

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

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

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council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/1

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIERE SEANCE PLENIERE PRIMERA SESION PLENARIA

(19 November 1984)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.20 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 20 sous la présidence
de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.20 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, Honorable Ministers, distinguished members of the Council, distinguished observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, it gives me very great pleasure to welcome you all here and to declare the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council open. I particularly want to extend a warm welcome to distinguished ministers who have taken the trouble of joining us. We will have, either today or are expecting shortly, the Minister of Environment and Tourism for Burkina Faso, the Minister for Development Cooperation of Norway and the Minister of Agriculture of Sao Tome and Principe. I want to extend to them in advance our cordial welcome.

No new members have joined us at this session of the Council but as is normal there has to be a turn around. Seven members will be leaving us at the end of this year. These are the representatives of Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Lesotho, New Zealand, Norway and Sudan.

I want to extend a welcome to Mr Paul Savary who is sitting next to me on the left who has succeeded Mr Sylla as Secretary-General, and is now Assistant Director-General in the interim, of the Department of General Affairs and Information. We look forward to working with you, Mr Savary, during this session and in the future.

Before moving on to the first item of business I would be remiss in my duty if I did not stress the very great importance of this Session of the Council. We are meeting in the shadow of an acute hunger problem in parts of Africa. It is a matter for some relief and satisfaction that in recent weeks there has been a more widespread global action to wipe the tears from starving children, women and men in Africa. We should extend our gratitude to the Director-General, Dr Saouma, and to the Organization for the valuable role FAO has played and is playing in stirring human conscience in matters relating to hunger particularly in Africa. We will have adequate time during this session to discuss the food situation in Africa under item 4 of the agenda, and I am sure the Director-General's statement will also bring us up to date.

The food famine in parts of Africa reminds me of the role played by the late Prime Minister of my country, Madame Indira Gandhi, whose birth anniversary falls today, November 19th in raising food production. Her role in saving nearly one fifth of humanity from famine is an achievement history will record. At the time of her passing away, India had a grain reserve of over 22 million tons of food grains. She had explained the steps which led to this change in food outlook in India in her McDougall Memorial lecture delivered here in FAO in November 1981. A couple of months ago while addressing the Planning Commission of India she stressed that the seventh five-year plan of India, which is due to begin in April 1985, should have three major goals. First is food, food for everyone. Second work, work for every adult who can work, and thirdly higher productivity in farm and factory. Food, work and productivity in farm and factory were mentioned by her as the sole and most important goals of the seventh plan of India. I am mentioning this because it will be useful to remind ourselves while discussing the state of food and agriculture in the world, and particularly in Africa, the principal message she gave in her McDougall Memorial lecture here. I paraphrase it as the tragedy of hunger can be made a problem of the past provided there is the requisite political priority for helping farmers and fishermen.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario

I would like to seek your approval of the Adoption of the Agenda as mentioned in document CL 86/1-Rev.1. There is however one change to be made. Under the last item, Any other Business, please add the subitem 19.2 entitled "Amendment to Staff Regulation 301.136 for decision". May I have your concurrence to the adoption of the agenda with this one additional point 19.2.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): En primer lugar deseamos expresar nuestra satisfacción por verlo a usted presidiendo tan atinadamente los trabajos de nuestro Consejo, señor Presidente.

Señor Presidente, simplemente para hacer notar que en el Programa provisional que se nos presenta, en el revisado vemos corregido ya un error que aparecía seguramente en el anterior relativo a que el documento CL 86/16 se refería igualmente para el Día Mundial de la Alimentación como para la solicitud de ingreso en la Organización.

En segundo lugar para preguntar a la Secretaria, a través de usted, qué es lo que significa en el punto 17.2 el que las solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización sean para debate y/o decisión. Según tenemos entendido, la decisión respecto del ingreso a la Organización es una facultad de la Conferencia, y el Consejo simplemente toma nota de ello.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Avant de répondre à la question, je voudrais remercier le Président des paroles aimables qu'il a eues à mon endroit. Je suis un vieux serviteur de l'Organisation, mais je n'ai pas l'expérience de ce genre de travail; d'avance je demande votre indulgence et celle des membres du Conseil pour les bévues que je pourrais commettre. Si la question de l'admission des Iles Salomon figure à l'ordre du jour avec la mention pour "discussion" et/ou "decision", c'est que le Conseil aura à décider s'il convient d'autoriser le Directeur général à inviter les Iles Salomon comme observateur. Il est bien entendu que la décision sur l'admission des Iles Salomon à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation sera prise par la Conférence en 1985.

CHAIRMAN: With this clarification shall we adopt the agenda. Thank you very much, the agenda is adopted.

It was so decided

Il est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

We will now move on to the Provisional Timetable document CL 86/INF/1.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL: It is simply that there is a slight change in the timetable which we wish to propose to you, that item 16 instead of being taken next Monday, the 26th of November, should be taken on Friday the 23rd of November, and the items which are currently in the timetable for Friday, that is to say items 9, 11 and 15, should be taken up on Monday.

There is one other thing that you will notice in the timetable and that is the morning of Tuesday 27 November is free. It does not mean that there will be no meetings; there will in fact be a meeting in the Plenary Hall and the President of Niger as the current Chairman of CILSS will be here, and also the Prime Minister of Italy, Mr. Bettino Craxi.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On the information just given to you on Tuesday the 27th, perhaps I should add a word more of explanation. The Council will not be meeting; the Council will be suspended because, at the invitation of the Director-General, the President of Niger, who is also Chairman of the CILSS, the Inter-State Committee for the struggle against drought, will be here and also the Prime Minister of Italy. The President of the Council of Ministers of Italy, Mr Bettino Craxi, has accepted an invitation of the Director-General to visit FAO, and on the occasion of these two visits to FAO the Director-General has asked them, and they have agreed, to address a meeting of all Member Countries, the representatives of all Member Countries, in the Plenary Hall. The representatives of all Member Countries are cordially invited to attend that ceremony in the Plenary Hall which will begin at 10.30 on Tuesday 27 November. Invitations are in the process of being issued to the missions in Rome.

CHAIRMAN: For clarification shall we adopt the revised timetable? I hear no comments so we will adopt the revised timetable as indicated by Mr Henderson.

Before we come to the next item, I would like to give some procedural information. You will have noted that the election of five Members to the UN/FAO Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, the CFA, is fixed for the morning of Wednesday, 28 November. The Council must now set a deadline for the submission of nominations on the forms appended to document CL 86/11. I propose that we set 12:00 hours on Friday, 23 November as the deadline for submission of nominations on the prescribed forms to the office of the Secretary-General in Room B 202. The list of nominations will be shown in the Order of the Day on Monday, 26 November - that is, two days before the actual election. I would like to know your views, whether this timetable is agreeable to you. (Agreed) Thank you very much. Then we will adopt this timetable for the election of the five members.

I would like to suggest that we meet every day from 9:30 to 12:30 and again from 14:30 to 17:30 hours.

It was so decided

Il est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

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

A. ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise a le plaisir de proposer la candidature de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Trinité-et-Tobago, L.E. Williams pour le poste de vice-président.

CHAIRMAN: The Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago has been proposed.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia tiene el honor de apoyar la propuesta que ha hecho el distinguido colega y amigo del Líbano a fin de que el distinguido Embajador L.E. Williams, de Trinidad y Tabago, sea uno de los Vicepresidentes de este período de sesiones del Consejo.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have pleasure in proposing the name of Dr S. Baharsjah, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, to be the Vice-Chairman of these Council proceedings.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany takes great pleasure in supporting the candidature of Dr S. Baharsjah, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia. Dr Baharsjah is quite familiar with FAO activities and my delegation is quite sure that he will be of great help to you Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: We now have two nominations, Ambassador L.E. Williams of Trinidad and Tobago and Dr Baharsjah of Indonesia. May I take it that it is your pleasure to elect these two very distinguished delegates as Vice-Chairmen? I see nods. So I declare Ambassador Williams and Dr Baharsjah Vice-Chairmen. I am particularly happy that I have had the privilege of working with them and I extend my warm welcome both to Ambassador Williams and Doctor Baharsjah. We will postpone the election of the third Vice-Chairman, also the election of the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee. Consultations are still going on. If possible we will take it up as the first item in the afternoon.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

17. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:
17. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:
17. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:

17.2 Application for Membership of the Organization:

17.2 Demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation:

17.2 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización:

Solomon Islands

Iles Salomon

Islas Salomón

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: En ce qui concerne ce point, nous avons reçu une seule demande d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation, c'est celle des Iles Salomon.

Tous les Etats Membres de l'Organisation ont été informés au mois de septembre de la demande qui sera naturellement soumise à l'approbation de la Conférence de novembre 1985.

Entre-temps, conformément aux paragraphes B.1, B.2 et B.5 des principes régissant l'octroi du statut d'observateur aux nations, et conformément aussi à l'Article XXV, paragraphe 11 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Conseil peut autoriser le Directeur général à inviter des représentants de

cette nation à assister en qualité d'observateur aux réunions du Conseil ainsi qu'à des réunions techniques régionales ou à toute autre réunion d'intérêt pour eux, comme j'ai eu l'honneur de l'expliquer à M. l'Ambassadeur du Mexique. C'est pourquoi la question figure dans votre ordre du jour avec la mention: "pour discussion et le cas échéant décision".

J.D.L. RICHARDS (New Zealand): The Secretary-General has given us an explanation of the status of this application at present. It is in effect a formal tabling and the decision of course will be taken by the Conference, so I will be very brief now. But as Council Representative for the South West Pacific Region I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing pleasure at the news of this application from the Solomon Islands. It is another member of the South Pacific forum to apply. It will be another member for the South West Pacific Region of the Organization and a further step towards universality of membership. The Solomons is one of the largest countries in area of the number of small Pacific island countries. It has interesting production in fisheries, forestry, palm oil and rice, and I am sure there will be a great deal of valuable cooperation between the Organization and the Solomon Islands.

CHAIRMAN: In the light of what we have heard may I seek your concurrence to the Solomon Islands being invited to attend in an observer capacity as appropriate? I see nods all round, so we will invite the Solomon Islands as an observer.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE (suite)

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO (continuación)

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Déclaration du Directeur général

3. Declaración del Director General

Le DIRECTEUR GENERAL: M. le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Ce ne sont pas les drapeaux ornant cette tribune qui constituent la véritable toile de fond de notre 86ème session. Ce sont hélas les tragiques images qui nous arrivent d'Ethiopie et de bien d'autres parties d'Afrique: enfants squelettiques, estropiés, victimes de la guerre, colonnes de réfugiés se traînant dans la poussière avec pour seul horizon les bidonvilles.

En discutant chaque point de notre ordre du jour, n'oublions jamais ces photos, ces films, qui nous rappellent périodiquement l'effroyable dénuement de millions de nos frères humains.

Par-delà ces images, n'oublions pas que la sécheresse, la désertification, et les catastrophes dues à l'homme appauvrissent encore des millions de gens qui étaient déjà misérables; cela les a acculés au désespoir et à la mort. Ne l'oublions pas, M. le Président. Autrement, nous perdrons de vue ce qui est notre véritable raison d'être, le but vers lequel toute notre action devra tendre. Restons fidèles à nos idéaux: telle est la volonté qui m'anime et qui inspire toutes mes réflexions, même quand il s'agit de sujets apparemment mineurs.

Jamais, hélas, je n'ai eu la chance de pouvoir vous présenter un tableau idyllique de la situation mondiale de l'agriculture; Dieu sait pourtant s'il aurait été plus agréable et plus consolant pour moi, comme pour vous, de pouvoir vous dire que les récoltes ont été partout abondantes, qu'il y a moins d'affamés, et que le sort des paysans du tiers monde s'améliore. Et, aujourd'hui, comme il serait plus agréable de m'entendre dire que les ressources tant locales qu'extérieures, disponibles pour le développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, sont en forte augmentation, que l'on s'est mis d'accord pour de nouveaux arrangements internationaux pour les céréales, que les prix des autres produits de base sont à un niveau équitable et rémunérateur, et que les objectifs de l'aide alimentaire ont été dépassés et relevés. Hélas, il n'en est rien; et la FAO doit dire les choses telles qu'elles sont.

Bien sûr, les pays pauvres devraient faire plus pour eux-mêmes. Mais comprenons le problème. En fait les dés sont pipés. La nature fait des caprices et déjoue leurs efforts. Le jeu inexorable de l'économie internationale: endettement, termes de l'échange, protectionnisme, tisse une toile d'araignée dans laquelle ils s'engluent de plus en plus à chaque mouvement qu'ils font pour s'en dégager. Pour couronner le tout, les achats d'armements et les conflits engloutissent les maigres ressources qu'ils avaient réussi à se procurer. Enfin, poussés par un obscur instinct de l'espèce, même les plus pauvres des pauvres continuent à multiplier le nombre des bouches à nourrir à un rythme que la production vivrière ne peut plus soutenir.

Les crises qui en résultent et qui sont devenues une maladie peut-être chronique de notre époque créent aussi beaucoup de problèmes aux pays riches, aussi charitables et généreux qu'ils aient été ou qu'ils souhaitent l'être. Ils sont eux-mêmes confrontés à des choix économiques et sociaux difficiles. Eux aussi ils sont à la merci des marchés monétaires et financiers qui ne connaissent pas la pitié. Les efforts que déploient certains pour accroître leur aide, qu'ils soient inspirés par leurs intérêts stratégiques, politiques, économiques ou par des motifs purement humanitaires, sont soigneusement planifiés en fonction de leur budget et de leur capacité logistique. Or, quand des crises éclatent, le public s'émeut. Il donne avec générosité mais en même temps il exige des pouvoirs publics un effort qui bouleverse inévitablement leurs plans et leur budget mûrement réfléchis. Inévitablement aussi, le public juge que les gouvernements n'en font pas assez et qu'ils interviennent trop tard. Et alors rien n'est plus facile que de s'en prendre aux organisations internationales que l'on accable de reproches aussi contradictoires que variés.

Néanmoins, depuis que je suis Directeur général de la FAO, j'ai toujours estimé qu'il était de mon devoir de sonner l'alarme devant les dangers qui nous guettent et notamment d'insister sur la mise en place anticipée de stocks pour l'aide alimentaire d'urgence. En outre, depuis le début de 1983, je ne cesse de réclamer que l'on reconnaisse la gravité de la situation de l'Afrique et des périls qui la menacent. Le Groupe d'action spécial publie régulièrement des rapports solidement documentés et dignes de foi. Et je multiplie les appels pour qu'une aide accrue soit apportée à ce continent. Les réactions mitigées et même parfois hostiles ne m'ont pas découragé. Certains ont en effet jugé inutiles ou mal conçues les mesures que nous proposons et ont prétendu que nos évaluations étaient exagérées.

Or, vous le savez tous, celles-ci se révèlent aujourd'hui inférieures à la réalité. Cependant, mes appels ont suscité une réaction généreuse de la part de plusieurs gouvernements, et j'ai appris avec beaucoup de satisfaction que l'un des principaux bailleurs de fonds a pris récemment des mesures concrètes pour la mise en place anticipée de stocks.

En tout état de cause, Monsieur le Président, les événements de ces dernières semaines ne font que renforcer ma résolution de m'en tenir à ce que je considère comme mon devoir imprescriptible : dire la vérité et prendre des initiatives concrètes.

Ainsi, j'ai lancé dernièrement un appel pour que soient augmentées dès maintenant les contributions à la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence qui n'est actuellement pas suffisante pour répondre aux demandes jusqu'à la fin de 1984. J'ai demandé l'inscription à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine session du CPA d'un point concernant les mesures à prendre pour assurer la livraison rapide de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence. Bien entendu, cette question a déjà été souvent examinée dans le passé et ne saurait manquer de l'être encore à l'avenir. Toutefois, étant donné la gravité de la situation actuelle, étant donné que tout porte à croire qu'elle persistera, j'estime qu'il est impossible d'attendre plus longtemps. Il faut tout de suite étudier les moyens de répondre rapidement aux demandes d'aide d'urgence : emprunts du PAM auprès des pays en développement qui disposent d'excédents, achats de produits dans les pays mêmes ou dans la région, mise en place anticipée de nouveaux stocks, augmentation des ressources en espèces, mesures à prendre dans les pays bénéficiaires, notamment pour mieux évaluer les besoins d'aide d'urgence et pour remédier aux problèmes de gestion et de logistique, y compris les problèmes de transit, participation des ONG, coordination de l'aide d'urgence, etc. Bien entendu, je vous tiendrai au courant des progrès.

Contrairement à mon habitude, je ne vous citerai pas de chiffres sur la production vivrière région par région, sur les stocks de céréales, etc. J'ai déjà eu l'occasion, tout au long de l'année, d'attirer l'attention sur ces différents aspects de la situation alimentaire mondiale, aspects qui vous seront présentés dans le détail au point 4 de l'ordre du jour - Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Il me suffira de dire que la misère continue à régner au sein de l'opulence. Notre juste préoccupation pour l'Afrique ne doit pas faire oublier que la situation alimentaire d'autres régions est précaire; pour ce qui est de l'Afrique, il nous faut reconnaître que la tragédie dont nous sommes témoins n'est pas un phénomène éphémère.

L'accroissement de la production vivrière dans toutes les régions en développement et l'instauration d'une véritable sécurité alimentaire sont des impératifs catégoriques sur le plan politique, économique et social et le resteront au moins aussi longtemps que nous vivrons.

Permettez-moi maintenant de passer en revue certains des principaux événements qui se sont produits à la FAO ou dans des conférences internationales depuis notre dernière session.

La FAO a reçu la visite de cinq chefs d'Etat - ceux du Costa Rica, de l'Espagne, de Panama, de l'Italie et du Sénégal. Nous avons été tout particulièrement honorés de la participation du Roi et de la Reine d'Espagne à la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches, et de celle du Président Pertini et du Président Diouf à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Nous nous préparons maintenant à recevoir le 27 novembre la visite du Président du Niger qui est également le président en exercice du CILSS.

Nous avons été heureux aussi d'accueillir à la FAO les Premiers Ministres de la Nouvelle-Zélande, de la Jamaïque et du Cap-Vert. et nous attendons la visite du Président du Conseil italien, M. Craxi, le 27 novembre.

Outre les ministres qui ont participé à la Conférence des pêches, une trentaine d'autres ministres sont venus à la FAO dans le courant de l'année. Enfin, nous avons reçu plusieurs délégations parlementaires, notamment les membres du Comité du budget du Bundestag.

Ces visites sont pour nous un honneur, mais surtout elles montrent dans quelle estime on tient la FAO et nous aident à mieux servir les Etats Membres.

Très utiles aussi ont été les visites de plusieurs chefs de secrétariat d'organisations internationales : CILSS, OMM, FISE, ADRAO, CEA, CEE.

