a point of departure to seek a solution which can be satisfactory both for Italy and for FAO". And there are more things of this kind, which show that they would like to be as helpful as possible, so we should request the Government of Italy to help us and to help the Director-General to get the problem solved, so that we are able to come to a satisfactory solution.

I would suggest therefore that we endorse what Mr. West said earlier. The Council could pass a resolution although, as the delegate of the United States said, it would have been useful if the CCLM could have considered the resolution and we could have had the draft before us. So I suggest that once Mr. West explains what the provisions of this resolution are, the Drafting Committee should consider it and let it come to us through the Drafting Committee and we can consider it in the Plenary. If it is acceptable to you, then I would request Mr. West first to indicate what the provisions of the Resolution will be, then we "authorize the Drafting Committee to come to us with a recommendation on the precise wording of the Resolution. Mr. West has the floor.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will do that, but first let me make one or two additional comments. I would like to say that the merits of our case which have been discussed are not relevant to the subject of immunity, but just to reassure any who have their doubts still about it, among the Observers if not among the Council itself, on one aspect, the Italian Court has found that we were right and the landlord was wrong, so we have nothing to be ashamed of in that regard.

On the other aspect, it is not a question of the landlord asking for something which we consider excessive but somebody else might consider reasonable. It is a straightforward question, whether the provisions of the contract for indexation were frozen by Italian law or not, so it is not a question of negotiating whether we are being grasping or unreasonable, it is a straightforward legal question.

As I say, even if the Court finds against us on that we have nothing to be ashamed of nor is it really relevant, but as I say, it is not a question which now concerns us because we are dealing with immunity.

I think the Director-General would have strongly supported the point made by one delegation that this matter is not a question for negotiation in connexion with other matters outstanding between the Host Government and ourselves. It stands on its own. It is too important to mix up with other matters, and I am very glad indeed to note that the Ambassador of Italy said that the Italian Government accepted this and were prepared to deal with it separately.

The third and last point before I come to the Resolution: why is it that the Director-General and Members of the Council are so concerned about having some concrete evidence of guarantee against execution? It is because it is possible, for example, that a court official who is not under the jurisdiction of the Italian authorities might seek to deliver a Court order against FAO or one of FAO's contractual agents, such as the Banca Commerciale Italiana, and the Italian Government may not have the same opportunity in that case to stop execution as it would if its own officials were given the - I am glad that the Italian Ambassador is disagreeing with me - but I think that the question of having something written is very important in order to protect us against ill-advised ventures.

Also, I think you yourself, Mr. Chairman, just made the point that since we are going to have elections and a new government, it would help the Permanent Representative to have this from the Council in the efforts which we know he is making himself with great goodwill and energy on our behalf. We want to fortify his stance.

After the appropriate preambular references, what we have in mind is that the Council would urge the Host Government firstly to take concrete measures to be sure that no measures of execution are applied and to ensure that we are protected against an attempt to apply them and to provide the Director-General and the Council with written information thereon that may be feasible and appropriate; secondly, to take the necessary action to resolve the dispute with the landlords of Building F without recourse to the Courts, so here we do envisage that the problem should be settled but not by FAO with the landlords, but by the Host Government with the landlords; thirdly, to bring our status and the text of Section 17 of the Headquarters Agreement to the attention of the Tribunale di Roma in order to prevent any attempt to freeze our assets and then to request the Director-General to continue to keep the matter under review and to continue to report, to continue to refrain from participating in actions in the Courts and to take any measures that may be necessary and appropriate - I hope that does not include a hunger strike - to resist any attempt to apply measures of execution against FAO and to obtain the protection of the Host Government, so I do not think this draft should present any difficulty, no new problem therein for the Council, and we will present a proper text in the Draft Report for the consideration of the Drafting Committee and the Council.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): El punto ha sido discutido en extenso, y, lamentablemente, estamos en el mismo punto, en el mismo lugar que en el Consejo anterior. Decimos lamentablemente porque la delegación italiana ha tenido la intención, ha tenido sus mejores esfuerzos en explicarnos la situación real por la que se atraviesa para que el poder ejecutivo pueda aplicar el Acuerdo de Sede, en vez de aceptar que los tribunales hayan aplicado el derecho privado a un organismo internacional con acuerdo de Sede. Bien, no quisiera entrar en consideraciones jurídicas porque creo que se han dado bastantes. Nosotros, después de oír la proposición del Dr. West, sería la resolución que se propone, y como se ha hablado bastante en sala de la preocupación, saliendo un poco ya del marco jurídico, quisiéramos caer en el marco de los refranes. En mi país se dice que la preocupación es lo que nos hace crecer las canas, o quedarnos sin con qué peinarnos. Entonces no creemos que el problema sea preocupación, el problema creemos que es de ocupación específicamente en vez de preocupación. Vamos a dejar de preocuparnos, por lo tanto, del problema y vamos a ocuparnos de él. Creemos que lo más objetivo, después del análisis que se ha hecho esta tarde aquí, es apoyar la resolución propuesta para tener por lo menos una respuesta también real. Una respuesta que garantice que la inmunidad de un organismo internacional que tiene una función internacional, una función que la humanidad espera, y que realmente no podemos esperar más en la espada de Damocles, esperando que el poder ejecutivo sea el que nos perdone, que la judicatura quiera aplicar el derecho privado. Por lo tanto, nuestra delegación apoya en todas sus partes la Resolución que se propone.

R.C. GUPTA (India): Mr. Chairman, I would beg your indulgence if I have not understood the text or the outline of the Draft Resolution suggested by the Deputy Director-General, but if I understood it correctly, it does not make any mention of urging upon the Host Government to take legislative measures, either by the exchange of that ratified by Parliament or by a separate law altogether to fully and clearly define and protect the immunity of the FAO. My delegation feels that this should be clearly spelled out so as not to be left ambiguous at all.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. In fact, Mr. West just pointed out to me that he forgot to refer to that section of the Resolution which exactly says what India stated, to take expeditious measures of a legislative nature to uphold the sanctity of Article VIII, Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement concerning FAO's immunity from every form of legal process. That is really the solution and it is there, but he just forgot to bring it out.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I appreciate very much the introductory comments that were given to us by Mr. West and also those made by the Ambassador from El Salvador. I agree with what our American colleague had said earlier, that it would have been preferable for this Council to have a document in front of us, preferably not only immediately, yesterday or today, but some time ago. I am a little concerned, therefore, that even if it gets to the Drafting Committee and that it gets worked out that we will not have sufficient opportunity to express our Canadian concern about such a draft.

I have listened very carefully to the discussion that has taken place here this afternoon, and I must say that I have both sympathy and empathy with the Government of Italy. I, like many others here, have expressed our appreciation for the goodwill of the Italian Government. It is no secret, of course, that they have put in a very large amount of money to the multilateral development effort, \$500 million last year; they are under considerable pressure not only from the FAO but from other UN institutions like IFAD and so on to provide additional facilities, so certainly their goodwill and their charity and humanitarian concern is not in question here.

Our emphatic reaction comes because recent decisions of Canadian courts tend to support the view that a sovereign or diplomatic immunity does not extend to leases entered into by a foreign government, and it is believed that a similar approach could perhaps be applicable to international institutions. This decision in Canadian courts has not been made yet, and we would leave it to our Supreme Court to make that final decision. On July 15, 1982, what we call the State Immunity Act - the full title is An Act To Provide For State Immunity In Canadian Courts - entered into force, incorporating into Canadian law the principle that a foreign State may be brought before the Courts of Canada in respect of its commercial acts. This, of course, is the act jure gestionis as distinguished from its governmental acts, which are the act jure imperii. It thus restricts the immunity in certain respects so as to place them in a legal position that more readily approximates that of an ordinary Canadian citizen with specific reference to commercial activity.

In its most basic terms, this Act provides that foreign countries should under certain circumstances be suable in Canadian courts. My Government in a circular note which was sent to all diplomatic missions in Ottawa - the note number was LAA2098 - which has been received by, I think, almost every Member of this Council who has representation in Ottawa, provided a copy of that Act, and the Act did enter into force on July 15th. It does, as I have said, incorporate into Canadian law the principle that a foreign State may be brought before the Courts of Canada in respect to its commercial acts and activities. It thus restricts their immunity in certain respects so as to place them in a legal position which approximates that of an ordinary Canadian citizen.

There has been considerable uncertainty in the law in the past about immunity to which foreign States are entitled in Canadian Courts which have tended to apply the principle that we have talked about here, that of absolute immunity. This principle, we feel, or our courts have felt, was developed in another time and under other circumstances, and that in fact it has gradually been abandoned over the years by many States. Many commentators and experts in the field of international and constitutional law have suggested for some time that Canada, as well as other States, should move to the restricted immunity principle. That suggestion was prompted for two principle reasons, the first has to do with the position of both federal and provincial governments in Canada before the Canadian Courts. In the last thirty years the principle of Crown immunity has been substantially modified so that those governments are generally suable in Canadian Courts. That trend has reinforced the view that foreign countries, and perhaps international institutions should, under certain circumstances, be suable also in Canadian Courts. It is for this reason, Mr. Chairman, we feel some empathy with what is currently occurring in the Italian courts.

The other main factor, both in Canada and abroad, in favour of limiting the immunity of foreign States has been a substantial increase during recent years in the level of commercial activity carried on by States. As they increasingly became involved in various kinds of commercial activities it became more difficult to rationalize the concept of absolute immunity. Now our act affirms the rule that immunity is to apply notwithstanding the failure of the State to take any steps in the proceedings, and sets out the circumstances in which immunity is to be denied by way of enumerated exceptions to this general grant of jurisdictional immunity.

The act however changes the law with effect to execution - again an element of concern here. It does grant general immunity from execution, attachment and the like to property of a foreign State, subject again however to certain exceptions.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the property of a foreign central bank not used or intended for commercial purposes is also exempted from executions. Certain special remedies are not available against the State without its written consent, and the act also codifies procedural provisions which relate inter alia to the service of documents.

Mr. Chairman, the principle of reciprocity among States is ensured by providing the governing council with authority to restrict immunity, and provision is made for proving the status of a foreign state, its territories, subdivisions, by a certificate issued by our Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Perhaps that can be done in this case also.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, in recognition of certain traditional privileges and immunities accorded to foreign states, the act provides that overriding effect is to be given to the Diplomatic and Consular Activities and Immunities Act. Mr. Chairman, if we adopt the resolution which puts us in a position of somehow going contrary to an act which has already been adopted by the Federal Parliament of Canada, I am afraid my delegation would have to reserve its position on it.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am sure delegates were interested to hear all this about the situation in one of the countries in the Council and I am sorry if this creates any embarrassment for him in supporting the resolution. On the other hand there are two points, one I make myself and the other I ask our Legal Counsel to make.

The first point is that while it might be difficult for Canada to support this resolution, it has been fully evident from the statement of the distinguished representative of the Host Government that the Italian Government does not have any doubts about FAO's immunity in Italy which is not the concern of any other country. It is for Italy and FAO to determine the position of FAO in Italy together with the approval of the governing body as a whole. So what is done in other countries which might be different, is not relevant to the situation of FAO in Italy on which the Host Government has no doubts, because it has given us this assurance that it will not take any measures of execution.

The other point is whether in fact what has just been said has relevance to FAO's position, and on that I would ask the Legal Counsel to say a few words.

LEGAL COUNSEL: If I may venture to say so, Sir, I think the distinguished delegate of Canada is in very good company in that he would, I think, agree with some of the arguments of the Corte di Cassazione. But in our opinion - and this is I think a point which is worth recording - the application of the distinction between acts performed, jure imperii or jure gestionis to intergovernmental organizations is a basic error.

The position of States is quite different from that of intergovernmental organizations. States quite clearly carry out a lot of activities, and have been doing so very much more over the last fifty years, through trading agencies and in general performed many clearly commercial activities. Intergovernmental organizations, on the other hand, do not carry out commercial activities. It cannot be said that FAO rents premises, because its existing accommodation is insufficient, as a commercial activity. And it is the basic and fundamental argument on which intergovernmental organizations throughout the UN system rely when they claim the unrestricted immunity which is quite clearly provided for in the FAO Headquarters agreement and, more generally in the almost identically worded provision in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies to which some eighty odd States are party.

So I think this is where we have to make a basic distinction between intergovernmental organizations and states. The question of state immunity is in fact being discussed by the International Law Commission at the moment, and there is an extremely detailed and interesting report on the subject from its rapporteur who happens to be in Rome - he is the Thai Ambassador to Italy and he has done some extremely learned research on the matter -. The immunities of States are, I would submit, a very different matter to the immunities of intergovernmental organizations whose immunities vary very considerably even within a single country. These immunities depend on the treaties which contain them; that is to say for FAO in Italy on its Headquarters agreement. In Italy there are intergovernmental organizations which have quite different headquarters agreements and this is one of the reasons why we insist on our interpretation of section 16 of the FAO Headquarters Agreement. I do not think this interpretation is in dispute: certainly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs appears to agree that the text of section 16 of the Headquarters agreement gives FAO unrestricted immunity. Therefore, where a given text confers immunity on an intergovernmental organization it is that text itself which has to be analyzed. And, as I said before, although the texts may vary, in the case of organizations in the United Nations system which are covered by the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, or the FAO Headquarters Agreement which has an identical provision, the immunity is unrestricted.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie) : Nous n'avons aucune objection à l'adoption d'une résolution par le Conseil sur ce problème d'immunité de juridiction. Je pense quand même qu'il serait opportun que cette résolution ait un contenu disons générique et pas spécifique parce que je pense que c'est le Gouvernement italien, vis-à-vis de la situation italienne, de la doctrine juridique italienne, de la situation de la FAO en Italie, qui est à même de juger quelles sont les mesures qu'il faut adopter sur le plan national, sur le plan juridique, sur le plan des mesures d'exécution. Donc, ce que je voudrais recommander au Conseil, à travers vous M. le Président, c'est de penser à une résolution qui ait ce caractère.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Just to reply to Mr. West, and contrary to what he is suggesting, the issue is important to us and it is related to what is happening here. The very fact that the issue is being considered at an international level and the fact that it is being considered at this moment in Canada by our Supreme Court as to whether or not it does apply to international intergovernmental institutions, shows it does have merit at least in our humble opinion. We agree with what the Italian Ambassador said and what you yourself have suggested, Mr. Chairman, that this resolution - and this is the reason I made this intervention - should be general enough but certainly supportive enough for the institution, but not so that some of us may have to break a consensus that you seem to want so badly.

SR. G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia no ha intervenido en este tema porque hemos compartido plenamente las declaraciones que han hecho, entre otros colegas, los Representantes de la India, El Salvador y Chipre. Hemos seguido con atención la declaración de los colegas de Estados Unidos y del Canadá, y consideramos que esas declaraciones corresponden a la justa prudencia, a la Secretaría, y a la ponderación con que actúan en casos como éste.

Naturalmente, habría sido más deseable que el CACJ nos hubiera tramitado un proyecto de resolución, pero no podemos olvidar que el CACJ tiene el carácter de órgano asesor del Consejo, que no puede tener iniciativas propias, sino que se limita a considerar aquellos asuntos que le transmite el Consejo.

Igualmente es necesario que el CACJ materialice en proyecto de resolución esas iniciativas del Consejo basadas en sus recomendaciones. Pero en este caso el CACJ no podía adivinar de antemano cuáles iban a ser las posiciones del Consejo; no tenía una recomendación del Consejo, y por lo tanto, no podía presentar un proyecto de resolución.

Nosotros creemos que el Proyecto de Resolución debe ser elaborado en términos sencillos, constructivos, con ánimo positivo y no polémico, y preservar las referencias a que ha hecho alusión el distinguido Embajador de Italia. Esperamos que esto no sea difícil concebirlo así, porque, sin duda, hay acuerdo general sobre los términos de ese Proyecto de Resolución, y especialmente, sobre el espíritu de ese Proyecto. Además, el Representante de Estados Unidos es miembro del Comité de Redacción y tendrá una primera oportunidad para analizar los términos del mencionado Proyecto. Resumiendo, yo creo que conviene dar por terminada la discusión de ese asunto, elaborar el Proyecto de Resolución con la Secretaría para llevarlo luego a la Plenaria.

CHAIRMAN: I think we will leave it to the Drafting Committee. There are enough guidelines as to what kind of resolution the Council would like to see. I want to thank everyone who has made a useful contribution and I particularly want to thank the Ambassador of Italy for his most helpful statement.

As I told you earlier, I shall now request our Vice-Chairman, Dr. Hamdi, whom I introduced the other day - he is a very distinguished micro-biologist - to take the Chair for the rest of the afternoon's session.

Sr. L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de redacción): Quiero recordar a los miembros del Comité, que esta tarde, tan pronto termine esta Plenaria, vamos a terminar los dos documentos que nos quedan y creo que los podremos resolver en media hora y así mañana tendríamos la mañana limpia para todos los documentos nuevos que se están preparando.

Y.A. Hamdi, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair.

Y.A. Hamdi, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Y.A. Hamdi, Vicepresidente del Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: (original language Arabic): I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council for having passed the Chairmanship to me. We have to finish the items on our Agenda for today by the end of this meeting. Therefore I appeal to you to be brief.

18.2 Near East Statutory Bodies;

18.2 Organes statutaires pour le Proche-Orient;

18.2 Organos estatutarios para el Cercano Oriente;

- (a) Abolition of the Animal Production and Health Commission in the Near East, the Near East Plant Protection Commission, and the Commission on Horticultural Production in the Near East and North Africa - and Establishment of the "Near East Regional Commission on Agriculture"
- (a) Suppression de la Commission de la production et de la sante animales au Proche-Orient, de la Commission de la protection des plantes pour le Proche-Orient, et de la Commission de la production horticole dans la zone du Proche-Orient et de l'Afrique du Nord et création d'une Commission régionale de l'agriculture au Proche-Orient
- (a) Supresión de la Comisión de Producción y Sanidad Pecuarias en el Cercano Oriente, la Comisión de Protección Fitosanitaria para el Cercano Oriente, y la Comisión sobre Protección Hortícola en el Cercano Oriente y Africa del Norte - x establecimiento de la "Comisión Regional de Agricultura para el Cercano Oriente"
- (b) Abolition of the Regional Food and Nutrition Commission for the Near East, the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning, and the Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics and Establishment of the "Near East Regional Economic and Social Policy Commission"
- (b) Suppression de la Commission régionale de l'alimentation et de la nutrition au Proche-Orient, de la Commission de la planification agricole pour le Proche-Orient et de la Commission des statistiques agricoles pour le Proche-Orient et création d'une Commission régionale des politiques économiques et sociales du Proche-Orient
- (b) Supresión de la Comisión Regional de Alimentación y Nutrición para el Cercano Oriente, la Comisión sobre Planificación Agrícola para el Cercano Oriente y la Comisión del Cercano Oriente sobre Estadísticas Agrícolas y establecimiento de la "Comisión Regional de la Política Economica y Social para el Cercano Oriente"

S. JUM'A (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for the Near East): (original language Arabic): As was said by the Chairman, it is very late, therefore the Secretariat should contribute by being brief in the presentation of the documents which we still have before us, so that the Council can complete its work this afternoon.

The item which we have before us concerns the Near East Statutory Bodies and this is contained in Council Document CL 83/13. Briefly, the situation is as follows: the Conference in 1979 requested the Regional Conferences to review the statutory bodies working within those regions, to see to it that those bodies work regularly and provide services to Member Countries in line with the Resolution which set them up. The Regional Office for the Near East responded to this request of the Conference and prepared a detailed study with regard to the Statutory Bodies in the Near East. This study arrived at specific proposals. The study and the proposals have been submitted to the 16th Regional Conference which was held in Cyprus last year.

During the discussion of these proposals they were approved with slight amendments and the document now before you, CL 83/13, contains a summary of these questions and the specific proposals dealing first of all with the abolition of six regional bodies and their replacement by two other bodies.

The first proposal concerns the setting up of a new Regional Commission called the Near East Regional Commission on Agriculture. In conformity with this decision we would abolish the other regional bodies which worked in the field of agriculture, that is to say the Commission on Plant Protection and the Commission on Horticultural Production, and the Animal Production and Health Commission in the Near East. Therefore, from a practical point of view, the abolition was followed by what was really a pooling of these organizations or bodies in one body called the Commission on Agriculture.

With regard to the second proposal, the establishment of a Near East Regional and Social Policy Commission, this would also lead to the abolition of the following bodies: the regional Food and Nutrition Commission for the Near East, the Near East Commission on Agricultural Planning and the Near East Commission on Agricultural Statistics. Therefore the question now before you really concerns the adoption of the Resolution setting up these two Commissions and abolishing the six other Commissions I mentioned. Under the FAO Constitution the authority to set up regional bodies is held by the Council or the Conference, and that is why we wanted to submit these proposals to you, in the hope that the setting up of these new Commissions will be approved as well as the abolition of the preceding Commissions.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia, al intervenir sobre este tema, tiene dos motivos de complacencia: el primero, verlo a usted en la dirección de nuestros debates y sabe usted cuan sincera es la amistad que le profesamos y nuestra admiración por su país. El segundo, es el hecho de que este tema haya sido presentado por nuestro amigo Jum'a, Subdirector General, Representante para la Región del Cercano Oriente, con quien compartimos en años anteriores nuestras labores como miembros del Consejo.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que estas propuestas corresponden a la voluntad de los gobiernos de la Región del Medio Oriente expresadas en su propia Conferencia Regional, que además están de acuerdo con los criterios que impone la supresión de Comisiones que no sean eficientes y la creación de nuevos órganos que representen verdaderos beneficios para la región. Con ese espíritu la delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente esas dos propuestas.

H.F. NAJEB (Iraq): First of all we would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Jum'a, the Assistant Director-General for the Near East, for his very clear introduction of this item of the Agenda. This matter arises from a decision taken by the Conference in 1979 and the decision of the Regional Conference which approved the wish expressed by the Council that the work of the regional bodies should be improved, and also the decision adopted by the Regional Conference in Cyprus which was adopted unanimously by all the countries present at this Regional Conference.

The result was the reduction of the number of regional bodies from 9 to 5. I therefore believe that it would be suitable and desirable that the Council should approve the draft resolution contained in this document and thus it could endorse the decisions adopted universally by the Regional Conference in Cyprus.

F. G. POULIDES (Cyprus): First of all I would like to say how glad I am to see the new Chairman.

The Cyprus delegation has carefully studied the document CL 83/13 regarding the Near East Statutory Bodies for which we would like to commend the Secretariat for its preparation. We would also like to thank Mr. Jum'a, the Assistant Director-General, for his very clear and concise introduction.

As it is stated in paragraph III, there are a great number of regional commissions presently established in the Near East, but as it is mentioned in paragraph 7 the meetings of this commission have become erratic due to various constraints and weaknesses. It is easy for one to understand that the scope of this commission is not fulfilled due to the minor interest and the gradual loss of initial enthusiasm and momentum, as it is mentioned also in the same paragraph 7.

Decreasing the number of the commissions and widening the scope of some of them is expected to lead to an increased interest and a better coverage of the problems faced by the countries of the region, with this thinking we agree with paragraphs 13 and 15.

Taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, based on recommendations of previous regional conferences of the Near East, we fully endorse the establishment of the two regional commissions in the Near East and the suggested abolition of six of the existing commissions. Furthermore, the Regional Commission on Land and Water for the Near East, the Near East Forestry Commission, should continue to operate. Also the Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Near East should continue to carry out its functions in accordance with the agreement by which it was established.

T. NEGASH (Ethiopia): First of all I wish to express how happy I am to see you chairing this important session. My country fully supports the efforts by FAO or by Member Nations of the Near East region to improve or enhance collectively or individually the economic situation of the region. We understand a new commission, named the Economic and Social Policy Commission is to replace the former Food and Nutrition Commission, the Commission on Agricultural Statistics, Agricultural and Planning

Commission, but we think the terms of reference of the new commission, i.e., handling nutrition statistics and agricultural planning do not fully reflect the title or name given to the new commission. When we say Economic and Social Policy Commission we are referring to the whole spectrum, of economic and social activities. As the terms of reference indicate, however, the coverage is limited only to part of the agricultural sector. We would therefore appreciate it very much if further explanation could be made regarding the disparity between the title and the terms of reference, to remove any confusion.

With this we endorse the establishment of the new commission as presented by the Secretariat.

A. H. EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): First of all I would like to congratulate you on seeing you chairing this meeting.

My country took part in the Near East Regional Conference which was held in Cyprus and it also took part in the discussions on the modifications made by FAO to the statutory bodies for the Near East. My delegation fully supports these amendments for their usefulness as clearly described in the relevant document. My delegation supports that the Commission on Desert Locust be maintained and also the Land and Water Commission.

T. AHMED (Pakistan): It is indeed a pleasure to see you sitting there. We first of all wish to convey our appreciation to Dr. Jum'a for the introduction and as you will recall we were a member of the Near East Regional Conference in Cyprus where this issue was debated and it was indeed a very lively debate, if I remember Dr. Jum'a's participation in that discussion and we fully support and appreciate the fact that the Director-General has responded to the requests of the Regional Conference and we support the Draft Resolution in appendices A, B and C.

M.I. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic): I am very glad to see you chairing this meeting and I would like to congratulate Mr. Jum'a on the very clear presentation he made. I also join all those who supported the creation of these two new committees.

S. JUM'A (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for the Near East) (Original language Arabic): First I would like to thank the delegates who did not speak because he who is silent agrees, silence is consent, therefore I thank them. I also thank all those delegates from the Near East or from other regions who spoke and particularly Ambassador Bula Hoyos, my friend who opened the discussion, and to approve the proposals which are presented on this. I would also like to thank the delegate of Ethiopia who was good enough to ask for something to be made clear, the name of the commission, why it is called the Commission for Economic and Social Policy, whereas the regional commissions usually have other names, such as the Statistics Commission or the Food and Nutrition Commission, etc. In fact, the reason for that is that what is essential is the content and not the actual name. This new commission will deal with all questions which were discussed by the other commissions which have been abolished. We chose that name so that it would fit in with the name applied within FAO because we all know that all the various technical divisions come in the framework of economic and social policies and therefore we decided that the new name of the commission should be in accordance with the administrative structure of FAO so as to coordinate the work of that commission with the work of the technical department which works within FAO itself. Therefore the name does not mean that we will not take any interest in planning of statistics or nutrition. Just glancing at the terms of the reference of this new regional commission will show you that we shall continue to take an interest in these important problems.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I would like to thank the Assistant Director-General for the Near East. Following on this discussion and your support the Council approves the establishment of the Regional Commission on Agriculture for the Near East and the creation of a Regional Commission for Economic and Social Policies in the Near East.

18.3 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to Attend FAO Sessions

18.3 Invitations d'Etats non membres à assister à des réunions de la FAO

18.3 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a las reuniones de la FAO

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il y a sur ce point deux éléments, d'abord un élément d'information et ensuite un élément de décision.

Le premier élément d'information concerne les invitations à des Etats non membres de la FAO, en conformité avec les paragraphes pertinents des textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation. Compte tenu de l'urgence des cas qui vous sont soumis, et qui ne lui a pas permis de consulter le Conseil à temps, le Directeur général a invité Singapour et l'U.R.S.S. à assister respectivement à une consultation technique qui s'est tenue en Inde au mois de janvier, et à la 25ème session de la Commission européenne de la lutte contre la fièvre aphteuse qui s'est tenue à Rome en avril 1983.

Le Directeur général porte cette information à votre connaissance, en précisant que la contribution des deux Etats membres à ces réunions a été positive et utile.

L'élément de décision concerne les demandes de participation formulées par l'U.R.S.S. en qualité d'observateur à la 15ème session du Comité des pêches qui se tiendra à Rome du 10 au 19 octobre 1983. Le Directeur général sollicite votre approbation pour adresser une invitation à ce pays.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic) : It seems that everybody approves the issuing of that invitation.

18.4 Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme Committee

18.4 Modifications de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du programme

18.4 Cambios en la representación de Estados Miembros en el Comité del Programa

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le document CL 83/INF/10 concerne la décision du Gouvernement français de remplacer M. Philippe Guerin, qui était membre du Comité du programme, par M. Marcel Mazoyer, qui a pris part d'ailleurs aux travaux du dernier Comité du programme. Vous trouverez au verso de ce document tous les documents concernant M. Mazoyer, dont la contribution à la dernière réunion du Comité du programme a été très utile et positive.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): With your indulgence I would say a couple of sentences on behalf of the Programme Committee. As explained by Mr. Sylla, Mr. Philip Guerin was unable to attend the Programme Committee sessions and he was replaced by Professor Marcel Mazoyer, I only want to mention that Professor Mazoyer is a specialist in the core activities of FAO in agricultural forestry and agricultural economics and a very outstanding professor of the National Institute of Agricultural Development in Paris. I want to say on behalf of my colleagues that he attended the last session and, as Mr. Sylla already indicated, made quite a contribution. We are positive that in the future also he will provide a very valuable contribution to the Programme Committee and through the Programme Committee to the Council.

G. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais prendre la parole pour apporter l'appui de ma délégation à la candidature de M. Marcel Mazoyer.

Marcel Mazoyer est connu d'un certain nombre d'entre nous. Il a manifesté beaucoup d'intérêt aux activités de la FAO et aux activités agricoles tout court. Nous pensons que cet important Comité pourra bénéficier utilement de son expérience. D'ailleurs, en ce moment, il participe avec nous au Comité de rédaction et son concours est remarqué.

Pour cette raison, ma délégation apporte son soutien à cette candidature et voudrait le voir siéger au sein de notre Comité du Programme.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Los delegados de Colombia tuvimos el placer y la satisfacción de haber conocido y trabajado con el señor Guerin, quien antes ocupaba en nombre de Francia ese puesto en el Comité del Programa. Ahora registramos con igual complacencia que el señor Marcel Mazoyer ha reemplazado a su compatriota. Este otro distinguido representante del Gobierno de Francia viene también trabajando con nosotros en las labores del Consejo y estamos seguros de que su aporte seguirá contribuyendo al buen funcionamiento de ese importante organismo asesor del Consejo.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Are there any other comments? Very well. The Council therefore approves the modifications in the representation on the Programme Committee.

- 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)
- 11. Preparations for the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development
- 11. Préparation de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches
- 11. Preparativos para la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros

J.E. CARROZ, Assistant Director-General, World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development: The attention of delegates is invited to document CL 83/7. The main purpose of the document is to provide, as requested by the Council at its last Session, provisional draft agendas for the two phases of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. Before giving you supplementary information on these drafts, I would like to provide a brief résumé of progress with preparations for the Conference.

The series of specialised consultations organised by the Fisheries Department on major subjects to be discussed at the Conference has been completed and the reports and recommendations of these meetings are being reflected in the working papers which will be submitted to the technical phase of the Conference in October of this year. A final preparatory seminar on the role of fish in world nutrition and the use of fish in food aid is to be organised next month at the kind invitation of the Government of Norway with FAO's collaboration.

It was very encouraging to note at the preparatory meetings, which were attended by experts from both developed and developing countries, that there is a growing awareness of the complementarity of interest that often exists between coastal states and foreign fishing countries. There is also recognition of the opportunities for effective collaboration between developing and developed countries and an expectation that the Conference will help both groups to adjust to the changed circumstances.

Extensive consultations have continued with Governments and international organizations, including a number of regional fishery commissions. I should also refer to a first inter-agency meeting which was convened by the Director-General here in Rome. I am pleased to say that the UN and the Specialized Agencies concerned expressed their readiness, with concrete examples, to cooperate with FAO in the Conference. Steps are also being taken to encourage the involvement of international non-governmental organizations with direct interest in fisheries, e.g. fishermen's professional associations.

Turning now to the draft agendas appearing in Appendices A and B of the document before you, I would stress that the proposals are strictly based upon the suggestions made by governments at the 1982 Regional Conferences and at sessions of FAO regional fishery bodies. We have endeavoured, as requested by the Council, to be selective with regard to topics suggested for discussion but, at the same time, to keep an integrated approach to the overall problem of the management and development of fisheries, including inland fisheries and aquaculture.

As will be seen from its draft agenda, the first phase of the Conference will be constituted by an extended 15th session of the Committee on Fisheries. It represents in effect the culmination of detailed discussions of the technical aspects of the issues. We now look forward to the interventions in October of senior fishery administrators and specialists with particular experience or expertise in the topics proposed for discussions.

The 1984 main phase of the Conference, at which it is anticipated that Ministers and policymakers will participate, will devote itself primarily to the consideration and adoption of proposals for a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and for specific action programmes. It is not intended to use the occasion for the creation of any new institutional mechanisms or the establishment of some special new Fund for fishery development.

It is envisaged that the Strategy should comprise principles and guidelines which would help in accomplishing the main objectives of the Conference, which are: the practical implementation of the new regime of the oceans in fisheries, enhanced self-reliance of developing countries, a greater contribution of fisheries to world food supplies, and improved cooperation both between developed and developing countries and among the developing countries themselves in fisheries management and development. In this connection it has become clear in the course of our preparatory meeting and consultations that because of the pressures being exerted on many fish resources

throughout the world, the Conference will be held at a time when it becomes increasingly necessary to take a fresh look at national and joint strategies for fisheries management and development.

As regards proposals for specific programmes to promote fisheries management and development, four areas for action have so far been identified: technical assistance, investment, training and trade. Points to be addressed in the elaboration of these programmes include the desirability of having short-term and long-term components, the question of their implementation at the regional, sub-regional or, where appropriate, national level, and finally the desirability of the participation, in their design and implementation, not only of FAO but also of other international institutions, donor agencies and governments. It will be particularly necessary for developing countries to help us ensure that their needs will be adequately met, I should note that at the technical phase of the Conference in October there will be an opportunity for a preliminary discussion of general frameworks for both the Strategy and the action programmes, as is apparent from the draft agendas before you.

In due course, the Committee on Fisheries and the World Fisheries Conference itself in 1984 will themselves adopt formally their respective agendas. Meanwhile, the observations and comments of the Council would be welcome,

G, BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia piensa que este es un buen documento que refleja el enfoque positivo con el cual el Director General de la FAO está organizando la importante Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros que vamos a celebrar en junio del año entrante. Sobre la adecuada presentación del Sr. Carroz, la delegación de Colombia desea manifestar su complacencia por el hecho de que Noruega, autorizado y respetable observador de los países nórdicos en este Consejo, se disponga a ofrecer otra muestra del gran interés que esos países nórdicos han ofrecido siempre a la cooperación internacional al auspiciar el seminario a que se ha hecho referencia, todo lo cual va a contribuir, como esperamos, a que se estreche la cooperación entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo.

Encontramos muy bien que se haya acogido la recomendación del Consejo al determinarse que un período ampliado del próximo decimoquinto período de sesiones del COFI, que vamos a celebrar del 10 al 19 de octubre próximo, sea la fase técnica de la Conferencia. Sin duda, todos recordamos que con motivo de Conferencias Mundiales anteriores solían constituirse comités preparatorios que costaban dinero y esfuerzo a los países, y a veces resultaban menos eficientes, esta solución de la fase técnica a través del propio COFI nos parece muy adecuada.

Apoyamos también la propuesta que se hace en el párrafo 7 sobre la composición de dos comisiones que van a funcionar con la Plenaria de la Conferencia: la Comisión I que se va a dedicar a la estrategia para la ordenación y desarrollo pesqueros, y la Comisión II, consagrada a los programas para la ordenación y desarrollo pesqueros. En el párrafo 8, consideramos que es importante que al elaborar ese proyecto de estrategia se tenga en cuenta la necesidad de respetar la soberanía nacional, y de preservar los derechos de todos los estados soberanos.

En el párrafo 9, encontramos también muy adecuada la sugestión que han hecho ya algunas conferencias regionales y que apoyamos plenamente sobre la necesidad de ir promoviendo la acción de donantes bilaterales y multilaterales que contribuyan con recursos para garantizar la ejecución de los programas de acción. Sólo así podremos obtener resultados positivos de esa importante conferencia. Igualmente, en el párrafo 11, la frase final del párrafo 11 hace relación a la posibilidad de que gobiernos y organismos donantes ayuden financieramente la asistencia a la Conferencia de Representantes de países en desarrollo, Ojalá que esto pueda lograrse porque, sin duda, hay muchos países en desarrollo que tienen técnicos, que tienen expertos y personal capacitado, pero que no están en condiciones adecuadas para hacerse representar en esa importante reunión.

Creo, Sr. Presidente, que dentro del tema que estamos tratando, sin duda la FAO merece un reconocimiento particular porque hace ya varios años, desde cuando la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Derechos del Mar estaba celebrando sus indefinidos períodos de sesiones, el Director General se preocupó de elaborar un Programa sobre Zonas Económicas Exclusivas, programa a través del cual se ha venido asistiendo a los países en desarrollo y especialmente a los pequeños países, para que esos estados puedan irse preparando como ya están tratando de hacerlo para hacer mejor uso, para ejercer de la mejor manera posible los derechos que han surgido de la recién firmada Convención sobre los Derechos Humanos, Creemos que esa labor de la FAO debe seguir intensificándose y, particularmente, también apoyamos la cooperación entre los países desarrollados y los países en desarrollo, la cooperación Norte-Sur, así como la cooperación Sur-Sur entre países en desarrollo.

En el programa que se propone para la 15ª reunión del COFI, aparece en el punto 6 b) el informe sobre el programa de zonas económicas exclusivas, Suponemos que allí se van a presentar datos referentes a esa labor que está haciendo la FAO en favor de los pequeños países y que nosotros apoyamos plenamente.

En el programa mismo que se propone para la Conferencia, suponemos que en la parte tercera, en la estrategia para la ordenación y desarrollo pesqueros, la FAO insistirá en los objetivos, en los principios fundamentales que han orientado ese programa sobre zonas económicas exclusivas.

Nosotros estamos también muy satisfechos con el anuncio que nos ha hecho el Sr. Carroz en el sentido de que no se prevé, como conclusión de esa conferencia, que se vaya a establecer ningún mecanismo ni ningún fondo. Sabemos ya que existen demasiados mecanismos y demasiados fondos, que a la larga representan dispersión de recursos.

Consideramos que a través de las actividades de la FAO, el Director General esta adelantando una preparación muy adecuada que garantizará el buen éxito de esta Conferencia.

R.C, SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina)j En primer lugar, sentimos la obligación de felicitar y reiterar nuestro apoyo al Dr, Carroz ya la insustituible labor que él realiza para los preparativos de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros.

Este sector de la alimentación aún no ha recibido, por parte de la Comunidad Internacional en su conjunto, la atención que se merece desde una perspectiva de la utilización económica del recurso.

Por nuestra parte, debemos reconocer que los países en desarrollo, y en particular desde la adopción de la tesis de la zona económica exclusiva, no han optimizado la explotación del recurso pesca. A nuestro entender, ello se debe principalmente a la insuficiencia de trabajo especializado y capital.

Es en este sentido que la Argentina valora la labor de la FAO y tiene esperanzas en que toda su acción tienda a revestir las insuficiencias que tienen los países en desarrollo, con el fin de poder explotar racionalmente y en beneficio propio los recursos que le pertenecen.

Es en este contexto que aprobamos los proyectos de programas provisionales que nos sugiere la Secretaría en el documento CL 83/7. Pensamos que los temas ahí incluidos nos darán las posibilidades de analizar casi toda la problemática que hace al sector pesquero.

No obstante, y debido al poco tiempo que falta para la reunión de octubre, es que nos sería de gran utilidad contar con la documentación correspondiente, a los fines de poder contar con la opinión acabada de nuestras capitales al respecto.

Existen muchos temas sobre los cuales nos gustaría poder opinar ahora, pero esperaremos contar con la documentación para hacerlo. Tenemos confianza en que temas tan delicados como el 4 C, referido a las condiciones y control de acceso a los recursos ícticos en zonas económicas exclusivas, sean tratados exclusivamente desde su óptica económica, administrativa y técnica, y sobre todo contemplen los intereses de los estados costeros,

En cuanto a la agenda de la Conferencia Mundial vemos con gran satisfacción que se incluye un punto referido a los programas de capacitación global.

Decíamos, Sr, Presidente, al principio de nuestra intervención, que una de las mayores contribuciones que podía hacer la FAO al mundo en desarrollo era darle los instrumentos para explotar, en su beneficio, los recursos marinos que le pertenecen

Esto significa priorizar en el "Desarrollo Pesquero" y una de nuestras valencias mayores para poder hacerlo está en el área de la capacitación.

Concebimos la capacitación como un medio adecuado para formar y transmitir, en todos los niveles que intervienen en la explotación del recurso pesca, los resultados de la experiencia mundial con el fin de minimizar los riesgos y de no incurrir en errores ya cometidos.

En la Argentina no existe un ámbito formativo que trate de manera sistemática el tema. Pensamos que el mismo debería incluir principalmente las áreas de; administración pesquera, investigaciones biológicas especialmente en dinámica poblacional de recursos vivos del mar, explotación pesquera con orientación hacia el sector empresario, formación de personal, y comercio internacional.

Estas son sólo algunas ideas que nos gustaría fueran tenidas en cuenta al tratar el capítulo IV, referido a Programas para la Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros en la Conferencia Mundial el año próximo.

Sin intención de querer incluirlo en la agenda del Comité de Pesca, nos complacería que en octubre pudiésemos contar con un documento informativo sobre los programas de capacitación global en materia de pesca que realiza la FAO y las condiciones de acceso a los mismos,

Finalmente, queremos referirnos al segundo factor de la producción que decíamos al principio era insuficiente en nuestros países. Nos referimos al capital. No es secreto que un financiamiento adecuado es una palanca clave para la explotación del recurso pesquero.

Es por ello que solicitamos se incluya un punto, en la agenda de la Conferencia Mundial, referido a las posibilidades de financiamiento multilateral para desarrollo pesquero. Esto es todo lo que queríamos decir.

Mrs. M. RAVN (Norway): First let me thank Mr. Carroz, Secretary General of the Conference, for his very informative introduction to this item. Substantial efforts have already gone into preparing the forthcoming FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, and judging from the draft agendas for its two phases, we think that a good job has been done. The proposed agenda for the technical phase of this conference, which will take place in October, will give FAO and Member Countries an opportunity to address all the pertinent issues relating to fisheries management and administration, and as such, we can give our overall support to the proposed agenda before us.

However, we would like to have some clarification on how the agenda of the technical phase links up with that of the policy phase. For instance, we expect, as mentioned by Mr. Carroz, that inland fisheries and aquaculture which were not mentioned in the policy phase agenda will be duly covered both in the strategy and in the action programme. We are, Mr. Chairman, strong supporters of a concentration on a few and important items for discussion at conferences of this kind. To create a better basis for the discussion in the second part of the Conference next year, there is, however, one point we would like to see added to the list of topics under agenda item 4. That concerns the question of fish in nutrition, which we feel is an area of the utmost importance in the overall context of formulating a management and development strategy which will make fish an instrument in food procurement policies.

We have in this connection noted that this subject will form a part of the Director-General's address to the Committee on fisheries at its 15th session. In addition the topic will be dealt with at an international experts seminar in July, to be hosted by the Norwegian Government as one preparatory input to the Conference, and which was already referred to by Mr. Carroz and the distinguished delegate of Colombia

Finally, Mr. Chairman, in expressing our support for the draft agenda we should like to stress that the different agenda items need specific and action-oriented background papers to ensure a substantive discussion. We would urge that these papers be made available well in advance of the meeting for our careful consideration.

G. WEISS (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne): Au nom de la CEE et au nom de ses Etats membres, je voudrais brièvement prendre la parole au sujet de la Conférence mondiale de la FAO, à laquelle nous portons un intérêt primordial, et faire quelques observations concernant sa préparation et le projet d'ordre du jour.

En effet, la Communauté et ses Etats membres estiment que beaucoup de pays s'interrogent sur les possibilités de développement de leurs pêcheries, sur les possibilités du maintien des activités de leurs pêcheurs, sur les relations entre pays cotiers et pays de pêches lointaines et sur de nombreuses autres questions intéressant ce secteur. Le monde de la mer a profondément changé depuis l'ouverture de la Troisième Conférence sur le Droit de la Mer, depuis ses travaux et la conclusion de celle-ci. Désormais, la responsabilité de la gestion des ressources halieutiques est placée pour une très large part entre les mains des Etats cotiers. A l'issue de cette phase de caractère institutionnel et constitutionnel, la communauté internationale entre définitivement dans la phase de gestion et de protection des ressources naturelles. C'est dans ce contexte que la Conférence marque son intérêt fondamental. Il paraît primordial de mettre en commun les efforts des pays cotiers, notamment des pays en voie de développement afin de leur permettre d'acquérir concrètement la maîtrise des ressources au large de leurs côtes, d'autant plus qu'il faut être attentif à ce que la Conférence se concentre sur les éléments essentiels de la stratégie future des pêcheries dans le monde.

Nous sommes heureux de constater que tous les efforts ont été déployés dans ce sens, d'autant qu'il nous paraît impossible d'améliorer le choix des thèmes à traiter sans affecter sérieusement l'équilibre astucieux entre les intérêts d'Etats et de populations confrontés aux situations très diverses en ce qui concerne les ressources exploitables, la technologie de la pêche disponible, les possibilités du développement de la pêche et de l'aquaculture ainsi que, ce n'est pas la moindre chose, l'approvisionnement en poisson surtout dans les régions ayant un déficit en protéines animales.

Nous voudrions en particulier souligner l'importance des travaux préparatoires dans des groupes de consultation d'experts qui ont eu et continuent d'avoir lieu sur les sujets spécifiques intéressant la Conférence. Si l'on peut avoir le sentiment que l'examen de la situation actuelle fait un peu défaut à l'ordre du jour, nous pensons que les rapports de ces groupes préparatoires nous donneront satisfaction à cet égard et seront les bases nécessaires des discussions qui doivent avoir lieu tant au sein du Comité des pêches qu'à la Conférence elle-même.

Nous croyons par ailleurs qu'il est de notre devoir de faire appel à la prudence car la Communauté et ses Etats membres craignent que la définition de besoins futurs, notamment en ce qui concerne l'amélioration des ressources et des technologies, le développement et souvent la création même des industries de la pêche, de la transformation des produits et de leur mise sur les marchés ainsi que la formation des gens de la mer, de l'industrie et du commerce risquent de trouver trop vite

leurs limites tant dans les disponibilités des ressources halieutiques que dans les capacités financières. Nous voudrions par conséquent plaider pour une certaine prudence lors de la définition des objectifs afin d'éviter des programmes trop ambitieux qui risqueraient, comme cela a été souvent le cas dans le passé, d'aboutir à une déception liée à des pertes financières importantes.

Je voudrais ajouter quelques mots sur l'intérêt de la CEE en tant que telle aux travaux de la Conférence et naturellement aux travaux de la FAO en matière de pêche. Parallèlement au développement du contexte juridique mondial, un changement fondamental a eu lieu en ce qui concerne les Etats membres de la CEE qui a conduit à la mise en oeuvre d'une politique commune de la pêche. Depuis 1976 la Communauté exerce en tant que telle des pouvoirs de législation et de gestion ainsi que des relations extérieures qui se rapportent à l'ensemble des activités de pêche des Etats membres qui la constituent. Sur le plan international et dans l'exercice des responsabilités qui lui ont été conférées, la Communauté a négocié et conclu des accords de pêche, notamment avec les pays Scandinaves, africains et de l'Amérique du Nord et elle est devenue partie contractante de presque toutes les organisations internationales concernant la pêche. Le processus d'accession se poursuit pour les autres organisations. Dans le cadre de cette politique commune de la pêche, la Communauté est désormais directement impliquée dans les travaux considérables que la FAO entame à l'occasion de la Conférence mondiale et elle-même, et l'ensemble de ses Etats Membres, peuvent assurer le Conseil de leur volonté de contribuer dans toute la mesure de leurs moyens et de leur expérience commune à la réussite de cette entreprise.

Dans ce contexte, je voudrais exprimer la satisfaction de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres sur la décision prise lors de la quatre-vingt-deuxième session du Conseil au sujet de la Conférence par laquelle une participation adéquate, appropriée à l'ampleur de ses responsabilités, a été accordée à la Communauté économique européenne.

O. AWOYEMI (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation endorses the arrangements made so far in preparation for the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The Conference itself is expected to be the climax of the various discussions that have taken place on the challenges posed to fisheries development and management by the recently concluded Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. The complexity of the issues involved is borne out by the fact that it has taken about eight years to arrive at the new convention which is yet to be signed by all the United Nations members that participated to the negotiations.

It is against this background that the proposed agenda for the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, that is appendix A, and the Conference itself which is in appendix B, should be considered. While agreeing broadly with the key issues identified for the technical phase of the Conference, the agenda should also focus on practical problems of fisheries, management and development, including joint ventures.

It would also be relevant to have an assessment of FAO's comprehensive Programme of Assistance in the development and management of fisheries in the new 200 miles EEZ, otherwise known as the FAO EEZ Programme, which was approved by the FAO Conference in 1981.

The World Conference itself, scheduled for June/July 1984, should endeavour to review existing fisheries policies and programmes, and come up with a concrete recommendation that would enable developing coastal states to derive maximum social and economic benefits from the new legal regime of the oceans.

V. VONGSKUL (Thailand): On behalf of my delegation I have the honour to submit our comments and observations with regard to this agenda item on the Preparations for the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

First, we appreciate this further opportunity for the Council to be informed of the preparations and to offer suggestions. We consider that the draft agendas for both the technical and policy phases of the Conference have incorporated the main recommendations made by the FAO Regional Conferences in 1982.

Secondly, we note with satisfaction that the question of access to fishery resources in exclusive economic zones is on the agenda of the technical phase of the Conference. As one of the fishing nations of the world, Thailand is particularly interested in this subject. We hope that coastal states will endeavour to make full use of fishery resources for the benefit of mankind, with the surplus available shared by other countries that used to fish previously in the waters now under their jurisdiction. Special treatment should be given to friendly neighbouring countries.

Thirdly, my delegation welcomes the proposal that consideration be given to the elaboration of a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and to agreement on associated action programmes. We consider planning to be a prerequisite to the formulation of fishery development strategies.

In this connection my delegation would like to inform you that a symposium on Fisheries Development and Management in South-east Asia, with special emphasis on development planning, under the umbrella of the South-East Asian Regional Project on Ocean Law Policy and Management will be held in the region in late 1984. This symposium may be considered as a follow-up to the World Conference where specific problems of a regional nature are to be discussed and action formulated and implemented. It is hoped that FAO can extend its cooperation to this project.

Finally, many of the action programmes required in Fisheries Management and Development, particularly training, are long-term issues and require initiative and determination on the part of the developing countries to implement those action programmes, as well as financial support from outside sources. It will therefore be essential for the Secretariat to consult donor agencies, financing institutions, and the governments concerned after the technical phase of the Conference, so as to ensure that the Strategy and the action programme will already have general support before their finalization and the formal adoption of the policy phase of the Conference.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La delegation congolaise, qui a pris une part active à la dernière session de la Conference regionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, souhaite exprimer son appui au projet d'ordre du jour provisoire qui nous est proposé, relatif à la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches. C'est pourquoi nous voudrions féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qui nous est soumis. En effet, nous sommes particulièrement heureux de voir figurer dans cet ordre du jour provisoire les principales préoccupations de l'Afrique et autres régions.

A ce sujet, nous appuyons la création, suggérée ici, de deux Commissions pendant cette Conférence. Nous pensons que la réussite de cette Conférence sera un pas de plus vers la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays en développement à déficit alimentaire. Chacun sait que jusqu'à présent les pays en développement ne profitent pas suffisamment de la nouvelle Convention du droit de la mer et ont des difficultés réelles à exploiter tous les avantages liés à cette Convention, notamment la mise en oeuvre du Programme des zones économiques exclusives. Nous espérons ardemment qu'au cours de cette Conférence, des mesures pratiques pour promouvoir la pêche, tant maritime que continentale, seront arrêtées.

A cet égard, nous apprécions l'offre du Gouvernement norvégien d'organiser, en collaboration avec la FAO, un séminaire d'experts internationaux. Nous espérons que cette Conférence ralliera la volonté politique nécessaire pour aider les pays en développement à promouvoir la pêche, et, ici plus qu'ailleurs, le concours et l'assistance des pays développés seront requis dans le strict respect de la souveraineté de chaque pays côtier intéressé.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Agradecemos la clara presentación de la Secretaria y el trabajo que realiza ésta para organizar la importante Conferencia Mundial que nos ocupa.

En relación al documento CL 83/7 quisiéramos hacer algunos breves comentarios.

Estamos completamente de acuerdo con la última parte del párrafo 3 en el sentido que la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero no deberá volver a tratar cuestiones ya zanjadas en la Tercera Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Derechos del Mar, ni tampoco intentar establecer acuerdos modelo bilaterales sobre pesca.

Asimismo es importante realizar una actividad de promoción para conseguir la participación activa y la ayuda de organismos financieros o donantes bilaterales y multilaterales para garantizar la ejecución de los programas de acción, como se dice al final del párrafo 9. Y por esto nos preocupa no encontrar referencias a esto ni en el proyecto de programa del Comité de Pesca, como tampoco en el proyecto de programa provisional de la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero, por lo cual solicitamos que se abra un capítulo especial sobre este tema, el de financiamiento, tanto en el COFI como en la Conferencia en el capítulo de estrategias y en el de programas.

Aquí, señor Presidente, nos preocupa mucho los comentarios realizados hace un momento por el Observador de la Comunidad Económica Europea hablando a nombre de todos sus Miembros que de antemano llaman a una extraña prudencia que, según nosotros, sólo tiende a limitar el crecimiento y desarrollo de la pesca donde precisamente puede crecer, que es en los países en desarrollo, y que infiere que nuestros países se tienen que limitar a la pesca ribereña o a la acuicultura. Esperamos que esta impresión que nos dejaron las palabras del delegado de la Comunidad Económica Europea puedan disiparse dado que la pesca es parte fundamental del concepto de seguridad alimentaria y que el recurso, explotado adecuadamente, no tiene porqué peligrar.

Apoyamos asimismo los planteamientos de la delegación Argentina en cuanto a que se deben considerar los importantísimos aspectos de capacitación, tan relevantes en cualquier campo pero especialmente en la pesca en los países en desarrollo donde esta actividad no ha sido relevante en general y donde la capacitación jugará un papel importante. Por eso también vemos con beneplácito el Seminario que bajo los auspicios del Gobierno noruego se celebrará próximamente.

Finalmente, quisiéramos que se acelerara la entrega de material de ambos eventos para poder estudiarlo con tiempo y preparar mejor nuestras intervenciones en los mismos. Hasta el momento, inexplicablemente, no hay materiales listos y sí cierto hermetismo en el área de pesca de la FAO que quisiéramos se explicara.

M.D. METELITS (United States of America): The United States delegation wants to congratulate Mr. Carroz and his staff of the Fisheries Department of FAO on the excellent work they have done so far in making preparations for this important Conference. In general my delegation continues to approve the work that is being done for the Conference and the agenda that has been developed. We are satisfied with the preparations that have been carried out so far by the Department of Fisheries including several workshops and expert consultations.

We have listened to the statements made by a number of other delegations in which an interest has been generally expressed and we would like to join in being kept fully informed of the continuing preparations, especially those that would include the opportunity for Member Nation participants to study the various versions of documents that are being prepared for the Conference. More specifically, my delegation notes that in the document before us the structure of the second phase of the Conference utilizes two Commission and Plenary sessions as a way of getting through the business at hand.

This leads to a potential question because the organization of the first phase does not utilize these mechanisms, though the first phase does have a very full agenda which includes the normal business of the Committee on Fisheries.

Another question that arises from this document is the use of the phrase "full use of fish resources" in the agenda. This is item III.2 of the second phase of the Conference; it is in Appendix B of the document before us. The reason for this question is simply because we believe the customary phrase is "optimum utilization".

At any rate, we want to conclude on a positive note by again thanking the Secretariat and we hope that the good work continues apace.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I too would like to thank Mr. Carroz for his very useful and informative presentation and also the Secretariat for their documentation which we have received so far. We must say we are encouraged by the preparations for the World Fisheries Conference to date. The suggested agenda for this Conference is obviously a reflection of a very wide range of interests from those countries who were solicited for inputs. We were not among that group but I am happy to say we can certainly agree to the agenda as envisaged so far.

We support the theme of the Conference on the importance of nutrition and of food security. Equal emphasis must also be given to food diversity in the nutritional sector. We are willing to participate in the preparatory work required to ensure that the Conference can meet expectations. We remain convinced that the underlying theme has to be the proper management and use of fish resources and we consider that a sound scientific basis is fundamental to many of the topics addressed by the agenda items.

There is, however, no specific reference to science other than under number 4 (h) concerning international collaboration. We wish to point out that this scientific basis is essential if fisheries resources are to be managed so as to ensure the success and the sustainability of the development initiatives. In this regard Canada believes the principles of management should reflect the need for recognition of the particular problems associated with stocks subject to more than one jurisdiction, whether such stocks are shared between coastal states, overlap between areas of national and international jurisdiction or are highly migratory stock. It is similar to our position on the immunity of international institutions.

The Conference may be expected to have to face the sensitive choice of whether it is addressing, under agenda item 4 (b) Principles and Techniques of Fisheries Management, strictly the regulation of fisheries, or whether the range of options to governments and intervening in the exploitation of a resource base and the implications for human skills, technology, etc., is to be considered. We, of course, support a broader interpretation.

We note in document CL 83/7, under agenda item 5, that COFI will receive a tentative general framework for the development of the strategy for fisheries management and for development of the specific assessment for actions programme. This framework is to be elaborated in the light of the discussion at the Committee and on further consultations with Member Nations and international organizations in the interval between the two phases of the Conference. Now my delegation believes that this is a logical sequence and would endorse the concept of inter-sessional consultations either through working groups or by correspondence. That would involve both developed and, of course, developing Member Nations. We consider that such consultation will facilitate greatly both the developing process and the debate within the policy phase towards adoption of the strategy action programme.

Finally we believe that the statement of principles that will come from the world conference must not be developed in isolation by the FAO. Governments should be consulted by the end of the technical phase in October 1983 and the beginning of the policy phase in June 1984 in order to facilitate the drafting of both the statement of principles and the action plan in the Conference at an open forum and we believe this can be achieved either through the form of a consultative group or through circulation of documents and papers to governments for their comments.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Just briefly could I on behalf of my delegation welcome your presence in the chair to guard our discussions.

On behalf of the New Zealand delegation could I report our sincere thanks to Mr. Carroz for very much a thoughtful and logical introduction to this agenda item. I think his statement does illustrate the very thorough approach which the Secretariat is adopting to preparations for the World Conference on Fisheries Development and Management and in fact, that this is one of the last items on our agenda does not, of course, denigrate its importance.

New Zealand is not by any definition one of the world's large or important fishing nations. However, we do have one of the world's largest exclusive economic zones and in our attempt to develop deep water fishery in the economic zone and what is proving to be our complex inshore fisheries. We have had to try to come up with some of the answers to some of the issues which appear on the draft agenda for both the technical and policy phases for the World Fisheries Conference. New Zealand took part in two of the recent preparatory consultations mentioned by Mr. Carroz. One was the expert consultation on the regulations of fishing efforts, the other the expert consultation on conditions for access to the fish resources of the exclusive economic zone and perhaps through these two meetings my country has been able to make some small contribution to what is a large amount of preparatory work for the forthcoming Conference.

Before commenting on the two draft agendas contained in document CL 83/7 my delegation would like to take up one or two of the points of principle made by Mr. Carroz and to mention very briefly New Zealand's own recent experiences. First we have found that in developing New Zealand's involvement in deep water of our own EEZ we have had to work closely with the distant water fishing nations that fished traditionally in the waters now included in our EEZ. We have neither the capital nor the fishery techniques, nor the large vessels which would have enabled us to sail out-into the deep water and catch the prime species of fish which are found there. Even today New Zealand still needs to charter deep-water vessels from distant water nations and of course we remain dependent on some distant water nations for markets for some deep-water fish caught by New Zealand or vessels chartered to New Zealand companies.

Secondly the fish resources both in New Zealand EEZ's, and particularly in our inshore fisheries, are under restraint, quite severe restraint, in some cases because of the pressure on them. This is the situation that New Zealand probably shares with many coastal states. Therefore it seems to us that the time is about right for FAO to be considering this whole question of fisheries management strategy and development.

Turning briefly to the draft agendas contained in documents CL 83/7 now before us, New Zealand is able to give them both its general support. Appendix A, the technical supplementary phase, does seem to us to emphasize the two different points of emphasis, namely the deep-water fisheries and inshore fisheries. The problems facing both are, in New Zealand's view, different and will no doubt have different priorities for different developing countries. We feel also that other items on the agenda will also be of vital concern to developing countries. For example, international trade in fish and fishery products and international collaboration in research, management and development.

As far as Appendix B, the policy phase, New Zealand gives general support to the topics contained therein. They are, we feel, germane to the four areas identified by Mr. Carroz in his introduction, namely technical assistance, investment, training and trade. We agree with the Secretariat, the delegations to the technical phase of the Conference should be made up of members who should be

able to contribute in some detail to the individual items which this phase will consider. Such participation should, we hope, enable the ground to be well prepared for the conference policy phase. For the policy phase itself my delegation takes careful note of the sort of representation seen as desirable by the Secretariat and will keep this and the results of the technical phase very much in mind, when the time of the policy phase draws closer.

My delegation reiterates its compliments to the Secretariat for the fairness of the preparation taken thus far. We look forward to be able to participate actively in both phases of what we are sure will be a successful conference.

A. MARTOSUWIRYO (Indonesia): I would like to thank Mr. Carroz for his introduction. On behalf of the Indonesian delegation I wish to express appreciation for the preparation which the Secretariat has been making towards the holding of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development in the coming year. Words of appreciation should be addressed to the governments of Costa Rica and France which have participated actively in the preparations for the World

Conference.

My delegation is satisfied to note that the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries to be held in October this year will be referred to as the technical phase of the World Conference which is intended to serve as a forum for a representative at the high policy-making level. Indonesia is of the view that the expanded fifteenth session of the Committee on Fisheries will have to play an important role in the preparatory work because the Committee will deal with technical and policy matters relating to fisheries covering a wide range of activities.

My delegation expresses the hope that the Committee on Fisheries at its next session will prove to be more fruitful and arrive at the conclusions for the consideration by the World Conference. In light of the foregoing it is essential that the session at the COFI should be guided by an able chairman who is at the same time conversant on all matters relating to fisheries.

With regard to the suggestion contained in paragraph 7, making suggestion of the establishment of two commissions, the Indonesian delegation can support it.

As regards the draft agenda as contained in Appendix A and B of the document, we believe that this reflects the suggestions made by the 1982 Regional Conference and by a number of FAO regional fisheries bodies and covers many items which are indispensable to developing fisheries. Hence the Indonesian delegation can give its endorsement.

S. GOTO (Japan): First of all I would like to thank Mr. Carroz for his important presentation on the preparation of the World Fisheries Conference. We would also like to thank the FAO Secretariat for their efforts in having held a series of preparatory meetings as well as consultations with governments and international organizations in preparation for the Conference. We are also very appreciative of the efforts that FAO has put forth in strengthening its role in the management and development of fisheries.

My delegation believes that the taking place of this Conference is very timely and we expect that it will contribute to furthering an optimum utilization of the marine resources, and subsequently improve the nutritional level by increasing the supply of protein for the people of the developing countries.

Japan, as one of the major fishing nations, has a long history of fishery development which includes coastal, off-shore and deep water fisheries as well as aquaculture and fresh water fisheries; and therefore, we feel that Japan's experience might be useful in the deliberation of the Conference.

My delegation feels that the draft provisional agenda for both the technical phase and the policy phase of the Conference has been very well formulated. We can generally agree with the agenda.