Il y a eu beaucoup d'autres réunions internationales importantes cette année, mais elles n'ont guère contribué à débloquer les négociations Nord-Sud qui n'ont d'ailleurs jamais commencé.

L'échec le plus amer concerne la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA. Puisque nous parlons du FIDA, je saisis l'occasion pour dire au revoir à M. Al-Sudeary à qui je voudrais rendre hommage pour avoir joué un rôle prépondérant dans la création et le développement du FIDA. Que nos meilleurs vœux l'accompagnent. Je voudrais saluer la nomination de son successeur M. Jazairy, que je connais bien et avec lequel je compte coopérer étroitement.

Les résultats des discussions prolongées sur la reconstitution des ressources de l'Association internationale de développement - 9 milliards de dollars au lieu de 12 milliards - ont eux aussi déçu beaucoup d'espoirs.

Comme vous le savez, il y a eu bien d'autres réunions auxquelles la FAO a été représentée, souvent par moi-même; je pense notamment à l'ECOSOC, à la deuxième Conférence Internationale sur l'assistance aux réfugiés en Afrique, à la quatrième Conférence générale de l'ONUDI et à la Conférence internationale sur la population. Du point de vue de la FAO, certaines d'entre elles ont été plus importantes ou plus fécondes que d'autres, mais, sans m'attarder sur ces réunions, j'en viens maintenant à nos propres conférences régionales.

Ces conférences ont toutes été importantes. Aucune autre manifestation régionale ne réunit autant de ministres et de hauts responsables pour étudier les politiques, les faits nouveaux, les possibilités de coopération régionale et les orientations futures dans le secteur alimentaire et agricole.

Les Conférences régionales ont su parfaitement éviter la démagogie, les résolutions trop ambitieuses et l'esprit de critique systématique. Elles ont été constructives, pragmatiques, réalistes. Je parlerai surtout des déclarations d'Harare et de Buenos Aires adoptées respectivement par les Conférences régionales pour l'Afrique et pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, mais cela n'enlève rien à l'importance et à l'intérêt des autres conférences qui ont eu lieu cette année au Pakistan, en République démocratique populaire du Yémen et en Islande.

C'est uniquement le manque de temps qui m'empêche de parler plus en détail de ces trois dernières conférences, qui ont elles aussi été très intéressantes et constructives. Vous trouverez un résumé de leurs recommandations dans le document CL/86/INF/14.

Les deux déclarations que j'ai mentionnées présentent toutefois un intérêt particulier, car elles ont une portée politique et stratégique exceptionnelle. Elles ont été préparées par les ministres eux-mêmes, en dehors des séances plénières, ce qui a permis des échanges de vues plus libres et plus approfondis. Les déclarations abordent les problèmes de manière claire, pragmatique et concrète, et témoignent d'une nouvelle orientation et d'une nouvelle détermination. Elles valent pour toutes les régions.

Dans son discours d'ouverture de la treizième Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, qui s'est tenue à Harare, en juillet dernier, M. Robert Mugabe, Premier Ministre du Zimbabwe, s'est félicité du rôle de la FAO en Afrique et des multiples activités qu'elle y déploie à l'appui des efforts faits par les pays africains eux-mêmes pour sortir de leurs difficultés actuelles.

La Conférence a examiné différents points dont certains sont communs à toutes les régions tandis que d'autres sont propres à l'Afrique, par exemple le développement de l'irrigation ou l'éradication de la peste bovine. Au terme de la Conférence, le projet de déclaration élaboré par les ministres eux-mêmes a été adopté à l'unanimité.

L'autosuffisance est le mot clé de la déclaration d'Harare. Dans ce texte, les ministres réaffirment que leurs pays sont résolus à prendre en main leur propre destin. Ils rendent hommage à tous ceux qui luttent avec eux - gouvernements, organisations internationales (et notamment la FAO), organisations non gouvernementales ou particuliers - mais ils n'en reconnaissent pas moins que la charge de développer l'agriculture et le secteur rural et d'améliorer l'état nutritionnel des populations incombe avant tout aux gouvernements et aux peuples africains eux-mêmes.

Ils s'engagent à continuer de donner la plus haute priorité au développement de l'agriculture et du secteur rural, à adopter des politiques plus efficaces et à veiller à une meilleure utilisation des ressources par les pouvoirs publics.

Dans cette déclaration, les ministres appuient en outre la stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches, la nouvelle définition de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, l'établissement par la FAO d'un programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire relative à l'instauration d'un pacte mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Je tiens à remercier les pays africains qui, dans la déclaration d'Harare, ont réaffirmé leur confiance dans la FAO, dans ses priorités et programmes, et aussi dans son Directeur général, et se sont engagés à redoubler d'efforts pour aider la FAO à atteindre ses objectifs.

Cette déclaration sobre, digne et pragmatique a été bien accueillie par les représentants des donateurs et a largement été diffusée par les médias. Elle est maintenant citée à l'Assemblée générale. Pour moi, elle est symptomatique de la détermination et de la volonté d'aller vite qui animent désormais l'Afrique.

Cette déclaration doit maintenant se traduire par une action concrète des ministres du plan et des finances. En même temps, il ne faut pas oublier que l'Afrique a, et aura encore, besoin d'une aide de plus en plus importante, notamment pour faire face aux crises.

Une autre déclaration mérite de retenir l'attention du Conseil: c'est celle de Buenos Aires, qui a été adoptée par la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes, tenue en Argentine en août dernier.

Cette déclaration reconnaît elle aussi que c'est aux gouvernements eux-mêmes qu'il incombe au premier chef de "combattre méthodiquement le phénomène socio-économique que constitue la pauvreté extrême dont pâttissent des dizaines de millions de foyers dans la région".

Mais ce texte vaut aussi pour d'autres régions; ainsi, il rapporte les problèmes des pays à "l'injustice de l'ordre économique international actuel": taux d'intérêt élevés, endettement, réduction des possibilités d'accès aux financements publics et privés, termes de l'échange, protectionnisme, absence d'accords sur les produits de base, dépenses d'armement, etc.

Là encore, je tiens à remercier les pays de la région de l'appui qu'ils expriment dans la déclaration au Directeur général et de l'hommage qu'ils rendent aux programmes et activités de l'organisation dans la région, et notamment à ses efforts pour formuler un pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire.

Bien entendu, la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches, qui s'est tenue à Rome du 27 juin au 6 juillet 1984, revêt à nos yeux une importance exceptionnelle. Elle a été ouverte par Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne, Juan Carlos Ier. L'intérêt qu'il nous a ainsi manifesté nous honore profondément et son discours demeure pour nous une source d'inspiration et d'encouragement.

Nous remercions également Son Excellence Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Ministre des pêches du Mexique, qui a présidé la conférence avec brio et qui en présentera bientôt le rapport à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies; enfin, nous remercions les 147 Etats, à qui nous devons le succès de la Conférence.

Manifestement, cette conférence venait à point nommé, et elle a été bien préparée. La preuve en est qu'après un démarrage un peu hésitant on est parvenu en quelques jours à un accord unanime sur une stratégie et sur cinq programmes d'action pour l'aménagement et le développement des pêches.

Ces textes constituent la base sur laquelle la FAO continuera à assumer ses responsabilités dans le secteur des pêches et définira ses objectifs. Un document sur le suivi de la conférence vous a été distribué.

Vous êtes également saisis des rapports de la septième session du Comité des forêts et de la neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Comme vous le savez sans doute, la foresterie et notamment la question de la protection des forêts ont fait l'objet d'un débat animé à la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe, qui s'est tenue en septembre dernier à Reykjavik, en Islande.

Le Comité des forêts et la Conférence de Reykjavik ont tenu à souligner que l'importance des forêts devait être reconnue sur le plan mondial, notamment par la proclamation d'une année internationale de la forêt en 1985. Vous êtes saisis d'un document à ce sujet.

La dernière session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale s'est tenue il y a un certain temps déjà et la prochaine session n'est plus guère éloignée. Je me contenterai donc de dire que les événements de ces derniers mois ne font que confirmer à mes yeux l'importance capitale de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et qu'ils ont renforcé ma résolution de poursuivre mes efforts dans ce domaine.

Je vous confirme que je présenterai à la prochaine session un projet de pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire. Il ne contiendra aucun engagement nouveau ou contraignant pour personne, ni pour les pays, ni pour les particuliers, ni pour les ONG, mais, j'en suis convaincu, il mobilisera un puissant élan moral au service de cette cause d'importance capitale pour le monde, il aidera les gouvernements, les organisations internationales, les ONG et les particuliers à orienter leur action.

Je manquerais à tous mes devoirs si je ne vous disais pas un mot de la dernière session du CPA qui a pris fin il y a quelques jours.

Vous n'ignorez pas que le Programme alimentaire mondial est né de la FAO à laquelle cette parenté, qu'elle partage avec l'ONU, confère d'importantes responsabilités, spécifiées dans les documents, de base du PAM.

Cette relation unique en son genre est fondée sur la complémentarité entre les objectifs de la FAO et ceux du PAM, et sur le fait que l'appui de la FAO est essentiel pour le succès du PAM. A cet égard, une importance particulière s'attache à la fonction de législateur, d'électeur et de conseiller du PAM et du CPA qui est dévolue au Conseil de la FAO conjointement avec l'ECOSOC. Seuls le Conseil et l'ECOSOC peuvent modifier les documents de base. Le Conseil élit la moitié des membres du CPA, examine les objectifs de contribution, donne des avis à la FAO et au PAM lui-même sur les politiques et les activités, et, le cas échéant, prend des décisions.

Ce sont là des réalités que l'on ne saurait méconnaître. C'est en s'y conformant que le Programme a obtenu tant de succès depuis sa création.

Je suis frappé par un étrange paradoxe: au moment même où l'on affirme que le Programme n'a jamais déployé autant d'efficacité opérationnelle ni obtenu de telles réussites, on soutient que les difficultés qui ont surgi sont si formidables que les opérations du Programme s'en trouvent compromises.

Quoi qu'il en soit, le CPA a été informé - et j'en informe à son tour le Conseil, devant lequel je suis responsable - qu'en vue de résoudre les difficultés actuelles sans modifier les documents de base, le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et moi-même avons décidé de créer une équipe spéciale ONU/FAO pour examiner les divers problèmes que le Directeur exécutif pourrait soumettre, oralement ou par écrit, et présenter ses conclusions au CPA et aux autres organes intergouvernementaux concernés.

Je tiens à vous assurer que je donnerai pour instruction à mes représentants dans cette équipe spéciale de rechercher sincèrement des solutions pratiques conformes aux documents de base, et de s'efforcer d'aboutir le plus vite possible à une conclusion.

Je ferai de mon mieux pour résoudre les problèmes.

C'est dans le même esprit que j'aborderai maintenant la question épineuse de nos relations avec le Gouvernement du pays hôte.

Nous sommes reconnaissants à ce Gouvernement de la générosité dont il a fait preuve autrefois et aujourd'hui, autrefois lorsqu'il a accueilli la FAO à Rome et dont il fait preuve aujourd'hui encore dans son aide aux pays en développement. Personnellement, chacun de nous mesure tout l'agrément qu'il y a à travailler dans la Ville Eternelle parmi le peuple italien, si merveilleusement hospitalier.

Mais les organisations internationales ont besoin de certaines facilités indispensables à l'accomplissement de leur tâche. Nous n'en demandons pas plus. Nous ne réclamons pas de nouveaux privilèges, de nouvelles immunités ni de nouveaux avantages, mais seulement le maintien ou le rétablissement de ceux dont nous jouissions naguère.

Je suis reconnaissant au Représentant permanent du pays hôte, M. l'Ambassadeur Francisci, de tous les efforts qu'il a faits pour trouver des solutions constructives. Mais, pour l'instant, le Comité financier, le CQCJ et moi-même sommes une fois de plus contraints d'exprimer notre grave préoccupation; nous vous avons suggéré des lignes d'action que, je l'espère, vous serez à même d'approuver.

Si je m'abstiens de réitérer ici l'expression de mon inquiétude c'est tout d'abord à cause de l'intérêt qu'a bien voulu nous témoigner Son Excellence le Président Pertini au cours de sa visite à la FAO, le 16 octobre, pour la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation; deuxièmement parce que, quand il nous a rendu visite le 7 novembre, M. Andreotti, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères,

a discuté avec moi des problèmes en suspens et a pris connaissance des plans et maquettes des bâtiments proposés; et troisièmement, parce que j'espère pouvoir en discuter avec son Excellence M. Bettino Craxi, Président du Conseil, qui a bien voulu accepter de venir à la FAO le 27 novembre honorer de sa présence une cérémonie spéciale à laquelle le Président du Niger participera également.

La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a été marquée par la présence du Président Pertini, dont le discours a été pour nous une source d'inspiration, mais nous avons aussi été honorés, le 16 octobre, d'avoir parmi nous et d'entendre Son Excellence le Président du Sénégal, ainsi que Madame le Ministre des questions féminines et sociales du Zaïre.

Le 19 octobre, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation a aussi été célébrée à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. A cette occasion, le Secrétaire général, les Présidents de l'Assemblée générale et de l'ECOSOC et les représentants des divers groupes ont prononcé des allocutions, et j'ai moi aussi pris la parole.

La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation est devenue une extraordinaire manifestation mondiale de solidarité et de détermination dans la lutte contre la faim. A cet égard, la décision de la Conférence d'instituer cette manifestation, qui avait à l'époque été accueillie par certains avec scepticisme, s'est révélée depuis une des initiatives les plus clairvoyantes et les plus efficaces que la FAO ait jamais prises. Les faits lui donnent pleinement raison.

L'an prochain, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation sera pour la FAO une date d'autant plus importante qu'elle coïncidera avec le quarantième anniversaire de l'Organisation. Nous devons célébrer cet anniversaire avec éclat. J'étudie plusieurs idées sur lesquelles je ne manquerai pas de consulter le Conseil en temps voulu.

Enfin, je voudrais consacrer la dernière partie de mon exposé à certaines questions particulièrement importantes qui nous occuperont au cours des prochains mois.

Vous n'ignorez pas que nous publierons l'an prochain notre grande étude sur les politiques de prix. Toutes les activités visant à accroître la production alimentaire devront en effet continuer à faire une large place aux politiques de prix, aux stimulants et aux facteurs de production.

Nous vous avons déjà communiqué nos premières idées sur le suivi de la Conférence mondiale des pêches. Sans aucun doute, le Congrès forestier mondial de 1985 signalera aussi certaines nouvelles orientations auxquelles nous devons faire plus de place dans nos programmes forestiers.

La coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement reste un domaine hautement prioritaire. A juste titre, les pays en développement tiennent à conserver autant que possible la responsabilité et l'initiative des nouveaux efforts dans ce domaine. Mais ils n'en auront pas moins besoin de notre assistance. C'est pourquoi, dans le cadre de nos programmes économiques et sociaux, j'ai entrepris une grande étude sur la coopération économique entre pays en développement dans le domaine du commerce des produits agricoles.

Nous ne relâcherons pas nos efforts pour promouvoir concrètement le développement rural, notamment en ce qui concerne le rôle des femmes et des jeunes. L'accent qui a été mis en 1984 sur le rôle des femmes dans l'agriculture n'était pas destiné simplement à leur rendre un hommage sans lendemain, mais à affirmer une importante priorité économique et sociale pour l'avenir. On ne saurait négliger les besoins des jeunes, qui constituent une part de plus en plus grande de la population totale, car l'énergie et les aspirations de la jeunesse dans une situation de chômage et de frustration constituent un véritable mélange détonant.

Mais avant tout, c'est à l'Afrique que nous continuerons de consacrer en priorité nos efforts. C'est déjà le cas aujourd'hui, mais nous essaierons de faire encore plus, tout en évitant que cela ne porte préjudice aux autres régions. Nous ne devons pas nous contenter d'intervenir directement, dans la mesure où le permet notre modeste budget ordinaire mais aussi catalyser l'assistance des autres institutions et des gouvernements.

Comme je l'ai déjà dit, j'étudie les moyens d'améliorer nos services à la communauté internationale en prévoyant les situations d'urgence et en fournissant la base d'informations et d'avis nécessaires pour mobiliser l'aide de façon plus rapide et plus efficace.

Par ailleurs, comme l'a demandé la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, j'élaborerai le cadre et les éléments d'une nouvelle grande étude sur l'Afrique dans laquelle on se concentrera, en évitant tout double emploi avec les autres travaux de la FAO, de la Banque mondiale et d'autres, sur les mesures pratiques qui peuvent et doivent être prises pour accroître la production alimentaire. Je tiens à éviter que cette étude ne soit simplement un nouvel ensemble de prescriptions de politiques macroéconomiques ou une nouvelle évaluation des besoins financiers d'investissement et d'assistance technique ou encore un catalogue d'activités techniques englobant toutes les disciplines imaginables.

Dans mon idée, cette étude doit porter principalement sur les grandes cultures africaines -maïs, sorgho, mil, manioc et autres racines et tubercules-, sur les besoins essentiels en eau, semences et autres facteurs indispensables pour accroître les rendements et améliorer la qualité nutritionnelle de la production, sur ce que doivent faire les gouvernements et la communauté des donateurs pour marquer un progrès réel dans ces domaines. La tâche sera longue, compliquée et difficile, mais, à mon avis, la FAO est exceptionnellement bien placée pour la réaliser; nous n'en ferons pas moins appel à toutes les compétences techniques existant dans les autres organisations et institutions, comme dans les pays eux-mêmes.

De plus amples détails seront fournis en temps opportun mais il est urgent de se mettre au travail.

Evidemment, la crise actuelle de l'Afrique déborde largement le cadre agricole et alimentaire qui est du ressort de la FAO. Elle touche à une série de questions économiques et sociales que seules les Nations Unies peuvent couvrir dans leur globalité. C'est pourquoi, dès le mois d'avril dernier, j'avais proposé devant le Comité administratif de Coordination des Nations Unies qui regroupe tous les chefs d'agences du système des Nations Unies, sous la présidence du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, que les Nations Unies convoquent une conférence spéciale ou une session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale, consacrée à la situation économique et sociale en Afrique. Cette idée que j'ai répétée devant le Conseil économique et social en juillet dernier à Genève, semble faire du chemin puisqu'elle a été reprise par la Conférence des Ministres de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique en mai 1984, la session ministérielle du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation en juin 1984 et dans la déclaration de Harare adoptée à l'issue de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, toujours en juillet 1984. Il appartient maintenant au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies de se déterminer à l'égard de cette proposition.

Je viens de citer certaines des graves priorités du Programme ordinaire. Bien évidemment, les Etats Membres feront de nombreuses autres demandes, auxquelles il faudra répondre dans la limite de nos ressources. Les besoins des pays ne diminuent pas: bien au contraire. La pression démographique est implacable. La faim et la malnutrition persistent et sévissent dans bien des cas plus violemment que jamais. Il faut non seulement accroître l'assistance mais l'adapter aux demandes spécifiques adressées à la FAO par les Etats Membres.

Notre prochain Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87 devra tenir compte de ces demandes considérables. En le préparant, je garderai présents à l'esprit non seulement le climat d'austérité qui continue à régner dans les pays développés mais aussi les crises économiques et financières dont souffrent les pays en développement eux-mêmes.

Comme l'indique l'état des contributions, ceux-ci ont de plus en plus de mal à régler ponctuellement leurs quotes-parts, si petites qu'elles paraissent en valeur absolue. Je me bornerai aujourd'hui à vous dire que je serai très prudent dans mes propositions.

D'un autre côté, la FAO a un rôle important à jouer pour promouvoir les investissements dans le développement alimentaire et agricole et administrer l'assistance technique financée par des fonds extérieurs, qui ont permis d'acheminer en 1983 quelque 3 milliards de dollars vers les pays en développement.

Jusqu'à présent, la part de l'agriculture dans les ressources multilatérales est plus élevée que dans l'assistance bilatérale, où elle reste malheureusement très faible. Raison de plus pour les institutions multilatérales de maintenir et même d'améliorer leur performance. La FAO s'y emploiera en collaboration étroite avec la Banque mondiale, les banques régionales de développement, le PNUD, les donateurs de fonds fiduciaires et d'autres institutions encore.

Toutefois, nous devons à tout prix éviter de gaspiller de l'argent dans des projets de type "éléphant blanc" et veiller à ce que les ressources soient dans toute la mesure possible dirigées en priorité sur les petits exploitants et utilisées avec un maximum d'efficacité.

Si nous envisageons l'avenir, l'ampleur de la tâche qui nous incombe à nous tous ne peut manquer de nous impressionner. La perspective d'une aggravation de la famine et des souffrances en Afrique est insoutenable. Nous devons continuer à nous préoccuper du sort des masses urbaines et des paysans pauvres dans les autres régions du monde, d'autant plus qu'une ou deux récoltes désastreuses pourraient entraîner une calamité bien plus énorme encore que celle à laquelle nous assistons en Afrique.

On aurait assisté à des catastrophes encore bien pires si les gouvernements, notamment en Asie, n'avaient pas déployé avec succès autant d'efforts pour répondre aux besoins de populations toujours plus nombreuses. Que n'auraient-ils pu réaliser si le système économique et financier international n'avait pas été aussi biaisé!

Il ne faut pourtant pas désespérer, mais bien persévérer. Tel est le devoir des gouvernements, des organisations Internationales et des individus. Ce devoir est sacré. Dans toutes les religions, le repas est précédé d'une prière de reconnaissance pour le pain quotidien qui célèbre

l'union mystique entre la nature et l'homme. Dans la plupart des patrimoines culturels figure le thème d'un âge d'or où la nature avait une générosité sans limite. Peut-être ne s'agit-il que d'un mythe universel mais en tout cas c'est un bel idéal qui doit rester le nôtre: nous devons chercher à créer un âge d'or où la famine sera inconnue et où la faim sera l'exception au lieu d'être la règle pour la moitié de l'humanité.

Notre travail doit être pratique, au ras du sol, efficace, mais nous n'en devons pas moins garder présente à l'esprit cette vision, seule capable de ressourcer et de galvaniser nos énergies, toutes nos énergies.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Director-General, for the very lucid, comprehensive, candid and, as always, constructive analysis of both the global food and agriculture situation and FAO's part in it. We want to thank you very much. As you have seen, this applause by the members of the Council is an indication of our gratitude for the trouble you have taken.

Distinguished Members of the Council, normally we do not have any discussion following the Director-General's report. Many of these items will come subsequently, particularly the State of Food and Agriculture, but is there anyone now wanting to say anything immediately? If not, I want to again thank the Director-General for his report.

According to the Order of the Day, we should have started our discussion on the State of Food and Agriculture CL 86/2 and CL 86/2 Sup. 1 in the afternoon, but if you agree, I would suggest that we request Professor Islam to introduce it now.

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. State of Food and Agriculture, 1984

4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1984

4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1984

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, the documents before you on this item are CL 86/2 and CL/86/2 Suppl which updates the latest information available on the State of Food and Agriculture this year. The most disturbing aspect of the current situation and outlook for 1985 is the critical food situation in many African countries. This is an item for discussion under 4.1. The overall world economic situation which provides the setting in which the food and agricultural section evolves has improved somewhat during this year. The world economic recovery has gained momentum, and as a result, world trade has expanded with overall favourable effects on export and growth in developing countries as a whole.

Despite these positive developments, serious problems remain. Economic recovery has been uneven and in some countries slow and hesitant. Some developing countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, have experienced impressive growth, but others are troubled in preventing further declines. The situation is especially difficult in Africa, which is in the midst of an economic crisis that compounds a serious food supply problem. Balance of payment difficulties, high levels of budgetary deficits, high interest rates and the unusual strength of the dollar continue to characterize the world's economy. The economic adjustment undertaken in many developing countries in response to deterioration of their external balance of payments has resulted in curtailment of imports, including essential inputs for agricultural development as well as in the reduction of development expenditures.

The current account deficit of non-oil developing countries has been reduced to half of what it was in 1981, but this was, it should be remarked, mainly because of a reduction in imports and only recently through some expansion in exports. The world economic and financial environment, difficult and uncertain as it is, has continued to be a dominating factor affecting agricultural development food security, rural income and poverty. World food and agriculture production increased significantly in 1984, about 5 percent rate of growth, while the overall increase in developed countries was in excess of 6 percent. In developing countries, however, it was between 3 and 3.5 percent. Increased production in developed countries was mainly due to a very sharp recovery in North America and continued growth in Western Europe. The performance in different regions of the developing world however, has varied widely. Food production, as distinguished from total agricultural production increased only at the rate of 3 percent in developing countries, roughly the same as last year.

Except in the centrally planned economies, food production in Asia decelerated following their exceptional performance in 1983.

The situation in Africa is more complex. Recovery in coastal West Africa has been upset by a critical situation in parts of Eastern Africa, very limited recovery in Southern Africa and a worsening situation in the Sahel Region.

Global cereal stocks will rise this season as a result of production exceeding demand from 17 percent of world consumption in 1983/84 to 18 percent in 1984/85.

For food products such as cereals, wheat, dairy and edible oils, an abundant supply confronting a rather weak demand will keep stocks high and prices low. Sugar prices have been of special concern, with market prices well below even the cost of production of the most efficient producers. High prices, particularly for tropical beverages, such as coffee and cocoa, and fibres such as cotton and jute, have been mainly due to tight supplies.

The value of world trade in agricultural products in 1983 failed to recover from the downturn of the previous year. The value of agriculture, fishery and forestry products exports declined by almost 1 percent this year. The prices of fertilizer, a significant input in agricultural production, have been rising sharply, mostly because of increased use in developed countries, especially North America. High prices place a very heavy burden on developing country importers. The fertilizer market continues to be characterized by considerable fluctuation from year to year, a matter of major concern to fertilizer manufacturers as well as to importing countries.

The world economic recession and large government deficits in developed countries adversely affected the flow of external assistance to agriculture. Commitments of multilateral concessional assistance to agriculture declined by some 20 percent between 1982 and 1983. The impact of this decline has been particularly severe for the low-income countries in Asia and Africa. The importance of increasing external assistance to low-income countries thus cannot be over-emphasized, since they are unlikely to be able to attract adequate external private investment, nor are they likely to mobilize adequate resources on their own.

Fish catch is an important source of food, particularly the protein, which barely increased in 1983 compared to 1982. The world recession has affected both the domestic and export demand for fish, and marine fish supply capabilities are having to adjust to the new regime of the sea. Fisheries continue to be subject to considerable variations from year to year. Such variations and uncertainties carry important consequences not only for food supply but also for the rural poor. In forestry the latest complete information on the supply of fuel wood and charcoal output indicates an increase of 2 percent. All the time the proportion of energy derived from fuel wood is declining in developing countries, even though it continues to be a convenient and important source of energy.

The main document on the state of food and agriculture before you also reviews the development and policy changes in world food and agriculture since the World Food Conference. The analysis confirms that overall there has been an important change in food availability since the food crisis in the early 1970s. However, in 27 countries there was a decline in per capita calorie supplies between 1969 and 1971, and 1979 and 1981. Most of these are low-income countries and 15 of them are in Africa. They have experienced a very small rate of overall growth of per capita income and many have experienced a decline in per capita food production. The majority of developing countries fail to achieve the 4 percent per annum rate of growth set by the World Food Council. An important feature of development during this period was a change in the position of developing countries from that of a net exporter to one of a net importer of crop and livestock products by early 1981. The decline in the relative position of the developing countries in world agricultural exports reflected to a large extent the poor performance of Africa with a decline of 2 percent per annum in their exports. At the same time, import demand, especially for food and livestock products, expanded rapidly in high and middle income in developing countries. In 60 developing countries the ratio of food imports to total exports increased, and in 21 countries expenditure on food imports represented half or more of total export earnings, while for some of them increased food imports were less of a burden because either they had heavy reliance on non merchandise connections and remedies, or because of their heavy dependence on food aid. For many others, especially in Africa, increases in food imports were at the expense of crucial developmental imports.

This year the main document before you draws attention to a significant democratic phenomenon -urbanization, particularly rural/urban migration which has profound implications for agricultural systems, food marketing distribution and rural development strategies. Nearly one third of the population in developing countries are already in urban areas. With the year 2000 the percentage will be 44 percent, with the rapid growth in the number of primate cities which may have a population of 20 million or more. Rapid urbanization has taken place in many countries in the context of large urban under or un-employment, a stagnant or declining share of labour force in the industrial sector, limited infrastructure such as transportation and health facilities. Several countries are faced with a depleted level force of agriculture. Even women, the very young and the very old are left behind. Rural/urban migration is a result of the push and the pull factors. In some cases they do not have access to land, there is not enough or they are driven from it. In other cases the expectation of better incomes and improved living conditions are sufficient to draw people to the cities. In all cases it points to a failure in agriculture and development policies to make farming a sufficiently attractive means of livelihood. As a consequence in some places the expanding food

needs of the cities cannot be met unless large changes in agricultural activity take place. Additionally, marketing arrangements will no longer suffice. New systems to transport, process and store food will be needed. In agriculture the areas near the expanding cities, difficult policy and planning issues about how best to use the scarce land, water and forestry resources will arise, how to modify the trend and pattern of migration and how to help food production and marketing structures to adjust to changing conditions will constitute one of the challenges confronting the developing countries in the coming years.

CHAIRMAN: We will now adjourn and reconvene promptly at half past two.

The meeting rose at 11.45 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.45 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/2

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA

(19 November 1984)

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

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

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.45 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 the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (continued)
2. Election de trois vice-présidents et nomination du président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)
2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y de los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the session to order. I am informed that there is a nomination for the third Vice-Chairman.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany has great pleasure in proposing Mr. Peter McLean, the Permanent Representative of the UK to FAO and other agricultural organizations, as a Vice-Chairman. Mr. McLean is well known to everybody around the table. He has been very active in FAO activities and I feel I do not need to mention all that he has done so far. I am quite sure that he, as the two other Vice-Chairmen, will be a good choice in order to help you and the Council in its deliberations of the Eighty-sixth Session.

J.D.L. RICHARDS (New Zealand): New Zealand certainly has very much pleasure in seconding the nomination of the UK as the third Vice-Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: I now have a nomination proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany, seconded by New Zealand, of Mr. P.S. McLean, Minister in Rome, representative to FAO. Shall I take it that we select Mr. McLean as Vice-Chairman?

It is so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I declare Mr. McLean elected. So we have the privilege of having the following three people as Vice-Chairmen: Ambassador Williams of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Baharsjah, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, and Mr. P.S. McLean, Minister in Rome. I want to welcome all of them as Vice-Chairmen and I am looking forward to their assistance in ensuring the successful completion of our deliberations.

- 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. State of Food and Agriculture, 1984 (continued)
4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1984 (suite)
4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1984 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: In the morning Professor Nurul Islam introduced Item 4, The State of Food and Agriculture, 1984. I just want to remind members of the Council that we have a separate item on the situation in Africa, because there are some who want clarification whether they should make their statements on Africa right now. We will first discuss the general paper, the State of Food and Agriculture, CL 86/2 and CL 86/2 Supp.1. Some time tomorrow we will have the privilege of having the Director-General himself introduce the situation in Africa. So may I request you to defer your specific remarks on Africa until we come to that item on the Agenda because it has been given explicit recognition as an Agenda Item. A number of delegates have asked for the floor. Also some observers have asked for the floor. We will give the floor to the observers after the members of the Council have spoken.

H. CARANDANG (Chairman, Group of 77): First I should like to state that the Philippines delegation was very pleased to see you chairing this meeting of the Council in a most competent manner.

I should like also to congratulate your three Vice-Chairmen, Dr. Baharsjah, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Williams, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago, and Mr. McLean, Permanent Representative of the UK to FAO.

On behalf of the Group of 77, I should like to make some observations on the State of Food and Agriculture 1984.

In general we agree with the FAO Secretariat's analysis of the State of Food and Agriculture in Document CL 86/2. We should like to express our appreciation for the review of developments since the 1970's which is given as background for the assessment of the current situation, as 1984 marks the 10th year after the World Food Conference. We are pleased with the broad scope of this year's review concerning such topics as the evolution of food supply patterns, the demand for food fuelled by population and income growth, and particularly the underlying theme of the growing interdependence of food production, trade and the international policies affecting both. Likewise, we welcome the special chapter on the implications of urbanization trends and the effect of rural-urban migration on food production, marketing, land and water availability and rural development strategies.

The Group of 77 at this point would like to make observations on policy issues at two levels: first, at the macro-international level and secondly at the micro level regarding appropriate technology.

In the first place, the Group of 77 would like to state that, given the interdependence of the economies of all countries of the world, the existing obstacles at the international level, unless removed, will continue to impoverish the countries of the third world, to depress their agriculture and food production and increase the number of the hungry and malnourished.

The review of the state of food and agriculture, in describing the underlying economic and financial environment, referred to the following factors which have negatively affected the agricultural sector: the increase in the price of energy, the recessions of 1974-75 and of 1979-80, the unusually volatile exchange and interest rates and the massive debt problem of the developing countries. These severe economic blows according to the review, have not left the agriculture sector untouched.

To illustrate the feeling of the Group of 77 in this matter, allow me to refer to some recent declarations of eminent representatives of our Group.

The African Ministers assembled in Harare, Zimbabwe for the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, 23-25 July 1984, declared that the burden of developing their agriculture and rural areas and of raising the nutritional standards of their peoples, rested substantially on the efforts of their own governments and their own peoples.

In the same Harare declaration, however, these Ministers expressed their grave concern over structural constraints, which frustrated their best efforts. The Ministers pointed out that in addition to the drought which up to now nobody had yet learned how to control, and the domestic problems of population, urbanization and land distribution (which, according to their Declaration, they had the main responsibility to solve) there were some external constraints which thwarted their efforts. These were: 1) the world economic recession which seriously affected the quantity and price of their exports; 2) the debt problem; 3) foreign exchange difficulties, and 4) constraints on the flow of concessional development aid. In the view of the African Ministers, however their own determined efforts alone would not bring a satisfactory solution to their food and agriculture problems, since these external factors were frustrating and thwarting their best efforts to find a solution to their domestic problem of agriculture.

The Declaration of the Thirteenth Regional Conference for Asia, held in Manila sometime ago also emphasized that the developing countries had the primary responsibility for finding a solution to their food and agriculture problems, but that the international community had the responsibility, for removing the obstacles which voided the developing countries' efforts at the international level.

In his address to the Intergovernmental Follow-up Coordinating Committee for Economic Cooperation of the Group of 77 held in Cartagena in September 1984, an eminent spokesman of the Third World, Dr. Belisario Betancour, President of the Republic of Colombia expressed the same idea with a slightly different emphasis. President Betancour pointed out that the rate of per capita income

increase of developing countries rose by an annual rate of about 3.4 percent from 1950 to 1975. In the last five years, however, this rate of growth could not be sustained. President Betancour indicated several reasons for the slow-down. These were deterioration in the terms of trade, growth of protectionism, high interest rates, unstable oil prices, and the heavy debt burden. In the view of President Betancour, to which the Group of 77 fully subscribes, not all factors which brought about the lower rates of growth come from outside the borders of a country. There are internal factors as well, such as unacceptable fiscal deficits, over-valued currencies and faulty economic policy formulation. According to him however, the exogenous variables are more important causes of the slowdown, than the endogenous variables.

To say the least, the agricultural sector of developing countries is caught in a vice of low prices for agricultural produce on one side, and on the other, rising costs of inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides, energy and credit. In many cases inputs are not even available because of the lack of foreign exchange to import them.

Developing countries are faced with almost insurmountable odds. They must export to finance their development efforts and pay their debts, but they run up against the wall of protectionism. Because of the decline in their exports, developing countries have to increase their indebtedness but, sooner or later, they are inevitably faced with the problem of illiquidity. They are then obliged by the IMF to implement austerity measures for readjustment and stabilization which, as everybody knows, reduce output, income, demand and employment. But, Mr. Chairman, how much further can one lower the already precariously low standard of living of the developing countries?

The total debt of the developing countries has reached the astronomical figure of 810 billion US dollars. The developed countries have not only not kept their commitment to transfer one percent of their gross national product in the form of long-term credits, but have allowed conditions to develop to a point where the developing countries have now become net exporters of capital. As indicated in paragraph 16 of the document already cited, there was an unprecedented net outflow of 11 billion US dollars from the developing countries in 1981.

The flow of official development assistance (ODA) has been declining. Commitments to agriculture for 1981 were nearly 40 percent short of the agreed estimate of 8.3 billion dollars at 1975 prices. The IDA was reduced from US \$ 12 billion to 9 billion at its seventh replenishment. There are still doubts as to when IFAD's second replenishment will ever be completed. If the replenishment is completed, it is now clear that it will be substantially lower than the level of both the initial resources and of the first replenishment.

The International Development Strategy has recommended that the developed countries, in formulating their agricultural policies, should take into account the interests of the developing countries. Yet some developed countries apparently do not give much importance to this recommendation of the International Development Strategy.

Take, for example, the policies of certain developed countries and a group of countries with regards to sugar. Not only have they erected tariff barriers to protect their production of this commodity, which they induce through subsidies, but they export huge quantities of this commodity at subsidized prices, thus depressing the price of sugar to permanently low, unremunerative levels in the world market.

A large number of the present difficulties in obtaining remunerative prices for producers and fair prices to consumers of basic agricultural products, could be resolved by means of international agreements with economic provisions. However, some developed countries put up a systematic opposition to negotiations for such agreements. The latest example of this was at the last meeting of the working party on the elements of an International Banana Agreement.