In regards to the "Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development", my delegation would like to stress the importance of the principle of the rational utilization of the fishery resources which was agreed upon in the Law of the Sea Convention. As a result of the enactment of the Exclusive Economic Zone in many coastal countries, the Japanese deep sea fisheries have experienced a drastic decline in their catch from 4 million tons to 2 million tons.

It is our greatest concern that the decreased portion of the deep water fisheries' catch might not be fully utilized by the fisheries of the coastal countries. Therefore, it is desirable that the coastal countries which have a surplus in fishery resources, allow access to distant water fleets to fish within the Exclusive Economic Zone by asking for a reasonable fishing fee which then can be utilized for the development of coastal fisheries in these countries.

In regards to the Programme for Fisheries Management and Development, four areas of action have been proposed: technical assistance, investment, training and trade.

As for the technical assistance, Japan has been extending its assistance to the developing countries by sending experts as well as granting research vessels, building research centres, etc. Our assistance in this area has been increasing substantially every year even though the growth of our national budget has been stagnating and even decreasing in nominal terms.

Investment is also important and indispensable to the development of fisheries in the developing countries. A joint-venture activity is one of the most powerful means to draw investments; however, we should pay due consideration to the fact that the success of the joint venture, totally depends on the economic feasibility of the activity.

My country fully recognizes the importance of training. Our assistance in this field includes the acceptance of trainees to Japan as well as the building of training centres in the developing countries. Japan is also a member of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre, one of whose major objectives is training.

We fully recognize also the importance of trade in the development of fisheries. However, we should be aware of the fact that the international market price of fish and fishery products is extremely precarious. Therefore my delegation feels that it may be a more realistic approach for developing countries to give first priority to fishery production for domestic demand rather than to place too much emphasis on export oriented fisheries.

Finally, we would like once again to express our appreciation to FAO for its activities in the field of fisheries and we hope that it will continue to be further strengthened.

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): I shall speak on the agenda items, which have been very well thought out, but I would like to suggest the inclusion of an item on conservation. Conservation of both coastal inland and fisheries resources possibly should be one of the issues requiring attention, not only national programmes, but also cooperation at regional, sub-regional and at times global levels would be necessary in this respect as an insurance against possible over-exploitation. Conservation constitutes good management but from some of our experiences, I feel that a special examination of the same may be of help.

Sra. Doña G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba será sumamente breve. Mi delegación se une a los demás países que han felicitado a la Secretaría por los preparativos de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca.

La idea de que el COFI acoja la fase técnica de la misma nos parece totalmente adecuada.

Asimismo, quisiéramos expresar nuestra satisfacción porque las sugerencias que fueron expresadas en nuestras conferencias regionales, en 1982, han sido perfectamente recogidas en la preparación de la agenda de la Conferencia. Sin embargo, el aspecto del financiamiento que ha planteado el distinguido delegado de México nos parece también ser un tema necesario de ser analizado por esta Conferencia en sus dos fases. Quisiera también apoyar la observación hecha por el distinguido delegado de Argentina y que ha sido apoyada por otras delegaciones, a fin de que los documentos, tanto de la fase técnica como de la Conferencia en sí, puedan llegar con el tiempo suficiente a nuestras capitales, a fin de que puedan ser debidamente analizadas por los técnicos competentes. En nuestro país ya se ha creado un Grupo de Trabajo en el Ministerio de Industria Pesquera para la preparación de la participación de Cuba en esta importante Conferencia. Este Grupo espera tener lo más pronto posible el material adecuado para hacer los análisis correspondientes.

A.H. EL-SARKI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): The delegation of Egypt is pleased to participate in the work of this World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development because Egypt believes that fishery resources can be a good substitute to animal protein.

My delegation has already participated in the discussions which were held in preparation for this world conference and we would like to endorse what already has been said on the proposed agenda. We should underline our interest in training for people working in fisheries. We also agree that

fish and nutrition should be included in its agenda. We also approve the participation of nongovernmental agencies in this conference. We have proposed that there should be participation of publishing houses and a meeting of firms producing fisheries equipment in a fair to be organized simultaneously.

We should also like to express our thanks to the Norwegian Government for hosting the seminar on fish and nutrition next month as a contribution in the preparatory work of this conference.

MOHD YASIN bin MOH SALLEH (Malaysia): My delegation's intervention on this item of the agenda will be a brief one because we participated actively in the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Djakarta in June 1982 and also in the FAO Indian Pacific Fisheries Commission Conference held in Bali in 1982. At these two conferences the subject of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development had been placed on the agenda.

The proposal in Appendix A of document CL 83/7 is in accordance with the recommendations of the two conferences. Malaysia therefore supports the draft provisional agenda as proposed.

The most important agenda item will be the formulation of appropriate strategies and action programmes to achieve the optimum utilization of fishery resources of each member country, especially the developing member countries like Malaysia from the economic, social and nutritional points of view. The action programmes expected to result from the Conference should enable developing member countries like Malaysia to increase their respective national capability in terms of trained personnel competent to manage and develop their respective fisheries consistent with the objectives mentioned earlier. Therefore Malaysia would like to stress and reiterate, among other things, the need for the proposed Conference to give priority attention to (1) the role of FAO regional and sub-regional fishery bodies and the technical support for these bodies, and within the South China Sea sub-Region Malaysia would like to see positive technical support given to the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the South China Sea to benefit the member countries of the region; (2) special problems of small-scale fisheries; (3) aquaculture; (4) promotion of cooperation in the fishery sector between developed and developing countries and among developing countries; (5) training programmes based on carefully assessed needs of developing member countries.

On Appendix B, Malaysia strongly supports the inclusion of agenda item 3 on Strategies, in particular sub-items 3 and 4. On agenda item 4 on Programmes Malaysia fully endorses its inclusion and hopes the discussion on sub-items 1, 2, 3 and 4 will result in definite and conclusive work programmes for the future.

J.L. MESEGUER SANCHEZ (España): Permítame, en primer lugar, señor Presidente felicitar al Director General de la FAO y a la Secretaría General de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros por la elaboración del documento CL 83/7, que constituye una buena base de discusión inicial de los temas sometidos a examen de la Conferencia.

La delegación española comparte plenamente la recomendación del Consejo en su sesión anterior de no volver a tratar cuestiones zanjadas en la Tercera Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Derechos del Mar, aunque pretendan encubrirlas bajo aspectos y zonas de conservación de recursos vivos del mar que evolucionan dentro y fuera de las jurisdicciones nacionales.

No obstante, para mi delegación la Conferencia deberá poner especial énfasis en el tema de la cooperación entre países en desarrollo y países industrializados en materia pesquera, como recogió en su día la Resolución 4/79 de la 20ª Conferencia de la FAO.

Esta cooperación tendría como fin, a la vez, favorecer la relación nacional, ordenación, y óptima utilización de los recursos vivos del mar, así como potenciar el desarrollo ordenador del sector pesquero de los países en desarrollo mediante la adecuada y gradual transferencia de tecnología pesquera. Transferencia que puede efectuarse de manera directa entre gobiernos o a través de la constitución de empresas pesqueras conjuntas en la amplia gama de variedades que estos Acuerdos ofrecen.

Otro aspecto importante del programa provisional es el relativo al comercio internacional del pescado y productos pesqueros. Aunque la Secretaría General al preparar los documentos correspondientes debería tener en cuenta la labor de las Organizaciones especializadas en esta materia tales como el CAC y la OCDE, no deberá olvidar que la consagración de las zonas económicas exclusivas de 200 millas, modificó en un principio el tradicional equilibrio entre la libertad de pesca y la libertad de mercado.

Hoy de nuevo la tendencia internacional se orienta en el sentido de alcanzar el necesario equilibrio entre todos los intereses en presencia. En la relación pesca-mercado la apertura de esto debe estar condicionada a las posibilidades reales de acceso a las pesquerías, y en modo alguno pueda pretendarse tal equilibrio formulando el principio de manera inversa.

Por supuesto la delegación española se está refiriendo a relaciones entre países industrializados y a que las relaciones entre éstos y los países en desarrollo, deben prevalecer siempre al margen de los criterios expuestos, las consideraciones de justicia distributiva internacional en el marco del nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

En relación con el punto cinco del proyecto del programa provisional, la delegación española estima muy oportuna su inclusión en la fase preparatoria, pues ha de permitir conocer la línea maestra de la futura estrategia a consagrar por la Conferencia. Sin embargo, para que la Conferencia en su fase normativa pueda adoptar decisiones adecuadas a los fines perseguidos, la FAO debería mantener consultas con los países interesados y con las Organizaciones Internacionales especializadas en el intervalo entre las dos fases de la Conferencia. De acordarse estas consultas mi país estaría dispuesto a intervenir activamente en las mismas.

También en este punto para elaborar los programas de acción específicos, la FAO debería tener en cuenta los Programas ya existentes a nivel bilateral o multilateral para evitar duplicidades.

Por ultimo, señor Presidente, en el punto seis, sobre la labor de la FAO en materia de pesca, se incluye un aspecto que interesa en gran manera a la administración pesquera española. Me refiero al proyecto del Plan de Acción Global FAO/PNUD para la conservación, ordenación y utilización de mamíferos marinos. En este sentido el interés no es sólo ni mucho menos debido a la importancia que España otorga a la protección y racional utilización de los recursos vivos renovables, sino porque la notable implicación de dichos recursos tienen en un contexto análisis múltiples específicos.

En efecto España, como país pesquero que cuenta con importante población de mamíferos marinos en sus zonas económicas exclusivas, no puede dejar de otorgar una importancia capital al estudio de la situación y dinámica de dichas poblaciones, cuya interrelación en los medios costeros, especialmente importantes para nuestras flotas pesqueras. Es evidente por ello, y por la importancia que el mundo otorga a la protección de estas especies, que España considera que sin merma de la competencia que tiene atribuida la Comisión Ballenera Internacional, al margen de la atención que vienen produciendo ultimamente en el seno de la misma, la FAO puede y debe aportar una visión científica y pondrá ésta sobre el mejor y más racional método de gestión de estos importantes recursos en beneficio de la generación presente y de las futuras.

Mrs. M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland): Our delegation would like to thank the Department of Fisheries of FAO for the excellent documentation prepared and appreciate the efforts made so far. Polish specialists participated in preparing materials in consultations for the following group: experts consultation on regulation of fishing effort, ad hoc working group on fishery resources at the Patagonian Shelf, expert consultation on the conditions of access to the fishing resources of EEZ.

The Polish representative also participated in preparing the document within expert consultation for peaceful fisheries development as one of twelve invited experts. He contributed to the document on strategy and policy for fisheries development which will be presented at the October session of the Committee on Fisheries. We attach great importance to the nearest session of COFI, which will also be the first-stage technical phase of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

We are preparing for this Conference two elaborations on the subject which seems to us the most important. The first concerns optimal use of resources of Economic Zones and open seas in the light of Resolutions of the Third Sea Conference. It will deal with problems connected with the proper use of resources to avoid waste, preparing adequate suggestions, allowing favourable bi- and multilateral forms of cooperation, presenting our achievements in estimating fish resources in different world regions and making these available for the coastal countries.

The second elaboration will deal with the problem of training the staff of countries which develop their national fisheries and the possible share of Poland in this training.

J.E. CARROZ (Sous-Directeur general, Secrétaire general, Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches) : En raison de l'heure tardive, je serai aussi bref que possible. Tout d'abord au nom du Directeur général, j'aimerais remercier tous les membres du Conseil qui sont intervenus et le représentant de la CEE pour leurs encouragements et pour leurs suggestions constructives sur les projets d'ordre du jour des deux phases de la Conférence, sur la structure de la Conférence et surtout sur la nécessité de continuer les consultations avec les gouvernements sur les préparatifs de la Conférence.

J'ai naturellement noté les références nombreuses qui ont été faites à ce propos à la formulation de la stratégie pour le développement et l'aménagement des pêches et également pour l'élaboration des programmes d'action spécifiques. Tous ces points seront naturellement reflétés dans le projet de rapport qui vous sera soumis.

J'aimerais répondre à un certain nombre de questions posées au cours des interventions. Tout d'abord, Mme la déléguée de la Norvège a soulevé deux points. Le premier concerne le rôle des pêches intérieures et de l'aquaculture dans la seconde phase, la phase de politique générale de la Conférence. Je voudrais la rassurer et lui dire que la pêche dans les eaux intérieures et l'aquaculture seront en effet couvertes. Les projets d'ordre du jour sont en fait très schématiques et c'est seulement, je crois, quand vous recevrez très prochainement ces projets d'ordre du jour annotés que vous vous rendrez compte de la portée exacte de chacun des points dans les projets d'ordre du jour.

Le second point soulevé par Mme Ravn concerne le rôle du poisson dans l'alimentation. Comme elle-même l'a fait remarquer ce sera un des thèmes majeurs dont traitera le Directeur général dans son allocution d'ouverture au mois d'octobre et là également j'aimerais lui assurer que le rôle du poisson dans l'alimentation, dans l'autosuffisance alimentaire nationale et sa contribution possible à la sécurité alimentaire seront couverts également sous d'autres points de l'ordre du jour.

Par ailleurs, j'aimerais rassurer les représentants de la Colombie et du Nigeria en leur disant qu'au mois d'octobre, sous le point 6 de l'ordre du jour, ils recevront un rapport détaillé sur les progrès accomplis dans le programme d'aide aux pays en développement pour l'exploitation et l'aménagement de leurs ressources dans les zones économiques exclusives.

Le représentant du Mexique a posé deux questions et je vais répondre à la première laissant le problème de la documentation comme dernière remarque. Son premier point concerne le financement. J'ai bien dit, dans ma présentation liminaire, que l'intention n'est pas, à la Conférence, d'inviter les Etats à contribuer à un fonds général de développement des pêches qui serait semblable, disons, au fonds sur l'environnement, au fonds sur la science et la technologie. En revanche, il est évident que les programmes d'action spécifiques, assistance technique, commerce, entraînement, formation professionnelle seront évidemment financés et les projets qui vous seront soumis à propos de ces programmes d'action comporteront naturellement également les propositions que nous ferons pour le financement de ces programmes spécifiques.

Le représentant des Etats-Unis a fait des remarques importantes sur la structure des discussions dans la phase technique de la Conférence, c'est-à-dire à la quinzième session du Comité des pêches. Là, pour des raisons évidentes d'économie financière, il nous a paru difficile d'avoir des réunions concomitantes de comités, de commissions et de sous-comités comme on le prévoit pour la phase de politique générale, de sorte qu'en principe les discussions auront lieu dans le cadre de réunions plénières du début à la fin de la session, mais ceci pose évidemment le problème de l'organisation et de l'orientation à donner aux discussions. C'est évidemment un problème auquel nous réfléchissons sérieusement.

J'ai également pris bonne note de la remarque faite à propos de la terminologie utilisée dans le projet d'ordre du jour de la phase de politique générale et nous emploierons l'expression "utilisation optimale des ressources".

Le représentant du Canada nous a fait un nombre de remarques importantes. J'aimerais me référer spécialement à celle qu'il a faite sur le rôle qu'on accordera à la science dans les discussions au mois d'octobre. Là aussi, lorsqu'il verra le projet d'ordre du jour annoté de la phase technique et particulièrement les points de politique nationale traitant des aspects techniques de l'aménagement, je pense qu'il sera rassuré et qu'il verra que de nombreux aspects techniques et scientifiques seront couverts.

Je pourrais faire la même remarque au représentant du Bangladesh en ce qui concerne les problèmes de conservation qui, nous l'espérons, seront également couverts d'une manière adéquate.

De nombreux représentants et tout particulièrement le représentant du Mexique ont posé la question de la documentation. Le Directeur général a donné pour instruction de la limiter au maximum et nous envisageons un document de travail d'une moyenne de 10 pages pour chaque point ou sous-point de l'ordre du jour. La plupart de ces documents de travail sont en train d'être finalisés mais nous ne pouvons pas les mettre au point et les diffuser avant les discussions que vous avez eues aujourd'hui au Conseil, de sorte que c'est notre tâche dans les prochains jours, dans les prochaines semaines de mettre ces documents au point et de vous les faire parvenir aussitôt que possible.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): At the end of our discussion on this item I would like to thank Mr. Carroz for the efforts he has engaged in preparing for the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. I have noticed that the majority if not all the delegates accept the proposed draft agenda for both the technical and the policy phases. Obviously the Secretariat will take into due account all the remarks made in order to ensure they are properly reflected in the draft agenda which will be subsequently submitted.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Realmente apreciamos las explicaciones que nos dio el Secretario de la Conferencia, pero la sugerencia que hicimos concretamente sobre que se incluyera el aspecto de financiamiento es precisamente para que explícitamente se contemple éste en los trabajos del Comité de Pesca y de la Conferencia, dado que no estamos planteando de ninguna manera la creación de un fondo, sino que los aspectos financieros, que no vemos incluidos en ninguna parte de los programas, se consideren en la estrategia y programas concretos de acción que se están planteando; es una solicitud que pensamos fue apoyada por otros Estados y creemos que es importante que se presente explícitamente.

Por otra parte, también quisiéramos señalar que no estamos de acuerdo con el planteamiento de la distinguida delegación de Japón en el sentido de limitar a los países en vías de desarrollo a sus mercados internos y negarnos, por una dudosa teoría de ventajas comparativas, el acceso a la pesca comercial y a la pesca de exportación.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank the representative of Mexico and I do think that Mr. Carroz will take a due account of all these remarks. As I said, we now turn to item 20 on our agenda.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VI. AUTRES QUESTIONS

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

20. Any other Business:

20. Questions diverses:

20. Otros asuntos:

- Ninth World Forestry Congress, 1984

- Neuvième Congrès forestier mondial, 1984

- Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, 1984

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): En su octagésima sesión en noviembre de 1981 el Consejo tomó nota de que los Gobiernos de India, México y Filipinas ofrecían hospedar el Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial.

Los tres países tienen una grande y honrosa historia forestal, una gran variedad de ambientes ecológicos y socioeconómicos y tienen la capacidad para ofrecer las facilidades y los recursos necesarios para mantener los niveles de calidad de los congresos previos.

El Consejo sugirió que los ministros de los países oferentes se consultaran entre sí en el lapso de la 21ª sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO con el objetivo de arribar a un acuerdo. Tales consultas se llevaron a cabo y los tres ministros sometieron las siguientes propuestas a la consideración del Consejo en su 81ª sesión, también en noviembre de 1981.

Las propuestas fueron las siguientes: a) Que bajo el principio de rotación, el Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial se llevara a cabo " en México en 1984, y b) que cuando oportunamente el Consejo considere, las sedes de los congresos X y XI, los otros dos países, India y Filipinas, fueren considerados con prioridad.

En vista de la anterior propuesta el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en seleccionar a México como sede del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial a llevarse a cabo en 1984. El presente tema también fue discutido durante la sexta reunión del Comité de Montes, COFO, en mayo de 1982, en donde el delegado de México expresó la gratitud de su país por haber sido seleccionado como anfitrión del Congreso, e informó al Comité de las acciones tomadas para su organización.

Durante esta sesión del COFO México propuso la tercera semana del mes de octubre de 1984 y a la ciudad de México como el tiempo y lugar apropiados para llevar a cabo dicho congreso; pero no excluyó cualquier otra sugerencia al respecto.

El delegado de México también mencionó varios posibles temas para el congreso y solicitó las sugerencias de otros a los demás delegados presentes.

Estado actual: Ya el Gobierno de México ha solicitado formalmente a la FAO su asistencia en la organización del Congreso y tengo el placer de informar al Consejo de que tal negociación ha finalizado con buen suceso.

Sin embargo, debido a circunstancias especiales y en consideración a la necesidad de organizar un congreso mundial que refleje la calidad de los anteriores, el Gobierno de México contempla la necesidad de extender el período de celebración al primer semestre de 1985, después de hacer todos los esfuerzos para que tal congreso se lleve a cabo a finales de 1984.

Señor Presidente, yo quisiera rogarle, si no tiene inconveniente, dé la palabra al distinguido delegado de México para alguna información ulterior a la mía.

J. VERRUETE FUENTES (México): Con su beneplácito, señor Presidente, tomo la palabra para ampliar un poco más la intervención del doctor Flores Rodas.

Efectivamente, desde el año 1981, cuando este honorable Consejo otorgo a México la sede del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, el Gobierno Mexicano inicio formalmente los trabajos de organización de este Congreso.

En julio de 1982 el entonces Presidente de México publicó un decreto para integrar el Comité organizador de este evento. Posteriormente, en este mismo año 1983 el actual Presidente de la República ratificó ese decreto y ordenó seguir con los trabajos preparatorios del Congreso, que para esta fecha incluyen ya los siguientes: La elaboración detallada del presupuesto de ingresos para el Congreso; la ubicación de las sedes probables del acto en la ciudad de México; la elaboración del temario para las discusiones plenarias y paneles; la creación de la estructura administrativa y del personal necesario para llevar adelante los trabajos del propio congreso; el diseño del logotipo o emblema del evento; la ubicación de las áreas forestales importantes por visitar en México para los viajes pre y post congreso, así como la extensión hacia países vecinos con importancia forestal; asimismo el programa cultural y social del evento.

Finalmente, estamos aquí esta semana para ultimar los detalles del Acuerdo de Asistencia Técnica que firma el país sede con FAO, aspecto que prácticamente culminamos ayer con el doctor Flores Rodas. Esto significa que al endosar el acuerdo del señor Director General de la FAO se violentaron los preparativos del Congreso por contar ya con un Secretario General asociado que aporta FAO y que une y coordina nuestro Comité organizador con todo el cuerpo técnico forestal de la Organización.

Sin embargo, honorables delegados, quiero hacer notar que México tuvo sólo hace siete meses su cambio tradicional de Gobierno, lo cual de alguna manera al cambiar los encargados de las altas responsabilidades de la Administración pública afectó transitoriamente los tiempos previstos en la programación de trabajos de preparación del Congreso. Además, por esta misma época se agudizó en nuestro caso la crisis financiera que afecta desde hace tiempo a la economía mundial y a la mayoría de los países del mundo. Esto hizo que ambas situaciones nos retrasaran parcialmente los preparativos del Congreso. Afortunadamente, si bien la crisis financiera persiste, no afectará en nada a los planes para la celebración del congreso ya que es un compromiso de México con el mundo; pero sí, como lo mencionó el doctor Flores Rodas, por estas situaciones nos vemos obligados probablemente a realizar el Congreso la primera mitad del año 1985, aunque haremos lo imposible para que se realice en la fecha convenida de noviembre de 1984.

Concretamente, señor Presidente, señores delegados, México ratifica aquí su compromiso de realizar el Noveno Congreso Mundial Forestal, anticipando sus excusas por algunos pequeños problemas que pudieran surgir y por los inconvenientes que también pudiéramos causar a algunos países miembros de FAO, de quienes solicitamos su generosidad para aceptar nuestras excusas.

Por ser la realización de este Noveno Congreso un alto compromiso donde, afortunadamente, contamos con la importante colaboración y apoyo de FAO queremos dar a ustedes la garantía y la seguridad de que este evento tendrá el éxito que todos deseamos, como ha sucedido en los cuatro últimos congresos mundiales forestales celebrados en Washington en 1960, en Madrid (España) en 1966, en Buenos Aires (Argentina) en 1972 y en Yakarta (Indonesia) en 1978. Por ello me es grato decir a ustedes que esperamos en México con los brazos abiertos a la mayoría de los colegas forestales de todo el mundo.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Mexico, for the information that you have just provided to us. This is all linked with the Ninth World Forestry Congress.

I would like to inform you that this has been put on our agenda for information and not for discussion. However, if anybody has any comments to make or would like to say anything at this juncture, the Chair will be quite prepared to hear your comments.

I would like to thank Mr. Flores Rodas and we now go on to Item 17 of the agenda, the Revised Calendar of 1982/83 Sessions of the Council and Those Bodies which Report to the Council. This is document CL 83/8.

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS - REPORTS OF THE PROGRAMME AND FINANCE COMMITTEES (continued)
- IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION - RAPPORTS DU COMITE DU PROGRAMME ET DU COMITE FINANCIER (suite)
- IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS - INFORMES DE LOS COMITES DEL PROGRAMA Y DE FINANZAS (continuación)
- 17. Revised Calendar of 1982-83 Sessions of the Council and Those Bodies which Report to the Council
- 17. Calendrier revise des sessions de 1982-83 du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport
- 17. Calendario revisado para 1982-83 de los períodos de sesiones del Consejo y de los órganos que le rinden informes

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il s'agit simplement de donner un caractère final au calendrier provisoire que vous avez approuvé au cours de votre dernière session en novembre 1982. Le calendrier, tel qu'il est envisagé, se trouve à la page 2 du document soumis. Il n'y a pas eu de modifications ni de changements de dates depuis votre dernière réunion.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Are there any comments? Apparently not, so the Revised Calendar has been approved and after Item 17 we now come to Item 19.

- VI. OTHER MATTERS (continued)
- VI. AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)
- VI. OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)
- 19. Date and Place of the Eighty-fourth Session of the Council
- 19. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-quatrième session du Conseil
- 19. Fecha y lugar del 84° periodo de sesiones del Consejo

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: La date du prochain Conseil est automatiquement fixée, maintenant que vous avez approuvé le calendrier révisé. Cette date est donc du 1er au 3 novembre 1983, c'est-à-dire deux jours avant l'ouverture de la Conférence. Le lieu naturellement est Rome.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Thank you very much, Mr. Sylla. Are there any comments on this? Apparently not. That means that we have finished discussion on the Agenda items, including Item 19. All that remains to be done now is for the Council to adopt its Report and, as the Independent Chairman of the Council has already said, that will be done tomorrow.

I would like to thank you all for your help and I now declare the meeting closed.

The meeting rose at 18.45 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.45 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 83/PV/17

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83º período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
17ª SESION PLENARIA
(23 June 1983)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-septième seance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 15 sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 17 Sesión Plenaria a las 15.15 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

CHAIRMAN: We are coming to the last part of our work in this Council. You all know how the Drafting Committee has been working almost to midnight every day. It has been a double day for them, one day in the Council and another day in the Drafting Committee. We are very grateful to the Chairman and the members of the Drafting Committee.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Con mucho agrado informamos que el Comité de Redacción ha trabajado durante 27 horas hasta el momento, en siete sesiones, y se ha tratado a fondo cada tema, cada frase, cada palabra, con una gran participación por todos los miembros de un Comité de Redacción compuesto por 12, y alrededor de 20 a 23 personas por media en sala.

Nos faltan dos temas que serán analizados por el Comité cuando la imprenta nos los entreguen. Los trabajos se realizaron en un clima de cooperación, cuando las posiciones se hicieron fuertemente encontradas, cosa que ocurrió, con paciencia y con el espíritu de consenso de todos se llegó a acuerdos que consideramos que reflejan fiel y cuidadosamente lo expresado en este Consejo.

Creo que se demostró así el respeto y el aprecio que se tiene en la FAO por esta importante reunión.

Puedo decir también que este no es un documento del Presidente, que se puede considerar el documento del Comité en pleno. Además, en los documentos hay algunos pequeños errores de omisión, de imprenta y de redacción de un idioma a otro, por lo que estamos a sus órdenes, desde este Comité, para aclararlos en el momento preciso.

CHAIRMAN: I shall request the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to point out the printing errors as we go along.

DRAFT REPORT - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE I

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraphs 3 and 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4 son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 to 7 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 7 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 8

PARAGRAPHE 8

PARRAFO 8

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): This is a very minor point. Going through paragraph 8, in the second sentence we have there the words at the beginning of the sentence "the Group". When you begin reading that sentence it is not quite clear what "the Group" means, whether it is the Committee or the Group of 77. Of course, after reading part of the sentence from the second sentence it becomes clear that "the Group" refers to the Group of 77, so in order to avoid any misunderstanding and have a smooth reading I would propose the following two amendments; one after the second sentence, instead of saying "the Group" we insert the words "the Group of 77 felt". Then in the third sentence, instead of the word "the" you put "the said Group" and then it is smooth reading and one has the feeling that it really refers to the Group of 77 and not the entire Committee.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Drafting Committee is willing to accept the amendment.

Paragraph 8, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 8, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 8, así enmendado, es aprobado

Paragraph 9 approved

Le paragraphe 9 est approuvé

El párrafo 9 es aprobado

Draft Report Part I, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport, première partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe, Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE II

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 16

PARRAFOS 1 a 16

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia quiere referirse, en primer lugar, al párrafo 1, al final del párrafo 1 se habla de los efectos a largo plazo, efectos sin calificarlos, pueden ser positivos o adversos. Por eso nosotros proponemos que la última frase del párrafo 1 diga "y los efectos adversos".

Tengo otra observación para el párrafo 2, pero tal vez sea conveniente que usted resuelva esta adición que proponemos al párrafo 1.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is that the last sentence should read 'and the longer-term adverse effects of the world economic recession on development efforts'. Is that acceptable? Paragraph 1 is approved. Any comments on paragraph 2?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En general, a nuestra delegación no le gusta el término "tomó nota". Hay veces que debemos aceptarlo en ciertas circunstancias, pero en la segunda frase del párrafo 2 "tomar nota" simplemente nos parece que no es, en realidad, lo que manifestamos aquí. Tendrá que decir, por lo menos, "tomar nota con preocupación".

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Colombia suggested that the second sentence should read: 'It noted with concern that in 1982 per caput food production had declined in 23 out of 44 African countries...' Is this acceptable? Thank you. It is certainly an improvement.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Officer-in-Charge, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division): Paragraph 1, the English text only, it is a straightforward typographical error, the first word in the third line of the English text. It says 'their' and it should say 'the' - in other words, delete the 'ir' and it is 'the overall assessment'. This is correct in French, Spanish and Arabic.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Just again a drafting point in the first sentence of paragraph 2 in the English text. It reads: 'The Council expressed its continuing serious concern with the precarious food situation in Africa to which it had drawn the attention of the governments...' Was it the Committee's intention that it was Member Governments or just the governments? I wonder if 'the governments' is not perhaps too restrictive, but it is just the English text.

CHAIRMAN: Do you want to add Member Governments', in which case almost everywhere that 'governments' comes it should be 'Member Governments.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Delete 'the.

CHAIRMAN: Delete 'the', so that it will read 'the attention of Governments.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): Mon intervention est sur le paragraphe 3. A la troisième ligne "on a appelé l'attention..." et je proposerais que l'on mette "on a attiré l'attention sur le nécessité d'accorder..."

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): A small point of concern on the last sentence of paragraph 4. I am always a little hesitant to be associated with a statement which presents conjecture as if it were a fact. I do not believe that we are in a position to state now that the effect of the action taken by one cereal-producing country will have an effect as if it were now measureable. The short point is I think the sentence would be better if it had something like: 'noted with concern the potential negative impact of such reductions...' on the basis that we cannot be sure, nor do I believe that any of us said otherwise than that we were concerned about what might happen.

CHAIRMAN: The United Kingdom delegate suggested that we add the word 'potential' - 'The Council noted with concern the potential negative impact of such reductions ...' I hope this is acceptable.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Habíamos pedido la palabra cuando usted todavía no nos había hecho llegar el texto exacto de la adición del Reino Unido. Creemos que podemos aceptarlo. En español diría: tomo nota de que podría tener efectos negativos.

CHAIRMAN: If it will help the Spanish text - I see a nod from the United Kingdom delegate - 'the possible negative effect'.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): In the second sentence of paragraph 5 I seem to recall that in the discussion on the carry-over stocks, it says in the English text 'carry-over stocks of cereals and other food products...' Perhaps if we put the word 'some' it would more correctly reflect the discussion. I do not think it was said that all food products were in surplus, which it could be interpreted as saying.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of New Zealand is that we say, 'On the one hand, carry-over stocks of cereals and some other food products were relatively large...'

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Al final del párrafo 6 tenemos el mismo caso que señalamos en el párrafo 1; o sea, la necesidad de calificar los efectos. Habría que poner también : "podrían tener efectos adversos." Adversos, repito, en la última frase del párrafo 6.