I should not limit myself to enumerating difficulties and unfulfilled commitments. I must also point out the achievements and the results of international cooperation, such as the IMF cereal import facility, the IEFER, the establishment of IFAD, (though it was funded at a level lower than originally envisaged and which is now having difficulties in its second replenishment), record commitments for food aid in dollar terms, the enlargement of the FAC, the Agricultural Research System, and others mentioned in paragraph 7 of the Review.

But, Mr. Chairman, allow me to reiterate what I stated earlier. The best determined efforts of developing countries at the national level must be accompanied by the efforts of the international community to remove the obstacles and structural constraints at the international level in fulfilment of the requirements of justice and equity. Otherwise, we will be moving further away from the realization of the solemn pledge that we all made ten years ago to banish hunger from this planet in the year 1984.

Finally, while we work and hope for a better economic and financial climate, it is high time to look for appropriate technologies suited to the present environment. As you know very well, Mr. Chairman, the package of technology that has been developed to be used with the HYV's is a high input technology, requiring high doses of fertilizers and pesticides.

The Group of 77 believes that the time has come to look for more viable alternatives, to develop or rediscover an appropriate technology that would use less imported inputs and utilize a broad range of locally available nutrients.

We know that the IRRI and UPLB (University of the Philippines at Los Baños) have started research in this direction on Azolla and deep placement of fertilizer. We hope that we are not imposing on you, Mr. Chairman, if we request you to brief the Council about your valuable experience in this important matter.

Another example of this could be the long-tested production strategies of China stemming from the combined pressures of a diminishing agricultural base (approximately 0.1 hectare per person) and a high population density. This system has been able to feed China's teeming population, efficiently utilizing locally available resources. It makes use of nutrient resources cycled from both within the farm, and outside it, such as manure, farm residues, by-products of food processing plants, wastes from population centres, and whatever cannot be used in adjacent farms. The system also makes use of symbiotic relationships in which the by-products of the biological activities of indigenous organisms are exchanged and cycled as nutrients for each other.

Mr. Chairman, the Group would like to suggest that the search and propagation of appropriate, low-input technologies for the production of staple foods could be included as one of the priorities of FAO, in order to assist the developing countries in their faltering struggle for self-reliance in food.

N.H. PASINI (Argentina): En primer lugar quisiera renovar nuestro saludo al Sr. Swaminathan y manifestar mi satisfacción por tenerlo nuevamente entre nosotros.

También quiero hacerles llegar nuestra felicitación a los restantes miembros de la Mesa y ofrecerles nuestra colaboración.

Permítame felicitar también a la Secretaría por haber realizado un análisis integral de la situación alimentaria tal como lo hace en el documento 2, así como la clara presentación que esta mañana nos hiciera el Sr. Islam. Vemos con satisfacción que en las variables utilizadas para el análisis macro-económico se ha incluido la financiera además de la comercial; sin ello hubiera sido imposible la evaluación de este tema, y en particular de la situación estructural de América Latina.

Ahora bien, no obstante ello tenemos algunas diferencias en el enfoque que se adopta en este documento. Permítame, y aun a riesgo de caer en cierto detallismo, que me refiera a algunos puntos específicos del documento.

El párrafo 10 podría ser ampliado y comprenderse mejor la situación para América Latina si se agrega que este proceso de endeudamiento se da coincidentemente en un marco de estancamiento en el crecimiento económico de nuestros países, en el cual, paradójicamente, nos hemos convertido en exportadores netos de capitales hacia los países acreedores.

Permítame, señor Presidente, dar algunas cifras para América Latina, cuya fuente es el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, para obtener una dimensión real de este problema.

Entre 1981 y 1983 los desembolsos netos recibidos por la región en materia crediticia disminuyeron de 50 000 millones a 22 000 millones de dólares. Simultáneamente, los pagos por intereses de la deuda externa aumentaron de 33 000 millones en 1981 a 40 000 millones en 1983. Todo ello ha significado una transferencia negativa de recursos que alcanzó cerca de 21 000 millones de dólares en esos dos años y que obligó a nuestros países a convertirse en exportadores netos de capitales en un período caracterizado por condiciones económicas muy adversas.

En cuanto a los párrafos 14 y 15, queremos expresar nuestra sorpresa por la afirmación que ahí se hace. Nosotros creemos que ha sucedido totalmente lo contrario de lo que ahí se afirma. La estadística y la práctica misma han demostrado que la recuperación de los países industrializados, lejos de mejorar al mundo en desarrollo, en buena medida se ha logrado a expensas de los esfuerzos y de los intereses de los países en desarrollo en general y de América Latina en particular. Esto lo hemos repetido en la última Conferencia de la FAO, en el último Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, y ya forma parte de la amplia documentación internacional existente en la materia por estar incluido en la Declaración de Buenos Aires que presentó el Director General a este período de sesiones.

En este sentido permítame hacer algunas consideraciones adicionales sobre párrafos que hemos encontrado y que cito seguidamente:

"La declinación de la balanza comercial estadounidense fue una buena noticia para muchos de los países que comercian con Estados Unidos. En los casos de Canadá, Japón y Europa representa un repunte de las exportaciones que han contribuido a sacar sus economías de la recesión. Pero en el caso de los países del Tercer Mundo, sobre todo los de América Latina, la estructura cambiante del comercio representa algo totalmente distinto. La declinación de la balanza comercial estadounidense es de mucha mayor magnitud que la registrada con otras partes del mundo.

El aumento de su balanza comercial no es una buena noticia para Latinoamérica, sino todo lo contrario, constituye un síntoma del grave problema de la deuda que afecta a la mayoría de estos países, así también como muchos países de Asia, África y Europa Oriental y de los dolorosos ajustes que necesitan hacer."

Aquí termina la cita, y aunque parezca extraño no pertenece a ninguna organización que representa al mundo del desarrollo, sino, por el contrario, es el primer párrafo de la Tercera Sección del segundo capítulo del Informe Anual del Consejo de Asesores Económicos presentado a finales del mes de enero de este año al Presidente de los Estados Unidos, Ronald Reagan.

Creemos que esta afirmación originada en un estudio, pero que viene de los mismos países que afirman públicamente lo contrario, es suficiente para que en el Informe final de este Consejo se incluya la corrección a lo sostenido en los párrafos 14 y 15 del documento 2.

A estos argumentos podemos agregar la afirmación que se sostiene en el párrafo 57 de dicho documento en relación a la tendencia decreciente de importaciones en los países en desarrollo en el comercio mundial. Esta contradicción entre el párrafo 14 y el 57 debe ser ajustada.

Por otra parte, si a esta situación le sumamos lo dicho en el párrafo 12 respecto a la baja de precios en los productos básicos y, a la vez, la persistencia de la política proteccionista, completaremos un cuadro totalmente negativo para nuestros intereses. Ello nos llevaría a afirmar una vez más que no se trata de continuar discutiendo, se trata de aplicar las resoluciones existentes en la materia aprobadas por la inmensa mayoría de los países y que son: la Resolución 2 de la Conferencia de la FAO de 1979, referida al comercio de los productos básicos, proteccionismo y reajuste agrícola; las Resoluciones 2 y 3 de la Conferencia de 1983 relativas a Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y Reajuste Agrícola Internacional; y por último, los artículos 4 y 5 de la Declaración de Buenos Aires.

Respecto a los párrafos 16 a 18 del documento en análisis, queremos destacar nuestra preocupación por lo que en él se afirma. En cuanto a la recuperación del vigor del comercio internacional, queremos ser muy sinceros; si ello no sucede en términos diferentes a lo que ha sucedido, tendremos dificultades para el pago de los servicios de la deuda externa. Es en este contexto que hemos visto con entusiasmo la posición de Italia y Francia ante la última reunión cumbre de los países industrializados en el sentido de que estos países deberían prever políticas de largo plazo para el aumento de las exportaciones provenientes de los países en desarrollo. Apreciamos tal actitud y esperamos que la misma se generalice en los restantes países industrializados más importantes del mundo occidental.

En lo que se refiere a la disminución de la financiación para el desarrollo, nosotros creemos que éste es uno de los factores que más contribuye a profundizar el desequilibrio existente entre el Norte y el Sur, y que por lo tanto, afecta a la paz y seguridad internacional. Permítame referirme a una cuestión que no ha sido abordada en este párrafo, pero que tiene que ver con el comercio y con la financiación internacional. Se trata de la facilidad cerealera del Fondo Monetario Internacional. Hemos tenido noticias de que el Fondo redujo el crédito del 100 al 80 por ciento de la cuota. No entendemos cómo ello puede haber sucedido cuando FAO y el CMA en reiteradas oportunidades apoyaron este Servicio, y es más, propusieron ampliarlo. Para el caso argentino, ello es más perjudicial ya que en diversas oportunidades instó a que las compras, al amparo de este Servicio, se hicieran con carácter prioritario en los países en desarrollo productores y exportadores de alimentos (VIII Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, párrafo 67; Conferencia de la FAO del 83, párrafo 88; e Informe de Bucarest, sobre CEP, párrafo 62 i).

En este punto, quisiéramos más información de la Secretaría sobre que ha ocurrido, a la vez que solicitamos se haga un análisis del funcionamiento de este Servicio cerealero hasta la fecha; qué países lo utilizaron, cómo se solicita la utilización de este Servicio; y tal vez, la poca experiencia que se tiene hasta el presente, permita a otros países una mejor utilización del mismo, o que se puedan hacer las sugerencias correspondientes para modificarlo.

En relación a los párrafos 31 a 37 sobre la Ayuda Alimentaria, queremos dar nuestro total apoyo a este sistema, y reiterar que en la medida de nuestras posibilidades, seguiremos contribuyendo a la misma de la manera en que lo hemos hecho hasta el presente. En este contexto, recordamos que en el período 1980-83, Argentina comprometió y aportó 142 000 toneladas de trigo en concepto de ayuda alimentaria total.

En lo que se refiere al capítulo sobre Cambios estructurales en el comercio agrícola, párrafos 54 a 58, no queremos abundar en detalles, ya que en este punto, en materia está todo dicho y escrito. Solo queremos destacar que no se pueden describir correctamente las corrientes del comercio agrícola

si no se incluyen además de la disminución de la participación de los países en desarrollo, en el comercio global, las siguientes cuestiones: el factor precio, las barreras proteccionistas de diversa índole, los subsidios y el financiamiento de las exportaciones de alimentos y productos agrícolas que practican los países industrializados. En este sentido, reiteramos la necesidad de llevar a la práctica las Resoluciones y Declaraciones antes citadas.

En lo que se refiere al comercio entre países en desarrollo, párrafo 62, queremos recordar la existencia de las Recomendaciones del párrafo 77 de la reciente reunión de Bucarest, sobre las actividades que deberían llevarse a cabo para incrementar el comercio entre países en desarrollo. Confiamos en que el crecimiento a nivel regional sea un anticipo del interregional.

La segunda parte de este documento, referida a la urbanización, nos pone frente a un problema que nosotros consideramos importante ya que la Argentina tiene un alto grado de concentración urbana. El contenido del documento en esta sección es esencialmente descriptivo y apoyamos el tratamiento que se hace de los problemas identificados. A estas alturas del debate, sólo podemos decir que esperamos el Informe final que presentará la FAO en este tema, y que ponemos a vuestra disposición toda nuestra cooperación en esta materia.

Finalmente, quiero dejar constancia de nuestra preocupación y de nuestra solidaridad con la grave situación que atraviesa Africa y a la cual nos referiremos en el próximo punto de la Agenda.

Quiero solicitarle mis excusas por haberme extendido en este punto, pero Ud. sabrá comprender que la importancia de este tema hizo necesario tener que extendernos más de lo usual.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia es plenamente solidaria con la declaración que en nombre de todos los países en desarrollo ha hecho esta tarde nuestro colega y amigo Horacio Carandang de Filipinas, Presidente del Grupo de los 77.

En cada una de nuestras sesiones de otoño éste es el primer tema de fondo a la consideración del Consejo. Siempre concluimos que el estado mundial de la agricultura, y la alimentación es preocupante, y lo que es más grave, particularmente en Africa. Este es un cliché que se repite anualmente en el seno de este Consejo.

En la medida en que algunos de nuestros colegas nos lo permiten, logramos reflejar en el informe sobre este tema, algunas de esas realidades. La vida sigue su curso y un año después, estamos en las mismas o peores condiciones. De ahí que la delegación de Colombia piense que en esta oportunidad, conviene cambiar un poco el sentido de nuestra intervención. En vez de referirnos demasiado a los hechos concretos, será mejor tratar de identificar y señalar las causas de esa deplorable situación así como las posibles soluciones.

Sin duda, al fondo de todo ello, está la demostrada, confirmada e incorregible falta de voluntad política de algunos países desarrollados.

El párrafo primero de la Introducción nos dice que los acontecimientos que tuvieron lugar a principios de los años 70, se conocieron con el nombre de crisis alimentaria mundial. Nosotros pensamos que esa crisis fue apenas una de las que se han denunciado por situaciones coyunturales, pero que a la luz de este documento IV, existe una permanente crisis alimentaria mundial.

En el párrafo 3 se hace referencia al crecimiento de la producción alimentaria en los países en desarrollo, muy inferior a las metas establecidas, y como siempre, se concluye que el caso africano es el más agudo.

En el párrafo 5 se describe la situación de la mayor parte de los países en desarrollo que ya no pueden importar más alimentos. Bastaría relacionar estos dos hechos para corroborar nuestra afirmación.

Es evidente que sólo los grandes países productores, con sus políticas omnímodas, sin tener en cuenta los intereses, las aspiraciones ni la suerte de los países en desarrollo, determinan los niveles de producción, de precios y excedentes que concentran en sus propios estados.

En la parte A del documento, Análisis Mundial, se habla de la deuda externa que afecta a los países en desarrollo, particularmente a los de America Latina y el Caribe, con un incremento anual, realmente increíble del 20 por ciento.

El párrafo 13 señala claramente que la recuperación económica se está logrando tan sólo en los países industrializados, sobre todo en el más importante y rico de éstos.

En la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, celebrada en Buenos Aires en agosto pasado, el Presidente Alfonsín de Argentina dijo con gran claridad que "la recuperación económica de los países desarrollados se está logrando a expensas de los intereses de los países en desarrollo".

Como lo dijo el colega de Argentina, esto consta en la Declaración de Buenos Aires. Los párrafos 4, 5 y 7 del Suplemento 1, confirman estos hechos.

De los dos ejemplos del párrafo 14, el primero es un sueño porque el crecimiento económico de los países industrializados, en su forma actual, no permite que los países en desarrollo obtengan ninguno de los beneficios prospectados.

En cambio, el segundo ejemplo del párrafo 14, demuestra claramente cómo la elevación de los tipos de interés representa 3 500 a 4 000 millones de dólares del costo del servicio de la deuda de los países en desarrollo; cifras con las cuales se podrían comprar 19 millones de toneladas de cereales, de los 25 millones que, por ejemplo, importa anualmente la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

Sobre la Sección 4, "cambios estructurales del comercio agrícola", nuestra primera observación consiste en que en esta ocasión excepcionalmente, no encontramos en la referencia al comercio agrícola, ni siquiera una vez, la palabra proteccionismo. Suponemos que la Secretaría ya agotó el empeño permanente que ponía siempre en señalar los efectos nocivos del proteccionismo ante el hecho de que éste no se corrige sino que se extiende.

La frase final del párrafo 54 dice que el GATT, prevé que en 1984 el comercio mundial crecerá en un 5 a 6 por ciento, pero no especifica de ese porcentaje, qué proporción corresponde a los países en desarrollo. Suponemos que la respuesta está en relación con lo que dice el párrafo 55 sobre el descenso del 21 al 15 por ciento de la participación de la agricultura en el comercio total.

Todos los aspectos son negativos para el Tercer Mundo. El párrafo 56 confirma el hecho de que los países en desarrollo, a partir de 1981, pasaron de exportadores netos a importadores netos de productos agropecuarios. Así como las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo crecieron a un ritmo inferior en un 50 por ciento al de los países desarrollados.

Es el deterioro creciente e incontenible que, como fuerza negativa y contraria, se opone a la construcción del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional más justo y más equitativo que tratamos de lograr.

Esa actitud injusta de muchos países desarrollados que no permite nuestra recuperación económica y social, nos ha replegado a la necesidad de intensificar el comercio agrícola de las regiones en desarrollo y dentro de ellas, como lo dice el párrafo 60.

No obstante nuestros esfuerzos en este sentido, logramos mínimos resultados porque los países industrializados siguen siendo los principales mercados para las exportaciones agrícolas de los países en desarrollo, mercados que continúan cerrados por el proteccionismo, los subsidios y otras formas de asistencia a la producción en los estados desarrollados.

A este respecto, la delegación de Colombia, desea destacar, en sentido muy positivo, el apoyo que el Director General de la FAO viene ofreciendo a la cooperación económica y a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Pedimos que en nuestro informe sobre este tema, se haga ese reconocimiento a la FAO y se pida al Director General que continúe dedicando todos los medios y recursos que considere indispensables para fortalecer la CEPD y la CTPD. Pero sobre esas dos cooperaciones, hablaremos en la consideración del tema 9 de nuestra agenda.

Para concluir, la delegación de Colombia piensa que en nuestro informe debe consignarse el hecho de que el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación es completamente desfavorable a los países en desarrollo, sin que existan los menores signos de recuperación. Debemos pedir, una vez más a los países desarrollados, que ofrezcan su asistencia en volumen, oportunidad y coherencia que realmente representen la voluntad política que todos les estamos exigiendo, en favor de la cooperación multilateral.

La delegación de Colombia sigue pensando que tan sólo el aumento de la producción en los propios países en desarrollo, podrá corregir este lamentable estado actual.

Nos consuela el hecho de que en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación, los países en desarrollo contamos con una organización como la FAO, que ha sido creada para contribuir a mejorar esa situación, y para cuya labor, en nuestro Informe, debemos reiterar el pleno apoyo del Consejo y la necesidad de que permita a la FAO, a través de un presupuesto amplio y suficiente para 1986-87, disponer de los medios y de los recursos necesarios para asistir a los países del Tercer Mundo y evitar que el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación sea siempre el mismo, o cada vez peor, como se comprueba en todas las ocasiones que sobre este tema discutimos en este Consejo.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): May I begin by complimenting you, Mr. Chairman, as one of the most distinguished agricultural scientists of the world for taking the Chair today. It gives us a source of great confidence and inspiration that under your distinguished chairmanship, leadership and guidance it will be possible to come to effective productive and lucrative conclusions at this Council's meeting so that those countries which are suffering from food shortages and famines could be saved for the future and rescued by solutions we may be able to find.

May I also congratulate the distinguished Director-General, Dr. Saouma, on the statements made in his speech and the anxiety and concern which he expressed for the well-being of humanity at large and how much he feels for those who are suffering so much. There is no doubt of the sincerity and the genuineness with which he made his statement which came right from his heart.

Also the statements Dr. Islam, the Assistant Director-General, made in enlightening us on the different aspects of this paper.

Mr. Chairman, it would have gladdened the heart of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 67th birthday today to see so much worldwide interest in the plight and predicament of food-shortage-suffering countries of the world. She was always like a beacon light for them, as we heard from the excerpts of her tape recorded speech on 7th November of her address in this very hall in 1981 at the function of non-aligned and other countries which was held here and so well organized by the FAO Secretariat.

Dr. Samuel Johnson has said that where there is no hope, there is no endeavour, but hope has been kindled by FAO during its career of years, and it has shown by the dint of its hard work and the results which have accrued that some benefits have come forth in the increased areas of supplies and production, productivity and technology for agriculture round the world - not to the extent that it could be appreciated, not to the extent that perhaps, as quite rightly the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia and the Philippines mentioned, if the increased assistance which could have come forward from developed countries, which I believe would like to give it, because I believe that they are equally concerned with the welfare of humanity at large it would have been possible to do so. But there is hope, and this can be proved by the fact if we look at it historically, that any developments in the last two decades suggest that countries over certain parts of the world have managed to achieve some specific increment in agricultural production including India, China and others, but a large part of the increased production has been absorbed by the rapidly expanding population. If we look at it by 2000 A.D. at the present rate of population growth there will be 3.6 billion mouths to feed. It means that the world food production will need to be increased in the present decade of the 1980s at the rate of nearly 2 percent per annum. It may come down to 1.65 percent in the quinquennium of 1995 to 2000.

Mr. Chairman, there is a ferocious battle raging between agriculture, forestry, urbanization, industrialization and road building in the world, and mankind is only using half the world's arable land. Nearly 50 countries of the world, including the devastation in Africa today, are considered full priority countries, and most of them, as I said, in Africa and quite a few of them in Asia. Over 100 countries of the world have agricultural economies.

I would like to offer certain specific suggestions in addition to the contribution so commendably made by the speakers who have preceded me. I would begin by making a recommendation that it is most necessary for the purposes of increased production and productivity that research projects on soil productivity, water management, agronomy, agricultural engineering, pest and disease management, dry land farming, require to be much more continuously and constantly carried out than what they are today. Suitable technology for efficient use of water and water requirements for crops, reclamation of alkaline and saline acidic soils, agrotechniques like wheat control, multiple cropping, intercropping, fertilizer requirements, micronutrients, plant protection are also to my mind most necessary. Mechanization of agriculture also needs all our efforts in areas where it is possible, but it may be stated, Mr. Chairman, that in some places bullock farms can yield better results than tractorized farms. Irrigation is most vital. India today has the biggest irrigation area in the world in absolute terms and on that account demand for all farm inputs, including implements, organic and inorganic minerals and energy is bound to go up.

I would also recommend that much better input management requires to be constantly kept in mind and policies formulated to ensure such management. To meet in many countries the visitations of annual calamities like floods and scarcity conditions and famine, procurement and buffer stocks to safeguard against lean seasons is extremely important. As you quite rightly mentioned this morning, Mr. Chairman, in India we have a pipeline stock of nearly 22 million tons through procurement of surplus production in various parts of the country, as a result of which we are well prepared to meet any exigency or emergency during lean seasons, and rush stocks to areas and states which might be suffering from the elements of calamities.

I would also suggest that just like we have done, appointed additional sources for energy known as the CASE, through pipelines set up from gas plants for the supply of methylene gas, could be undertaken elsewhere as well, and to a greater extent where they have already been introduced. It provides greater relief for rural people from having to collect firewood all day long. This organization, the CASE, has programmes to set up such pipelines for gas valued at, if I am not mistaken, about US \$ 75 million in the current sixth Five-Year Plan, and for the seventh plan to which you referred an even larger allocation will be provided.

May I also suggest that it is extremely important to overcome the problems which are being faced, that training of field workers should be given a priority consideration on a much larger scale than what is being done today, and also for identifying the training institutions for officer training. It is being done but not to the extent that it could be done, and I am quite sure that FAO with its great expertise will be able to give to this matter also the attention and concentration it deserves.

May I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that there is also a necessity in various countries where there is not, to set up soil and conservation boards with wide powers to ensure coordination with other departments concerned. What very often happens is that even where there are boards they are not effective enough for the reason that there is not sufficient coordination with the other departments concerned which are necessarily involved in this process, and therefore it is of imperative importance that there should be coordination once such soil and conservation boards are set up in various areas.

I would also recommend the importance of ensuring increased production, watershed and micro watershed as the best and eventual solution in such areas. We need to have properly organized watershed and micro watershed arrangements so that they could be provided to safeguard for eventualities and to provide for the future of agriculture development as well in such affected areas.

Coming to marketing, there is need to have properly organized and functioning marketing federations. Very often the problem, linked with the prices, is the insufficiency of properly organized marketing organizations and federations, so I would like to recommend for the consideration of the Council that marketing federations should be set up wherever they are not, and to ensure that they function not only in name but in fact. Programmes for the purposes of marketing could be undertaken because it is an extremely important feature.

I mentioned at a previous meeting of the CFA that another very important point from the point of view of safeguarding the interests of the small and marginal farmers to whom we are devoted, is to have laboratory to land programmes. The laboratory to land programmes help to give to the farmer technical guidance, they help to give him free inputs and to make sure of the quality of his land so that he can be engaged in more modern forms of agriculture.

Exploitation of underground water resources is another source which has not been sufficiently tapped in those areas where there is shortage of water supply for the necessity of cultivation. Drilling and combination rigs could be profitably utilized in this connection. UNICEF would be, I am sure, prepared to help as they have done in certain areas in our country.

I would like to mention that credit has to be linked to production so that rural people could derive substantial benefit. Our Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, was always stressing on the floor, bank credit to the agricultural sector in order to improve the economic conditions of the weaker sections of the rural community and to increase rural production. So for the small and marginal farmers, the labourers and rural artisans, the landless labourers, the tenants on the land, they must be fully included in the scheme of things, and they must also be ensured that they would derive remunerative prices for their produce. A joint identification of beneficiaries by state government and banks would be very useful, and from our experience at home, 50 percent of our nationalized bank branches in rural areas, numbering over 18 000 out of 36 000, are functioning in these rural areas. Also with the establishment of the comparatively new found concept of regional rural banks which provide only for agricultural needs, all these, to my mind, are those which will ensure that for the future, production in difficult years will improve with the encouragement and incentive given to the farmers and the initiative shown by them. For meeting overall shortages imposed by bad harvests the only safeguard is a world food bank, properly established, through which part of the buffer stocks built up in prosperous years could be canalized. I would strongly recommend that this could be done very effectively to overcome the havoc of bad harvests. Recently at a meeting of some 19 or 20 countries in Bangkok two or three years ago - I do not remember the exact year - under UN auspices the concept of an Asian food bank was accepted. I would like to know to what extent that concept has come into force or has been implemented.

I also wonder what progress has been made so far by the World Bank-aided agriculture research project being executed by 21 agricultural research universities in different areas. Modern agricultural techniques should also reach the farmers quickly, and to my mind, Mr. Chairman, one of the uses of primary objectives should be to bridge the gap between the actual and the potential yields. The gap between the actual and potential yields is still wide open and that requires to be narrowed down. There should be no delays in land acquisition, starting civil works and procurement of equipment.

Instead of focusing attention - and this is another point I would like to stress - instead of focusing attention on particular disciplines, what is needed is interdisciplinary approach. Interdisciplinary approach to my mind is extremely important. Regional workshops are needed for agricultural scientists, and regular contacts between those working in the ecological zones is also required to be done with a greater determination of purpose.

I have mentioned a number of points for the consideration of the Council and I am sure that I will be enlightened much more, as I have already been in the course of the observations already made from the stage and from the floor, as well as from the speeches which are yet to come.

I would only conclude by saying that in the number of improved varieties going to the cash crops, we have been concentrating a great deal also on cash crops like sugar cane, cotton, tobacco and jute, a number of important varieties of groundnut, castor, sunflower, linseed and mustard are available for cultivation.

The Assistant Director-General referred to the question of urbanization. I think the solution for the danger of urbanization and the drift and flow of the villagers into the urban areas is to start satellite towns with full infrastructural facilities in the areas in which they live. The purpose, meaning and significance of the satellite towns is that they should have schools and health clinics and primary health centres, hospitals, shopping, marketing, housing for rural areas and guidance for their agricultures so that they do not move from the rural areas into the towns, and the hopeless bit, I would say, of finding employment or housing. All these should be provided there. The element of calamity can be overcome, as I mentioned earlier, by procurement of stocks. The distinguished Ambassador of Colombia mentioned about protectionism. We are perhaps the only country which has a liberalized import policy, and I am sure in the course of this conference the distinguished delegates of the developed countries will recognize the necessity of reconsidering their policy regarding protectionism which is harming and damaging developing countries, which I am sure it is not their intention to do.

The distinguished Director-General mentioned in the course of his closing remarks about the different organizations associated with FAO. I cannot agree more with him that there should be a complete comprehensive understanding between all such organizations, whether it is FAO or WFP or IFAD, all of them serving the same purpose of welfare for humanity, and once given the common link of transparent sincerity, integrity of purpose and devotion to duty and dedication, I am sure we will be able to wage this war against want which all of us are trying to do together. I hope and trust that the FAO will succeed in its eminent objectives through the cooperation of one and all of us.

A. WAHEED (Pakistan): We would like to begin with to express our delegation's great pleasure at seeing you, Dr. Swaminathan, once again in the chair of the worthy Council. We are confident that you will bring to it the same maturity that we have come to expect of you.

We would also like to welcome the presence of the Director-General, Dr. Edouard Saouma, who has been guiding the affairs of the FAO so ably.

We would also like to congratulate the three newly elected Vice-Chairmen of the Council. Also we wish to welcome Mr. Savary - I hope my pronunciation is correct - as the new Assistant Director-General and we wish him a very successful tenure.

We also welcome the Solomon Islands as observers amongst us and look forward to their becoming full members in the not too distant future - that is, next year.

This morning we have had the privilege of listening to an inspiring and thought-provoking address by the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, and a very informative address by Dr. Nurul Islam on the state of food and agriculture on our planet. We congratulate Dr. Saouma for the insight and lucidity with which he has provided to all of us the most required information. To Dr. Nurul Islam we extend our appreciation for the clarity and conciseness of his presentation.

The document that we are now examining pertains to the year 1984, that fateful almost tragic year in which we see a lot of suffering and misery in several parts of the world, particularly in Africa.

The document on the State of Food and Agriculture so eloquently introduced by Professor Nurul Islam this morning makes heartening but nevertheless disturbing reading. On the one hand we have before us the prospects of a general world economic recovery but on the other the developing countries, representing the vast majority of mankind, suffering from an unprecedented burden of debt servicing involving a net outflow of 11 billion dollars from developing countries. They also suffer from an increasingly difficult balance of payments and foreign exchange situation, a decline in aid for food and agriculture, especially on the most needed concessional terms, and a volume of trade which still remains short of previously achieved levels. On the side of food and agriculture, whilst we learn that progress has been made globally since the crisis in agriculture of the early 1970s and growth in production has exceeded population growth in most parts of the world and the standard of nutrition for developing countries as a whole has increased, we seem to indicate that we are all happily well-fed and malnutrition, at least in this respect, no longer exists; yet we have hidden behind these global figures a state of poverty and deprivation in which the majority of human beings still lives.

As the Report highlights so clearly in its text and so graphically in diagrams, 27 countries out of the 90 are now worse off than in the last decade. The problem is not only one of production but more fundamentally perhaps one of distribution, both between countries, as the Report so well highlights, as well as within the countries which the Report does not document.

There is also the disturbing emerging problem of increased and unprecedented food dependence of the developing countries and we are informed that the developing countries as a whole have, during the last decade, turned from net exporters to net importers of food with food imports as a rising percentage of total exports, 80 percent of which has to be paid for by the developing countries in foreign exchange, only 20 percent in food aid.

We are also informed that food production has been more stable in the last decade than in the previous one and that food cereal stocks are now at a satisfactory level, while we have in Africa today hundreds of thousands of people starving and dying from hunger before our very eyes.

The Director-General has justly and eloquently pointed out this paradox of scarcity among plenty, which truly is one of the fundamental issues of our times. We in Pakistan wholeheartedly support and acclaim the great humanitarian effort that FAO and the entire world community is making for the relief of Africa. Any amount of sympathy and encouragement and praise would be inadequate for those who, like FAO and the World Food Programme, are pioneering and spearheading this great and stupendous task.

The Report before us has, in our view, rightly pointed out that the basic problem in Africa is not merely one of drought, which may be merely a temporary phenomenon, the problem goes deeper and has many ramifications, all of which we are confident that FAO and the world bodies will be diagnosing and examining in depth in future analyses.

One particular aspect that we would like to bring to the notice of this body, an aspect which, if you would allow me, Mr. Director-General, to refer to the statement made by you earlier this morning, in which on page 2 in the second paragraph you have highlighted: "Let us not forget, behind those images, the harsh realities of drought, desertification and man-made disasters" and so forth. We have examined, we have spoken of several problems faced by agriculture in developing countries, particularly in Africa. We talk of fertilizers, of seeds, of credits, of everything. But in my view we have paid much less attention to the most fundamental requirement - that is, water management. We have had before us drought in Africa. We have had it in Ethiopia. But most of the time the attention is paid to meeting the immediate requirements. That is necessary to save human lives. But I think fertilizers, credits, seeds, etc. will go waste if we do not care for the management of the water resources. All civilizations have flourished on the banks of rivers and canals, and that is what we can learn from history.

We in Pakistan and in India, as my colleague from India said, have had some experience of making our agriculture independent of rainfall to a very large extent. We had a very bad year in 1983/84 when we had no rainfall for about three or four months, but since 85 percent of our agriculture had been made independent of rainfall the loss to the crops was 10 to 15 percent and not 50 to 60 percent as we see in the case of Africa. Unless we divert our attention and allocate more resources to water management, which includes water logging, soil erosion and everything, we cannot master this problem at all. We have to plan for this over a period of five to ten years. This is my submission. I am very happy to see that the FAO has a publication called "Small Scale Irrigation in Africa in the Context of Rural Development". So I hope we will go on in this direction.

We in Pakistan and many developing countries who have had more experience welcome the idea of ECDC and TCDC where we can share our experience with the others. The misfortune is that there is a resource difficulty. So if it is possible to provide some financial resources this experience could be shared with other countries, which would be more relevant.

Before I conclude my statement, Mr. Director-General, I have increasingly come to be convinced of the need of world food security. I think you have provided in your document last year a very valuable and a very comprehensive definition of world food security. The concept is very broad. This is the real concept. It is not only the production of more food, it is distribution, seeing that it is available at various places and also that the people who need it most have the means to have access to it. That is very essential.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes first to thank the Director-General for having drawn our attention to the salient issues of the world food and agriculture situation and for having given us an account of important ongoing and future FAO activities in his introductory statement this morning.

My delegation welcomes the Report submitted by the Secretariat on The State of Food and Agriculture, 1984, document CL 86/2 and document CL 86/2-Supl.1, whose main basic statements are largely shared by us.

Part A of the document before us gives an on the whole balanced description of the world food and agriculture situation. Beyond the difficulties described, in particular the difficult economic situation in developed and developing countries as reflected in paragraphs 10 to 18 of the document,

we particularly welcome the successes in food and agricultural production achieved in developing countries, as highlighted in paragraphs 19 to 33 of the document, also the perspectives as outlined by Dr. Islam for 1984/85 in his lucid introduction. In this connection we think inter alia of the average rate of growth of food production in the developing countries, which from 1974 to 1983 increased annually by 3.3 percent and was on an average above population growth as stated in paragraph 40 of the document. We regret, however, that food production, in particular in African developing countries, could not keep pace with population growth. An annual rate of growth of 1.9 percent of agricultural production is outweighed here by an annual population growth of 3 percent. We should however on the other hand not forget that today, ten years after the World Food Conference of 1974, about 800 million people more are fed than ten years ago. Per caput dietary supplies in about one half of the developing countries have improved substantially, as shown in paragraph 3 and Table 3 of the document. On the whole the average per caput supply increased from 2140 calories in the early 1970s to 2350 calories per caput per day now. Nevertheless it continues to be depressing that 450 million people still go hungry or are seriously undernourished.

What is of particular concern to us is the critical food crisis in a number of African countries. Such a crisis which has recently aggravated does not only exist in one but unfortunately in several countries, whilst in some West African countries the food supply position is considered back to normal, as stated in the supplementary document.

To overcome these serious problems nine countries of southern Africa with comparable problems grouped together in 1980 to the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC. We welcome this grouping and the efforts of FAO to support the activities of SADCC through the preparation of a perspective study "SADCC: Agricultural Perspectives to 2000". Likewise we welcome the declaration of the African Ministers at the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, which is a clear commitment towards high priority for food and agriculture, as well as for greater self-reliance. We consider that declaration of such importance that we translated it into German for distribution to the public at our World Food Day activities.

As trade issues have been taken up by some of the speakers who took the floor before me I wish to make just a few remarks on this item, but I will refrain from giving detailed figures on our increasing food and agricultural imports from developing countries. Nevertheless it might give you a rough idea of recent developments if I mention that food and agricultural imports from third countries increased in 1983/84 to 24.8 million deutschmarks. Our net imports surplus increased by 1.7 billion to 16.4 billion deutschmarks. Developing countries participated in that surplus by about two-thirds.

We share the assessment in part B of the world population development and of the urbanization to be noticed in developing countries. We assume that a study of the related questions will also in future be effected in close coordination with the competent institutions in the UN system, particularly the World Population Fund.

Document CL 86/2 analyzes the causes of growing urbanization and its impact on agriculture and human nutrition. We observe that particularly young people from all areas are attracted by urban livelihood. There are in our view four main reasons: first, the expectation of benefiting from the creation of new urban employment opportunities and thus the hope of a higher income; second, the release of labour from agriculture through modern labour-saving methods; third, the scarcity of land, in particular caused by a lack of cultivable land and partly by inadequate land use due to inadequate agricultural structures; fourth, the difficulties in the efforts to improve the living conditions in rural areas as fast as it is expected in the cities.

In this connection, the manifold disadvantages and difficulties of the conurbations are often underestimated. The migration of young people to urban areas causes substantial problems for the remaining rural population. In many developing countries, various problems can be seen to arise, such as the promotion of industrial settlements through investment; tax and tariff policy in favour of urban areas; food subsidies at the cost of producers; the subsidizing of dwellings and the promotion of education of young people for office jobs.