CHAIRMAN: I hope this is acceptable. Paragraph 6 approved.

D. WHITE (Argentina): En la última frase del párrafo 7, se habla de exportaciones subsidiarizadas. Estimo que hay un error. Se debería decir subsidiarias.

En el final de este párrafo se dice: "Los cuales tienen la ventaja de tener economías más grandes y más diversificadas".

Sugerimos que se cambie la palabra "grandes" por "desarrolladas". Nos parece más apropiado el término.

CHAIRMAN: Does the Chairman of the Drafting Committee have any comments on the suggestion of Argentina?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): En ese punto no hubo discusión al respecto. Se acordó en la forma en que venía inicialmente.

R.C. GUPTA (India): In paragraph 7 the penultimate sentence starts with 'Access to markets had been constrained and protectionist measures strengthened.' This is a statement of fact, but no expression of the views of the Council about this matter. I would suggest that the earlier sentence to that could perhaps be further extended by using a semi-colon, and that it should read: 'Furthermore, it was viewed with great concern that developing countries had become net importers of agricultural products for the first time in 1981; access to markets had been constrained and protectionist measures strengthened.' I feel if we could put the sentence like this the concern of the Council in this situation in which protectionism has been increased, markets have been constrained, some opinion could be expressed on this situation also. Otherwise it is a statement of fact which does not express in any way what the Council felt about it.

CHAIRMAN: I thought the paragraph itself starts with concern and concern is coming several times. Whether we should put it in every time...

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): If the very first sentence could be more defined - 'The Council viewed with concern the deterioration in agricultural trade', instead of saying that the Council was concerned with the deterioration in agricultural trade.

CHAIRMAN: 'The Council viewed with concern the deterioration in agricultural trade'. India suggests we insert 'Access to markets had been constrained and protectionist measures strengthened.' I think it is a drafting exercise in terms of putting it in such a way as one does not use the word again and again unnecessarily.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I think it is in the English version of the document, paragraph 5, the first sentence: 'The Council noted with concern the current paradoxical situation...' etc.

A. FEQUANT (France): Sur le point 7, dernière phrase: si j'ai bien compris l'intervention, il y aurait deux fois le mot "développes". C'est difficile à admettre. "Les économies plus puissantes", ce n'était pas très net. Je crois que c'est "large" (en anglais), mais je me demande si c'est très compréhensible en français; "les pays développés qui ont des économies plus diversifiées". Pourrait-on faire cette même contraction dans le texte anglais.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Comprendo lo que quiere expresar la Delegación de Francia, pero esto cambia el sentido. Nosotros lo dejaríamos a la aceptación de este Consejo que tendrá que discutirlo, porque cambia el sentido del párrafo de la forma como lo ha dicho Francia.

D. WHITE (Argentina): Quisiera sugerir que la última parte del párrafo donde dice: 'los cuales tienen la ventaja de tener economías más grandes'- Sugerimos poner 'desarrolladas y más diversificadas', ya que creemos que resulta obvio que los países desarrollados tienen economías más grandes y más diversificadas. Creo que no se agrega nada a la frase.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Si tout le monde est d'accord, on peut laisser ça comme ça, sinon j'allais proposer "des économies plus équilibrées et plus diversifiées".

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Hay I venture to suggest a formulation which would perhaps meet the difficulty which France had about repeating the word "developed", so instead of saying "developed countries" we could use the word "industrialized countries", and then you can go on to say "with their more developed and diversified economies".

CHAIRMAN: France says he adopts this suggestion of Pakistan. Shall we then adopt it? "industrialized countries with their larger and more diversified economies". We adopt that suggestion of Pakistan. Shall we move to paragraph 8?

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): In the interest of a little bit more balance in paragraph 8 where we call for "a fresh commitment to multilateralism and for more liberalized trade policies", all of which are aiming at facilitating agricultural development, perhaps it would be useful to put in another sentence, saying: "It also called for a higher priority to be given to agricultural development by both developed and developing countries".

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: It is certainly appropriate to say that developing countries should give higher priority to agriculture but do you want high priority to be given by developed countries also?

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): The Director-General is absolutely right. The point we are trying to make and I am not convinced that it necessarily needs to be in this particular paragraph - but we want to make the point that as well as calling on more multilateral assistance, etc., to agricultural development, also calling attention to the need for developing countries to give equal attention to the problem.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I asked for the floor before Canada conceded the fact that this particular idea does not have to appear in the paragraph, because this paragraph is underlining the interdependence of developing and developed countries and is consequently talking of trade and protectionism and not of agricultural production as such. That idea has been formulated and incorporated in different parts of the Report as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Is the point you have made that this is adequately presented elsewhere, because I agree with Pakistan that the two sentences do not really read together.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Solo estaba atento al debate y quería saber en que consistía la enmienda del Canadá y cuál iba a ser la solución. Nos parece bien, si no hay ningún cambio lo dejaremos así.

Cuando lleguemos al párrafo 10 le ruego que me conceda la palabra.

CHAIRMAN: That is what I was trying to ask Canada, whether he is agreeable to not have the changes here. Shall we move to the following paragraphs?"

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Sí, en este párrafo 10 hay una de las cuestiones que yo adelanté y que son problemas tipográficos; se decía en español, en la última frase: El Consejo exhorto a que en esta situación se hiciera más hincapié en la posibilidad de aplicar programas de ayudas más eficaces en fertilizantes. Programas eficaces de ayuda y no más amplios y generosos.

Suprimiríamos las palabras "más amplios y generosos", que fue suprimida en el Comité.

CHAIRMAN: I have this suggestion for paragraph 10: "The Council urged that in this situation, greater emphasis could be given to wider and more efficient programmes of fertilizer aid."

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Queremos referirnos a la segunda frase del párrafo 10. Creemos que esta segunda frase está redactada en términos inusuales. Dice: "Los documentos mostraban"; nosotros pensamos que en un informe del Consejo no debemos registrar lo que decían los documentos, sino lo que opino el Consejo. Por lo tanto, proponemos que la segunda frase se modifique como sigue: "Se expreso preocupación por el hecho de que se había debilitado la demanda de fertilizantes".

En esencia, es el mismo texto, pero cambiando los términos "que los documentos mostraban preocupación", porque la preocupación fue expresada por el Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: Colombia has suggested the second sentence should read as follows: "Concern was expressed at the fact that the demand for fertilizers had weakened".

Chairman of the Drafting Committee, is it agreeable? Yes.

A. FEQUANT (France): Je suis un peu surpris, parce que cette idée est déjà incluse dans la première phrase dans laquelle on dit: "Les effets négatifs à plus long terme de la récession sur l'aptitude du secteur agricole à répondre positivement et rapidement à la nécessité d'un effort de production accru ont été particulièrement soulignés par le Conseil dans le cas des engrais".

Je crois que l'idée était quand même, en dehors de cette inquiétude tout à fait justifiée, d'indiquer un élément de fait. On pourrait dire par exemple: "Le Conseil a constaté que la demande d'engrais a faibli".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que nuestra propuesta es perfectamente coherente. En la primera frase del párrafo 10 se habla de los efectos nocivos a largo plazo de la recesión, y luego en la segunda frase se lamenta la debilitación de la demanda de fertilizantes como consecuencia de ese primer hecho que aparece registrado en la primera frase del párrafo 10.

A. FEQUANT (France): Si on prend la phrase suivante: "Les documents montrent que la demande d'engrais a faibli". Puis encore: "Dans certains cas, cette tendance menaçante ", il est tout à fait normal de parler d'inquiétude, de menaces, etc. mais je demande s'il faut le dire à chaque phrase.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We tend to agree with Colombia in that these three sentences are basically directing three different thrusts of the same. Perhaps all are the same, but in detail three different ideas, and we agree that the second sentence could start with "concern was expressed at the weakening demand" which is an immediate impact, and the earlier one is a longer term trend, and the third sentence is concerning the subsidies, etc. There are in specific detail three different ideas but all the same thing.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines); I was just going to say exactly what Pakistan said. The first sentence is a little bit more general. It talks about the ability of agriculture to respond positively and rapidly to production efforts, but the other one was talking particularly about the demand for fertilizer. These are two different things, and I think they could be kept as they are with the amendment proposed by Colombia.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I am just concerned with the language. I personally feel that the amendment supplied by the French would make better sense in English, if that makes sense. In other words the way it had been written, the second sentence had started, "Concern was expressed at the fact", then the next sentence, "This ominous trend". In other words, that refers to the concern being expressed. I think it is better to use the French version, that "The Council found that". I think that makes the whole thing better.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of the United States delegation is that the second sentence will stay: "The Council found that demand for fertilizers had weakened. In some cases, this ominous trend was caused by a reduction in subsidies".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No queremos prolongar esta discusión, pero no podemos decir simplemente "tomo nota"; digamos al menos "El Consejo tomo nota con preocupación", con preocupación, señor Presidente, porque esa fue la realidad.

CHAIRMAN: Is this acceptable, "The Council found with concern that demand for fertilizers has weakened"? United States delegate, is that all right?

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): "Note" is better than "found with concern".

CHAIRMAN: "The Council noted with concern that the demand for fertilizers": I think this is an acceptable formula for everyone, "The Council noted with concern". So it will read like that, "The Council noted with concern that the demand for fertilizers had weakened". Are there any other comments on this paragraph? Then we go on to Paragraph 11.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): En este párrafo 11 hay también una frase que se suprimió. En la penúltima línea desde "20 millones" antes de 1985 "se precisó", en el Comité de Redacción se eliminaron las "700 mil toneladas respectivamente", y queda "antes del fin de 1985 precisó".

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En el tercer renglón de la versión en español dice "acelerar el desarrollo de los países en desarrollo", que es cacofónico, pero además hay un punto y seguido que fue sustituido por un "y" que la ayuda alimentaria constituía" porque si no la siguiente oración queda completamente incongruente. Esa oración tiene que ligarse a la oración anterior.

Y adicionalmente, señor Presidente, son 20 millones de toneladas de cereales, si no serían 20 toneladas de cualquier otra cosa y estamos hablando de cereales.

K.A. BABIKER (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): Our comments refer to the second line of Paragraph 11 and concern the Arabic text. It is said "it was essential to accelerated development of developing countries", and in order to make this clearer from the linguistic point of view I would use a different formulation in Arabic. It does not change anything in the French or English text,

CHAIRMAN: I think it would be appreciated if the corrections in the language version could be sent on a small piece of paper to Mr. Sole-Leris.

K.A. BABIKER (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): This refers only to the Arabic text as I said.

CHAIRMAN: I think if it is expressed in the language, it is better.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lo siento mucho, pero desearía conocer cómo va a quedar la frase final del párrafo 11 y si la frase más corta que aparece actualmente al final de ese párrafo queda o no.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Encargado, Dirección de Asuntos de la Conferencia y el Consejo y de Protocolo): Voy a leer como queda en inglés puesto que lo tengo aquí en inglés, pidiendo perdón al distinguido delegado de Colombia por cambiar de idioma. (Continúa en inglés) The last but one sentence goes: "It was suggested that the overall food aid, including contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve, needed to be increased, keeping in mind estimated requirements of 20 million tons of cereals by the end of 1985". Then we go on with the last sentence: "The number of donors also needed to be larger and more diverse."

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia) : Yo creo que la forma en que se ha leído la penúltima frase del párrafo 11 ofrece confusión porque parece que nos estuviéramos refiriendo a la RAIE como 20 millones de toneladas de cereales. Apelo a los conocimientos de los expertos de la Secretaría o al Presidente del Comité de Redacción para que puedan explicarnos el sentido de esta frase. No estoy seguro, pero me parece que es confusa esta frase.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): A small drafting point in the same sentence where it reads: "It was stressed that the overall food aid". I think it would read better and be better understood if it was "stressed that overall food aid", and remove the "the".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. As constructed now the sentence regarding the IEFR and the overall food aid does not come through very clearly.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The delegate of Colombia is right. The sentence may read: "keeping in mind estimated total food requirements of 20 million tons of cereals" because this includes also the International Emergency Food Reserve. So, "total food aid requirements" means that the Reserve is included in the 20 million tons by 1985.

CHAIRMAN: The Director-General has proposed that we simply say: "it was stressed that overall food aid, including contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve, needed to be increased, keeping in mind estimated total food aid requirements of 20 million tons of cereals by 1985". Then the rest of it will go away, "and 700 000 tons" will be deleted because the 20 million tons includes the 700 000 tons.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Il s'agit peut-être d'une particularité de la version française. Il est dit:

"On a insisté " Il s'agit du Conseil, il ne s'agit pas de "on". Il faudrait dire: "Il a insisté sur la nécessité d'accroître l'aide alimentaire " puisqu'il s'agit du Conseil.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): La primera parte de lo propuesto por Colombia y lo propuesto por el Director General a mi juicio aclara la situación: puede quedar más claro.

Sobre lo que plantea la distinguida representación de Congo en francés, en español dice "y se insistió en que hacía falta incrementar esta ayuda" cuando venimos diciendo que el Consejo convino, se insistió, no vemos necesidad de hacer un cambio aquí.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we then go on to Paragraph 12?

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I am sorry to hold you up. I really wanted to say that I agree with the proposal made by the Chairman of the Drafting Group. You did not I think actually indicate if it was acceptable as it was left as "it was stressed". As you appreciate, this paragraph to my delegation could give some difficulty, but in the interests of wishing to move on I will not raise one of the points I might be tempted to, but on the other hand the sentence beginning: "It was stressed" is quite important to us, as the meaning I think would be different if we accepted the proposal by the distinguished delegate of Congo. Would I be impertinent if I asked you to rule. Mr. ChairDiin, on this matter?

CHAIRMAN: I thought after the intervention of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee there was no further comment and we accepted that. We will proceed.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestras observaciones están dirigidas a reforzar el texto del informe cuando sea posible y aceptable.

En el párrafo 15 se dice en la primera frase: "El Consejo observo que los promedios o las cifras". Nosotros creemos que esto es muy pasivo y que no fue lo que se dijo aquí. Deberíamos decir: "El Consejo estuvo de acuerdo en que los promedios o las cifras".

CHAIRMAN: Is this acceptable in saying, "The Council agree that average or per caput measurements of food production alone could not show the accessibility to food by all sections of the population"? Thank you.

Paragraphs 1 to 16, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 17 to 58

PARAGRAPHES 17 à 58

PARRAFOS 17 a 58

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Just on paragraph 20, I am not sure in the English text if it is perhaps as specific as it might be. The third and fourth line of the English text says: "the Council felt that further improvements could be made in the implementation review to permit COAG." Perhaps we should put after "COAG", "to undertake" or "to be involved in". I think it lacks a small phrase there.

CHAIRMAN: Is the suggestion of the New Zealand representative that in paragraph 20 the last part will read as follows:- "the Council felt that further improvements could be made in the implementation review to permit COAG to undertake an in-depth review of specific sub-programmes or programme elements on a selective basis"? It seems that what was read is exactly as in the French text.

H.K. SEIP (Norway): I was just wondering if the thinking in the debate would be better reflected if we inserted something about the subsistence farmers here, and it could possibly be done by inserting two small sentences in the middle of the paragraph before "It welcomed" and this could read:

"This was felt to be especially important in the case of the subsistence farmer. It is in the subsistence sector that a great potential for increased food production and for improving the standard of rural areas lies,"

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We feel that the suggestion made by Norway is very constructive but we also feel that only the first sentence formulated by Norway has relevance in this paragraph because the paragraph is speaking about improving cooperatives, so the first sentence formulated by Norway reading "This was felt to be especially important in the case of the subsistence farmer", may be retained. The second sentence does not have immediate relevance to this paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of the delegate of Pakistan is that we just retain your first wording: "This was felt to be especially important in the case of the subsistence farmer" because it will then follow about the role of cooperatives. If this is acceptable and if Council Members agree, we will insert the sentence before "It welcomed FAO's work with NGOs". We will put the sentence proposed by Norway at this point, reading: "This was felt to be especially important in the case of subsistence farmers."

A. SOLE-LERIS (Officer-in-Charge, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division): Just on a wording that was taken out in the Drafting Committee, it came out of the French and I believe the Spanish versions, but not of the English. In the first sentence of paragraph 50, delete the words "to FAO" so that the sentence then reads: "The Council stressed the central importance of basic statistics" etc.

CHAIRMAN: I hope Members have followed this. Now the first sentence of paragraph 50 will read: "The Council stressed the central importance of basic statistics, the Early Warning System, food supply and demand analysis" and so on. Is there any other comment on paragraph 50? Otherwise we go on.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En el párrafo 54 dice en el tercer renglón "de la cadena alimentaria" en vez de "alimenticia". En el siguiente renglón en vez de "obtener un suministro", "asegurar un suministro". No sé si será traducción.

Paragraphs 17 to 58, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 58, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 58, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 59 to 68

PARAGRAPHERS 59 à 68

PARRAFOS 59 a 68

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En el párrafo 60, "el Consejo expreso su gran preocupación por la".

CHAIRMAN: "The Council expressed its great concern at the decline of the world production of the three primary nutrients" etc.

Paragraphs 59 to 68, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 59 à 68, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 59 a 68, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report, Part II, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE III

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 21

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 21

PARRAFOS 1 a 21

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En el párrafo 2, es posiblemente de estilo, "buena base para continuar desempeñando mejor sus funciones"; es en el penúltimo renglón del párrafo 2.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): El estilo, en cualquier momento lo podemos perfeccionar. Estamos de acuerdo con México en eso, y no tenemos ningún inconveniente en utilizar lo que él ha propuesto. Ahora la discusión del párrafo se limita, en Plenaria, a eliminar en el Drafting Committee "la posibilidad de desempeñar", y quedo en esta forma "dado al CSA una buena base para desempeñar mejor su función" Pero la proposición de México no cambia, a mi juicio, el programa. Se puede hacer perfectamente.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will be grateful also if you can give this in writing. Shall we go on to the following paragraphs?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos proponer una adición al párrafo 6; hemos entregado el texto a la Secretaría aunque no es muy largo ni complicado. Corresponde a lo que dijimos aquí algunas delegaciones. Se trata de agregar la siguiente frase al final del párrafo 6: "algunos delegados manifestaron que sus Gobiernos estaban concediendo alta prioridad y asignando más recursos a la producción alimentaria, pero que esos esfuerzos nacionales no eran suficientes y aún necesitaban mayor asistencia financiera y técnica"

Esto lo dijimos durante el debate algunas delegaciones. Además, la frase que proponemos está encabezada por algunos delegados. Esperamos que así no ofrezca dificultades su adopción.

CHAIRMAN: The Colombian delegation has proposed the addition of the following sentence in paragraph 6 "by giving higher priority to food production and food security." then will follow this new sentence "Some delegates stated that their governments were giving high priority and earmarking more resources to food production, that national efforts were not sufficient and they still needed greater financial and technical assistance."

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not know if the delegate of Colombia has had time to read paragraph 8 where the second sentence is exactly what he is saying.

CHAIRMAN: The Director-General has drawn our attention to the fact in the middle of paragraph 8 "developing countries would need aid in the form of financial resources, food aid and/or technical assistance to augment national efforts." Because of this clarification can we drop the proposal that you had made.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En realidad, había propuesto esta adición en el párrafo 6, porque se refiere a los esfuerzos que cada gobierno debe hacer, a las prioridades que deben conceder los gobiernos. La segunda frase del párrafo 8, en realidad, recoge más o menos lo que queríamos decir. De manera que si no hay inconveniente nosotros podemos aceptar que el párrafo 6 quede como está. Entonces, agradecemos al Director General su observación.

CHAIRMAN: We now move on to the following paragraphs. Any comments on paragraphs 7, 8 and 9?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): En este párrafo queremos advertir otro de los errores que dijimos que eran de tipografía, porque se aprobó en el drafting committee, en la última frase donde se dice: "se hizo también hincapié" que es impersonal, se quita el "se" y queda "hizo también hincapié", porque este párrafo comienza con "El Consejo"; y es el Consejo el que hizo también hincapié, y se elimina la palabra "se". Esto fue lo que se aprobó.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I was just wondering why, in the last sentence of paragraph 9, there was a special mention of irrigation in relation to the need for food aid, whereas we know food aid is not just used for irrigation projects, we use it also for a lot of other things and it is just a matter of curiosity to me, if the Chairman of the Drafting Committee could give us a special reason why there is such a need for stressing irrigation. There are also other important needs, not just irrigation.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Este párrafo 9 fue debatido con bastante cuidado y hubo bastantes intervenciones. Se planteó en estos términos porque los miembros, varios miembros, plantearon la necesidad de considerar también entre las posibilidades futuras de zonas de secano la utilización del riego. Que no se olvidase también las posibilidades de riego en zonas de secano. Esa fue la intención única de que las zonas de secano futuras tuviesen también oportunidad de utilizar el riego. Ese fue el objetivo por el cual se incluye "el riego en zonas de secano"..

CHAIRMAN: If you agree, we will leave it as it is because the previous sentence says "Food aid should be used to stimulate food production" but irrigation in drought-prone areas has been picked up as one of the useful areas.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): So as not to cause confusion it would probably help us to say "Among others".

CHAIRMAN: You want to add "Among others the usefulness of food aid to introduce or promote irrigation in rainfed areas, and particularly in chronically drought-prone areas, was stressed." Thank you.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 13 se dice: El Consejo tomó nota de que el Convenio Internacional del Trigo se había ampliado. Ampliado, repito, en inglés "extended". Ampliado en español da la impresión de haber sido aumentado. Yo creo que es mejor decir que se había "prorrogado".

M. TATIETA (Haute Volta): Au lieu de "existant" je propose qu'on mette "actuelle".

CHAIRMAN: No problems. We are on paragraph 14.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En el párrafo 14, en la segunda frase, creemos que se presenta la posición del Consejo en forma muy débil al decir: "se hizo referencia al carácter innovador". Creo que aquí estuvimos de acuerdo en reconocer el carácter innovador. Debería decir: se reconoció igualmente el carácter innovador, etc., etc.

CHAIRMAN: The Colombian delegation has proposed that in the second sentence "Recognition was given to the innovative character of the Director-General's proposals for a good security action programme". Instead of "Reference was made", "Recognition was given".

R. SALLERY (Canada): It is just a typographical error I think in line 4 of the English text. I am quite certain that the Director-General's proposals are for a good food security programme, it should probably be "food security programme" or add "good food security programme".

CHAIRMAN: We accept both these amendments.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like to propose a few words at the end of paragraph 16 and it would be as follows, after "the Council." I would propose to add the following words "and the responsibilities of the other bodies." The reason for this is I think the statement is quite neutral, we do not indicate what we have to do with other bodies but this has been mentioned during the debate. It has been indicated in the terms of reference of the mandate given in the previous Council. It is indicated in paragraph 81 of the report of the Committee on Food Security. It is indicated in the previous Council and also in the report of the Seventh Committee on Food Security but probably that is not material, but the fact is that this has been mentioned in the debate and we do not think that the Committee on Food Security exists in a vacuum, it exists in the reality or the fact that there are other bodies existing right now. We do not indicate here what we have to do with the other bodies. We have just indicated we should bear in mind the responsibilities of other bodies.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We think our colleague has been very eloquent on this subject but we would like to draw his attention to the fact that the sentence starts with "The Council urged all international agencies and institutions" so there is already a reference and when the sentence ends it is talking about the broader and wider concepts as adopted by the Committee on Food Security and as debated by the Council, so bringing in other bodies at the end of the sentence would not be consistent or logical following from the sense that the sentence has and so since "the other bodies" is already there I think it is redundant to include another statement.

H. F. NAJEB (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): I also want to draw the attention of the representative of the Philippines to what has been said by Pakistan. The second sentence already covers what the delegate of the Philippines has said. And I think it is a mere repetition of what has already been said.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En el mismo sentido, es una cuestión que discutimos con alguna profundidad en el seno del Comité de Redacción. Creemos que la redacción que resultó es una redacción que cubre inclusive la preocupación que está planteando el Delegado de Filipinas. Realmente, creemos que esta adición lo único que hace es complicar las cosas y afearlas. No le veo sentido a que se incorpore la recomendación del Delegado de Filipinas.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation is quite flexible. If you do not want it at the end of the sentence we can put in the previous sentence - "Taking into account the responsibilities of other bodies". After all, in the mandate given to the Committee on World Food Security it was indicated that it should take into account the responsibilities of other bodies. This was mentioned in the debate and in paragraph 81 of the Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and in the previous Council meeting. I do not think that such an expression should cause any difficulty for anybody, because, as indicated earlier, it is a mutual expression, it does not indicate what we should do with the other bodies. It says that we should strengthen the Committee on Food Security. At the same time we do not want to indicate that in the strengthening of the CFS we should not take into account the existing reality in the UN bodies as they are constituted by governments.

CHAIRMAN: I hope the present proposal of the Philippines is clear. The suggestion is: "In view of the complexity and persistence of food security problems, there was wide support for a strengthening of the CFS within its existing terms of reference, taking into account the responsibilities of other bodies".

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Nosotros tenemos que informar y el Consejo decidirá. La discusión en el seno del Comité de Redacción fue amplia y profunda en este sentido. Se consideró lo que la Representación de Filipinas ha planteado de que en la Plenaria hubo quienes expusieron esta situación y consideramos que cuando se dice: "El Consejo instó a todos los Organismos e Instituciones Internacionales interesados en los problemas alimentarios a cooperar estrechamente y coordinar sus esfuerzos con el propósito de evitar la duplicación", en este párrafo estamos incluyendo los organismos; pero, repito, que es una consideración discutida en el Comité de Redacción, analizada profundamente y debe decidirla este Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: Is this explanation satisfactory to you, Philippines? No?

S. A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): I personally find it a little difficult to follow the actual meaning of the suggestion made by the Philippines. Here we are talking about the strengthening of the CFS within its existing terms of reference and then going over to taking into account the responsibilities of other bodies. This does not appear to be very consistent, particularly as in the next sentence we come to: "The Council urged all international agencies and institutions dealing with food issues to cooperate closely and coordinate their efforts...". So the first sentence is dealing with something entirely different, and the aspect of closer cooperation between all other agencies has been covered by the second sentence.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Paragraph 20 takes care of the remark of the delegate of the Philippines: "bearing in mind the responsibilities of other FAO technical bodies", unless he has in mind something else.

Paragraph 82 of the Report which he has mentioned also reads: "In view of the persistence and complexity of food security problems throughout the world, there was wide support for a gradual strengthening of the Committee withing its existing mandate". There is nothing mentioned about responsibilities of other bodies. It is not important. It is just the insistence sometimes in tryingto overemphasize something which really defeats the purpose. I hope the Philippines will be helpful.

H.CARANDANG (Philippines): I am trying to be helpful and I hope that my suggestion will not cause any difficulty to anybody because I thought it was a neutral expression. In fact it is so neutral that it has been accepted by the previous Committee on Food Security, and if I may be allowed to read paragraph 81, those same words were indicated: "With its mandate, terms of reference and open membership, the Committee provided the appropriate consultative forum for governments to analyze the World Food Security problem from all aspects and to make recommendations for policy action taking into account the responsibilities of other bodies". This is referring to the mandate of the Committee on Food Security. I was wondering why we should not take account of the responsibilities of other bodies. I understand that it is a neutral statement. We do not say you should not change them. We just say keep them in mind, they are in existence, you do not exist in a vacuum, you have to take account of realities. You are not indicating that these mandates are untouchable, that we cannot change them, giving due consideration. We just have to live with realities that there are other responsibilities, other bodies that have been created by the governments that are sitting here.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): The explanation given by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee is very valid and with your indulgence I would try to explain to the Philippines. The paragraph as it stands has two basic ideas that it is trying to convey. The first is in the first sentence, regarding the strengthening of the CFS, and as far as any delegation may have concern about the strengthening of the CFS it stipulates that within the existing terms of reference. So that takes care of that and there is no problem there.

The second sentence refers to the achievement of common goals with the revised concepts of world food security. It starts with asking international agencies and institutions to cooperate and coordinate. By asking them to cooperate and coordinate you are recognizing the fact that there are other agencies, they have mandates and they require to coordinate and cooperate. That is why we are insisting that what the Philippines is suggesting is not relevant, it is redundant, it does not add to anything. The way the second sentence is worded now it takes care in a more eloquent way of the concerns of the other agencies existing in the UN system. That is why we are perhaps retarding progress unnecessarily.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Speaking as Director-General, to see in FAO's Council meeting such an insistence to defend and over-defend and protect the interests of other bodies which are fully recognized, causes irritation, because it is semantics. You are trying to protect so much the interests of other bodies which we fully recognize in many statements that have been made. It is semantics. It does not add anything. All the Members of the Drafting Committee were in agreement, including United States, New Zealand and France. This insistence is just irritating, at least for the Director-General, who has in view the interests of this Organization.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Yo creo que tendrá usted realmente que considerar los planteamientos que hemos estado haciendo en el sentido de que la proposición del distinguido colega de Filipinas es redundante y no aporta nada nuevo ni útil a este párrafo, que fue discutido ampliamente en el Comité de Redacción y que además lo que él está tratando de incorporar como concepto en este párrafo con la redacción que sugiere ya esta incluido como concepto dentro del párrafo, como lo dijo el Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Estamos perdiendo el tiempo deteniéndonos en una discusión que resulta inútil y que es un poco repetir discusiones que hemos tenido en otros foros en el pasado y que no llevan a ningún aspecto positivo ni resuelve ninguna situación de manera adecuada en beneficio de nuestra Organización.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I had not really wanted to intervene on this matter because it is not one on which I feel very strongly, but I am bound to express some concern when I hear Members saying that words have an interpretation which in my view they do not have.

The sentence to which everybody is referring on other international agencies in my interpretation simply asks that there be a continuing close cooperation and coordination.

The point that the Philippines has made is in my view a different one. He is referring to the question of how the CFS should proceed in consideration of its role within its terms of reference, having regard to the responsibilities and the functions of other bodies.

I am not trying to take a view one way or the other, but I must ask that we distinguish between two different matters. The question of whether the Council wish to include the suggestion of the Philippines is a matter for decision. I cannot accept that we can simply avoid it by pretending that the words in the draft cover it as it stands at the moment.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que en la discusión sobre este punto hay que tener en cuenta que nos hallamos ahora considerando la parte referente al informe del octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, del Comité Asesor del Consejo; yo creo que esto hay que tenerlo en cuenta y estoy plenamente de acuerdo con lo que han dicho otros colegas, particularmente el de Pakistán, sobre el concepto amplio y bastante adecuado que ya se contiene en la segunda frase del párrafo 16.

Estoy tratando de entender la insistencia del colega de Filipinas y por eso no había intervenido, pero creo que el párrafo como está, sobre todo referente al informe del CSA, es suficiente.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): My delegation was one of the Drafting Group Members and as such I am well aware of the extensive and involved discussion in that Group to get to the text that we have here. There are two questions. There is the point of fact that the Philippines delegate is suggesting, and I agree with the United Kingdom on this, that it is slightly different than the thought in the paragraph already. The second point is one of principle. Those of us in the Drafting Group could be described as either privileged or dwelt upon, my point being that a Member of the Council not a Member of the Drafting Group is of course not party to these lengthy and extensive discussions and compromises. What I am really saying is, I have some sympathy with the difficulty of delegates not on the Drafting Group to get other matters in after careful compromises have been reached. So I have a little concern with the principle.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We have no dispute with the principle being enunciated by New Zealand. However, we are a little intrigued by the very eloquent intervention by the United Kingdom delegate. When we were saying that within the existing terms of reference of the CFS, unless the delegate of the United Kingdom is proposing that the terms of reference of the CFS should be changed and the terms of reference of the CFS do not recognize other bodies, that is an entirely different matter. We are saying that the strengthening of the CFS within the existing terms of reference recognizes other institutions, so there is perhaps no need to add a sentence thereafter.

CHAIRMAN: In the light of the clarification given by New Zealand that these issues were discussed in great detail in the Drafting Committee and by consensus this paragraph has been developed, will the Philippines still want to make a modification?