In our view, this trend can be reverted in an effective way only if care is taken to improve decisively the living conditions of those in rural areas - in particular through rural development promotion which must, inter alia, include measures to increase agricultural production within an appropriate food and agricultural policy, better marketing, better processing of agricultural products, the improvement of infrastructure, and the strengthening of education and training in agriculture with special reference to the role of women within the framework of integrated rural development. These are priority tasks. They have been identified, apart from other tasks, in the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

In the view of my delegation mention should also be made of some other important measures. First, the development of national food strategies already initiated in 30 countries and their practical implementation in the form of concrete programmes and projects; increased protection of natural resources, inter alia through regular crop rotation, proper pasture management, the avoidance of overgrazing, the sustained use of forests and increased reforestation; incentives to increase production through an adequate price and structure policy; improvement of infrastructure; a reasonable balance between the cultivation of cash crops and staple food; expansion and intensification of agricultural research

extension and training through adequately adapted technologies; and population policies with the aim of a better harmonizing of population growth and food supply.

As experience has shown, agricultural and rural development play a key role in overall development. Therefore, the Federal Republic of Germany for a long time has given priority to rural development in its fruitful cooperation with developing countries. In 1983 35 percent of the pledges of our technical cooperation, and 12 percent of our financial cooperation were accounted for by this sector. In this respect, it should be mentioned that in 1983, the official development assistance of the Federal Republic of Germany increased to 0.49 percent of its gross national product. The activities of many German non-governmental organizations and the private resources transfer have to be added to this.

Mr. Chairman, I will refrain from quoting other figures, but may I remark that the manner in which the citizens of my country have endeavoured - and are still endeavouring - to help their needy brothers and sisters in Africa in particular was beyond expectation. For them, solidarity was no lip service, and it is encouraging indeed to see that that solidarity exists.

R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Al reiterar nuestra complacencia por su presencia aquí en este Foro, y por la forma eficaz en que dirige nuestros trabajos, deseamos adelantar desde ahora que nuestra delegación le dará la bienvenida, en la oportunidad correspondiente, a las Islas Salomón como nuevo miembro de nuestra Organización.

Extendemos nuestra felicitación al Dr. Saouma por su brillante y comprensivo informe. Asimismo, al Dr. Islam nuestro agradecimiento por la presentación de este tema. Nuestra solidaridad con la declaración del Presidente de nuestro grupo, del Grupo de los 77, misma que suscribimos.

Nos complace que el documento CL 86/2 nos permita contar con una visión general del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación. Nos satisface en particular la presentación de un capítulo especial sobre el crecimiento demográfico, urbanización y sistemas alimentarios, conforme se solicitaba en los párrafos 24 y 25 del Informe final del 83° período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO.

El documento que hoy debatimos examina de manera breve y en general acertada, muchos de los acontecimientos ocurridos desde 1970, y nos permite reunir datos para la evaluación de la situación alimentaria actual.

Sin embargo no coincidimos, entre otras cosas, con la afirmación hecha en el párrafo 15, como lo han ya expresado otras delegaciones.

En lo tocante a la recuperación económica que, aunque vacilante, ha significado un respiro para los países en desarrollo, no obstante que el documento reconoce importantes limitaciones a las perspectivas del desarrollo y que el propio Dr. Islam, en su intervención, matizó aún más este aspecto, mi delegación subraya que dicha recuperación resulta aparente en varios países desarrollados y que es claro que no se extiende a los países en desarrollo en ninguna medida apreciable.

Ya varias delegaciones han presentado datos muy significativos al respecto, y han hecho referencias a importantes informaciones que se manejan en países industrializados. El virtual crecimiento de las exportaciones derivado del incremento de la demanda de importaciones en algunos países avanzados ha sido irregular y desigual, y con frecuencia se ha visto revertido por la resistencia y aun por la proliferación de acciones restrictivas del comercio, mismas que subrayamos, y que el documento no analiza.

Del mismo modo, las cotizaciones de los productos básicos de exportación de interés para los países en desarrollo, han continuado en general deprimidas y con una clara tendencia a la baja. Así, el deterioro de los términos de intercambio de nuestro comercio exterior durante los últimos años ha modificado, ha reducido las ganancias netas de mayores exportaciones, y en materia alimentaria, muchos países hemos pasado, como bien lo ha señalado el propio Dr. Islam, a ser importadores de alimentos, afectándose así nuestra soberanía alimentaria y las posibilidades de nuestro crecimiento económico.

Resulta igualmente alarmante que el uso de los fertilizantes y otros insumos agrícolas y alimentarios, se haya reducido debido a una menor capacidad adquisitiva de los países en desarrollo en el mercado internacional. Ello ha incidido significativamente en la reducción de la producción agrícola. Esta situación deberá revisarse de la forma más amplia en el foro respectivo para que se tomen las medidas de solución prontas y adecuadas. Volvemos a insistir en la necesidad de establecer convenios internacionales en materia de cereales así como en el nuevo convenio internacional del trigo, y también de productos básicos, con cláusulas económicas. El del azúcar e igualmente el del banano son de crucial importancia para muchos países en desarrollo. Sin este paso, el futuro de la producción y comercialización agrícola seguirá siendo incierto para el Tercer Mundo.

Mientras continúe este orden de cosas es difícil esperar que los beneficios de la recuperación económica en los países desarrollados alcancen a los países en desarrollo, muchos de los cuales dependen esencialmente de los ingresos por la exportación de unos cuantos productos básicos.

El urgente retorno a la racionalidad en materia de tasas de interés sigue sin manifestarse, si bien parece haberse detenido su alarmante tendencia alcista, que volvió a darse a lo largo de la primera mitad del año en curso. Los niveles de las tasas de interés que ahora enfrentan el mundo en desarrollo hacen inconcebible la consolidación y extensión de la recuperación. Basta recordar que dichos niveles son tres veces superiores a los que prevalecieron en la época de expansión económica internacional de la posguerra. El servicio de la deuda en la mayoría de los países en desarrollo se ha agigantado de manera poco manejable, pues cubre muy buena parte de las divisas obtenidas por su exportaciones. A ello hay que sumar el hecho de que los países en desarrollo, en general, se han convertido en exportadores netos de capital, como igualmente lo mencionaba una delegación. La fuga de capitales tan acentuada contribuye adicionalmente a ese dramático resultado.

En esas condiciones, la situación alimentaria del mundo en desarrollo no parece presentar perspectivas positivas en tanto no se corrijan las tendencias de un orden económico internacional cada vez más injusto.

Por eso, reiteramos ahora como lo hemos hecho antes, que la única consideración para consolidar una mejora en la situación alimentaria es sentando las bases de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional; y por tanto, la consecución de los primeros pasos del diálogo Norte-Sur, que fundamentalmente residen en el inicio pronto de las negociaciones globales.

Suscribimos asimismo, la referencia hecha por la delegación argentina a la necesidad de dar cumplimiento a las resoluciones ya aprobadas, y que en el Informe de este Consejo, las recuerde y exhorte a todos a cumplirlas.

Insistimos igualmente en el incremento del servicio cerealero del Fondo Monetario Internacional, en la explicación respecto de su situación actual, y en que se estudie con urgencia, su expansión para comprender insumos tales como los fertilizantes, tan indispensables para los países en desarrollo y cuya importación se nos ha dificultado recientemente.

Hoy por hoy, no resulta exagerado afirmar que las relaciones económicas y comerciales relativas a los alimentos, y la posibilidad de manejar significativamente nuestra situación alimentaria, no está en nuestras manos sino que depende de las decisiones principalmente de los países industrializados, y también de la propia estructura económica e internacional que domina buena parte de los productos y de los insumos de nuestra agricultura moderna y de nuestra industria alimentaria.

Esperamos en especial con gran atención, el análisis de la política de precios de productos agrícolas y alimentarios y la información que la FAO nos presentará para el próximo año en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria sobre las corporaciones agroalimentarias transnacionales en la agricultura y la alimentación.

Respecto de nuestros comentarios sobre la situación de África, le solicitamos a usted nos permita hacerlos en la oportunidad correspondiente. Debemos replantear el significado y el papel de la modernización de la agricultura en países que bien fácil podrían caer, o seguir cayendo en un proceso de creciente y más costosa dependencia comercial y financiera. El desarrollo rural integral de los llamados sectores tradicionales de la producción agrícola, significará más sólidas esperanzas y sobre todo un destino más justo y más equilibrado económicamente.

Ello es igualmente cierto para muchos países que han desarrollado los llamados sectores modernos de la agricultura y que han alcanzado un límite de productividad difícil de superar, salvo con costos exponenciales de recursos financieros y energéticos.

En general los países del Tercer Mundo hemos tendido hacia una agricultura polarizada cuya parte moderna y ligada al gran comercio está igualmente relacionada al fenómeno de urbanización, igualmente desmedido, que repercute en más importaciones de alimentos y de insumos, en mayor dependencia y en una política de preferencia por las ciudades, como bien lo califica el Documento en cuestión. Sin embargo, la causa de los desequilibrios campo-ciudad y de un proceso de urbanización desequilibrado, no se ha recibido principalmente en decisiones internas en nuestros países, sino que es el reflejo y aun la consecuencia de una estructura económica internacional que premia e induce la urbanización, y de programas de desarrollo multilaterales, bilaterales, y también de inversiones privadas que en general, y sistemáticamente, han favorecido la concentración urbana y la disponibilidad de mano de obra barata en las grandes ciudades.

Ese es el mismo caso de la expansión demográfica y el del concepto de sobrepoblación que sólo puede comprenderse en tanto que es relativo al grado de desarrollo y a la posibilidad de crecimiento económico y en este caso alimentario de cada país. En términos europeos, por ejemplo, África y América Latina son regiones virtualmente despobladas, sobre todo si tomamos en cuenta sus recursos y su extensión, no así su grado de desarrollo.

El atemperamiento del crecimiento demográfico en nuestros países, el cuidado ecológico y el equilibrio campo-ciudad en general, serán producto principalmente del desarrollo económico y social justo

y del acceso a los bienes culturales para toda la población. La mejora de la situación alimentaria dependerá por tanto del grado y del tipo de desarrollo y no sólo del control poblacional o de políticas ambientales impuestas a la fuerza y quizás demasiado costosas.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, reconocemos la trascendencia de la labor de la FAO y en especial el esfuerzo del Director General por contribuir a resolver los complejos problemas de la alimentación y por hacer conciencia universal del drama del hambre. Volvemos a alzar nuestra voz para exhortar sobre todo a los países desarrollados a que apoyen y fortalezcan el multilateralismo, en tanto que es la vía más equitativa para dirimir nuestras controversias y programar un futuro más justo.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen People's Democratic Republic) (original language Arabic): On behalf of the Near Eastern group and the People's Republic of Yemen, I should like to echo the words of previous speakers in telling you how pleased we are, Mr. Chairman, that you should be chairing the work of this Session. We should also like to congratulate the vice-chairmen who were elected this morning, Their Excellencies Mr. Williams of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Baharsjah of Indonesia and Mr Peter McLean of the United Kingdom. I am convinced that they will assist you a great deal in your work.

Allow me, Sir, first and foremost to pay due homage to this document, this summary, this account which was introduced by Dr. Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of FAO. We are particularly appreciative of the works he has engaged in as Director-General of FAO in order to arouse the world awareness of the situation in Africa and which has only been reacted to quite recently. We are very grateful to donor countries for their generous support and for the assistance they have provided.

As regards the State of Food and Agriculture in the world, we would like to echo the words of Dr. Carandang, Chairman of the Group of 77, who stressed the Group of 77's viewpoint.

We should also like to echo the words of previous speakers in highlighting the need to improve the State of Food and Agriculture. Previous speakers have in fact already said more or less what I wanted to say, so there is no need for me to be repetitive. Nevertheless, I would like to refer to one or two aspects of particular interest to us.

The situation is giving cause for great concern in most developing countries, and the urgency of the situation is very pressing. This is reflected, of course, in this document that we have before us. The drop in production in some countries, bearing in mind the overall disastrous economic and financial situation and the lack of funding as well as the increase in the cost of agricultural inputs and the drop in the price of the commodities exported by developing countries -all these, I say, are facts which remain but which cannot be solved if we study them purely as separate units, so in order to solve these problems, I think first and foremost we should define an appropriate framework. This should enable us to see things in their perspective and arrive at an appropriate solution. The world situation does seem to be the most appropriate framework. The proposal made by the Director-General that we should have a meeting of those responsible for the various international institutions in Geneva is a most timely and appropriate proposal, but we believe that the most appropriate venue or setting in which to find an adequate solution would be within the framework of North-South dialogue, this long awaited North-South dialogue, which has not yet achieved anything because of the lack of political will on the part of certain developed countries, so I think it would be appropriate here and now for us to issue an appeal that such negotiations be held so that all the material be provided to ensure the launching of a genuine and fairer New International Order.

We believe that economic and technical cooperation at a regional level is a local solution by which we might improve the situation. This is an aspect which has not been covered in the detail it deserves. This may be because the countries in the various regions have not known a genuine will to cooperate. We believe that regional cooperation in fact is one of the priorities, as was pointed out in the Director-General's statement.

ZHU PEIRONG (China) (original language Chinese): Let me at the outset congratulate you for chairing this session, as well as the three Vice-Chairmen on their election. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Director-General for his analysis and assessments made in his opening statement on the world food agricultural situation. I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for providing this Council session with comprehensive documents on this subject.

Now, please allow me to make a few points. After experiencing some years' recession, the world economy is now gradually recovering. Following the disturbing reduction in world food production in 1983, it is expected to have a better harvest in 1984. Both world food supply and storage may increase, and food production inputs and marketing are likely to be somewhat improved. Nevertheless, we must be fully aware that there will still be periodic fluctuations in world food production due to the great variance of annual production of some major food producing countries. Food security in food-deficit developing countries is still lacking reliable guarantees. It is therefore not right to be over-optimistic and off our guard to the world food and agricultural situation.

Document CL 86/2 reviews and evaluates in the state of world food and agriculture in the last ten years, in particular that of the developing countries. Ever since the World Food Conference held in 1974, developing countries as a whole have achieved a certain increase in agricultural development and food production due to the efforts made both at the national and international levels in the last ten years. However, this increase does not keep pace with the target set by the World Food Conference and is quite unbalanced among regions and countries. What is more, the situation in those low-income, food-deficit countries, heavily dependent on international inputs and assistance, is yet to be improved. There is a big gap between supply availability and demand. We think that to further strengthen the food production of developing countries, especially low-income and food-deficit ones, and to enhance step by step their ability to food self-sufficiency remain one of the key links in solving the world food problem. It should, of course, rely primarily on the efforts of the related governments and people to develop food and agricultural production; yet the support of the international community is indispensable. At present, developing countries are still lacking funds and technology for increasing food and agricultural production. We hope that developed countries will, proceeding from their overall interests in revitalizing the world economy, take steps to further help developing countries with funds and technology to promote agriculture and food production and at the same time ease the restrictions to trade so as to improve the agricultural trade of developing countries. Only when the economy of the majority of developing countries is developed, will there be relatively reliable guarantees for the development of the world economy as a whole.

In addition, we are happy to see the constant development of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as well as the continuous consolidation of agricultural trade among and within the developing regions which illustrates the spirit of collective self-reliance of the developing countries. This will benefit the common development of the agricultural economy of various countries.

We note with great concern the drop in per capita food production in Africa in the past ten years'. In particular, the successive droughts in some African countries in recent years have resulted in a yield much lower than normal years and subsequently in the emergence of serious food shortages which attracts the concern of the international community. Therefore, the agricultural development of Africa and especially the present food shortage problem deserves special attention and assistance from the international community.

Document CL/86/2 raises the question of urbanization in developing countries which is an important issue. Rapid migration and urbanization will create a series of economic and social problems for the cities and rural areas of developing countries. The Chinese Government has also attached great importance to the measures taken in solving this problem properly. Proceeding from her given conditions, China is guiding the rural labour force in a planned way to engage in occupations other than agriculture in the rural areas. Its concrete approach is to establish town and township enterprises such as food processing industry, food industries, building and construction materials, maintenance and repair of farm machinery, rural energy, small-scale mining, light industrial products, commerce and other servicing so as to build new types of small towns in rural areas. In essence this means to develop rural economy in a comprehensive way by making full use of the local natural resources, rural labour force and funds as well as by practicing an integrated management of agriculture, industry and commerce. This will play a positive role in relieving the pressure on the big cities and in promoting balanced development of industry and agriculture as well as of the cities and rural areas.

As far as the relationship between food and non-food crops is concerned, we are of the opinion that the relationship of mutual restriction and promotion exists between cereal and cash crops; so does that among agriculture, forestry, fishery and animal husbandry. However, the economic, social and natural conditions vary from country to country. It is imperative for each individual country to deal with this relationship properly in accordance with their respective actual conditions. It has a very realistic and important bearing on the solution of the food problem in developing countries, particularly in the low-income, food-deficit countries.

In China, in order to further promote the movement of agriculture towards specialization, largescale commodity production and modernization, integrated rural development is being practiced, the agricultural production structure is being adjusted in a planned way in addition to the production responsibility system adopted, the purchasing price of agricultural products adjusted as well as the relationship between planning and marketing dealt with. In adjusting the relationship between cereal and cash crops, we have taken a very prudent attitude preventing any approach being adopted which is detrimental to the increase of grain output. Our policy is to develop actively diversified economy while sparing no efforts in grain production. Because of the more rational structure and distribution of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fisheries as well as cereal and cash crops after adjustment, the acreage devoted to cereal crops has cut down slightly, yet the momentum of the sustained growth still remains. The production of cash crops, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery also registered a faster increase.

In 1983, the gross output of agriculture reached 312.1 billion yuan, registering an increase of 74 percent over that of 1974. Total grain production reached 348 million tons, 45 percent more than 240 million tons of 1974. The production of oil-bearing and sugar-bearing crops, cotton, meat and eggs also increased by a big margin.

According to the forecast of the department concerned in China, the total grain output will reach 360 million tons this year, thus registering an increase of 3.4 percent over that of 1983. With the gradual improvement of the production of food and agriculture in our country, food grain import begins to be reduced and a certain portion of food grains is used as feeds so as to develop animal husbandry and fishery to increase the animal products and to improve the livelihood of our people.

In spite of the achievements made in the field of food and agricultural production, the per capita grain output and consumption levels remain lower than the international average level due to the large population of the country. The level of development is uneven from area to area in China. Peasants in some areas, particularly in the mountainous, pastoral and marginal areas, still have many difficulties in their production and livelihood. Animal husbandry and fishery are still backward. All these remain to be solved through our sustained efforts.

The great achievements scored in the past few years in China's rural reform has stimulated the all-round development of food and agriculture as well as the development of industry and urban economy, China has decided to carry on from this year on, the reform of the entire economic structure with the cities as the focus. This is a major event in the economic development in our country which will certainly bring about a new upsurge of the entire national economy, including agriculture.