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I hope my statement will not cause irritation to anybody and I hope also that my intervention will not re-open the debate that we had at great length on this, but the fact is that when we talk about "the so-called clearing house concept within the terms "of reference, it has a connotation which is said to be within the terms of reference of the CFS, but on the other hand, it seems to be a prerequisite for the other bodies to be able to discuss issues.

If you say that this first sentence recognizes those responsibilities of other bodies, probably with the debate going on, it will be already indicated, but I am still at a difficulty why such a neutral word would cause difficulties to people if it really did not mean anything. Either it means something or it means nothing. If it means something, then there is a little substance in this, and if it means nothing, then I am willing to cancel it.

Now the fact that it is being resisted by some delegations means that it probably means something, and in my own personal humble opinion, it really means something. I still have to be convinced by Pakistan that it is redundant.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Nosotros queremos tratar, porque sabemos que esta decisión la tiene que tomar el Consejo, tratar de explicar una cuestión que lamentablemente, aunque la distinguida delegación de Filipinas no quiere que nos irrite, es posible que lo logre en la forma en que lo plantea.

Quiero aclarar que la representación de Filipinas en su primera intervención planteó que era una cosa neutra, una cosa sin importancia; por eso planteábamos nosotros que no era tan neutral y sin importancia, que era otra cosa, que quien la define es la representación del Reino Unido. Yo veo, sencillamente, una situación que hemos discutido ampliamente y llegamos a esta redacción porque lo que presenta Filipinas es darle responsabilidades dentro del CFA a otros organismos cuando no puedan tener responsabilidad dentro, y lo que se hace es reconocer y pedir, instarlos a cooperar estrechamente y coordinar esfuerzos porque sabemos que existen, los respetamos, sabemos que existen, pero no se les puede dar responsabilidades dentro del CFS. Eso es lo que queríamos aclarar, que el problema es el concepto que estamos discutiendo.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think we have found the solution. Paragraph 16, second sentence would read: "The Council urged all international agencies and institutions dealing with food issues to cooperate closely and coordinate their efforts, keeping in mind their respective mandate...etc".

Is it satisfactory?

CHAIRMAN: The Director-General has found a solution which is acceptable to the Philippines. The first sentence remains as it is. The second sentence says "The Council urged all international agencies and institutions dealing with food issues to cooperate closely and coordinate their efforts, keeping in mind their respective mandates".

A. FEQUANT (France): Tout à fait d'accord.

CHAIRMAN: United States? You agree?

Well, thank you all very much. We are grateful to the Director-General for finding a satisfactory solution.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): Dans le sous-chapitre "Formation" du paragraphe 18 je pense qu'il manque certaines précisions. On dit: "Les compétences professionnelles dans les pays d'Afrique à faible revenu". On ne dit pas si ces ressources sont inexistantes ou si elles sont réduites. Je voudrais donc faire une proposition: "Les compétences professionnelles dans les pays d'Afrique à faible

revenu sont limitées. Pour y remédier, il faut former du personnel au niveau et dans la gestion;" Je propose que l'on ajoute: "cette formation concerne également du personnel de niveau moyen dans les techniques de communication;" Dernières adjonctions: "la formation concerne en outre les travailleurs des deux sexes dans les contextes écologique, économique et social propres à l'Afrique."

Le reste est sans changement.

B. DJIBRIL (Bénin): Je reviens en arrière, et à propos du paragraphe 17, je voudrais faire l'amendement suivant: "Le Conseil a partagé la vive inquiétude du Comité quant à la dégradation "

au lieu de dire: "la vive inquiétude inspirée au Comité par la dégradation de la situation alimentaire".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much; it has been noted. Any other comment?

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I hope the undertaking I gave by gesture to the Director-General will not be regarded as broken by my request for the floor on paragraph 21.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask, if I may, through you the Chairman of the Drafting Committee if he could explain the interpretation that the Drafting Committee would wish us to take on the second sentence of the paragraph. I recall, of course, the point being made by a number of Members, but I am a little unclear as to whether the way this sentence starts is intended to be an inference that the matter is reflecting a view by the Council.

Could I ask for some clarification?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Este párrafo fue propuesto adicionar dentro del Comité y nos llevo varias horas de discusión, como dijimos al principio, palabra por palabra, frase por frase. El objetivo sencillo es que esto fue expresado en Plenaria y el párrafo, en circunstancias de discusión, fue negociado dentro del Comité de Redacción inclusive, podemos decir, por la distinguida delegación de Francia quien busco la última redacción del párrafo y que fue aceptada en estos términos.

Queremos expresar esto porque el objetivo del párrafo era expresar lo que varias delegaciones habían planteado en el seno del Consejo, y por eso dice "Con referencia a la asistencia".

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): As I recall, and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee can correct me if I am wrong, but it seemed to me that the wording of this is not exactly as it was accepted or negotiated in the Drafting Committee. The wording that I recall but do not have in front of me was: "A solemn appeal was launched to the Council" rather than "to them", but I am not sure of the wording beyond that.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): To add to the explanation of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, it is indeed true, in an effort to explain it to UK, that this paragraph was debated upon at great length, and the second part of the paragraph was broken away from the first part precisely to look after the concerns which are being expressed by the UK, and now the way it reads is: "A solemn appeal was launched to them". This sentence does not closely associate itself with the Council. It can be read as a solemn appeal by some Members, many Members, a majority of Members, whatever. It does not now refer to the Council, and I do not want to question the excellent memory the USA has, but this is the final wording which was approved as a compromise, because the appeal is being launched not only to the Council Members but generally.

CHAIRMAN: Since this has been developed obviously into a long discussion, shall we leave this as it is? Thank you.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I would prefer not to leave it as it is, this last part of paragraph 21.

CHAIRMAN: With new wording? Would you like to suggest something?

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): As we agreed, in our view of what we agreed to, it was an appeal to the Council, not to everybody else, but the French might be able to straighten this out since it was their compromise solution.

CHAIRMAN: As the United States delegate suggested now, it would read: "A solemn appeal was launched to them to refrain from strengthening the economic potential of South Africa". The previous sentence says: "... member countries of FAO and international financing organizations", so really the appeal is to member countries of FAO and international financial organizations to refrain from strengthening", and I am not very sure what the Council itself - I mean it was an appeal to the Council.

Would you like to clarify, United States?

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): Could we come back to this, Mr. Chairman? I want to look something up.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I wanted to say that it did not make any sense that an appeal should be made to the Council by the Council. I do not know what it means. I was just wondering what is intended by the words, "to the Council".

I wanted to say also that a solemn appeal is a neutral expression; it does not bind the Council itself. I think that was a subterfuge. It is purposely ambiguous so that those who want it to mean... some Members could understand it that way.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Nosotros específicamente podemos tratar de recordar a la distinguida delegación de Estados Unidos, con la cual discutimos en un tono muy cordial, muy normal, durante bastante tiempo y en una pausa que hicimos, específicamente una pausa para buscar algunas negociaciones internas, que Francia hizo la proposición y se quitó la palabra "Consejo" al iniciar el párrafo, para que no fuera el Consejo el que le pidiera al FMI, y se incluyó "el Consejo pidió a los miembros de FAO", esta frase, específicamente (yo lo tengo apuntado aquí). Y no queremos dudar de la memoria de los Estados Unidos. Pero esta frase fue la que dio el punto y en la cual la delegación de Estados Unidos nos dijo específicamente "así, sí aceptamos". En ese sentido fue que se aceptó que no se dijera al principio "el Consejo", y se pusiera que el Consejo pidió a los miembros de FAO, para que no sea un llamamiento al Fondo Monetario Internacional por el Consejo. Esta fue la discusión en términos internos.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Après les explications que vient de nous donner le président du Comité de rédaction, je crois qu'entre-temps le distingué délégué des Etats-Unis a dû retrouver ses notes; pour ma part j'ai retrouvé les miennes. Le texte qui nous est proposé est fidèle à celui adopté au Comité de rédaction. Nous étions parmi ceux qui avaient proposé ce texte; lorsque je regarde mes notes, il y a beaucoup de ratures, et au-dessus de ces ratures il y a le texte tel qu'il est libellé ici.

K.A. BABIKER (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): I wish to draw the attention of the Drafting Committee to the fact that the matter is very clear in Arabic and the Council has solemnly appealed to it "to refrain from supporting the economic capacities of South Africa". How it is confused in English, I do not know, Mr. Chairman.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Las declaraciones que han hecho el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, y particularmente mi vecino de la derecha, el distinguido Embajador del Congo, nos confirman el hecho de que este párrafo fue muy balanceado y discutido con mucha ponderación en el Comité de Redacción. Yo creo que si seguimos discutiendo este párrafo vamos a presentar nuevos argumentos.

En realidad, este párrafo recoge lo que dijeron aquí muchas delegaciones. De manera que la delegación de Colombia propone firmemente que se adopte este párrafo tal como está, y se pase al párrafo 22.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Realmente llegamos a este párrafo después de largas discusiones, como lo mencionaba el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y algunos otros colegas. Realmente fue el resultado de un compromiso al que llegamos después de una discusión muy amplia. Realmente, la redacción como está nos parece adecuada. Fue lo que acordamos. Yo también revisé mis notas y es lo que acordamos. Me extraña un poquito que ahora se vuelva a plantear que la discusión fue diferente o que la redacción fue diferente. Creo que esta redacción recoge lo que acordamos dentro de un compromiso general de nuestras discusiones en el Comité de Redacción. Entonces, yo solicitaría atentamente a la delegación de Estados Unidos que nos mantengamos en lo que discutimos y en lo que acordamos en el Comité de Redacción,

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I accept the explanation of the Drafting Committee Chairman that this was the way it ended up. I do not find my notes anyway but I am told by another delegation that actually, what was probably giving me trouble, was the "to them". He said that was not in the actual final draft, he thought.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): There was a well known English saying which I am sure you know well, "Where ignorance is bliss, it is folly to be wise". I raised the point genuinely because I did want an understanding of the interpretation, and I can say that I am wholly satisfied with the explanation given to me by the Drafting Committee and as it was amplified by the delegate of Pakistan and others, and certainly as far as my delegation is concerned we are totally happy to let the paragraph go through as it stands.

Paragraphs 1 to 21, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados.

Paragraphs 22 to 44 approved

Les paragraphes 22 à 44 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 22 a 44 son aprobados

Draft Report Part III, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la pionière, troisième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE IV

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 8

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 8

PARRAFOS 1 a 8

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Proponemos que después de la última frase del párrafo 8 se agregue otra frase que diría como sigue: "Igualmente se reconoció el apoyo que la FAO ofrece a las Organizaciones Regionales y Subregiones en América Latina y el Caribe". Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultad, lo dijimos alguna delegación durante el debate.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of the distinguished delegate of Colombia is in paragraph 8 after "FAO was commended, etc.", another sentence to be added, "FAO is giving support to regional and sub-regional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean".

Mr. Sole-Leris says, "It was also recognized that FAO", so that it does not come as a blunt statement. "It was also recognized that FAO is giving support to regional and sub-regional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean". Is that acceptable?

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

Paragraph 11 approved

Le paragraphe 11 est approuvé

El párrafo 11 es aprobado !

Paragraph 12 approved

Le paragraphe 12 est approuvé

El párrafo 12 es aprobado

Paragraphs 13 and 14 approved

Les paragraphes 13 et 14 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 y 14 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 15 to 56

PARAGRAPHES 15 à 56

PARRAFOS 15 a 56

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): At just the last but one sentence of paragraph 15 the Report says, "The Council expressed unanimous praise that this has been achieved by vigorous and often painful curtailments". There was quite a bit of discussion on this, I think, in the Council. I am not too sure whether it was agreed generally that the curtailments were painful; they were certainly vigorous, that is not denied. One or two delegations did say that the effect of the administrative reduction might not influence the quality of the work being done by the Organization. We are being too critical here of the Director-General by saying "painful". I am wondering whether it should come out. This is just a suggestion.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: You were talking a few minutes ago about the principle that members of the Drafting Committee should support the text they have approved. This was sent by the Drafting Committee and approved.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we leave it as it is? We move on to paragraph 16.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Al final del párrafo 16 aparece en español el término "contradictorias", en inglés creo se dice "conflicting". Yo trato de entender la intención del Comité de Redacción, pero no refleja ni en inglés ni en español lo que se quiere decir. No he encontrado ninguna otra palabra para reemplazar ese término; sería conveniente suprimir la última palabra del párrafo 16 y que este párrafo terminara simplemente "entre múltiples solicitudes".

A. FEQUANT (France): On pourrait dire "apparemment contradictoires".

CHAIRMAN: Shall we leave it as it is? There are many competing requests so obviously one has to develop some priorities, otherwise there will be no priorities. Shall we go on to the following paragraphs?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Leyendo con atención el párrafo 20, especialmente al final, tenemos la impresión de que aquí se expresa el juicio, la opinión del Comité de Finanzas y no la del Consejo. Voy a ensayar una redacción total, espero que no será complicar el párrafo 20, que tendería sobre todo a aclarar la opinión del Consejo. Diría así el párrafo 20: "en particular, el Consejo estuvo de acuerdo con el examen cabal y detallado efectuado por el Comité de Finanzas de la metodología para calcular y presentar los aumentos de los costos correspondientes a 1984/85, que se ajustaban totalmente a la práctica anterior aprobada por la Conferencia y el Consejo de la FAO". Es el mismo texto pero dando la opinión del Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: Let me read out the amendment suggested by the delegate of Colombia on paragraph 20:

"In particular the Council agreed with the thorough and detailed review carried out by the Finance Committee of the methodology for calculating and presenting cost increases for 1984-85, which were in full agreement with previous practice as approved by FAO Conference and Council."

The Chairman of the Drafting Committee agrees. Instead of saying "took note" we change it to "agreed". Is this acceptable?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Espero que esta modificación no ofrezca dificultad. Tanto en el texto español como en el inglés aparece el término "permeabilidad", al final del párrafo 29. Nos parece más adecuado decir: "por su constante atención a la ulterior orientación"; orientación, en vez de permeabilidad, de los programas y actividades de la FAO hacia estos conceptos. Lo consideramos más pertinente y quiere decir lo mismo.

JIN XIANGYUN (China) (Original language Chinese): In paragraph 29 it is mentioned that "The Council also underlined with great satisfaction the emphasis on economic cooperation between developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries". We propose that one sentence be added at the end of the paragraph as follows:

"The Council appreciated the new dimensions FAO has executed in the field projects, that is the utilization of capacities of developing countries themselves and hoped that these new dimensions be further executed in the Programme of Work 1984-85."

CHAIRMAN: We have two points now. Colombia has suggested that the word "permeation" is not a very satisfactory one and "orientation" was suggested. I do not know whether "orientation" would be suitable: "further integration of these concepts into FAO's programmes and activities" may probably be more appropriate than "orientation". Let us first settle this and then go on to China's proposal.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): I have no knowledge of the Spanish language and, with the little knowledge I have of the English language I think the word "permeation" really connotes the spirit we want to inculcate here. I would therefore request Colombia to leave the sentence as it is because we constantly keep hearing, for instance, of WCARRD follow-up permeating the activities and programmes of FAO. Similarly we want ACDC to go on permeating the work of the FAO.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I was just wondering whether a word which I would venture could properly express it, and I would dare to suggest the word "incorporation".

K.A. BABIKER (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): I think the word "permeation" should become "deepening". We could deepen these concepts.

CHAIRMAN: Well, we have "orientation", and we have "deepening".

A. PEREZ-MARSA HERNANDEZ (España): Consideramos que el texto español tiene más sentido como lo ha expresado el Embajador de Colombia. También se podría cambiar por lo siguiente: y elogio al Director General por su constante atención a la ultérieure dirección de los programas y actividades de la FAO hacia estos conceptos.

En el texto español quedaría correcto.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Les parecerá curioso, pero estuvimos discutiendo bastante este concepto de la "permeabilidad" en el Comité de Redacción, y siendo nosotros los que debemos defender el idioma estuvimos de acuerdo en el concepto de que la permeabilidad significa el hecho de que los conceptos, la atención vaya permeando, vaya impregnando en los programas y las actividades de la Organización.

Aunque la palabra se vea mal y puede ser que no sea un castellano perfecto, la idea que se quiere incorporar sí da la idea que se quiere incorporar, y que en inglés parece adecuada. Esa es la explicación que damos al problema.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shall we leave it as it is?

H.F. NAJEB (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): This discussion took a long time in the Drafting Committee and the objective is to introduce a gradual and continuous concept of this training, and we believe the present formulation, both in Arabic and in English, is appropriate. We can leave it to the Spanish speaking delegations to draft the Spanish text accordingly.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we now take up the Chinese suggestion for two additional sentences to the effect that the Council appreciated the new dimensions FAO has adopted in its field projects, that is, the utilization of the capacities of the developing countries themselves, and so on? Is this all right for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee?

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We completely endorse the proposal of China and as a matter of fact, as I recollect, it was also my delegation during the Plenary who raised and praised these new dimensions.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Drafting Committee says if the members agree he agrees, so shall we adopt? I think it is a very good suggestion. I am grateful to the Chinese delegate.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En el párrafo 41, después de que termina: "zonas económicas exclusivas", ahí iría un punto y seguido. Se eliminaría la palabra "pero" y empezaríamos con: menciono las contribuciones crecientes. Después seguiríamos y donde dice: "pesca continental", sería otro punto y seguido. Quitaríamos: "las cuales y le recomendó que debían recibir atención adecuada, etc., etc., hasta el final de la oración donde dice: y los programas de ayuda,; aquí se acordó agregar: y financiamiento exterior.

Si quiere, Señor Presidente, lo repito con mucho gusto:

El Consejo subrayó la importancia del desarrollo de la pesca marítima en el nuevo contexto de jurisdicción extendida sobre las Zonas Económicas Exclusivas. Mencionó también las contribuciones crecientes y potenciales a los suministros alimentarios que ofrecen la acuicultura y la pesca continental. Recomendó que debían recibir atención adecuada en los planes de desarrollo nacionales y los programas de ayuda y financiamiento exterior. Aquí pondríamos punto final.

M. TATIETA (Haute-Volta): Je crois que le délégué du Mexique a relevé la faute, "le Conseil a souligné ..." et ensuite on dit "ils ont également souligné" et "ils ont donc recommandé". Là on a mis au pluriel alors qu'il s'agit du Conseil.

CHAIRMAN: The French text can be suitably adapted. So shall we adopt the Mexican suggestion? I see you agree.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): On paragraph 51, Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate that the Drafting Committee, throughout its lengthy deliberations, have tried wherever possible to reflect the Council view in the draft presented to us, as against the majority or minority views. I agree this is the appropriate way to proceed and generally my delegation has gone along with this even in cases where we could not fully accept the point being made but it seems to me wholly inappropriate to adopt this practice when it does not actually accord with or reflect the tenor of debate. As you will understand, my delegation holding the views that it does, and which it expressed during the discussion, could not be associated with an expression of concern by the Council on the so-called "symbolic" percentage growth expressed in the first sentence. What we said in the debate we stick by. I think the only way round this is to adopt the traditional way out of problems of this sort and if I may suggest that the sentence in paragraph 51, the first sentence that is, should simply start "Concern" or "Great concern was expressed". I hope this will be seen as acceptable, otherwise I may have to suggest an alternative but may I put that suggestion to you first.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Just to explain to my friends in the United Kingdom, we had a particularly lengthy and elaborate debate on this paragraph in the Drafting Committee and the concerns of some of those members who were not too happy but accepted zero growth, that has been expressed in the last sentence, and that last sentence was actually included on the insistence of one of the member countries in the Drafting Committee. And since that last sentence says that "Some members, whilst recalling their position on real 'zero growth' in the UN budgets" etc. That reflects the position of some of the members, that is why the original sentence was "The Council". Now that is the general position that when you are talking about the Council and if there are some differing views those differing views are given in the last sentence. So that does not bind all the members because both points of view have been given in the paragraph.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am trying to be helpful only. I think the Council means the majority of the members. It is not that the Council should mean, here and every time, the unanimity, all the members of the Council. This is why later on there are "some members" which means it was not unanimous, the Council was not unanimous in expressing this concern. This is my understanding but it is up to you, I will accept whatever you decide.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I am sorry that the explanation given by my good friend from Pakistan, and indeed, what has been said by the Director-General, does not meet the point. I fully accept that in the latter part of the paragraph certain views of a number of members, it says some members, are reflected; but the Director-General is now suggesting that where we have used throughout this draft "the Council" it should not necessarily mean that it had unanimous agreement. I find this rather strange because I believe that, as I said in my introductory remarks, the attempt throughout this draft had been to find a way in which the Council was expressing a view, an agreement, an endorsement and again I have to say that I hope that it will be understood why my delegation could not feel able to associate itself with an expression of concern about a small real growth in the Programme. This is precisely what my government and many other governments have been urging on the Director-General and on which in fact we complimented him during the course of the debate. This is not in any way to deny that a large number of the Council had contrary views but again I feel I have to say that if it is not acceptable to the Council to change the wording in the way that I have suggested I will have no alternative but to ask for some footnote to be added, and I prefer not to do that.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Comme l'a déjà dit mon collègue du Pakistan, ce point a soulevé beaucoup de discussions au sein de notre Comité de rédaction. Mais nous pensons que le texte qui est proposé ici est un compromis que nous avons pu réaliser au sein de ce Comité. Il est le reflet exact des discussions que nous avons eues pendant plusieurs heures sur cette question. Nous pensons que les tenants de la croissance zéro étaient bien représentés au sein de ce Comité et si nous sommes arrivés à un consensus sur ce paragraphe 51 c'est que le paragraphe a été balancé. Le texte qui est là exprime tous les points de vue. Certains avaient suggéré qu'on mette "la majorité" mais ce terme, comme vous l'avez vu pendant l'examen que nous avons fait de tous les documents cet après-midi, a toujours été évité dans la mesure du possible. Cela rejoint ce que disait l'honorable délégué du Royaume-Uni. Nous pensons que le texte qui est là est un compromis qui devrait être adopté en l'état.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Nosotros quisiéramos ver si podemos ayudar a la delegación del Reino Unido en su análisis, porque me parece que la forma en que el Director General lo explico era conclusiva. El dice que no ve, y yo quisiera decir que una de las cuestiones por las cuales peco nuestro Comité de Redacción fue la flexibilidad en cuanto a que hubo puntos con más de treinta o cuarenta intervenciones; fue un gran entrenamiento, una gran toma de experiencia y este fue un punto en el que tengo apuntadas cuarenta y dos intervenciones.

Si la redacción en inglés es tal como está en español, le podemos quitar la preocupación al Reino Unido. Dice "El Consejo expreso su gran preocupación por el porcentaje "simbolico" del crecimiento real del programa, un 0,5 por ciento". Esto inclusive se puso buscando actas y que el porcentaje simbolico fue planteado casi unánimemente. En la práctica significa un "crecimiento cero"; también en las actas se reconoce que eso fue un "crecimiento cero", "principio que la mayoría", fíjese como aquí se salva la responsabilidad de los que tienen planteado el crecimiento cero; "principio que la mayoría de los miembros rechazaba decididamente". Además de eso, como una transacción se aceptó el último párrafo de que: "Algunos Miembros acordaron su posición respecto del "crecimiento cero en los presupuestos". Creo que está recogida toda la preocupación, que es una mayoría de miembros, pero que el porcentaje era simbólico fue unánime, la gran mayoría rechazó debidamente el caso de "crecimiento cero", y eso fue constatado con actas.

DIRECTOR GENERAL: I do not like this paragraph very much myself, because it is blaming me for having adopted a zero growth approach. I think that three countries who are in favour of zero growth were Members of the Drafting Committee and they have accepted this paragraph.

I insist that when we say "the Council" I do not take it that it is a unanimous decision by everybody. I would be naive to believe that "the Council" means all its Members. "The Council" means a majority because the Council decides by a majority, not by unanimity. But if the United Kingdom delegate wants to add a footnote, of course he is free to introduce a reservation by "one delegate" or "more than one delegate". He will be helping me, because the text gives the impression that, the concern was unanimous and everybody is blaming me for this zero growth.

In the report, we have hundred times "the Council". It does not mean that hundred times the Council was unanimous in approving, endorsing or noting. I think this is important, because for me "the Council" means a majority, not unanimity - I wish it were always unanimity.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): First let me make it quite clear that I raised this point in the hope that the view of my Government and the position we have taken would in no way be misunderstood. Notwithstanding what the Director-General has said, in this particular case the Council is expressing concern, it is not actually agreeing to something or endorsing something. It is an expression which the United Kingdom as a Member of the Council is directly invited to be associated with. I hope I am not being pedantic, but it is very difficult for my Government to express itself as satisfied with an expression when, quite contrary to the sentiment expressed here of concern, we are complimenting the Director-General and the Organization that it is able to produce programmes for which financial resources in the next biennium can be kept to a much lower level.

The other possible way, if one does not like the expression 'great concern was expressed' or alternatively 'the majority of Members', which I agree with the Congo is not desirable, could I ask if the insertion of the word 'generally' after 'Council' would be acceptable, and then I think I would be able to go along with the Director-General's interpretation.

CHAIRMAN: The United Kingdom delegate suggests: 'The Council generally expressed great concern at the "symbolic" percentage of real programme growth...' and the Director-General feels it is a good suggestion.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We are willing to consider that proposal by the United Kingdom, but we still find that if the paragraph were to end with the first sentence at 'Member Nations' we would understand the difficulty that the United Kingdom delegate has. But when we have the second sentence - and that second sentence was provided by Germany, it was not in the original text, to the Drafting Group, and while discussing that sentence the first part was changed to bring about a compromise to make sure that the views of the Members of the Council were correctly and accurately reflected. I would understand the United Kingdom's difficulties if the second sentence were not there, but the second sentence reflects the precise position of the United Kingdom. But in order to go ahead I would accept 'The Council generally expressed...'

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So we generally agree on paragraph 51.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En el párrafo 55, perdón que me atrase, es "muchos miembros", "muchos",

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 55 will read: 'Many Members drew attention in this connection to the striking disparity between world expenditure on armaments and inadequate resources devoted to the achievement of humanitarian and developmental goals such as those pursued by FAO.' Paragraph 56?

Paragraphs 15 to 56, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 15 à 56, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 15 a 56, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 57 approved

Le paragraphe 57 est approuvé

El párrafo 57 es aprobado

Paragraph 58 approved

Le paragraphe 58 est approuvé

El párrafo 58 es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 59, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 59, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 59, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: In paragraph 59, there is a corrigendum in the French text. So those who are reading the French text should refer to CL 83/REP 4/Corr.-1. So do we adopt the Resolution, the appointment of External Auditors?

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): En cuanto a la resolución habíamos quedado en donde dice "reconociendo los buenos y eficientes servicios", eliminar esta frase, "los buenos y eficientes" y se quedo en poner "eficaces". No sé si será un problema de traducción.

CHAIRMAN: Would you kindly settle with the Spanish text?

Paragraph 59 including Resolution, adopted

Le. paragraphe 59, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 59, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 60 to 62

PARAGRAPHE 60 à 62

PARRAFOS 60 a 62

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): Just a point of clarification on paragraph 62, where it says that the Council agreed after some discussion, the second point, 'the Joint Inspection Unit should be requested to provide a summary of each Report'. We certainly endorse that approach. However, it is not clear to us if the Joint Inspection Unit does not produce the summary whether a summary will be produced elsewhere or whether we will continue to operate on the basis of the full texts.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask Mr. Shah to answer.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): You will recall that the suggestion that the JIU should produce the summary of each of its Reports was made by the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the suggestion was accepted I believe by the Council. Of course there is no way to compel the JIU to provide such a summary on each of its Reports. The JIU might well react by saying that they provide a summary of each Report in their Annual Report on the work they have done for any one calendar year. It is for this reason that the other measures which were discussed during the Council debate feature in the rest of that paragraph - that is to say, let us assume the JIU does not provide a summary of each Report separately, the Programme and Finance Committees would continue to review the full JIU Reports as at present and the Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees would contain reference to the relevant elements of the JIU recommendations and of the views of the Director-General and the ACC. Furthermore, the full JIU Reports would be made available to the Council as information documents. Lastly, to cover the points raised by a number of delegations in the debate, notwithstanding the identification of any document as an information document, the Council of course would be fully within its rights to comment on any part of either the JIU Report or the views of the Director-General and/or the ACC. So I would say in conclusion that all these measures are indicated as the optimum desirable, but even if the JIU may not meet the wishes of the Council - and of course this is not a matter on which I can comment - the other measures indicated in that paragraph would still reflect the wishes of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: Is that satisfactory?

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I appreciate Mr. Shah's explanation. However, without a summary it infirms the proposal. We are then left with a Report from the Finance and Programme Committees, who have focussed on whatever happened to catch their fancy, but we have no overview of the paper itself. We are then put back to the situation where we are now of having to look at the entire Report.

I wonder whether it might not be useful to obtain views of the JIU on this very useful suggestion of preparing summaries which could be used throughout the UN system, not only for the use of the FAO. If that is not possible, then we come back to the question and look at it again.

CHAIRMAN: You are suggesting that we reword the first sentence here - 'JIU Reports would no longer be circulated as Council documents, subject to the JIU providing a summary of the Reports'. Until then we would like the status quo to remain.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Forgive me for requesting to respond again but at this stage I believe we are only trying to reflect in the Report the discussion of the Council. I do not recall during the debate on this item any Member of the Council commenting on the suggestion of the Chairman of the Programme Committee by suggesting that this matter should first be checked with the JIU. If the proposal is that the suggestion that the JIU Reports should no longer be circulated as Council documents be amended, I believe that is going back on the whole matter as recommended by the Programme and Finance Committees.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan) : Just to add a little to what Mr. Shah has already explained. As you would recollect, Mr. Chairman, this issue was discussed by the joint meeting - it was contained in the Report of the joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees, and out of the five things which are agreed upon in paragraph 62, four of them are contained in the joint Report of the Programme and Finance Committees,

The second one was given by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, who explained that the Programme Committee had requested the Chairman to orally present it to the Council, and when it was orally presented to the Council, it was accepted, and this in no way detracts from the other four in any way whatsoever, even if the Joint Inspection Unit does not agree to provide a summary, which most likely it will not. The other four agreements of the Council on the joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees still remain valid.

CHAIRMAN: Will this be satisfactory? The other four steps, particularly the one which says "full JIU reports" as well as the comments of the Director-General and the ACC would be available as required to the Council as INF documents, because it does have a clause.

P. GOSSELIN (Canada): I am not going to test the patience of the Council at this late hour with the point. However, it does seem strange to me now to find out that perhaps the probability of obtaining a summary on which all of this turns is highly unlikely. However, we will continue to examine the full reports, and the other members of the Council can do as they wish.

Paragraphs 60 to 62 approved

Les paragraphes 60 à 62 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 60 a 62 son aprobados

Paragraph 63 approved

Le paragraphe 63 est "approuvé"

El párrafo 63 es aprobado

Paragraphs 64 to 66 approved

Les paragraphes 64 à 66 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 64 a 66 son aprobados

Paragraphs 67 and 68 approved

Les paragraphes 67 et 68 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 67 y 68 son aprobados

Draft Report, Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport, quatrième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe, Parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE V

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V

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 6

PARAGRAPHERS 3 à 6

PARRAFOS 3 a 6

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho): In our opinion, paragraph 4 does not strongly reflect the views as expressed by Member Nations. We would appreciate if the following changes could be made in the wording of the paragraph: instead of "noted", we have "recognized"; "The Council recognized the serious imbalance of geographical representation among female staff from developed and developing countries, and recommended that among the candidatures presented by Member Governments they should include more women who were qualified for employment in the Secretariat, and asked FAO to improve this situation, inter alia requesting Member Governments to assist the Secretariat in providing suitable female candidates."

CHAIRMAN: The two suggestions of Lesotho are first, "The Council recognized" instead of "noted the serious imbalance", and then later, instead of saying "and was of the opinion", "and asked FAO to improve the situation".

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Yo tengo una duda, no sé de qué Secretaría se está hablando. Se menciona la Secretaría en dos ocasiones y realmente no sé de qué Secretaría estamos hablando. Si es la Secretaria de la FAO o es la FAO, o así se le llama. Es una duda.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Encargado, Dirección de Asuntos de la Conferencia y el Consejo y de Protocolo) : Para responder a la pregunta del distinguido delegado de México. Estrictamente hablando, la FAO son ustedes, son los Estados Miembros, y los que sirven a estos Estados Miembros son la Secretaría. Por eso aquí se ha puesto la Secretaría.

CHAIRMAN: So shall we then adopt the recommendation of Lesotho to make it stronger? Thank you.

A. FEQUANT (France): Je me demande si l'on peut dire que le Conseil demande quelque chose à la FAO, en français en tout cas c'est assez bizarre. Qu'est-ce qu'on entend par "la FAO"? Est-ce que c'est le Secrétariat? Est-ce que ce sont les Etats Membres? Mais "le Conseil demande à la FAO" me semble bizarre.

M. PHOOFOLO (Lesotho): Here we have problems with "asked". We could say "requested FAO", but basically that conveys the same meaning.

What we have in mind here is that "The Council recognized" that there is a terrific imbalance, called the attention of FAO to this imbalance, and by FAO, I believe we mean the staff members who come from Member Nations, so we recognize the imbalance and we request FAO, whose membership is composed of members from Member Nations to improve this situation. I believe in this case by FAO, we are referring to the staff.

CHAIRMAN: In that case, what I would suggest is if you want to say that, then it should be the DG/FAO. That answers the point of France, so we add "and request the DG/FAO to improve the situation".

Paragraphs 3 to 6, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 3 à 6, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 a 6, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 7 approved

Le paragraphe 7 est approuvé

El párrafo 7 es aprobado

Paragraphs 8 to 17 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 17 son aprobados

Draft Report - PART V, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport "cinquième partie, ainsi amendé", est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria - PARTE V, así enmendado, es apre

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 horas

council

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conseil

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consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 83/PV/18

Eighty-third Session

Quatre-vingt-troisième session

83° período de sesiones

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA
(24 June 1983)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours

M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 heures, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 18ª Sesión Plenaria a las 15.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: May I welcome you all to this concluding meeting of the Eighty-third Session of the Council.

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VI

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 10

PARAGRAPHEs 1 à 10

PARRAFOS 1 a 10

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): You may recall that we had made a slight request in the matter of the agenda that we wanted especial mention of the necessity of looking into the aspect of conservation of the coastal and inland fisheries resources. I just wanted to draw your attention to that.

CHAIRMAN: Are you suggesting the inclusion of a sentence somewhere? In which paragraph would you like to do this?

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): Paragraph 4. It says: "The Council endorsed the draft agendas for the two phases of the Conference which had been submitted to it in document CL 83/7"o Here we suggest that a sentence may possibly be added, or this sentence may continue with the modification that in agenda 1 the subject of conservation of coastal and inland fisheries resources be also included.

CHAIRMAN: I hope you have got the suggestion made by Bangladesh. I will read it out: "4. The Council endorsed the draft agendas for the two phases of the Conference which had been submitted to it in document CL 83/7 and suggested that the subject of conservation of coastal and inland fisheries resources may be also included". Is this acceptable?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): En la version española que tenemos aparece la frase: incluidas la pesca continental y la acuicultura. Si no aparece en los textos ingles y francés, será por un error.

CHAIRMAN: I think the suggestion of Bangladesh specifically deals with conservation of resources. Thank you. We accept this suggestion.

C. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Solamente una breve modificación al final del párrafo 8. Las últimas dos palabras dicen: "resultados previstos". Realmente debería decir: temas previstos.

Pensamos que es difícil que se tengan en cuenta aspectos financieros de los resultados, sino de los temas previstos en ambas fases de la Conferencia.

CHAIRMAN: The Mexican suggestion is that the last sentence in paragraph 8 should read: "A suggestion was also made that the financial aspects of the expected subjects of the Conference should be given due consideration at both its phases".

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Me parece, señor Presidente, que podemos decir a México que entendemos aquí que son los resultados de la Conferencia. Lo que quiere decir el párrafo es, los resultados de la Conferencia. Los resultados de la Conferencia, que eso sí puede ser previsto.

G. VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): No lo entendemos así, Señor Presidente. Dice: "también se sugirió que en ambas fases de la Conferencia se tuviesen debidamente en cuenta los aspectos financieros de los resultados previstos". ¿Cómo se puede estar previendo resultados, y además de prever resultados, prever los aspectos financieros?

El lenguaje no está claro; si lo que dice el Presidente del Comité de Redacción es tal, que se aclare el lenguaje pues a nosotros no nos resulta claro. No sé si será nada más nuestra impresión y si alguien la comparte. Si a todo el mundo le parece claro, por nuestra parte no insistiríamos.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Perhaps we could use the words "expected recommendations or action programmes" - I think I understand what the delegate is referring to - to give us some financial parameter, so we would have no objection to the word "recommendation".

CHAIRMAN: Are the recommendations satisfactory, Mexico? Change "outcome" to "expected recommendations of the Conference".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Vacilamos mucho Señor Presidente en intervenir sobre este proyecto de Informe, porque consideramos que ha sido uno de los mejores proyectos de Informe que se han presentado al Consejo de los últimos tiempos. Sin embargo, naturalmente, tenemos algunas observaciones que, ojalá, no sean contradictorias en el párrafo 9,

Al final del párrafo 9, donde dice: "productos pesqueros", proponemos que se coloque una coma y se diga: particularmente a la luz de los principios contenidos en la Declaración sobre los Derechos del Mar.

Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultades. Lo dijimos aquí algunos Delegados. Repito, particularmente a la luz de los principios contenidos en la Declaración sobre los Derechos del Mar.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of Columbia is to add at the end of paragraph 9, "to expand their participation in international trade in fish and fish products, especially in the light of the principles embodied in the Declaration on the Law of the Sea."

Is there any objection to adding this? If there is none, we accept your suggestion.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, proponemos que en el párrafo 10 se agregue la siguiente frase: "El Consejo consideró importante que se obtengan recursos de Organizaciones y Gobiernos para financiar la asistencia a la Conferencia de Representantes de Países en Desarrollo".

Esto lo dijimos algunas delegaciones y espero que no ofrezca dificultades en ser aceptado.

CHAIRMAN: I hope you have listened to the suggestion of Colombia. If it is accepted, my own suggestion would be that it go as 11, because the earlier one, 10, deals with the early distribution of working documents. One could insert the sentence suggested by Colombia as 11, "The Council considered that it is important to obtain resources from organizations and governments to finance attendance at this Conference by representatives from developing countries." If it is acceptable to you, we will add it at 11.

Paragraphs 1 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 TO 18, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 11 à 18, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 11 a 18. INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): On paragraph 13, Mr. Chairman. In order to reflect what I believe really happened in the debate, we should put as the subject of the first sentence not just "Some members", but also "some Observers", because I remember very well that not only some Members were opposed to the proposed scale but there were also a few Observers who did make some observations regarding the Scale. I would therefore propose that we say "Some Members and some Observers of the Council were opposed to the proposed Scale."

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think what I am about to say was going to be said by others. It is never the practice to record the opinion of the Observers in the Report of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: I was about to say the same thing; it has not been a convention to record, but what happens is you have the document, the verbatim record. The cross-reference is there in the verbatim record. You will find the Observers' statements are there and that is supplemented by this, because it is the Council's Report and hence the observations by the Observers appears in the verbatim record and you will find that they have reference to it at the end of the document here.

KWANG-HEE KIM (Observer for Korea, Republic of): I am very grateful for your giving me the floor at this stage. We are here in the capacity of Observer, and I am also grateful for the efforts made by the Philippines, because the Philippines is one of the Council Members which represented the Asian Region, so I think the Philippines has been trying to reflect or represent the non-Council Members in the region. In that sense I am very grateful. We are one of the few countries, whether Members of the Council or Observers of this Organization, but we also were opposed to the proposed scale of budget in the same vein as the reasons of the other delegations of the Council, based on our official position on this matter which was sent to the Secretariat of the United Nations. I did not use the same language, but we are opposed to the new proposed scale of budget, and I hope that even the Observers' views should reflect it, since the Observers are here, not just spectators.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. This is not the convention, it is the Council's Report, but your views are fully reflected in the verbatim report.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I don't think it is for the Observers to participate in the approval of the report of the Council. Thank you.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, there is very little to say after your own explanation and the Director-General's, but I do wish to remind that of course we have great respect for the opinion of Observers, but the full membership of the Council is actually representing all the Members of the FAO Conference, because they have been elected by the Conference and it is the normal practice that it is only the membership which is reflected in the debate and at the adoption of the reports.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments about paragraphs 14-18?

Paragraphs 11 to 18, including draft resolution, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 18, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 18, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 19 to 25

PARAGRAPHES 19 à 25

PARRAFOS 19 a 25

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es indudable que en el ánimo de los miembros del Consejo durante los últimos períodos de sesiones en los cuales se ha discutido la situación de los locales ha habido cierta inquietud por las frases de promesas y las pocas realizaciones logradas. Por eso tal vez, con la esperanza de que esto corresponda a lo que pensamos nosotros, podríamos agregar después del párrafo 23, en el cual aparecen las promesas del distinguido colega de Italia, lo siguiente: "El Consejo expreso la esperanza de que esta vez se cumplan las promesas del Gobierno Italiano".

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je considère que cette adjonction est l'expression de manque de confiance, mais je n'ai pas d'objection fondamentale.

CHAIRMAN: Did you want this addition in paragraph 23, Colombia? Because in paragraph 24 it says: "The Council welcomed the invitations by the delegate of the Host Government", so I think it is contrary to first express a doubt and then say "welcomed".

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): In fact, Mr. Chairman, you have made the remark I was going to make, but I have to say that I am afraid that my delegation could not support the proposal made by Colombia. I would prefer not to go into the reasons, but I do not believe it is appropriate to make such an expression. In fact, I would go further and say I think it is repugnant, Mr. Chairman, to make such a remark, and I think it would be far better to leave the paragraph as it stands, with paragraph 24 following quite logically from the information given by the Host Government, as recorded in paragraph 23.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia piensa que no debe dramatizarse el sentido de una propuesta como la nuestra que creemos en realidad corresponde al estado de ánimo de los miembros del Consejo; pero si el Embajador de Italia considera como una muestra de desconfianza, nosotros no tenemos ninguna dificultad en retirar esta propuesta, señor Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Paragraphs 19 to 25 approved

Les paragraphes 19 à 25 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 19 a 25 son aprobados

Paragraph 26 approved

Le paragraphe 26 est approuvé

El párrafo 26 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 27 to 33

PARAGRAPHERS 27 à 33

PARRAFOS 27 a 33

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Espero que esta vez tengamos más suerte con nuestra propuesta.

Queremos referirnos al apartado(c) del párrafo 28 en que desearíamos proponer que en la segunda línea se suprimiera la palabra "aparente".

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is clear. "The Finance Committee, at its Fifty-first Session had noted a considerable deterioration of the situation and had expressed anxiety at the Government's delay", instead of "apparent delay" - "delay in commencing concrete remedial measures". Of course much depends on what exactly the Finance Committee said because this is supposed to be a reproduction of what the Finance Committee has stated. Are there any comments?

R. SALLERY (Canada): I do not want to spoil the luck of Colombia but I would rather leave "apparent" there. There may be situations in which delays do occur but it may just also take this amount of time. I would rather leave "apparent" in there because I believe this is the wording the Finance Committee used.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nosotros tenemos mucha confianza en las palabras de nuestros colegas. Canadá es Miembro del Comité de Redacción, por lo tanto retiramos también nuestra propuesta sobre el apartado (c) del párrafo 28.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your most helpful attitude.

Paragraphs 27 to 33 approved

Les paragraphes 27 à 33 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 27 a 33 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 34, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 34, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 34, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 34 is the Resolution you may recall which was referred to the Drafting Committee to finalize the wording of the Resolution.

M. FRANCISCI DE BASCHI (Italie): Je voudrais dire quelques mots sur le texte du projet de résolution.

Vous vous souvenez que, dans la discussion générale à ce sujet, j'avais dit que le Gouvernement italien était prêt à accepter une résolution d'un ton énergique et très ferme, mais que pour des raisons d'opportunité, de délicatesse de la situation à l'intérieur du pays, j'aurais préféré un texte qui ne contienne pas des invitations et suggestions spécifiques.

Je vois au contraire que dans la partie operative, c'est-à-dire au paragraphe I.iv, il y a une référence directe à une action que le Gouvernement italien devrait faire auprès du Président du Tribunal de Rome. Je pense, pour les raisons que j'ai expliquées, qu'il est inopportun de descendre à ces détails et je serais prêt, pour surmonter peut-être une objection du Conseil, à proposer un amendement dans l'alinéa ii, dans lequel on parle de l'exhortation à défendre l'inviolabilité de la section 16. Je suggère d'ajouter "et la section 17" pour absorber ce qui est dit dans l'alinéa iv. L'alinéa se lirait donc de la manière suivante: "ii) à défendre l'inviolabilité de la section 16, article viii, et de la section 17, de l'accord relatif au siège...."

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Comme vous le savez, c'est le secrétariat qui a été invité à proposer un projet de résolution, lequel d'ailleurs a été approuvé par le Comité de rédaction composé de plus de dix pays.

Je crois que ce paragraphe I.(iv) est très important, et je me demande si le Conseil peut prendre la responsabilité de le supprimer entièrement en ajoutant simplement au paragraphe I.ii "et la section 17".

D'abord, c'est un fait que la section 16 a été violée. On nous a dit: il faut négocier. Cela fait dix ans que nous négocions avec le Gouvernement italien. Je ne vois pas comment avec le paragraphe I.ii on peut défendre la section 17 qui est très importante. Si on n'attire pas l'attention du Président du Tribunal, si le Gouvernement italien ne dit pas: "la FAO bénéficie de l'immunité d'exécution sur la base de la loi italienne de 1951" - et c'est la section 17 - qui va le dire? La FAO n'est pas placée pour attirer l'attention du Tribunal. Il faut que le Gouvernement italien prenne ses responsabilités puisqu'il a signé l'accord de siège, dans la loi italienne de 1951.

Si on rejette ce paragraphe qui défend cette loi en attirant l'attention du Président du Tribunal, on risque que les biens de la FAO, comme M. West l'a expliqué, soient saisis. Si l'attention du Tribunal est appelée sur ce problème, il y a une chance que le Tribunal refuse d'accepter une demande des propriétaires pour saisir les biens de la FAO, soit 1 ou 2 millions de dollars. Je ne peux pas dire plus sur ce sujet, mais nous avons voulu vous alerter, et nous avons des raisons de croire que certaines dispositions sont examinées par les propriétaires pour faire une saisie conservatoire sur les biens de la FAO. Mais ils doivent s'adresser au Tribunal et il faut que le Gouvernement du pays hôte, qui a fait paraître la loi en 1951, alerte ce Tribunal. Je sais qu'on ne peut pas intervenir auprès des instances juridiques, mais il s'agit simplement d'attirer l'attention sur une loi qui existe. C'est le but de ce paragraphe I.iv.

Si ce paragraphe était supprimé, il y aurait donc le risque que la chose ne soit pas faite. Depuis que vous avez voté la résolution 1/82 sur les immunités de juridiction de la FAO, le Gouvernement italien n'a rien fait de concret.

On dit ici dans les attendus que "considérant qu'aucune mesure concrète" et sur ce point tout le monde est d'accord "n'a encore été prise pour donner effet à la résolution 1/82", nous ajoutons dans notre résolution de cette année le paragraphe I.iv qui est nouveau, parce que j'ai peur que les biens de la FAO ne soient saisis. Je vais d'ailleurs parler avec le Directeur de la banque où nous avons nos dépôts pour attirer son attention à ce sujet. Il faut éviter que le Tribunal n'émette un ordre de saisie. Si nous demandons au Gouvernement italien d'attirer l'attention du Tribunal, il y a peut-être une chance que le Tribunal n'émette pas cet ordre.

C'est une question de texte. S'il y avait un autre texte qui puisse être accepté par l'Ambassadeur d'Italie, nous sommes prêts à l'accepter également. Mais ce que vous proposez, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, est trop court. Ajouter "la section 17" à "la section 16" n'est pas suffisant. Il faudrait quelque chose de plus concret.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je pense qu'avec ma suggestion le sens de la phrase du projet de résolution ne change pas parce que si j'accepte d'enfreindre l'inviolabilité des sections 16 et 17, cela veut dire que le Gouvernement italien s'engage, qu'il est très conscient des obligations découlant du fait que l'Organisation est protégée de toute mesure d'exécution. Que je sache, ces mesures d'exécution n'ont pas été prises jusqu'à aujourd'hui, donc pourquoi dire que le Gouvernement italien n'a pas bougé, n'a rien fait? Je pense qu'avec ma suggestion on éviterait l'exécution de mesures précises. Je ne dis pas que le Gouvernement italien n'ait pas de contact avec le Tribunal de Rome, qu'il ne soit pas prêt à attirer l'attention de l'ordre judiciaire sur certaines circonstances; je dis qu'il n'est pas opportun de le spécifier dans la résolution. Avec mon projet de modification de l'alinéa 1.2 le sens de la résolution ne change pas.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We appreciate the concern expressed by the distinguished Representative of Italy but also at the same time we are cognizant of the concern of the Council on the matter at issue, so as a matter of compromise and in an effort to go forward, and as the Director-General himself suggested some other phrase may take care of the concern after the Italian Representative at the same time conveyed the whole meaning, may we suggest instead of the words "of the President of the Tribunale di Roma without delay" we substitute the words "of all concerned". That will delete the specific reference to the Tribunale, but would also retain the general reference "of all concerned" who have to act on our behalf. So we are suggesting "Agreement to the attention of all concerned", and then the rest of the sentence in paragraph (iv).

CHAIRMAN: The Pakistan delegation has suggested that we retain sub-paragraph (iv) but saying "and in particular the text of Section 17 of the Headquarters Agreement to the attention of all concerned, lest the landlords of Building F..." Is this acceptable Ambassador?

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): J'ai entendu l'intervention du délégué du Pakistan, mais je pense que ma proposition est beaucoup plus forte que la sienne, parce que s'adresser en général à tout le monde, je ne sais pas ce que cela veut dire.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Vous avez dit qu'il ne s'agissait pas de donner une suite à la résolution 1/82, mais elle est devant moi, ici, et le Conseil a reconnu qu'aucune suite ne lui a été donnée par le Gouvernement italien. Le Gouvernement italien avait proposé de prendre des actions, elles n'ont pas encore été prises; le Gouvernement italien a invité le Conseil à négocier avec le propriétaire du Building F, le procès est en cours; il a été question de traiter à l'amiable avec lui, aucune action n'a été prise, en tout cas nous n'en n'avons pas été informés. Le Gouvernement italien a dit que des contacts étaient pris avec la FAO pour prendre des mesures sous forme d'échange de lettres; je n'ai jamais vu trace de lettre, je n'ai jamais été contacté, et cela fait 16 mois. Aucune mesure n'a été prise en ce qui concerne la résolution 1/82, je peux l'attester ici.

Je crois que ce qui est important ce sont ces mots: "to freeze any of FAO's assets", cela c'est important. Je suis d'accord pour enlever le mot "le Président du Tribunale di Roma" parce qu'il n'est pas question de demander à l'exécutif d'empiéter sur le judiciaire. Ce paragraphe 4 avait pour but d'éviter de bloquer les avoirs de la FAO, alors je pense qu'il faut laisser ces mots "prendre les actions nécessaires pour empêcher de bloquer les avoirs de la FAO". Cela veut dire justement défendre l'intégrité de la section 17.

Ce dont il s'agit ce n'est pas seulement de la FAO, il s'agit aussi de l'IFAD, il s'agit du PAM, du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, du Bureau international du travail qui a un siège à Turin, du Haut-Commissaire des réfugiés; nous sommes tous concernés et peut-être les missions diplomatiques le sont-elles également. Si une fois on arrive à bloquer les avoirs de la FAO un précédent aura été créé qui peut rejaillir sur tout le monde.

Je crois que l'Ambassadeur d'Italie est d'accord sur la substance de la motion, c'est sur la forme qu'il n'est pas d'accord. Peut-être pourrions-nous tout à l'heure essayer, avec le Conseil juridique de la FAO, de trouver une formule en accord avec l'Ambassadeur, pour ne pas retarder l'adoption du rapport à moins qu'il n'y ait des remarques sur d'autres points de cette résolution; s'il n'y a que ce point-là nous essayerons de trouver quelque chose, je ferai tout mon possible.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Non, il y a seulement cette objection, je pensais la surmonter aisément, en présentant une formule qui est assez énergique. Le Gouvernement italien l'accepte parce que nous sommes conscients des obligations qui découlent de l'Accord de siège sur l'inviolabilité mais je ne vois pas pourquoi le texte général serait affaibli. Je vous prie, M. le Directeur général, de comprendre que c'est une question de forme, je dirais de délicatesse à l'intérieur du système italien. Je pense qu'il ne faut pas dire qu'en Italie le droit n'existe plus, que les comptes courants sont bloqués, que pour la FAO, le PAM, tout est en danger. Jusqu'à présent il s'agit d'une situation avec des risques potentiels. Je voudrais qu'elle soit considérée avec une certaine objectivité et un certain calme.

K. HADDAD (Liban): Si je peux coopérer, à supposer que ce soit une question de forme, je propose la formule suivante: le cumul des alinéas ii) et iv) sous cette forme: "à défendre l'inviolabilité de la section 16; à appeler sans retard l'attention des autorités compétentes sur le texte de ladite section 17, de l'article relatif au siège, pour prévenir tout blocage d'un avoir de la FAO".

Je me demandé si ma proposition pourrait aider, et éviter une polémique à ce sujet.

CHAIRMAN: If I can repeat what I consider to be the Lebanon proposal, it is that we omit sub-item (iv) as it is now and integrate (ii) and (iv) together as a new (ii) which will read as follows:

"to uphold the sanctity of Article VIII, Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement concerning FAO's immunity from every form of legal process and call to the attention of competent authorities the text of Section 17 of the Headquarters Agreement to prevent any attempt to freeze any of FAO's assets."

Is this what you propose?

K. HADDAD (Liban): J'ai dit: "à défendre l'inviolabilité de la section 17 et appeler sans retard l'attention des autorités compétentes sur le texte de la section 17 de l'Accord relatif au siège" afin de prévenir tout blocage des avoirs de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Would the Ambassador of Italy care to comment on the proposal of Lebanon?

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Oui, j'ai quelque chose à dire. Cela me paraît un peu étrange qu'on s'adresse au Gouvernement italien, c'est-à-dire à l'exécutif, pour intervenir auprès des autorités compétentes.

J'aimerais clarifier le fait que les mesures d'exécution sont adoptées par le Gouvernement. Je ne vois pas quelle différence il y a avec mon texte, qui est synthétique et significatif, et la description de la section 17 dans cet alinéa. Je vous prie de considérer que ma suggestion ne change pas le sens de la résolution, je cherche seulement à éviter les difficultés que nous sommes à même de considérer, nous, à l'intérieur de notre pays. J'insiste.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Depuis 10 ans, j'ai déjà discuté avec trois ambassadeurs italiens de l'interprétation de l'accord de siège, nous n'avons pas fait un "inch" de progrès. D'ailleurs, quel que soit le texte approuvé, tout dépend de la situation, de la façon dont cela se passe après. Pour moi, il s'agit que le Conseil soit satisfait par un texte qui assure la sauvegarde des intérêts de la FAO. Des décisions du tribunal peuvent autoriser à bloquer les avoirs de la FAO, par exemple 2 millions de dollars à la Banca commerciale italiana, sans que nous ayons été invités à nous présenter devant le tribunal. Le Gouvernement italien est étranger à cela; quelqu'un peut venir notifier à la Banca commerciale italiana la décision du tribunal de bloquer 2 millions de dollars.

Voilà la situation. Maintenant, quant au texte que vous souhaitez avoir dans votre rapport, il vous appartient d'en décider; moi j'ai simplement à attirer votre attention. Encore une fois, l'exécutif ne serait pas impliqué par une décision du Tribunal qui sera communiquée par lui directement à la banque. Les Affaires étrangères n'en sauront rien et la banque sera obligée d'obtempérer.

Pour ma part, j'accepte n'importe quel texte, je suis l'exécutif et je me dois d'attirer votre attention sur la situation dans laquelle je suis. On a dit l'autre jour "on va négocier", mais cela fait 10 ans que nous négocions. Moi je suis prêt à continuer à négocier mais ce n'est pas pour autant que l'affaire sera terminée.

Nous sommes malgré tout reconnaissants envers le pays hôte de tout ce qu'il fait. Mais depuis 10 ans nous sommes dans une situation très difficile; d'ailleurs, depuis plusieurs mois il n'y a plus de négociations et si je vous montrais le nombre de lettres restées sans réponse, vous comprendriez la gravité de la situation où je me trouve.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I hesitate to intervene but I think there is a danger that we are beginning to reopen the whole subject. The more I listen to the discussion the more I think the Council has little alternative but to make a common-sense move which can be an exhorting effect and an encouragement to the Italian Government. I believe the Italian Ambassador is right to wish to have it in very general terms because, on reflection, it does seem to me to be inappropriate for the Council to attempt to specify measures which in the end must clearly only be left to the Italian Government as a sovereign, independent State. I am quite sure that the Italian representative has listened carefully to the debate, that he understands the problems and will take due account of the ideas that have been expressed and the proposals that have been made here. I think that if we continue to try to find texts we may go on for a long time and I would, frankly, see good sense in the proposal by the Italian representative, to delete paragraph (iv) but include a reference in some way to Section 17 in paragraph (ii) would not lose the force of what the Council is attempting to do at this stage faced with this difficult problem. This is why I would propose that we accept the proposal made by the Italian representative, and I trust the Director-General will not feel that we are in any way lessening the expression of concern that the Council had expressed in the debate.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We thought that the Lebanese proposal was couched in fairly general terms to eliminate the concern of the Italian Government because specifically that formulation eliminates the words "building F" and also eliminates "President of the Tribunale di Roma". We therefore thought it was couched in more general terms and could have been accepted.

However, I have another point which made me ask for the floor: while you are attempting to delete sub-paragraph (iv), I would suggest that the views expressed in the first part of sub-paragraph (iv) are very important and should be retained, because here we have two different problems. One is a specific problem of the Headquarters Agreement between FAO and the Italian Government; and the other is a more general problem which is reflected in the first sentence, that is: "FAO's status as a specialized agency of the United Nations system enjoying immunity from legal process". That is an entirely different view being expressed there which is also, in our opinion, very important and should be retained.

However, as far as we are concerned, we find the Lebanese proposal quite acceptable while at the same time we wish that sentence to be retained in sub-paragraph (iv).

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Cuando habíamos intentado en párrafos anteriores expresar algunas inquietudes del Consejo sobre esta prolongada situación, lo estábamos haciendo de muy buena fe porque creemos que para nuestro distinguido colega, el Embajador de Italia, es conveniente, como punto de apoyo para su gestión ante las autoridades de su país, un informe del Consejo que le dé a él pie para insistir en que se lleve a cabo, a buen fin, todo este proceso largo. Este es el sentido con el que hemos intervenido a través del curso de este debate y seguimos queriendo que se refleje claramente nuestra preocupación. Más fácil será para la buena voluntad del distinguido Embajador de Italia intervenir ante sus propias autoridades. Si aceptáramos el criterio simplista del colega del Reino Unido, pues más bien no valdrá la pena adoptar ningún proyecto de resolución. No queremos decir nada al Gobierno italiano. Nosotros creemos que la propuesta del distinguido Embajador del Líbano es pertinente, y que se podrá agregar donde él dice, al final, "autoridades competentes", agregar el término "judiciales". "Autoridades judiciales competentes", porque corresponde a la promesa reiterada que han hecho aquí los representantes de Italia. Ellos han dicho que en ningún momento van a permitir que se aplique ninguna sanción contra los bienes de la FAO, pues aquí estamos haciendo la recomendación para que ellos cumplan esa promesa.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I do not believe that any government wishes to be dictated to by another government or by another group of governments and although I appreciate and understand what my friend and colleague from Colombia is saying, this is a very moot point as to how governments react to particular statements and I think what the Italian Ambassador has been trying to tell us is that his methodology is one which has a greater probability of success. Our intention in this Council is to try and facilitate a rapid and favourable decision. It is kind of similar to the situation that the Director-General mentioned yesterday when he said the bottle is either half full or half empty. Perhaps we have been lucky that it has only taken this long. It might take longer if we antagonise any sovereign government, and I say that with the response potential of my own government in mind, who are currently reviewing a similar kind of situation.

I would tend to agree with the very wise words which have just been spoken by my friend Mr. McLean from the United Kingdom delegation, that we ought to be careful in attempting to demonstrate our anger and our wrath to another government, a sovereign government, a government which has been very friendly certainly to the FAO and to the United Nations system. I say this appreciating the frustrations which the FAO and Secretariat are going through. The matter does need to be resolved. I would be tempted at this point to go along with the suggestion of the Italian Ambassador once more in good faith and give him the time that he thinks is necessary. I know that our Director-General would say that he has been doing this and doing this. Unfortunately I am not sure that we have many other choices.

R.C. GUPTA (India): The modification suggested by the Ambassador of Lebanon, my delegation tends to agree with this but the content of the first part of sub-paragraph (iv) to our minds is very important. It is not a question of trying to find a temporary solution to the problem in respect of Building F. It is the question of a principle. While saying this I must clarify that it is not intended to express our anger to any sovereign state. We have the highest regard for the Ambassador of Italy and the host government. It is a question of principle. It is the question of principle embodied in the Headquarters Agreement. We consider it an honour for any country to be the host country to the FAO and in keeping with the honour which the international community has conferred upon the host government we have certain doubts, we have certain requests. We feel that the host government is obliged to do certain things for us and we feel that the contents of the first part of sub-paragraph (iv) are very important. It is not a question of resolving a temporary problem. It is not a question of finding a solution to Building F. It is not a question of finding a solution to the problem or threat of the assets of the Organization being frozen. It is a larger question of the immunity of the Organization from all legal processes and we would feel that while the amendment suggested by the Ambassador of Lebanon is welcome we should try to modify it in such a way as to bring in the general principle of the immunity of the Organization and to find a long-term solution to this problem so that small irritants are avoided. Indeed this is one problem, if the general principle is not established or is ratified to legislative processes, another problem may come maybe next year maybe tomorrow. So we have to find a solution which is a lasting solution for the day-to-day irritants which the Organization is suffering.

CHAIRMAN: May I try to summarize the position as I see it. The Ambassador of Italy would like to see sub-item 1 (iv) deleted and reword item 2 in the following way; uphold the sanctity of Article 8, Sections 16 and 17 of the Headquarters Agreement concerning FAO's immunity from every form of legal process.

The other suggestion, initiated by Lebanon and slightly modified and amended by Pakistan and India to uphold the sanctity of Article 8, Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement concerning FAO's immunity from every form of legal process and to bring FAO's status as a specialized agency of the United Nations system enjoying immunity from legal process, and in particular the text of Section 17 of the Headquarters Agreement, to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creemos que es un asunto delicado que deberemos resolverlo de la mejor manera posible, asegurándole al distinguido Embajador de Italia todo nuestro respeto y mayor consideración por su Gobierno.

En espera del REP/9, que aún no ha salido, podríamos aplazar la discusión de este punto y pedir a los representantes de Italia, Pakistán, Canadá y Líbano que mientras llega el REP/9 se reúnan y traten de presentarnos un texto de consenso.