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Cyprus): Mr Chairman, we would like at the outset to commend the Secretariat for the comprehensive analysis they presented in Document CL 86/2 before us.

My *délégation* was pleased to note that there has been an improvement in overall food availability in developing countries since the world food crisis of the early 1970s. From the data provided it can be seen that on the whole, food supplies have more than kept pace with population growth. However, it should be stressed that more equal distribution is necessary if all people are to be adequately fed. This is obvious from the contents of paragraph 25 on page 6 where it states that, "In many countries, supply availability and dietary levels have regressed".

We believe that the shortage in the supply of food, especially in the developing countries, cannot be overcome if the agricultural sector is not helped, is not assisted to increase its production. In this respect, we noted with considerable regret and concern the conclusions of paragraph 18 on page 5 in relation to investments for agricultural development from where "in this respect progress since the World Food Conference has been disappointing". This is attributed to several factors of which the most important is the deterioration of the economic situation of most developing countries. Following the analysis made by the Secretariat it can be seen that for most developing countries the ratio of food imports to total exports deteriorated. This resulted in a reduction to resources that could be made available for other investments for development.

The concept of rural development, Mr Chairman, is both a complex and difficult one to be described in a few lines. Most of the factors affecting rural development have several times been outlined and stressed both here and in other fora. When discussing food supplies, one cannot stop at referring to this concept since it is directly connected with food production. What developing countries would have wished to do in this connection in order to overcome their problems does not always depend on them. The most important input that they need, that is capital, is not only scarce but it gets increasingly more difficult to secure and service. For a country to be able to plan and implement development plans, capital is a crucial factor but certainly not the only one. There are also others. Nevertheless without this input nothing can proceed as planned.

The final part of the document under review, Mr Chairman, is devoted to the problem of urbanization and the movement of people from the rural to the urban areas. The rural exodus and the resulting problems like the social problems created in the urban areas and the reduced labour force in the rural areas, to name only two, cannot be stopped if no investments can be made and/or incentives given to the rural areas, to reduce this movement. As I have already said, certainly we do not claim that capital is the only input required. Developing countries have always been seeking and are in urgent need of education, training and human resources development. This should also be emphasized, and in our view we should adopt an intensification of investments in this field, i.e. in the field of education, as a security for the future. There are of course also the non controllable natural disasters, something that we sadly observe today happening in Africa. The current drought cannot now be controlled and there is need for assistance from outside. Once the problem is over, however, steps should be initiated for preventing over time the same situation repeating itself. The international community could help in this direction. In this respect, we fully support paragraph 100 on page 28 from where I quote: "Rehabilitation and post-emergency measures including building of food stocks and efforts to improve animal health situations, are also required to restore agricultural production and help prevent recurring food crisis in countries prone to drought".

To this, Mr Chairman, my *délégation* would add, where possible, the role of water both ground and surface, for irrigation, as has already been stressed by the distinguished delegates from India and Pakistan, and the urgent need to develop the water resources of the developing countries, the necessity to train the farmers to use these resources wisely and efficiently and of course to provide them

with the capital needs and other inputs to develop these and other natural resources. Such measures could gradually, and unfortunately only gradually, lead to increased production and productivity and lessen the reliance (in relative terms, Mr Chairman) on rainfall if coupled with a remunerative price structure and other marketing arrangements.

M. ABDELHADI (Tunisie) : Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour vous dire combien ma délégation est heureuse de vous voir encore une fois diriger avec compétence les travaux du Conseil.

Je voudrais saisir également cette occasion pour exprimer ma reconnaissance au Dr. Saouma, directeur général de la FAO, pour la brillante déclaration qu'il a prononcée ce matin, déclaration exhaustive puisqu'elle a traité d'une façon magistrale de tous les points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de la présente session du Conseil et, notamment du rôle et des initiatives de la FAO dans le dénouement de la crise alimentaire actuelle.

Les propositions qu'il a formulées, surtout celles ayant trait à la tenue d'une réunion groupant les institutions internationales pour traiter des différents aspects de la situation actuelle, rencontrent notre adhésion.

Je voudrais également, à l'instar de ceux qui m'ont précédé, formuler les plus chaleureux remerciements pour l'introduction claire du Dr Islam au point 4 de l'ordre du jour, et pour le document CL 86/2, document très intéressant que le Secrétariat nous a soumis sur la "Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1984". Ma délégation appuie la déclaration que vient de prononcer tout à l'heure le Président du Groupe des 77, où il a développé un certain nombre de questions intimement liées à la situation alimentaire mondiale et exposé les vues du Groupe sur ces questions.

Le document CL 86/2 nous paraît intéressant à plus d'un titre, notamment lorsqu'il analyse dans ses différentes parties la situation actuelle par rapport aux objectifs visés par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation en 1974. Globalement, ces objectifs ne semblent pas avoir été atteints puisque la crise alimentaire continue de sévir et, je dirais, de sévir sévèrement, dans plusieurs pays et notamment en Afrique. C'est ainsi que la prévision d'une personnalité politique influente, à l'époque, en 1974, n'a pas été réalisée: il avait déclaré à l'époque, il y a dix ans, devant la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, je cite : "Pour la première fois, nous avons les moyens techniques de libérer l'humanité du spectre de la faim, nous devons donc nous engager à ce que dans dix ans plus aucun enfant ne se couche en ayant faim". Sans aller jusqu'à dire, comme mon collègue le représentant de la Colombie, que la crise alimentaire semble être un phénomène permanent, nous avons l'espoir que grâce à la concertation internationale et aux efforts conjugués de la FAO, de l'ONU et des autres organisations internationales, et grâce aussi à des politiques claires nationales (attribuant à l'agriculteur la priorité absolue), grâce à tout cela, la crise finira un jour par être jugulée. D'ailleurs, les résultats positifs et encourageants auxquels sont parvenus certains pays en développement sont pour nous un motif de fierté et de satisfaction. J'en cite, à titre d'exemple, et à titre tout à fait indicatif, l'Inde en Asie et l'Arabie saoudite au Proche-Orient. Ce dernier pays a su réaliser, grâce à une utilisation judicieuse de ses ressources, et grâce à une politique agricole claire, son autosuffisance en céréaliculture notamment.

Ma délégation voudrait enfin formuler quelques observations sur la partie du document CL 86/2 qui traite, aux pages 36, 37 et 38 (c'est-à-dire les paragraphes 120 à 130), d'une question à laquelle ma délégation attribue une importance particulière, il s'agit en effet "des effets d'une urbanisation accélérée sur les systèmes de production agricole". L'urbanisation a été en effet l'origine, comme l'a d'ailleurs mentionné le document, de la soustraction, dans plusieurs pays, de bonnes terres agricoles à la production pour créer des logements, des usines, des infrastructures touristiques et autres. Ce phénomène de l'urbanisation rampante aux dépens des terres agricoles n'a malheureusement pas épargné mon pays. C'est pourquoi en vue de freiner cette tendance, la Tunisie a adopté récemment une législation appropriée relative à la protection des terres agricoles, dont la superficie en Tunisie est limitée. Ces terres ont en effet, conformément à cette législation, été réparties en trois zones. Premièrement, les zones d'interdiction, notamment les périmètres publics irrigués, et les terres forestières, deuxièmement, les zones de sauvegarde qui couvrent les terres dont la vocation agricole doit être protégée, en raison de leur impact sur la production agricole nationale et enfin les zones soumises à autorisation ministérielle qui couvrent toutes les terres agricoles non comprises dans les deux autres zones.

Il s'agit là de quelques réflexions que ma délégation a tenu à formuler concernant la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture mondiales.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panamá): Bienvenido señor Presidente; nos complace enormemente tenerlo nuevamente entre nosotros.

Deseamos manifestar al Director General, Dr. Saouma, que escuchado atentamente y apreciado el contenido de su declaración esta mañana, mediante la cual expresó su profunda y sincera preocupación por los problemas que estamos confrontando y sin recurrir al frío uso de cifras, y su voluntad, con el dinamismo que le caracteriza, para poner en marcha una serie de iniciativas al objeto de facilitar la solución de los mismos.

Igualmente nos identificamos con lo propuesto por nuestro actual Presidente del Grupo de los 77 en relación con las causas exógenas que objetivamente estrangulan las economías de nuestros países en vías de desarrollo.

Dentro del espíritu del artículo primero de la Constitución de la FAO, en el sentido de que esta Organización se "reunirá, analizará, interpretará y divulgará las informaciones relativas a la nutrición, alimentación y agricultura", discutimos en este 86° período de sesiones el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación. Y ésta cobra particular importancia cuando la misma se realiza a una década de haberse celebrado la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, e igualmente se da dentro del marco de una situación que ubica, por ejemplo, a nuestra Región - América Latina y el Caribe- dentro de una encrucijada económica que se caracteriza, fundamentalmente, en la dificultad de cumplir con el pago de la deuda externa, en un franco estancamiento económico que se une a la fuerte inflación, tipos de cambio e intereses excepcionalmente variables, así como los bajos precios de los productos agrícolas con sus consecuentes repercusiones negativas en los ingresos.

A este propósito deseamos aquí señalar el mensaje del actual Presidente Constitucional de la República de Panamá, doctor Nicolas Ardito Barletta, al dirigirse a la nación el pasado 13 de noviembre para declarar una situación de urgencia nacional debido a la gravedad de la crisis económica que nos aqueja. El próximo mes de diciembre debemos refinanciar 700 millones de dólares de la deuda externa. Para superar esta situación de urgencia se ha optado por acciones indispensables, sea en el sector público que en el sector privado, adoptando medidas de austeridad encaminadas a sanear la Administración del Estado y a racionalizar el gasto público y medidas generadoras de ingresos mediante el incremento de las recaudaciones fiscales.

Por lo que concierne al contenido del documento CL 86/2 que se refiere al análisis mundial de la evolución económica y financiera durante los últimos años, sobresale lo expresado en los párrafos 14, 15, 16 y particularmente el 17 que indica que el ritmo de crecimiento de los compromisos oficiales de ayuda a la agricultura (COA) -definición ampliada- se ha reducido a partir de 1979, así como los compromisos multilaterales disminuyeron de hecho en 1983, como se desprende del Cuadro 8 del documento CL 86/2 Suplemento 1.

Paralelo a esto, los compromisos en condiciones comerciales han contrarrestado esta situación, pero han agravado el problema de la deuda de los países en desarrollo. Las dificultades de mantener las corrientes multilaterales en condiciones de favor se han manifestado en disminuciones de los compromisos de la AIF en un 14 por ciento y del FIDA en un 37 por ciento durante el pasado año 1983.

Especial mención amerita el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) el cual atraviesa actualmente una situación dramática. El 12 de septiembre pasado, en el transcurso de la visita que hiciera a la Junta Ejecutiva del FIDA, -amerita también decir aquí que es la primera vez que un Presidente de una República visita a los miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del FIDA, el Presidente de Panamá, al referirse específicamente al problema de las reposiciones que actualmente confronta el Fondo, señaló la notable labor que el FIDA ha realizado en favor de los países en vía de desarrollo para ayudarlos a combatir su pobreza rural y la importancia que tiene para dichos países que el problema se resuelva satisfactoriamente.

Sobre el importante aspecto que tiene que ver con la disponibilidad y utilización de alimentos y en base al análisis de dos grupos de países seleccionados de los 90 que constituyeron el estudio de la FAO, "Agricultural Horizonte 2000", y que dio por resultado un grupo de países cuyo suministro alimentario aumentó y de otro grupo de países en los cuales este suministro disminuyó, en el grupo de países donde el suministro alimentario aumentó, el servicio de la deuda representó el 11 por ciento de los ingresos de exportación y en aquellos en los cuales el suministro alimentario disminuyó, el servicio de la deuda absorbió un 14 por ciento de sus ingresos de exportación. Se destaca el hecho de que el suministro de energía alimentaria está relacionado en gran parte con la capacidad de los países para importar alimentos. Resulta, pues, dudoso que pueda mantenerse este nivel de importaciones corao en el pasado, habida cuenta del actual endeudamiento y de la falta de capacidad para obtener divisas.

Frente a este panorama que se nos presenta y que demanda la objetiva comprensión de la comunidad internacional y muy en particular de los países industrializados, es que resultan incomprensibles hechos como los acontecidos en esta Sede hace tres semanas durante la reunión del Grupo de Trabajo, que es apéndice del Grupo Intergubernamental sobre Bananos, reunido para discutir los elementos de un futuro Acuerdo Internacional sobre Bananos y que no logró hacerlo por la negativa a discutirlo del principal país importador, pese a los claros planteamientos de los países productores-exportadores, principalmente los que integran la UPEB, que ven en este Acuerdo un mecanismo único para ordenar el mercado: obtener precios justos para los productores y razonables para los consumidores.

Con relación a la utilización de piensos y la disponibilidad y utilización de alimentos, nuestra delegación planteó en el reciente pasado período de sesiones del Grupo Intergubernamental sobre Cereales, la necesidad de considerar una mayor atención por parte de la FAO, al mejoramiento tanto en calidad como en cantidad de los pastos, para contrarrestar así la utilización en mayor porcentaje de cereales para la alimentación animal, en detrimento de la alimentación humana.

Sobre el crecimiento de la producción alimentaria mundial, constatamos con preocupación que la mayor parte de las regiones en desarrollo, no han logrado los objetivos indicativos mínimos de aumento planteados en 1974 por la Conferencia Mundial. Así tenemos que de 105 países considerados, en la mitad de los mismos, la producción de alimentos fue inferior al crecimiento de la población, y en sólo el 32 por ciento, el aumento de la producción alimentaria superó en ritmo al de la población, en tanto que en el restante 18 por ciento de los países, el aumento de producción fue similar al crecimiento de la población. Y a esto hay que señalar las conclusiones un tanto inciertas sobre el futuro de la disponibilidad de fertilizantes, especialmente de fertilizantes nitrogenados.

Al hecho desalentador del cambio de posición de los países en desarrollo, que de exportadores netos pasaron a ser en 1981 importadores netos de productos agropecuarios, señalamos de acuerdo con lo agregado por el párrafo 31 y el Cuadro 6 del Documento CL 86/2 Sup. 1, que si bien los países en desarrollo, en conjunto, volvieron a convertirse en 1983 en exportadores agrícolas netos, ello se debió a una disminución de sus importaciones de productos agrícolas cuyo nivel fue de un 13 por ciento inferior al de 1983.

Por otra parte, viene a constituirse como algo esperanzador el hecho de que durante el decenio de 1970, el comercio de productos agrícolas entre regiones en desarrollo, creció a un ritmo dos veces superior al de sus exportaciones agrícolas a los países desarrollados. Destacamos esto porque creemos en el papel de protagonistas que deben tener los países en vías de desarrollo en sus propios destinos.

Refiriéndonos al contenido del documento CL 86/2, parte B, que tiene que ver con el problema de la urbanización como un desafío creciente a la agricultura en los países en desarrollo, consideramos que las políticas que tiendan a mejorar las condiciones de vida en las zonas rurales, como se indica en el párrafo 152, junto al fomento, establecimiento y desarrollo de agroindustrias en dichas zonas, como se expresa en el párrafo 157, unidas a otras que atiendan lo relativo a la organización de la cadena voluntaria de productores y consumidores, constituyen puntos que deben ser recomendados por este Consejo, para que sean adoptados con los ajustes del caso en muchos de nuestros países.

Para finalizar, y no por considerarlo menos importante, sino al contrario, para darle un énfasis muy especial, deseamos hacer un llamado a la comunidad internacional con relación a la crisis alimentaria y agrícola por la que atraviesan actualmente 24 países africanos afectados en gran parte por la sequía. El caso más grave es el de Etiopía que concierne a 6/7 millones de personas.

Reconocemos el esfuerzo del Director General de la FAO, Dr. Saouma, con miras a enfrentar esta problemática a través de iniciativas como la de la constitución de un Grupo Especial de Acción de la FAO y el PMA que vigilará la situación en estos países, así como el estudio prospectivo sobre la agricultura del conjunto de países de la Conferencia para la Coordinación del Desarrollo del África Austral.

Asimismo, estamos conscientes del hecho de que no basta proporcionar ayuda alimentaria, sino también hacer llegar la ayuda a las poblaciones afectadas, a pesar de los problemas existentes como son la escasez de medios de comunicación y la inseguridad causada por los conflictos internos, y proporcionar los medios para la distribución de dicha ayuda.

La delegación de Panamá desea manifestar a los países africanos su profundo sentimiento de solidaridad en estos momentos difíciles, y apoya con firmeza cualquier propuesta tendiente a resolver la crítica situación con la cual se enfrentan actualmente dichos países.

R. STEINER (Austria): The comprehensive reports in document CL 86/2 and the lucid introduction by the Assistant Director-General, Dr. Nurul Islam, divides the presentation of the State of Food and Agriculture into two parts. One is the world review and the second is urbanization. We regard this division as a very appropriate one. By focusing this debate also on urbanization and its effects the Secretariat very rightly aims at the core of the matter that constitutes the State of Food and Agriculture and the state of food supply in many developing countries.

First a few remarks about the overall state of food and agriculture. For many developing countries the overall economic development in the world, and in particular in industrialized countries, had its strong bearing on their own economic performance. While they benefited from the commodity price boom in 1977/78, low commodity prices during subsequent years impaired their agricultural development. This in turn caused reduced rural investment from all sources. Furthermore agriculture in many countries was affected by sharply rising costs of farm inputs and rising interest rates on capital. The indication in the report that over 1974 to 1983 world production rose annually by 2.2 percent cannot really console us, if one takes note that this change corresponds only to a 0.4 percent per caput. The 2.4 percent annual rate of change of least developed countries thus corresponds to a decelerated growth per caput of only minus .03 percent. The positive achievements in certain parts of the world should on the other side be noted with the recognition that they truly deserve. Asia and the Far East accomplished a goal of the World Food Conference of 3.4 percent per annum. The achievements, for example of India and of the People's Republic of China, very significantly contributed to these results.

Forestry resources in all countries of the world have a part of their importance as a source of energy, a most important stabilizing effect on agricultural production and variability of agricultural production. By recognizing as key problems degradation and depletion of forests in the humid tropics, fires and desertification in the arid zones, and acid rain and other atmospheric pollution in the temperate zones we have defined causes of the present situation. Comprehensive and regional as well as world-wide coordinated efforts and measures still have to follow. We will refer to the situation in Africa under the item of the agenda.

The trend towards urbanization is a world-wide one. All over the world, and in particular in developing countries, it can be regarded as one of the most important phenomena influencing economic and social development and stability. In the past the family, often also in an extended sense of the word, formed a socio-economic base balanced in itself to secure the well-being of its members. The accelerating movement, particularly of the young and active part of the population, towards urban areas is indeed dramatic, as shown in Tables 13 and 14. These Tables reflect that the population of Africa is expected to increase from 1980 to the year 2000 from 470 million to 853 million. The share of the urban population during this period is going to increase from 35 percent to 42 percent. How does the society of people living in our countries and the outside assistance respond and adjust to that situation? To be very honest, the reaction is a very slow one, often too late and seemingly so far very inadequate in its kind.