CHAIRMAN: This suggestion of the delegate of Colombia, would you like to participate in such a discussion? The suggestion is a small group meets with the Ambassador of Lebanon, Pakistan and Canada with you and tries to develop an acceptable formulation.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je ne veux pas donner l'impression de compliquer les travaux parce que je pense que ma position n'a pas changé le fond de la question. C'était une suggestion qui venait du pays intéressé et qui a la responsabilité de cette affaire. Je suis prêt à participer à ce groupe de travail pour chercher une solution qui soit acceptable.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: A deux reprises, il a été dit que le Conseil devrait traiter d'une certaine façon avec un gouvernement souverain. Le Conseil est formé de 49 Etats souverains et il s'agit de défendre le droit qui a été accordé par une loi du Gouvernement à l'Organisation. Il ne faut avoir aucun complexe de culpabilité, aucun complexe quand nous traitons des droits de l'Organisation qui est représentée par 49 Etats souverains traitant avec un Etat souverain. Il s'agit de ne demander que ce qui nous est dû, ni plus ni moins. Quelle que soit la décision qui sera prise et sa formulation, nous serons respectueusement obligés de l'accepter et nous l'accepterons.

La situation est mauvaise. Il y a eu une détérioration en ce qui concerne l'accord de Siège, l'immunité, les bureaux de la FAO. Pour tout le reste les relations sont excellentes, surtout sur le plan personnel, mais je voudrais que ceux qui s'opposent à ce que l'on parle clairement, qu'on appelle un chat un chat, se rendent compte qu'il s'agit des avoirs de la FAO, et je supplie les membres du Comité qui ont été désignés de ne pas ignorer cela. Ceux qui veulent l'ignorer devraient en prendre la responsabilité.

En novembre nous aurons encore à débattre de cette question. J'ai l'obligation de mettre à l'ordre du jour du Conseil cette question, comme la question du Siège. C'est une question permanente et elle ne changera pas seulement sous l'effet d'une résolution; elle le sera peut-être quand nous aurons l'honneur et le privilège d'être reçus par le prochain Premier Ministre. Nous n'avons pas pu rencontrer les deux précédents. Peut-être qu'à ce moment-là nous pourrions avoir enfin quelque espoir.

Je ne dis pas que la situation serait autre si nous étions en Grande-Bretagne ou aux USA, ou ailleurs. Je crois que nous commençons à fatiguer tous nos pays hôtes avec nos demandes, mais nous devons vivre avec cette situation très difficile. Je dois préciser, avec tout le respect que nous devons avoir pour le pays hôte, pays souverain - que tout ce que nous demandons c'est que la loi italienne puisse être mise en application, et c'est tout ce que nous demandons.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we defer this item for some time and request the Ambassador for Lebanon, the Ambassador for Italy, the delegate from Canada and the delegate from Pakistan to get together when we finish this, before the last REP comes, and try to suggest a formulation. Are there any other comments on this Resolution?

Paragraph 34, including Resolution, not concluded

Le paragraphe 34, y compris la résolution, est en suspens

El párrafo 34, incluida la Resolución, queda pendiente

Paragraph 35 approved

Le paragraphe 35 est approuvé

El párrafo 35 es aprobado

Paragraph 36 approved

Le paragraphe 36 est approuvé

El párrafo 36 es aprobado

Paragraph 37 approved

Le paragraphe 37 est approuvé

El párrafo 37 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI, not concluded

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, sixième partie, est en suspens

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VI, queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT - PART VII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VII

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VII

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraph 2 including Resolution adopted

Le paragraphe 2 y compris la résolution est adopté

El párrafo 2 incluida la Resolución es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 3

PARAGRAPHE 3

PARRAFO 3

N.S. COOK (Canada): During the course of the Council my delegation has met with the delegates of Mexico, as well as the United Kingdom and others, and we thought we had reached an agreement that the Ninth World Forestry Congress would be held in Mexico during January 1985. While confident in Mexico's commitment, we are expressing concern that there will be no slippage. We see from the draft report that it has already slipped from the month of January to some indefinite time in the first half of 1985. We propose therefore that the statement read in the last sentence of paragraph 3: "However, in view of the need to ensure adequate preparations for a successful Congress, Mexico notified the Council that the timing of the Congress may have to be deferred to early in the spring quarter and no later than March 1985".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestra primera reacción, Señor Presidente, sobre la propuesta de Canadá, tiene dos aspectos. Primero, el colega del Canadá dijo que se había reunido en privado con algunas delegaciones. No dijo que esto se planteó durante el debate que es lo que corresponde reflejar en el Informe. Segundo, si el Gobierno de México es el que ha hecho esta aclaración, quisiéramos saber qué piensa el Representante de México.

J. VERRUETE FUENTES (México): He escuchado las palabras del Delegado de Canadá y quisiera regresar a mi intervención referente a este punto y claramente después de la intervención del Dr. Flores-Rodas, con quien tuvimos una larga charla sobre esta posibilidad de ajuste del período del cumplimiento del Congreso, queremos recordar que dejamos abierta la fecha debido a varios aspectos muy específicos que en su momento no mencionamos por considerar que era simplemente un informe a este honorable Consejo.

En particular pedimos nuestras excusas, recuerdo haberlo dicho, por alguna situación de probable interferencia con algún país miembro del COFO. Sin embargo, tendría que decir que la charla que tuvimos, muy informal, con el Señor Representante del Reino Unido, sobre el particular, y con el Señor Representante del Canadá, en ningún momento se mencionó el mes de enero, y creo yo que no se menciona porque el primer trimestre del año, de cualquier año, en México las condiciones climatológicas no permiten en ninguna ocasión realizar este tipo de Congreso, ya que existen o están previstos siempre viajes al interior del país sede que implica las áreas forestales, áreas generalmente alejadas, con dificultad de acceso, donde la lluvia u otros agentes pueden interferirnos.

De ahí que la decisión preliminar que tomamos con el Dr. Flores-Rodas fue ubicarnos en este primer semestre del año de 1985 para tener la posibilidad de ofrecer a todos los asistentes un congreso digno, un espacio digno para que se realizara.

No sé si esto aclara un poco nuestra previa participación, pero creo que son razones de peso del Gobierno mexicano para que, volviendo a pedir excusas si hay alguna interferencia con el Gobierno de Canadá, nos permita realizar el Congreso dentro de ese primer semestre de 1985.

N.S. COOK (Canada): Our Government is, we feel, being quite reasonable. Indeed we have left the date open in the spring. We have not specified within that period. We would prefer a baseline of March 1985. It would be convenient to us to form an alternative in November 1985. We do have continued concern about the second quarter of 1985.

J. VERRUETE FUENTES (México): Atendiendo otra vez al amable comentario del distinguido delegado del Canadá, esta fecha que él comenta de noviembre de 1985 estaba prevista en las posibilidades del gobierno de México para realizar el congreso; sin embargo, tengo que recordar que para ese mes precisamente se realiza la Conferencia de FAO y quizá fuera otro motivo de interferencia que tuviera un poco más de peso para que no pueda realizarse en ese mes, aunque, lo digo con gusto, si se nos permitiera sería más fácil realizarlo en ese mes porque es cuando, climáticamente hablando, se nos facilita en México realizar este tipo de eventos.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es indiscutible que la intención del distinguido delegado del Canadá al intervenir sobre este tema está dirigida a asegurar el buen éxito del Congreso y sobre todo a la participación adecuada en ese congreso de un país tan importante como Canadá, esto es indudablemente necesario reconocerlo, pero después de las reiteradas declaraciones que ha hecho el representante de México tal vez convenga dejar el párrafo tal como está.

N.S. COOK (Canada): Notwithstanding the difficult weather conditions of Mexico, I think we in Canada could probably describe a litany of adverse weather conditions that would affect conferences in our country. However, it is not our intention to embarrass Mexico. We see the sentence as it stands fairly flexibly. We would hope that Mexico would make best efforts to guarantee that the Congress would be held in the first quarter of 1985.

CHAIRMAN: So paragraph 3, on the Ninth World Forestry Congress, will remain as it is in the draft.

Paragraph 3 approved

Le paragraphe 3 est approuvé

El párrafo 3 es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary - Part VII, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, septième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la plenaria - Parte VII, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VIII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VIII

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VIII

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 12

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 12

PARRAFOS 1 a 12

R. SALLERY (Canada): We, like several other delegations, as you are aware, had some considerable difficulty with the completeness and the clarity of this document in its original form. We also have, as this Council know, an overriding interest in effective inter-agency or institutional coordination so that, as the Chairman of the Drafting Group said a couple of days ago, the good work of FAO and the good work of WFP can be maximized for the benefit of developing countries. We understand that originally the WFP was asked to prepare this document and for various reasons declined to prepare it. In any case, the final document was completed by the FAO Secretariat and apparently without any further consultation with the WFP. This perhaps unfortunately resulted in a somewhat incomplete

picture of a very complex and intricate relationship between the FAO and the WFP. Our concern is not that the draft document does not reflect the discussion. The Drafting Committee as a whole has done an excellent job in representing the proceedings. What is important to note is that we, like many others in this Council, did not at this time consider the document as necessarily describing a definitive position. We say this because we, like other Members of the Council and of the CFA, recognize the CFA as the Governing Body of the WFP and that had yet to consider the paper and its implications.

I have already said that I have agreed with Colombia that the reports of the Drafting Committee are indeed excellent. There are two elements in this paper however which I wish to recall are part of the Canadian statement but which do not appear in that statement. The first is that we have indicated that the primary responsibility for giving indigenous agricultural production the highest priority rests with developing countries themselves. As I read through the report this does not appear to stand out. Secondly, it was our own particular view that there are ever-increasing demands for food aid, representative of a collective area to produce enough in its country or at least to buy enough commercially and when we cease to require food aid, except perhaps on an emergency basis, then we will truly have cause to celebrate.

I have no intention at this time to try to work these two what we consider important elements into the statement. I merely wish to recall it.

In paragraphs 1 and 6...

CHAIRMAN: Will you kindly take paragraph 1 first?

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Canada said that this document was supposed to be prepared by WFP and not by FAO and ultimately it was prepared by FAO without consultation with WFP.

Firstly, I don't believe we are here to have a debate; we are hereto approve the report paragraph by paragraph. It is not up to me to rule on whether we should make statements such as having a debate. However, I would like to answer this question as it was directed to the Director-General of FAO. FAO is a parent of WFP. The Executive Director of WFP is appointed by the Director-General of FAO and the Secretary-General of the UN. He reports to the Director-General and the Secretary-General and I have special responsibilities.

We are a parent and this is why we wanted to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the child which was born in FAO and for this we are having a special celebration. It was therefore natural that FAO should write the report on the celebration of the anniversary of its child.

I wished to make this remark in order to avoid any misunderstanding that we are taking over somebody else's task in preparing a report. We are not here to have a debate, but to go over the Report paragraph by paragraph - not to take paragraphs 1 and 6 together, paragraphs 1 and 7, etc. This is not the way of doing our business.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): We listened with great interest to the statement by Canada, and I must confess I have started feeling as if I am not doing my job properly, because Pakistan is a member of the CFA and Pakistan is a Member of the Council, but this privileged information which was given by Canada, at least we were not part of that information, so we can only request that in future, if there is such privileged information that was given to one Member State, it should be given also to the other Member States, either by the WFP or the FAO, and we feel very disturbed about the situation, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: May I again remind you of what the Director-General said? We are now considering the draft report as it emerged from the Drafting Committee. That is why I said paragraph 1. If we start the regular Council sessions which led to the birth of this report, then we will be going back. It is the last concluding day and we must get on to the report, so I shall be grateful if the comments will be related to the report itself. Anyone can suggest an amendment, an addition here, as has been done so far, but if some important point has been missed, you can point it out as an addition to a paragraph here, and then we could consider it.

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): It seemed to me that Canada had the floor and you have never gotten back to Canada. He was in the midst of talking, and immediately we have several others of us that seem to be coming in. If I am right, I do not think that that is appropriate.

CHAIRMAN: Canada had the floor, but since other delegates raised their flags, what we have done is recognize them as they raised their hands, so Pakistan wanted the floor. Canada has the floor now.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I have indeed not finished. I will try and do so now. I indicated that I would not try to change the main body of the Report and to put in two issues which are very important to my government. Pakistan, of course, was at the CFA, and the reason that document did not appear is that it has not been shown.

Paragraph 1, the last sentence reads: "and that the Director-General had special responsibilities for the functioning of the Programme."

If you permit me, I do not wish to jump from paragraph to paragraph, but paragraph 6 said: "The Council noted the special responsibilities of the Director-General" and goes on to describe them. In an effort to be helpful, I am not sure that we need the statement in both places. Perhaps I could suggest then that after "virtually all WFP projects" put a period and eliminate the rest of the sentence and use the very excellent drafting in paragraph 6.

CHAIRMAN: The Canadian proposal is that since points relating to the Director-General's responsibilities were elaborated in paragraph 6, we stop paragraph 1 after "in one way or another in virtually all WFP projects".

H.F. NAJEB (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): I have just listened to the statement made by Canada, but I think we have now discussed this Report of the FAO Council, and within the framework of this Report there is a point which concerns the Twentieth Anniversary Programme. We know that the Organization through its Council also celebrates this anniversary, and of course, this Organization drafts the relative report, the report that concerns this celebration, and of course, when the WFP celebrates this Twentieth Anniversary, it will be up to WFP and up to the WFP's Secretariat to draft the report of this celebration. Therefore, I think that if Canada finds it strange that the Organization has prepared this part of the Report, I do not think this is pertinent to say. This is something that goes without saying. Mr. Chairman, as you yourself have said, we are here to discuss the Draft Report presented to us by the Drafting Committee, a Draft Report which concerns the Twentieth Anniversary of WFP, and the discussion of this should be done paragraph by paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: In fact, we are on paragraph 1, and Canada has made a specific suggestion, that the last part of it be stopped. We stop this paragraph with "virtually all WFP projects".

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): It is indeed true that Canada has made a proposal regarding the deletion of this last part of paragraph 1, because they feel perhaps the same idea is repeated in paragraph 6, but these two paragraphs convey two entirely different ideas. The first paragraph is talking about the appropriateness of FAO to celebrate the Twentieth Anniversary and it is in that connection that there is mention of the Director-General's responsibilities.

Incidentally, I may mention here before I go on that as far as the Director-General's responsibilities are concerned, those are all laid down in the Basic Rules, so there should be no dispute on that.

As far as paragraph 6 is concerned, that talks of the joint responsibility of FAO and the WFP and the UN Secretary-General; they are entirely two different ideas, and if I may remind Canada, this was the tenor of the debate in the Plenary, and that is how it has been reflected by the Drafting Committee. This issue was raised during the Drafting Committee also, and it was retained precisely because of this reason that the two paragraphs are reflecting entirely two different ideas altogether.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Lebanon) (Original language Arabic): I would like to support what has been said by Iraq and Pakistan. I suggest that we maintain the last part of paragraph 1, because as Pakistan has just said, this paragraph deals with an idea which is completely different from paragraph 6. Therefore, I propose that we retain the rest of paragraph 1.

CHAIRMAN: What is the wish of the Council, retain it as it is?

M.I. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic): I myself also prefer this paragraph to remain as it is, and I fully support what is included in this text.

CHAIRMAN: Does Canada agree? Canada agrees to keeping it as it is. Thank you. We now move on to the following paragraphs.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): This is by way of a question on the last sentence of paragraph 8. The sentence here reads: "The Council drew particular attention to the broadened and revised concept of world food security agreed in the Committee on World Food Security and emphasized the importance of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and the WFP taking the revised concept and the approaches indicated in the Director-General's report on World Food Security into account in formulating their policies and programmes." There is a particle end here, and the particle end in the third to the last line joins two concepts. One is the revised concept which was approved by the Committee on Food Security, and the other element is the approaches indicated in the Director-General's report. Now, the connective particle, of course, means that these are treated as though they were given the same weight. We have a very great respect, of course, for the report of the Director-General. It is a very important report, it has been prepared with very great care, but I was just wondering whether this has the same weight as the revised concept which bears the stamp of approval of the governments, so I was just wondering whether it is appropriate to treat them giving them the same weight. I have no very concrete proposal, Mr. Chairman, but I was just calling attention to this because for me the construction was a little bit disturbing, because while one concept carries the approval of the government, the other one is the proposal of an international civil servant, no matter how wise and how well-placed and how respected, and we have a very great respect for the Director-General, but I think they do not have the same legal status and they do not have the same weight as far as the concepts are concerned, so I was just wondering how we can reflect that idea.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not pretend to compare myself to a concept, I am a reality, I am not a concept, and those are two things which cannot be compared. If you have a suggestion to make, please make it.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr. Chairman, I am not comparing the concept and the Director-General, I am comparing the revised concept and the approaches indicated in the Director-General's report.

CHAIRMAN: I think if I get the Philippines' suggestion regarding the sentence which says: "The Council drew particular attention to the broadened and revised concept of world food security agreed in the Committee on World Food Security and emphasized the importance of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and the WFP taking the revised concept and the approaches indicated in the Director-General's report on World Food Security into account in formulating their policies and programmes", you would like the reference to the approaches indicated in the Director-General's report not to be linked with the revised concept, is that correct? That is what I gather from your intervention. What would be your specific suggestion on the rewording of this sentence?

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I did not have a specific suggestion, but I was just wondering whether, if you would allow me, I could come back to it at a later stage.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre el párrafo 8 tengo dos modestas observaciones. Tal vez debo empezar por la primera y luego, si tengo razón, usted me dará la palabra nuevamente.

En la segunda frase del párrafo 8, en la sexta línea, creemos que se debe decir "instrumento de presión política", "de presión política" tal como aparece en el texto inglés. Para el texto castellano es muy importante "presión política".

Esa es la primera observación. Luego, si usted me da la palabra puedo seguir sobre el párrafo 8.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Lo que propone la distinguida representación de Colombia es correcto, porque en el documento inglés y francés aparece "presión política"; fue una omisión en el documento en español. Así es que creemos que tiene validez su proposición.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Ahora queremos referirnos a la tercera frase del párrafo 8. La tercera frase del párrafo 8 empieza con las palabras "a este respecto". Si en realidad aceptáramos el texto de esta tercera frase estaríamos contradiciendo los principios que motivaron nuestra intervención a este respecto, porque justamente la declaración de Colombia, sobre este tema, y muchas otras delegaciones, estuvo dirigida a criticar el proceso lento e injusto, a través del cual se llegó por fin a la aprobación de proyectos para un país que cuenta con toda nuestra simpatía. De manera que, en realidad, no quisimos ensalzar el criterio imparcial y equilibrado con que se había procedido en el pasado, sino todo lo contrario decir que no se había actuado con ese equilibrio y con esa imparcialidad y queríamos que se procediera así en el futuro.

Habíamos preparado de acuerdo con unos colegas una enmienda un poco larga que incluía, inclusive, el propio nombre del país: el VietNam, a quien nos referimos varios delegados, pero sabemos que esa referencia pudiera ofrecer algunas inquietudes a otros colegas. Y vamos a prescindir de presentar esa propuesta, al menos por el momento. Pero quisiéramos que a la tercera frase del párrafo 8, por lo menos, se le agregara algo que reflejara nuestra inquietud con respecto al pasado y, sobre todo, al porvenir.

Después de donde dice "criterio imparcial y equilibrado" debería agregarse solamente las siguientes palabras: "que debería aplicarse siempre", "criterio imparcial y equilibrado que debería aplicarse siempre". Esto creemos que es lo mínimo que puede reflejar muy levemente la posición de algunas delegaciones.

CHAIRMAN: I will read out the amendment of Colombia and then I will give the floor to the United States. "In this connection, the CFA, the Executive Director and his staff were highly commended for their even-handed and balanced approach which should always be followed".

C.R. BENJAMIN (United States of America): I would like to support the Colombian amendment. I think it is desirable and useful.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I have a proposal regarding the semi-last sentence of paragraph 8 and it would go as follows: "The Council drew particular attention to the broadened and revised concept of world food security agreed in the Committee on World Food Security and emphasized the importance of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes taking the revised concept", and then we will omit "and the approaches indicated in the Director-General's Report on World Food Security" - that should be omitted, and continuing as follows up to "programmes". Then a new sentence would be inserted, "The Council also drew attention to the important approaches indicated by the Director-General's Report on World Food Security".

CHAIRMAN: Have you all got the Philippines' suggestion? I will read it out again. "The Council drew particular attention to the broadened and revised concept of world food security agreed in the Committee on World Food Security and emphasized the importance of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and the WFP taking the revised concept into account in formulating their policies and programmes. The Council also drew attention to the important approaches indicated in the Director-General's Report on World Food Security". Is this right?

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Je voudrais simplement faire remarquer que la formulation telle qu'elle vient d'être présentée par le distingué représentant des Philippines introduit évidemment plus qu'une simple nuance, puisque dans le second cas on ne demande pas au Comité de l'aide alimentaire de prendre en considération les différentes approches qui ont été suggérées. Or il y en a certainement qui ont une importance considérable pour ce qui est de l'aide alimentaire, par exemple celle qui consiste à recommander l'intégration, autant que possible, de l'aide alimentaire dans les plans de développement.

M, le Président, ce n'est pas, bien entendu, à moi à en juger, mais je pense que la différence est substantielle. Nous avons entendu, au cours des débats, cette notion de tenir en compte les approches du Directeur général. Au cours du Comité de rédaction, cette question n'a pas été en quoi que ce soit contestée et il me paraissait que la phrase telle quelle était assez claire.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines) : The distinguished Director of Inter-Agency Affairs was referring to the concept that integration of the Policies and Programmes into WFP projects would not be taken into account by this new formulation. I was just wondering whether that would really be so because if we look at the revised concept, I think the revised concept already includes that very idea. In fact we could probably indicate that here, if that is the difficulty of the Director of Inter-Agency Affairs. We could see also the measures that have been approved by the Committee on Food Aid which should be taken into account by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, and probably Mr. Régnier is correct in saying that probably we should not just indicate here the revised concept but the other measures and approaches by the Director-General approved in the Committee on Food Aid Security, because Mr. Chairman, the difficulty here is that some of the approaches have a very dubious status. Some do not have equal status, some are approved, some have not been approved, some are controversial and some have unanimous approval of the Committee on World Food Security. So probably if we amplify the thought that has been given by the distinguished Director of Inter-Agency Affairs we could also include the approaches, and the approaches indicated by the Director-General approved in the Committee on World Food Security, and probably that would take care of all the difficulties that I had theoretically.

Sra. Doña M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Primero, quisiera decir que apoyamos la propuesta presentada por el Embajador G. Bula Hoyos de Colombia, y en segundo lugar, tal vez, podríamos resolver la dificultad del representante de Filipinas si añadiéramos a "el Consejo señalo especialmente a la atención el concepto ampliado y revisado de seguridad alimentaria mundial acordado en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial" la frase "y endosado previamente por este Consejo". Así quedaría claro que son diferentes; que existe diferencia cualitativa, ya que el concepto quedaría en calidad de Resolución de este Consejo y el resto de la frase en calidad de recomendación. Probablemente no tendría ningún problema con el texto como está.

H.F. NAJEB (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): In the Drafting Committee, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has also said, we have examined this paragraph in full detail. We have made amendments, we have made many amendments, we have examined also the Resolution concerning this matter and we have agreed upon this wording. Now we come here, it is late in the afternoon and we should not contradict ourselves by rejecting decisions that were already adopted during the Drafting Committee of the CFA, and concerning such a report we have already said that the proposal and views of the Director-General must be examined in detail.

Within the CFA Committee and in other appropriate fora, one of these appropriate bodies could be, for example, the World Food Programme and also the CFA. If we now change this paragraph we are going to contradict a decision which has already been taken in the CFA.

S. ABOUJAOUDE (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je tiens tout d'abord à exprimer mon soutien à l'appui formulé par les Etats-Unis et le Mexique à la proposition de la Colombie.

En ce qui concerne la proposition présentée par le représentant des Philippines, je tiens à appuyer ce qui a été dit par le représentant de l'Iraq, car si nous nous référons au texte arabe, qui est tout à fait clair (j'ai écouté la proposition faite par le truchement de l'interprétation) j'estime qu'elle introduit de la confusion dans le paragraphe. Par conséquent, j'estime qu'il ne faut pas changer le texte mais le maintenir tel quel.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): If I could venture a new text, and I hope it would be acceptable because it incorporates the ideas that have been indicated also by the Director-General and of the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs, it would go like this: - "The Council drew particular attention to the broadened and revised concept of world food security and the approaches indicated in the Director-General's Report on World Food Security which have been agreed upon by that Committee and emphasize the importance of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to take into account in formulating the programmes." In other words now it is clear that the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should take into account in formulating their policies and programmes the revised concepts, and those approaches of the Director-General that have been approved by the Committee on World Food Security. Now this eliminates all the doubts one could have on the proposals which are still under discussion.

CHAIRMAN: Let me repeat again so that speakers can get on with it. The Philippines proposed that this sentence now will read as follows: "The Council drew particular attention to the broader and revised concept of the World Food Security and the approaches indicated in the Director-General's report on World Food Security agreed in the Committee on World Food Security and emphasized the importance" and the rest of it. This will come before the sentence beginning "agreed in the Committee on World Food Security."

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I want to draw the attention of the delegate of the Philippines to the fact that this will defeat the purpose of his earlier intervention, as regards placing the Director-General and the concept of World Food Security on the same level.

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): To be quite honest, I was reluctant to enter into the discussion. I thought it might sound as though I were defending the efforts of the Drafting Committee, where we have been sitting for practically one week for long hours. But when I looked at the sentence - and perhaps it might be my limited understanding of the English language - I do not find any problems with it because it itself includes two different ideas. The first part of the sentence, when it is talking about the concept, says "agreed in the Committee". So it is the concept agreed on about food security and the first part refers to that. The second part, when talking about approaches, says "approaches indicated". That is a very vague term; it does not say "approved" just "indicated approaches". And the last part of the sentence says "into account in formulating" - again it does not contain a categorical imperative. It merely says "indicated in the Director-General's report may be taken into account".

Therefore, we thought there would be no difficulty in that because the sentence itself bifurcates the two ideas that the Philippines is getting at: the revised concept as agreed on and the approaches as indicated. That is how we understood the sentence and we therefore find the sentence to be appropriate and think it should be retained.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I have been listening to this debate for the last half hour but I am sorry to note that I have not been able to appreciate what the problem really is. When you mention two things in a particular context, it does not necessarily mean you give them the same importance. One is what the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes recommended, and incidentally I happened to be in the Drafting Committee of both the Committee on World Food Security and of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes; and I would recall that in the CFS we accepted certain proposals of the Director-General as contained in his report on the revised concept on world food security. It was felt that some of the other ideas were good but required detailed examination of implication in terms of financing, institutional arrangements, etc. We found them to be good ideas that should be further pursued.

In the Drafting Committee as in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, if I recall correctly it was said that the ideas indicated in the Director-General's report - such of them as approved by the CFS - should be kept in view while formulating policies and programmes in the World Food Programme. So, after having gone through all this, after having considered world food security and referred to the report and the concepts contained in it in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, I do not find any particular problem why the World Food Programme should not be expected to keep in view what has been approved by the CFS and work is still under consideration, taking both into account. We are not asking them to follow anything but merely to keep certain useful concepts in view while formulating policies and programmes; there is no question of equating the two things: one, what has been approved by the intergovernmental committee and the other is certain useful ideas that have been acknowledged as useful and important by a very important Committee, one that is open to all members of the UN system. I find no particular difficulty in putting both things together but certainly that does not mean that the report is being compared to acceptance of the Intergovernmental Committee.

I would suggest that the draft of both paragraphs has been put forward by the Drafting Committee after a great deal of deliberation and hard work and should be accepted as it is.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all I should like to state that indeed these are two different meanings that are given, if the Philippines' proposal is accepted. First of all, we are equating now the revised concept in the approaches approved by the Director-General and by the Committee; the approaches of the Director-General indicated in his report and now approved by the Committee, I think, have the same status because they have the same status of approval by the Committee. If you say: we will let the present text remain, well, I have no great difficulties with this but I find it illogical.

For example, how can you take into account in the formulation of your policies something that is not in existence? For instance, such as the FAO fund? How can you take this into account in your policies? It is non-existent; it has yet to be approved. How can you take it into account in your policies and programmes? It is still a proposal which is on the table and which has yet to come into existence, is it not?

If we take it in this way, then we are really not giving any directive to the Committee on Food Aid. But if you say right now what it means, if we accept the Philippines' proposal, you are now giving a directive to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. You look at these concepts that have been approved, you have to take this into account in formulating these programmes. But as U is, you are taking everything together, even non-existent proposals for projects and proposals which are not in existence. How can you take this into account?

I think my point is logical and in that way we are giving a very definite directive to the Committee on Food Aid, and its parent body, FAO, is giving its child a very definite proposal, now. But the way it is, it is a wishy-washy thing.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo quiero manifestar muy sinceramente mi aprecio positivo por la parte inicial, muy constructiva de la declaración del amigo Carandang, de Filipinas y pienso que cuando él ha dicho que no tiene objeción para que sea adoptado este texto como está, pues adoptémoslo así y pasemos al párrafo 9.

CHAIRMAN: Does the Philippine delegation agree to this suggestion?

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I cannot insist, if the Council will reject my proposal, of course you have to adopt the paragraph as it is because it is only a Philippines proposal and if it does not meet the approval of the Council, naturally it will adopt the sentence as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Then shall we leave it as it is and go on? Thank you very much. Paragraph 9.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El párrafo 9, Señor Presidente, sin duda se refiere a todos los veinte años del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, veinte años durante los cuales el PMA ha tenido varios Directores Ejecutivos. Basados en esta realidad, quisiéramos proponer una ligera modificación a la segunda frase del párrafo 9.

La segunda frase del párrafo debería decir como sigue: Expreso también a todos los Directores Ejecutivos y al personal del PMA el reconocimiento, etc., etc. A todos los Directores Ejecutivos y al personal del PMA, repito.

CHAIRMAN: I hope this is acceptable.

R. SALLERY (Canada): We agree.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. This whole item is called the Twentieth Anniversary so it is important to recognize the work of all Directors. Paragraphs 10, 11, 12? Approved.

Paragraphs 1 to 12, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 12, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VIII, as amended, was adopted

Le Projet de rapport de la Plénière, huitième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VIII, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting was suspended from 17.15 to 17.30 hours

La seance est suspendue de 17 h 15 à 17 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.15 horas a las 17.30 horas

CHAIRMAN: We will go back briefly to document REP/6 , the portion relating to the Resolution of FAO's mandate and legal process.

You may recall we deferred a decision on this Resolution until the time that the Ambassador of Italy, the delegates of Lebanon, Pakistan and Canada got together and suggested an agreed alternative version.

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VI (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI (continuación)

PARAGRAPH 34, INCLUDING RESOLUTION (continued)

PARAGRAPHE 34, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION (suite)

PARRAFO 34, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION (continuación)

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Nous nous sommes consultés et nous avons rejoint un accord sur un nouveau texte du paragraphe 1 (ii).

Je vous donne lecture du texte français: "à défendre l'inviolabilité des sections 16 et 17 de l'article VIII de l'Accord relatif au Siège, et, en particulier, à garantir que les avoirs de la FAO ne soient pas bloqués."

CHAIRMAN: The proposal is to delete the present paragraph 1 (iv). The new paragraph 1 (ii) will read as follows, "to uphold the sanctity of Article VIII, Section 16 and 17 of the Headquarters Agreement and in particular to ensure that FAO's assets were not frozen."

R.C. GUPTA (India): I would beg forgiveness to intervene again on this point. I have no strong feeling on this matter, but still I feel that sub-paragraph (ii) suggested is insisting on a temporary solution of an immediate problem. I said during the debate on the subject that we should try to find a long-term solution to protect the immunity of the Organization, not to find temporary solutions in the sense that the assets are not frozen in process of the decree of a particular court or the execution of a particular decree. I must say that the formulation is far short of our expectation. However, I would leave it for the consideration of the Council how the matter should be settled, but we are not satisfied.

CHAIRMAN: I thought the new (iv) seemed to be the kind of point you have been emphasizing rightly. So we now accept the agreed formulation. Thank you, Italy, Lebanon, Canada and Pakistan. We are grateful to you.

Paragraph 34, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 34, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 34, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, sixième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VI, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IX

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE IX

INFORME PROVISIONAL - PARTE IX

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 16

PARRAFOS 1 a 16

R. SALLERY (Canada): On paragraph 3, Mr Chairman in the third sentence it might be more appropriate to say: "Of this, over 70 percent had gone to refugees and displaced persons".

CHAIRMAN: Is that acceptable? So we add the word "refugees". Any comments on the following paragraphs?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos proponer dos ligeras adiciones a la última frase del párrafo 10 para precisar los hechos. En la última frase del párrafo 10 deberíamos decir: "El Consejo lamento una vez más". Y luego al final "fijado por la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación en 1974". Estos son hechos, señor Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: There is a point in paragraph 9 to which we will come back. But let us finish this. "The Council regretted once again the non-fulfilment of the World Food Conference target of 1974 of 10 million tons of cereal food aid." Is this acceptable? We accept Colombia's proposal. I give the floor to Mr. Régnier on paragraph 9.

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): The first sentence of paragraph 9, a bit of the sentence is missing from the text. It should read as follows: "On the format and contents of the Annual Report, some Members stressed the desirability of highlighting in the Annual Report itself or by way of an explanatory memorandum", and the rest of the sentence unchanged. It was agreed in the Drafting Group, but because of the pressure of time it was skipped in the final printing. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, I hope you followed the suggestion.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Mi distinguido y atento vecino de la derecha, el embajador de El Congo, me ha hecho observar que al final del párrafo 10 en el texto francés, y suponemos que en el inglés también, hay una referencia que no aparece en el texto español, referente al hecho de que la meta de los 10 millones nunca ha sido alcanzada. Quisiera que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción nos aclarara esto para el texto castellano.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Encargado, Dirección Asuntos de la Conferencia y el Consejo y de Protocolo): No puedo dictaminar sobre el texto en lengua árabe, que desgraciadamente no conozco, pero examinando los tres textos, en francés, inglés y castellano, me parece que son equivalentes. Donde dice en inglés "The Council regretted the 'non-fulfilment' of the World Food Conference", el equivalente en español es que "no se hubiera alcanzado el objetivo". (Continúa en francés) Pour indiquer l'équivalent en français, il y a justement cette phrase que Monsieur l'Ambassadeur du Congo a souligné: " que l'objectif n'ait jamais été atteint". C'est la façon que nos traducteurs ont trouvé pour traduire le "non-fulfilment" anglais.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sin duda en francés la redacción es más fuerte, pero aceptamos la explicación del señor Solé-Leris.

CHAIRMAN: In paragraph 12 there is a small correction in the French text. Mr. Solé-Leris will explain it to us.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Chargé de la Division de la Conférence, du Conseil et du Protocole): A propos du paragraphe 12, je me tourne vers les membres du Conseil de langue française avec nos excuses, mais comme vous le savez il a fallu travailler très vite aujourd'hui pour sortir ce texte. Il y a dans le paragraphe 12 un membre de phrase qui a disparu au cours de l'impression du texte français mais qui avait été accepté au Comité de rédaction et qui se trouve dans les textes anglais, espagnol et arabe Voici donc le texte de la première phrase rétabli: "Le Conseil a estimé qu'on pourrait dans toute la mesure du possible utiliser davantage le poisson sous des formes appropriées et les produits à base de poisson....".

CHAIRMAN: I hope those who read the French text will have noted,

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): I would like to draw your attention to the last sentence of para. 12. Here I think the sentence for the purpose of composition should be split into two, ending the sentence after "WFP projects difficult" and starting a new sentence "Even so ...", so that it becomes more clear.

CHAIRMAN: We have heard the suggestion of Bangladesh.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Tal vez resulte pertinente en el párrafo 13 decir: "El Consejo manifestó la opinión de que era especialmente pertinente para el CPA y el PMA". Agregar las palabras "y el PMA".

CHAIRMAN: Is this acceptable? We add "and the WFP" after "CFA". So it will read: "... was of special relevance to the CFA and the WFP".

T. AHMAD (Pakistan): Just a slight drafting omission. In the Drafting Committee we have lifted parts of paragraph 14 and incorporated them in paragraph 12 to make that consistent. But some part regarding fish is still left in paragraph 14, which perhaps is no longer relevant to paragraph 14 and has been taken care of in paragraph 12. So I think we can delete the last sentence of paragraph 14.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Mi colega de Pakistán ha dicho exactamente lo que yo quería manifestar en su forma actual. En el párrafo 14 hay una mezcla de fertilizantes y pescado que puede ser indigesta.

L. ARIZÁ HIDALGO (Presidente del Comité de Redacción): Sí, Señor Presidente, precisamente esa indigestión fue la que el Comité de Redacción trató de evitar, porque en el "Drafting Committee" se hizo un proyecto donde venían incluidos fertilizantes y pescados. Se acordó transferir el segundo párrafo completo del 14 al 12, lo cual se acordó así. Ahora parece que en el apuro del empalme se incluyó ese párrafo a continuación del 14. Creo que el 14 debe terminar en "acceptables". Este párrafo tenemos que cotejarlo para ver si es repetición o sencillamente no se incluyó todo como se había acordado. Creo que lo que hay que hacer es cotejarlo para tener en el párrafo 12 todo lo que se refiere a productos pesqueros. Así es que se recoge en un sólo párrafo todos los productos pesqueros.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Just to add to what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has said, I think the second sentence in paragraph 14 should go into paragraph 12, because there is the slightly additional thought about the efforts by the Programme in relation to fisheries projects development. I wonder if the principle were accepted whether the Secretariat could probably incorporate it.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and of New Zealand is that this sentence, "However the Council noted with satisfaction that efforts were being made by the Programme to make greater use of fish and fish products in its projects, as well as to support projects for fisheries development" might be incorporated in paragraph 12, probably as a second sentence.

A. SOLE-LERIS (Officer-in-charge, Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division): It is suggested by those who attended the Drafting Committee that the simplest way would be, looking at paragraph 12, to delete the last sentence, which says "even so, efforts would be made on the lines suggested by the Council" and instead of that you put in the whole of this second sentence of paragraph 14, which follows on quite neatly from what we have in paragraph 14, because paragraph 12 says, "It was informed" and then you add, "However the Council noted with satisfaction that efforts were being made..." and so on.

CHAIRMAN : Is this satisfactory, Bangladesh?

S.A. MAHMOOD (Bangladesh): Yes,

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Solé-Leris, for helping with the formulation. Thank you all very much. With that we come to the conclusion.

Paragraphs 1 to 16, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IX, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, neuvième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IX, así enmendado, es aprobado

G, BULA HOYOS (Presidente del Grupo de los 77): He sido autorizado para intervenir ahora en nombre del Grupo de los 77 que tengo el honor de presidir.

Seré breve porque posiblemente algunos de los presidentes regionales hablarán también. Al comienzo de nuestros trabajos hablé en representación del Grupo de los 77. Expuse algunos de nuestros puntos de vista sobre el temario de esta sesión. Al final me complace que algunas de esas ideas se hallen reflejadas en el informe que acabamos de adoptar. Somos conscientes de que no podemos aspirar a que todas nuestras posiciones sean aceptadas inmediatamente. Insistiremos a través de un proceso gradual, y queremos agradecer a usted, Sr. Presidente, y a los miembros del Consejo por habernos permitido que el Grupo de los 77 haya participado activamente en la reunión que hoy termina.

Queremos agradecer a usted, Sr. Presidente, la forma inteligente, dinámica y competente como nos ha dirigido. Gracias a su tacto, tolerancia y ponderación, este período de sesiones del Consejo ha transcurrido acertadamente y ha producido excelentes resultados.

Gracias también a los tres distinguidos vicepresidentes, a los colegas amigos, Sr. Sorenson de los Estados Unidos, Sr. Ministro Pereira-Silva de Cabo Verde, colega Hamdi de Egipto, ellos le asistieron muy válidamente. Igualmente merecen nuestro reconocimiento los presidentes de los Comités del Programa de Finanzas, distinguidos colegas y amigos, señores Trkulja y Abeyagoonasekera, el compañero y amigo Leopoldo Ariza Hidalgo, Embajador de Cuba, que presidió el Comité de Redacción de manera singularmente eficaz y competente, y los miembros del Comité de Redacción, así como su Secretario el Sr. K. Wright; merecen la gratitud y el reconocimiento de todos nosotros por habernos presentado un excelente informe que facilitó la adopción de nuestras conclusiones.

El Grupo de los 77 cada día está más convencido de que en la FAO tenemos un Director General que es figura sobresaliente en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Con su acción permanente en favor de todos los Estados Miembros y particularmente al servicio de los países en desarrollo, el Sr. Saouma se ha consagrado como un Director General admirable, rodeado de la simpatía y apoyo de todos los representantes de Gobiernos. Nuestro Director General ha superado las limitaciones que imponen la actual recesión económica mundial y nos ha presentado un Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que está basado en el incremento de los programas técnicos y económicos que realmente interesan a nuestros países.

El Grupo de los 77 se complace en destacar esa actitud positiva del Director General. Todos los colaboradores del Director General son acreedores de nuestro agradecimiento. En particular el Sr. West, Director General Adjunto, el Profesor Islam, Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento Económico y Social, el Dr. Bommer, Subdirector General Jefe del Departamento de Agricultura, el Dr. Juma, Subdirector General Representante para el Medio Oriente y todos quienes nos asistieron con su presentación e intervenciones. El Sr. Sylla, nuestro gran Secretario del Consejo, ausente en este momento, ha venido confirmando con su valioso silencio constructivo, admiramos en el Sr. Sylla la discreción, la prudencia y la eficacia con que cumple sus responsabilidades.

El Grupo de los 77 está muy satisfecho porque en el informe se haya incluido una referencia a los servicios prestados al Consejo por el Sr. Noël de Caprona, a quien todos conocimos en estas actividades. El Sr. Solé-Leris ha asumido temporalmente el cargo del Secretario Auxiliar del Consejo. El Sr. Solé-Leris es un trabajador incansable, dotado de gran buena voluntad y conocedor de todos los secretos de esta Casa, gracias a él también y feliz regreso a las cabinas de interpretación a las que sirve con tanta devoción.

El Grupo de los 77 quiere igualmente pedirle al distinguido colega y amigo Salahuddin Ahmed, Director Ejecutivo Alternativo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que trasmita al Director Ejecutivo del PMA, y a todo el personal, el reconocimiento de los miembros del Grupo de los 77 por la valiosa colaboración que nos ha ofrecido.

Igualmente queremos agradecer a los intérpretes su trabajo, que ha facilitado nuestro entendimiento. Mil gracias a las gentiles y lindas mensajeras, que sonrientes han cruzado la sala en todas direcciones para llevar nuestros mensajes, que han facilitado nuestros contactos.

En nombre del Grupo de los 77, gracias a todos, quienes visible o invisiblemente nos han asistido durante estas dos semanas.

Sr. Presidente, y distinguidos colegas: permítanme que concluya con una referencia personal, pero que tiene sentido político. El 30 de junio, dentro de seis días, terminará mi mandato como Presidente del Grupo de los 77. Afortunadamente, nuestro Grupo quedará en las buenas manos de mi ilustre sucesor, A. Khalil, del Sudán. Al final de esa interesante experiencia puedo asegurar a todos los Miembros del Consejo que me he sentido muy honrado, profundamente orgulloso de haber sido el Presidente, el guía de todos mis colegas y amigos de África, Asia, Medio Oriente, América Latina y el Caribe.

En particular, quiero expresar mi agradecimiento a los cuatro presidentes de esas regiones y a los coordinadores, que junto con los demás miembros del Grupo hicieron siempre posible llevar adelante nuestras iniciativas. Durante los seis meses que he sido Presidente de los 77 he podido admirar cuántos compañeros inteligentes, capaces, decididos, preparados, hay entre los representantes de los Gobiernos que integran nuestro Grupo. Ellos me han instruido en el sentido de que manifieste a los distinguidos representantes de los países desarrollados y a los colegas y amigos de todas las regiones y todos los grupos, sin distinción, que nos honramos en compartir con ellos nuestras actividades en el seno del Consejo de la FAO, que si bien a veces hay posiciones y opiniones distintas, todo ello lo aceptamos dentro del marco de una normal controversia democrática, pero que lo esencial es el espíritu común de plena cooperación y total entendimiento, de socios para el desarrollo que debe caracterizar a todos quienes actuamos en esta importante Organización.

Con este mensaje fraternal de amistad y simpatía, los Miembros del Grupo de los 77 queremos reconocer la valiosa colaboración que nos han ofrecido todos los demás colegas e invitarlos a que continuemos todos de brazos y en sincera cordialidad hasta noviembre próximo para apoyar los esfuerzos de nuestro gran Director General por una Conferencia positiva, constructiva y útil al mejor cumplimiento de los ideales de la FAO que todos compartimos. Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

ABDUL WAHID bin ABDUL JALIL (Malaysia): I had originally intended to take a longer time for this intervention, but in view of the late hour - and I am sure all delegates are anxious for the end of this session - I will cut my intervention short.

Speaking on behalf of the Asia group and the Malaysian delegation and on my own behalf, I would like first of all to express our most sincere appreciation to you, the three Vice-chairmen, the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee for the manner in which you have guided and conducted the deliberations of this meeting, and with the valuable assistance of the Vice-Chairmen and the Drafting Committee, you are able to bring this meeting to a successful and fruitful conclusion. The Council has no doubt benefited very much from your vast experience, and I would like to congratulate you and all other colleagues of yours as well as those of the Secretariat for their excellent performance.

During the last two weeks, we have listened with careful attention to the views of Member Governments on various issues, and in the spirit of cooperation and respect which is characteristic of and still prevalent in the debates of this Organization we were able to reach a common understanding, a consensus on all the issues relevant and significant to the work of increasing food production and reducing food insecurity in the world, especially in the low-income food-deficit countries. I feel this was all because we, irrespective of our positions, were committed to the

one common and noble cause, that is of striving to overcome this depressing problem of mankind and to help make food readily available at all times. Let us therefore keep and honour this long-cherished tradition that we have helped to establish. Let us continue to build on this spirit of cooperation and understanding where individuals' or groups' interest shall find its way to our common understanding, so that the unfortunate poor for whom we have dedicated our efforts will benefit from our decisions and conclusions.

The countries in Asia and the Pacific have over the years realized that the only real solution to the problem of food and agricultural development, of making enough food available to our huge population and of raising the living standard of our rural poor was to build our own resilience. Thus many of us have been frugal because we knew we were poor and therefore had to live within our means. We have to develop our own ideas and innovations to enable us to use to the maximum the unequal and unbalanced distribution of resources that we have had. There is the sheer size of the population on the one hand, while on the other we lack the financial resources, the skill and the land to work on. There are other important resources, but we have not been able to adequately tap and efficiently manage them. We do not have the means to harness for our productive purposes these various resources and today these resources have somewhat continued to become the destabilizing factors in our food production. But, Mr. Chairman, our Government has been very determined and our people very responsive to meet the challenge. Through our own policies and programmes and with our own innovative initiatives assisted by the international community we were able to widen the horizon of hope and reduce that of despair among our rural poor. For example the successful implementation of Masagana 99 of the Philippines, the Communes of China, the 20-Point Plan of India, the Bimas and the Ansum of Indonesia, and the Saemaul Undong of Korea, the FELDA and the FELCRA Schemes of Malaysia, to name a few has brought about new hope and inspiration amongst our poor and a new encouragement to our Government, but Mr. Chairman there are still many countries in Asia, and regions within many countries there, where the situation is still far from satisfactory. We are however increasingly determined to overcome this.

Mr. Chairman, over the years the countries of Asia have gained some valuable experience in our rural development efforts. We would now like to cooperate and share these experiences with our neighbours and friends. We would not only want to limit our cooperation between the countries in Asia; we would want to share and collaborate with all whatever little we have, all we know if we can afford them. We would like to extend to those who need them, especially to other members of the developing world so that we can have a meaningful South/South cooperation. It is our hope that others too will adopt this attitude so that we will not only survive but "insha Allah" we will be able to continually improve our condition.

While we fall back to our own resources, capacity and capabilities for our own development, we will nevertheless continue to need the assistance of the international community to help us plant and implement together our strategies and actions to alleviate hunger and malnutrition and to eliminate the division of hopelessness and desolation of the millions of poor in the developing countries. Our hope is that the international community and institutions who have responded to our call for assistance will increasingly play the role as partners in our development efforts to understand and to share in our hopes and aspirations, and not to be judged as givers of aid. We do not want to just receive, gifts and alms; we do not want them to give us just assistance. We want sincere willingness to share, to assist and to guide us, to share with us the knowledge and experience so that one day we will be able to stand on our own.

We do not want their contribution to the development of the developing countries to be only as an insurance of their own well-being in the future.

Finally, Mr. Chairman I would like to place on record our Group's most sincere appreciation to the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Edouard Saouma, for his sincere concern and tireless efforts to assist the developing countries to cherish the hope for a better world in which to live and to be respected as human beings. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Members and Brothers in Islam a successful observance of the Ramadan.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): It is my privilege to speak briefly on behalf of, I guess, the smallest group of the Council, the countries of the South Pacific region, but I speak also on behalf of my own delegation. First, Sir, I would like to thank you very sincerely for your patience and skillful Chairmanship over the last two weeks and I think because of this we have, as has been said by previous speakers, been able to arrive at meaningful consensus on the very wide range of important issues that we have considered, and I think this augurs well for the future objectives and successes of the Organization.

I would also like to place on record the sincere thanks of my delegation and those countries I represent to the Vice-Chairmen for their work in helping the Council through a very full and difficult Agenda.

The Chairman of the Drafting Group has guided my delegation and others through a most interesting and at times difficult but always meaningful consensus surrounding ten days, and I think our thanks are very much due to him. Also, Sir, the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees in their help to us in the last couple of weeks took us through perhaps the most important issues facing this Council Session.

The Director-General himself continues to provide the leadership and guidance that FAO has probably come to expect but perhaps we take a lot for granted, but my delegation would like to add to those who have recorded their appreciation of his efforts. Also to his dedicated staff, some of whom are here and some who may have dropped by the wayside after our long meeting, as well as the interpreters without whom many of us could not communicate at all and at the same time I think if the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme could pass on our appreciation of this efforts and those of the Executive Director and his staff for their contribution..

Finally, Sir, tomorrow I will be going back to our part of the world where it is winter but I will take back not only the warmth of the Italian Summer but I say this sincerely, the warmth, friendship and cooperation of other Members of this Council and all the Secretariat associated with it.

A. G. NGONGI NAMANGA (Chairman, African Group): I am sorry to speak now but I hope you will grant me the privilege of speaking on behalf of the African Group. I do not need to praise you and the Vice Chairmen any more. I think the Ambassador of Colombia, Chairman of the Group of 77, did an excellent job in putting together the sentiments of members of this Council and Observers. This Council has been very important not only because it has supported the Draft Programme of Work and Budget as a solid basis for the preparation of the final document by the Director-General, but it is even more important to those of us from the Africa Group because it has addressed many issues which are of particular interest to our region. I need only point to a few. Para. 28 of REP/2 which calls particular attention to the indigenous cults of Africa; para. 42 of REP/2 which calls upon emphasis and appreciation of the training programmes being carried out at the moment by the Director-General and the Secretariat to boost training in parts of Africa at high and medium level; para. 18 of REP/3 which embodies the comments of the Committee on World Food Security in the paper presented by the Director General on the African constraints on food production and the follow-up actions which should be taken up. These are very important and we appreciate that the Council has taken the time to go through them and given them this endorsement. We do agree Mr. Chairman that the first responsibility lies on each country to make the maximum effort and give priority to increasing its own food production. That we cannot contradict, but an Organization such as FAO was created to go to the assistance of those who were having particular difficulties in facing their food and agricultural problems. It is for that reason that many Africans, of course, address themselves to this Organization, and for that very reason that we are all members of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. We are happy to see the constructive spirit that has characterized the work of this Council and the great sympathy, and I would say empathy, which has been expressed by both developing and developed countries to the particular situation which is facing the region which I have the honour to represent. We appreciate it very much, especially so coming from the developing countries which themselves suffered from such problems only a few years ago, and we appreciate the great willingness they have to share their own experience and their resources and enabling other less fortunate regions who have made less progress to benefit from the experience. Mr. Chairman I do not wish to be long but let me just put on record that the African region places on record with great appreciation the great and valiant efforts which the Director General and the Secretariat has been making, to come to the assistance of our region, a region which we hope in the near future will also take its own respectable place in the family of nations as one which is making a contribution to food security.

R. SALLERY (Canada): On behalf of the North American Group I would also like to express a few words of thanks. First to the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat our sincere thanks for making this another successful Council. Many of us are aware of the tremendous effort which is necessary to prepare, to produce documentation reports and meetings which are so essential to a successful meeting like this, and the FAO has not failed us this time. We have, I believe, obtained a successful conclusion. All the papers, the meetings, the conferences and the resolutions are however only a part of the real work of the FAO which is carried on daily, that of helping developing countries achieve a more sufficient and reliable agricultural productivity and for this we must also be very grateful.

I would also like to go an record as expressing the appreciation of our Group to the Executive Director of WFP and his staff for their help. To the messengers, the clerks, the security guards and all the support staff we must express appreciation. They have been very helpful. The translators, the interpreters, the verbatim reporters deserve special thanks. We are always indebted for the long hours, the great patience and the dedication shown by the Professional staff, and it is true that without them we probably would not succeed.

To the three Vice-Chairmen, the United States, Cape Verde and Egypt, I am sure our Chairman, Dr. Swaminathan, is as grateful as anyone for their assistance. We are also very grateful to them. To the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees and to the Secretariat of the Drafting Group, special thanks also.

To the Chairman of the Drafting Group I believe there is no one in this Council who regrets his appointment. His sincere, objective, independent judgement has been most remarkable and we are all most grateful to him for this. I would like also to thank Members of the Drafting Committee who were able to spend so much time with our Chairman and produce such a fine Report.

To Ambassador Bula Hoyos our special thanks for the cooperation and goodwill he has expressed to our group over the past year and we look forward to talking to your new colleague, the representative from Sudan.

Finally, Mr. Chairman to you yourself we would like to say how very much your sincerity, your fairness, your professionalism has contributed to the success of this Council. I have been honoured to know you for several years now and I know at first hand your personal commitment to development, and all I can say is that your country has produced a fine heritage of what I have learned to call over the years "the peacemakers". And you, Sir, are no exception to that high tradition and we are grateful to you for that.

H.F. NAJEB (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): Due to the absence of the Honourable Ambassador of Cyprus, and as coordinator for the Near East Group within the Group of 77, please allow me, Mr. Chairman, to speak on behalf of the Near East Group. At the outset I should like to thank you for your patience and for your wisdom in conducting the activities of this Council.

We would like to say that we have had an excellent opportunity to benefit from your experience and from your wisdom. There is no doubt that a magnificent country like India has always offered us people of your calibre.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the Vice-Chairmen as well as to the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees, who, through their serious work, managed to come to a compromise on the viewpoints expressed in the Council.

I also wish to thank the members of the Secretariat who through their fruitful cooperation and collaboration have greatly contributed to the success of this Session.

We would also like to thank the translators and the interpreters who have helped us overcome linguistic barriers.

I also would like to extend my thanks to the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme and I hope he will convey our thanks to the Executive Director himself.

Our special thanks go to the Chairman of the Group of 77 and we are gratified to have had this excellent opportunity to work in close cooperation with him throughout the last six months, a period which was marked by fruitful cooperation and mutual benefits.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, please convey our thanks to our Director-General who is leading this Organization with all due care. We thank him in particular for his efforts to improve the activities of this Organization, to introduce new concepts, aiming always at servicing the developing countries and creating the best possible means of cooperation among developing and developed countries to the benefits, of course, of all humanity.

KONG CANDONG (China) (Original language Chinese): Mr. Chairman, under your able guidance the present Council Session has come to a successful conclusion. We are happy to note that the Council has reached consensus on some important issues we have discussed as a result of the common efforts exerted by the Council members. There is no doubt that such achievement will help lay a good foundation for the deliberations of the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference. We feel delighted about this. We believe that in such a harmonious and cooperative atmosphere we have achieved fruitful results and our special thanks should go to the Director-General and all of the delegations who have participated in the Council, as well as the Secretariat.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, on behalf of my colleagues and on my behalf, I should like to thank you all for the kind words of support and confidence you have expressed to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your patience which has enabled us to participate fully - especially myself! - in the debate. We shall try to do our best to continue to deserve this confidence through our work.

In my opening address, I expressed the wish to see the Council reach a consensus on the Programme of Work and Budget. This has been accomplished. This is why I want to express my satisfaction and my thanks. Also I want to assure you that we shall look very carefully into the observations, comments and recommendations you have made on the next Programme of Work and Budget 1984/85. We shall take them into consideration in preparing the full document.

I also want to assure you that I shall implement all the decisions and the resolutions you have approved with rigour and we look forward to seeing you again on the occasion of the forthcoming Council which will be held just prior to the Conference. We shall also have an important event on 16 October in the Plenary Hall, when we shall be honoured by the presence of the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Olaf Palme; and we hope that you will all be present on this occasion.

I wish a safe return, to those of you who have to travel; happy holidays for those who can take them. And we thank you again for your confidence and your support.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

CHAIRMAN: Director-General, delegates, ladies and gentlemen, you know my policy, that I should be the last to prolong a session as I generally believe I should be more seen than heard.

I can only tell you it has been a great experience for me, an enriching experience to hear 49 distinguished delegates from 49 sovereign nations, representing all the variety we have in this world. Variety is the spice of life, but we had in this hall a microcosm of that variety, representing 49 countries, various observers, non-governmental organizations. They have all given their wisdom. They have to the best of their ability communicated the views of their governments, and listening here to these delegates speaking has been a great deal of an educational experience to me and I want to thank you for this enriching experience you have given me. I am grateful for the words you spoke and I know I have done nothing except my duty because as a Chairman here with a prefix "Independent" Chairman, one has to be fair to everyone, otherwise you are not fair to the position to which you were elected. This has been my one ambition that I should not fail you in the trust which has been reposed in me, but obviously I could not have done anything at all except for all of you. Your contributions, your recommendations, after all they are obviously your recommendations, and therefore I want to thank you once again for the extremely active participation you gave. On the one hand success depends upon your cooperation and participation, which we have had in abundance during this session, and on the other, the support, advice and active assistance of the entire staff of FAO, from the Director-General downwards, everyone has given their very best to help us to help the Council's work. We are exceedingly grateful.

As the Director-General said, the documents will be ready in July. The Drafting Committee finished its function only at 12 noon but after only three to four hours, we received, in all languages, the reports of the Drafting Committee. It is an extraordinary accomplishment of this Organization in terms of servicing important bodies like this one, and we want to express our sincere gratitude to all those who have been working behind the scenes to make our work easier.

May I express my gratitude to the three Vice-Chairmen with whom I had the privilege of being associated in this Council. With some of them I have been associated with for very-many years.

Mr. Roger Sorenson of the United States; I would particularly like to wish him well because I understand after a very distinguished career as the United States representative to FAO he is shortly going to take up another assignment. I am sure the Council Members would like me to express to you and to your family our best wishes for continued satisfaction both in your professional life and your personal life. We want to wish you well and we want to thank you for your contributions at this session.

His Excellency, Pereira Silva could not be with us for long but in the few days he spent with us he did share many of his ideas in the area of rural and agricultural developments and we are grateful.

Mr. Hamdi of Egypt, I want to thank him for his assistance in making this Council Session a great success.

Already the delegates from various regions, as well as the Group 77, have rightly expressed our gratitude to Ambassador Ariza Hidalgo, Cuba, the distinguished Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Somebody said the Drafting Committee had worked for the last ten days, I would say they had worked for twenty days, I called it a double-day the other day. We use the word "double-day" largely to deal with the life of the poor women in the Himalayas and other places where they have to gather water and fuel during the day and work during the night, cook and do many other things. When I mentioned when we elected the Drafting Committee that we had sentenced them to hard labour I think it was an understatement. Now I feel very much it was a rigorous punishment, working almost every day until midnight, together with the staff who supported them. So I want to thank you, the Ambassador of Cuba and through you the delegates of Afghanistan, Congo, Ethiopia, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Iraq, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan and the United States of America, the other members of the Drafting Committee, We are very grateful to you for your labour of love.

I also want to add my words of gratitude to Professor Trkulja who is not here, the very distinguished Chairman of the Programme Committee and Mr. Abeyagoonasekera of Sri Lanka, the very knowledgeable and articulate Chairman of the Finance Committee, They certainly make our work very easy in the Council because they spend about two weeks before us in trying to sort out important matters coming before the Council. I want to thank the Chairman as well as the Members of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their very valuable contribution.

Mr. Sylla, who is the Secretary-General, had to leave because he had to catch a flight, and he gave his apologies. He has been observing Ramadan, and I find although I drink a lot of water he has not been having even a drop of water throughout the day, and no food but I have always found him exceedingly the perfect gentleman, the embodiment of every good quality and we are grateful to him for his assistance.

Mr. Solé-Leris, his contributions and his abilities, his linguistic abilities, have been mentioned, you have had some taste of it, and I know, him well, but I must say seeing him from a booth somewhere than sitting nearby makes a great deal of difference. A remarkable person and I think the Organization is fortunate that they have many such highly dedicated individuals.

Mr. West and the Assistant Director-Generals, the Directors and the other staff of FAO, they have been working very hard and they have helped us in our work and we all are unanimous in our praise for their contributions.

Already members have mentioned also Mr. Ingram and Mr. Ahmed and other staff of the WFP, their contributions on the day we discussed this Programme have been extremely helpful.

I must make a mention of many others who we do not see. Mr. Linley, the Officer-in-Charge of the Operations Branch and the entire staff of that Conference Operations Branch. We are most grateful to them.

Mr. Wright and the Secretary of the Drafting Committee and the staff who supported them. They have had almost a triple-day, almost 24 hours because even after the Drafting Committee dispersed they started their daily work so they have been continuously working, and we are very grateful to them.

Of course mention has been made of all the interpreters, translators, verbatim reporters, printing staff, the messengers and the numerous others who make life meaningful in this hall. When we have our discussions they help us to understand each other, they help us to pass messages to each other and to understand each other in many other ways and we are most grateful to them.

I would like to express our gratitude to Ambassador Francisci di Baschi, the Ambassador of our Host Government, Italy, for his help in many ways to the delegates. Of course, the Host Government make many arrangements, including the Protocol arrangements, which are sometimes difficult. For all the arrangements that are made by the Host Government we are deeply appreciative. We are grateful not only for your presence here, but also for the many things we may not understand, but which are entirely dependent upon the Host Government's support.

I would also like to express my thanks to Ambassador Bula-Hoyos for his introductory remarks and concluding remarks and wish his successor, Mr. Khalil of Sudan, much success as the Chairman of the Group of 77.

Finally, I think words would not be adequate to express my gratitude to the Director-General for his presence here. I know his mother is not well, he has to leave immediately after the Council, but he has spent the whole two weeks with us, in spite of other personal, pressing needs, and we gratefully appreciate all that you have done and the inspiration you have given.

We have in this meeting discussed many problems, food security, genetic resources conservation, the World Food Programme, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and what has inspired me is the great deal of ability to understand each other. I think it is the spirit of understanding which ultimately will make the world a worthwhile one. So long as we are able to see each other's point of view and then subjugate our own personal viewpoint to a larger cause, so long as we put the cause above ourselves, then everything will be all right, because we know in this world if agriculture goes wrong nothing can go right, and conversely if agriculture goes right, everything will go right.

This is the cause for which we are all working, and the Organization is working under the distinguished Director-General and I have this message from you, that everyone here is deeply committed to the cause, and that was the real reason why you were able, in many cases, to subordinate your personal viewpoints to the larger cause of having a common consensus on important issues.

I thank you very much and I want to wish you all well, and to our Islamic colleagues I want to wish them a successful completion of Ramadan. I also want to wish those who are leaving Rome a very pleasant and safe journey, and I also add my words of welcome to those of the Director-General, that we will see you all again at the November meeting, the short meeting of the Council preceding the Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.