One of the conclusions contained in document CL 86/4 is a very right one, namely that farmer production will have to increase by greater amounts than population increases itself. Substantial achievements in production systems have to be introduced to maintain an increased agricultural production while migration from industrial to urban areas is going on. Urban patterns of life and food consumption often imply forced changes in dietary and food habits. Growing urban areas place a rational use of water resources in a new perspective with constraints looming more and more on the horizon. The need for a new infrastructure and flexibility in marketing has been rightly pointed out by the Secretariat. That includes removing bottle-necks in transportation, storage and food processing.

As we all know, agriculture is a complex sector. Development of agriculture is even more complex and inter-related with many economic and social facets of our life.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, to end with a quotation: "Agricultural development cannot be conceived in isolation from industrial development or of economic development in its totality. For the supply of inputs and the demands for outputs agriculture depends on industry. The growth of agricultural productivity is conditioned by employment opportunities elsewhere, by the supply of non-land inputs at increasingly cheaper rates and the absorption of outputs at remunerative prices". These were words included in the McDougall Memorial Lecture to FAO by Her Excellency Indira Gandhi Prime Minister of India on 9 November 1981. I would feel, Mr. Chairman, that we best pay homage to a great person by being guided by these wise words of the late Indira Gandhi.

CHAIRMAN: It is now nearly 5.30 and we should give sometime for those who are trying to settle the composition of the Drafting Committee. So I propose that we adjourn now. I hope that tomorrow you will keep your interventions as brief as possible because we should have sufficient time also to discuss Item 4.1, the Food Situation in Africa.

The meeting rose at 17.30

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'AUMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/3

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIEME SEANCE PLENIERE TERCERA SESION PLENARIA

(20 November 1984)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours.
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

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

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.45 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. SITUATION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 4. State of Food and Agriculture, 1984 (continued)
 - 4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1984 (suite)
 - 4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1984 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. May I call this Session of the Council to order. We have a large list of speakers. As I mentioned yesterday, I hope the speakers who are going to talk this morning - first thing this morning - will address themselves to item 4 on the State of Food and Agriculture, and later we will give special consideration to 4.1, the Food Situation in Africa.

May I extend a very special and warm welcome to Ms Brusletten, Minister for Development Cooperation of Norway and we are honoured with her presence.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais vous dire toute la joie que nous éprouvons, M. Le Président, de vous voir à nouveau présider les travaux de notre Conseil et de continuer à l'inspirer. La délégation de la République populaire du Congo souhaite également par ma voix féliciter les trois vice-présidents qui ont été élus pour vous seconder dans votre tâche. Elle exprime l'espoir qu'au cours de cette session notre instance de direction arrêtera des décisions qui renforceront la crédibilité de la FAO tout en accroissant son pouvoir d'action sur les questions relevant de son mandat. Nous nous félicitons à cet égard des analyses contenues dans le document soumis à notre examen et nous voudrions à l'occasion féliciter le Secrétariat, et notamment M. Islam qui a pu nous présenter d'une manière claire ce document. Nous félicitons également, pour sa lucide et clairvoyante déclaration faite hier, le Directeur général. Je souhaite également à l'instar d'autres délégués qui l'ont fait hier vous dire combien nous partageons les idées exprimées par le Président du Groupe des 77 au nom de ses Etats Membres. Il y a dix ans la Communauté internationale alertée s'était retrouvée à Rome pour examiner les voies et moyens de faire face à une situation alimentaire dramatique dont chacun s'était accordé à considérer par la suite comme étant la crise alimentaire la plus aigüe que le monde ait jamais connue. Certes, si ces craintes exprimées lors d'un retour cyclique d'excédents et de pénuries entraînant une grande instabilité des approvisionnements et des cours mondiaux ont pu être écartées, en raison d'une production et de programmes alimentaires globalement suffisants, il importe cependant de révéler le déséquilibre insoutenable de leur répartition et la politique visant à créer délibérément les situations qui font monter les prix de certaines exportations pour faire ensuite, ou gêner en fait, les pays en développement à faibles revenus et à déficit alimentaire. En effet, on ne peut qu'être surpris lorsque l'on sait que l'accroissement et la production alimentaire des pays en développement n'ont pas atteint les objectifs fixés lors de la Conférence mondiale, même si dans près des deux tiers des pays en développement la ration calorique moyenne par habitant a augmenté.

Si des différences sont reflétées entre deux parties d'une même région, des contrastes existent entre les régions en développement et il est symptomatique de noter que l'Afrique est une des régions les mieux dotées en ressources naturelles, et que durant ces dernières années, il y a eu une régression dans ses capacités à nourrir sa population.

Ma délégation est préoccupée d'apprendre au paragraphe 4 du document que dans les pays où la nutrition s'est améliorée ce sont les importations qui ont fourni la majeure partie de l'accroissement des disponibilités d'énergie alimentaire. Cette situation, si elle offre des avantages aux pays disposant de ressources financières suffisantes, peut au contraire conduire à asphyxier les économies de la plupart des pays en développement que la détérioration des termes de l'échange, considérés sur une période de cinq ans, place dans des situations où ils ont de plus en plus de mal à dégager les ressources en devises nécessaires pour accroître leurs capacités intérieures de production. Cette situation est exacerbée par la force que nous connaissons tous du dollar par rapport aux monnaies fragiles.

Nous savons tous que les pays en développement n'ont pas pu atteindre les objectifs de production fixés par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation parce qu'ils n'ont pas disposé de moyens suffisants pour la mise en oeuvre des politiques et stratégies d'autosuffisance alimentaire nationale. A cet égard, il convient de rendre hommage au Directeur général de la FAO pour les efforts inlassables.

sables qu'il déploie, d'une part pour aider les gouvernements à définir ces politiques et stratégies, et d'autre part pour alerter l'opinion mondiale afin que la communauté internationale fasse preuve de plus de volonté politique concernant les ressources indispensables à la mise en oeuvre de ces politiques et stratégies d'autosuffisance alimentaire.

La conjoncture économique et financière de crises qui se prolongent encore au niveau des pays en développement n'incite guère à l'optimisme. En effet, la reprise économique qui s'est amorcée et se poursuit dans les pays développés depuis l'an dernier ne semble pas, pour l'instant, gagner les pays en développement où les manifestations de la crise ont laissé des séquelles indélébiles et continuent à exercer des pressions insoutenables. Oui, 110 milliards de dollars de dettes est un chiffre impressionnant pris dans l'état actuel des choses et se situe au-delà des capacités simultanées de remboursement et de la poursuite de l'effort indispensable de développement. Ces ralentissements de l'investissement et notamment ceux consacrés au monde rural ont faibli car la capacité de production de l'agriculture, ce phénomène suffisamment répandu en Afrique, est en grande partie la cause de la baisse de la production agricole par habitant et justifierait pour cette raison la consommation alimentaire de cette région. Rien n'est étonnant puisque l'Afrique occupe la dernière place dans l'utilisation des intrants agricoles dont elle ne peut bénéficier en raison du manque de ressources en devises pour leur importation. Ceci est surtout valable pour les engrais dont on indique que les cours sont plutôt à la hausse.

Nous sommes très sensibles aux élans de solidarité internationale qui se manifestent à travers le monde pour sauver des vies humaines menacées de mort par la famine. Cependant, nous aimerions indiquer notre préférence, et éviter certaines de ces situations d'urgence graves, à faire des efforts appropriés soutenus d'aide publique au développement et notamment celle susceptible d'accroître la capacité de production agricole. A cet égard, on peut se demander où en est l'objectif de 0,7 pour cent du PNB que les pays développés devaient réserver à l'aide publique au développement ? Des mécanismes comme les taux d'intérêts nationaux, mondiaux plutôt, ont des conséquences sur la dette des pays en développement, et ne peuvent permettre à ces pays de dégager quelques ressources utiles aux investissements ruraux; le document l'indique à juste titre. Nous sommes pour notre part inquiets de la perte de vigueur des engagements multilatéraux à des conditions de faveur ; ceci est illustré par la décision de limiter à 9 milliards de dollars la septième reconstitution de l'AID au lieu de 12 milliards prévus, et de 16 milliards espérés, encore que, pendant le même temps, les ressources consacrées au développement des armes de destruction massive aient atteint des niveaux jamais égalés. Restriction budgétaire oblige n'est-ce pas ? Le FIDA lui-même créé pour financer l'exploitation agricole et rurale des régions les plus pauvres des pays en développement connaît des difficultés sans précédent dans sa seconde reconstitution de ressources et même si celle-ci est conclue en 1985 ce n'est qu'un chiffre dérisoire sans commune mesure avec l'ampleur de la gravité de la situation alimentaire qui prévaut notamment en Afrique. C'est pourquoi je partage ce qui est écrit au paragraphe 18 pour reconnaître que les progrès accomplis en matière d'engagements en faveur de l'agriculture depuis la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation sont décevants. L'aide alimentaire elle-même n'a pas atteint l'objectif de 10 millions de tonnes fixé par la Conférence; encore que les besoins estimés d'aide alimentaire sont actuellement fixés à 20 millions de tonnes. Son importance dans nombre de pays déficitaires est universellement reconnue. L'objectif de la RAIU qui a été atteint seulement en 1981 et 1983 devait être relevé à 2 millions de tonnes pour permettre aux banques de faire face aux nombreuses situations d'urgence dont le nombre ne cesse d'augmenter, de la sorte, le Directeur général de la FAO pourra, nous le pensons, continuer à répondre favorablement à toutes les demandes d'aide d'urgence et cela sans retard.

A cet égard nous appuyons l'idée émise hier par le Directeur général visant à étudier toutes les mesures susceptibles de réduire les retards préjudiciables aux bénéficiaires de l'aide d'urgence. Le développement des échanges de produits agricoles dont il s'agit au paragraphe 61, entre les pays en développement, est pour nous un signe encourageant même si leur niveau reste encore très faible. Nous demandons à la FAO de ne rien négliger pour aider les gouvernements des pays en développement à redoubler d'efforts dans ce sens. Consciente de l'apport des pêcheries dans l'alimentation, la délégation de mon pays souhaite réitérer ici son appui à l'initiative du Directeur général qui a confirmé la Conférence de la FAO sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches, dans le succès des travaux pour l'Organisation et les Etats Membres. Souhaitons que les programmes d'action aient le même succès et mobilisent les ressources nécessaires à leur mise en oeuvre. Le gouvernement de mon pays applique en ce moment une politique qui vise à pérenniser l'exploitation forestière sous toutes ses formes grâce au reboisement, indispensable pour arrêter l'épuisement de nos forêts et de la forestation sur les sols impropres à la culture, car il s'agit ici d'une ressource sur laquelle nous comptons pour ses diverses utilisations. Quant aux effets négatifs de l'urbanisation (comme conséquence l'exode rural), nous sommes d'avis que ceux-ci ôtent à la campagne ses bras les plus valides et accélèrent le vieillissement des populations rurales actives et comme l'a dit le délégué du Mexique il s'agit de l'accroissement de la population et c'est un phénomène relatif qui n'a pas la même signification dans les pays à niveau de développement différent, car comment nier, si des densités de population fortes exercent des pressions insoutenables sur l'effet économique de nos pays qu'il n'en reste pas moins vrai que sa faiblesse peut constituer une contrainte susceptible de freiner l'épanouissement économique national équilibré; bref, il s'agit ici d'un phénomène complexe qu'il importe d'étudier avec précaution dans toutes ses dimensions.

Pour conclure, nous dirons que l'environnement dans lequel évolue la situation alimentaire et agricole est très défavorable aux pays en développement. L'action de ces pays qui ont réussi à s'approcher de l'autosuffisance alimentaire, ou qui l'ont atteinte, s'en trouve d'autant plus méritoire. Mais nous pensons que cet objectif est à la portée de tous les pays en développement à condition que s'établissent des rapports nouveaux entre pays du nord et pays du sud. C'est donc de tous nos vœux que nous appelons l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique international plus juste et plus humain. Il serait à cet égard d'un concours précieux pour nos pays pauvres.

Tous les efforts faits pour promouvoir un dialogue utile pouvant seuls aboutir à cet événement est à encourager. En effet nous sommes convaincus que beaucoup de goulots d'étranglement agissent négativement sur l'augmentation de la production agricole et peuvent être levés grâce à des investissements appropriés. Les déclarations faites hier par les ambassadeurs de l'Inde et du Pakistan concernant l'irrigation, par exemple, sont à cet égard suffisamment éloquentes et nous dispensent de commentaires superflus. Cependant, l'on peut s'interroger si, dans les conditions présentes, de tels investissements sont à la portée de tous les pays. C'est pourquoi nous terminerons notre exposé en félicitant solennellement les pays développés qui s'acquittent avec responsabilité des engagements auxquels ils ont souscrit et nous exhortons tous les autres, et ceux-ci sont hélas les plus nombreux, à suivre cette voie de solidarité internationale agissante si l'on veut extirper les fléaux que sont la famine, la malnutrition et la misère de notre planète.

F. RIBADENEIRA. (Ecuador): Gracias, señor Presidente. En primer lugar, me es grato expresar la complacencia de la delegación del Ecuador por verlo nuevamente presidiendo este Consejo y, asimismo, felicitar a los tres Vicepresidentes por su merecida designación.

En cuanto al tema que nos ocupa acerca de la situación mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, para el Ecuador reviste grave importancia porque es el sector en el que sustenta su desarrollo socioeconómico. Consideramos que el documento que sirve de base para el debate se halla bien estructurado y los análisis, en general, son correctos. Sin embargo, no se hace suficiente hincapié en un factor que resulta determinante y restrictivo para el mejoramiento de la situación, cual es el del endeudamiento externo.

Como bien señaló la Declaración emitida por la reciente Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe en Buenos Aires, no será posible garantizar la suficiencia alimentaria de nuestras naciones y superar los graves problemas del hambre mientras no se produzca un mejoramiento sustancial de las condiciones del sistema económico internacional, para lo cual constituye un paso esencial la reducción de las altas tasas de interés aplicadas por los acreedores, que han agravado significativamente los problemas de la pobreza y la subnutrición en virtud de las secuelas que han originado.

En ese orden, mi delegación estima que el párrafo 13 recoge un enunciado importante, pero incompleto, cuando señala que las perspectivas de un crecimiento sostenido depende mucho de las políticas macroeconómicas generales de los países desarrollados y de la capacidad de los países en desarrollo para beneficiarse de la recuperación económica mundial.

Tal pronunciamiento queda incompleto si deja de expresarse que el fenómeno de endeudamiento no constituye sólo y simplemente un hecho puramente cronométrico, sino un problema de cuya solución depende en buena parte la estabilidad de las relaciones internacionales.

En otros términos, no puede omitirse que el diálogo político resulta fundamental entre deudores y acreedores como factor de entendimiento, pues su ausencia impediría poner en marcha la cooperación necesaria entre las partes para resolver conjuntamente la crisis.

Esa afirmación tiene que ver también con el párrafo 8 en el que se manifiesta preocupación por las dificultades no superadas que han impedido, hasta ahora, movilizar la voluntad política orientada a lograr decisivos avances en la agricultura y la alimentación.

Así pues, reitero que el diálogo entre los países desarrollados y en desarrollo es el vehículo aconsejado para crear condiciones adecuadas que conduzcan a un ambiente de efectiva cooperación. Debo insistir en este punto porque en las actuales circunstancias, la pesada carga de la deuda entre otros factores, como lo señala también muy de paso el párrafo 15, representa ahora el mayor limitante a las perspectivas de desarrollo.

Sin embargo, el convenir condiciones flexibles para el pago de la deuda externa no sería por sí solo suficiente si no va acompañado de medidas paralelas, entre las que tiene urgencia la de que las naciones industrializadas adopten medidas y políticas tendientes a facilitar el acceso a sus mercados de las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo, y creen condiciones que permitan la reanudación de corrientes de financiamiento sin lo cual el esfuerzo de reordenamiento económico que hagan los países latinoamericanos, quedará anulado.

Por otro lado, en el párrafo 3 del documento, al formular comentarios generales acerca de la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en el tercer mundo, se omite a la América Latina a pesar de que las otras regiones en desarrollo sí son consideradas, y no obstante de que según fuentes de la FAO, se están dejando de cultivar en el sudcontinente latinoamericano hasta el 80 por ciento de las tierras que ofrecen potencialidad suficiente para la producción de alimentos. Ello merece preocupación pues produce el fenómeno de que por el descuido de las áreas cultivables, se registre progresivamente el aumento de las importaciones de alimentos que contribuyen, en gran medida, a incrementar la inflación y frenar el desarrollo. Esa situación resulta aún más grave si se toma en cuenta que el promedio mundial de desaprovechamiento de los terrenos cultivables es del 52 por ciento, de acuerdo con datos de la FAO.

Al pasar al tema de los recursos naturales, no podía dejar de referirme a la pesca, por la importancia para mi país. Con razón se expresa en el párrafo 79 que la actividad pesquera es muy sensible a los cambios del tiempo y las corrientes marinas, y que esas variaciones tuvieron importantes repercusiones en las capturas frente a las costas de América Latina, en el Pacífico Sur.

Merece aclarar que, sin embargo, esas repercusiones negativas no provienen solamente de fenómenos naturales ni a la corriente de El Niño sino también a acciones humanas como son la reanudación de explosiones nucleares en la cuenca del Pacífico por parte de una nación extracontinental. que constituyen un grave riesgo para el medio marino y sus recursos naturales.

Tal situación produjo que los cuatro países de la Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur, con sede actual en Ecuador, y dentro de su política común de protección del medio marino, expresaran recientemente la oposición de sus Gobiernos a las explosiones nucleares, y pidieran el cese inmediato de las mismas; exhortación que renuevo en este foro internacional.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Ecuador for his statement. It now gives me great pleasure to ask Ms Reidun Brusletten, the very distinguished Minister for Development Cooperation in Norway, to give her statement to this meeting.

Ms R. BRUSLETTEN (Norway): Mr Chairman, permit me first to congratulate this distinguished assembly on its good fortune in having you, Mr Swaminathan, in the Chair to guide our deliberations. As one of the world's distinguished development agricultural scientists you have an understanding of the underlying issues that I believe will be most valuable in the days ahead.

We meet today against a background of crisis in many Member Countries of this Organization - a crisis in which men are starving, women are going hungry, and children are dying from lack of food.

This is an intolerable state of affairs, no matter what the reasons - be they man-made or due to natural calamities. This is really irrelevant - our duty is to help. I hereby pledge on behalf of the Government of which I am a member that Norway will do her share to help in the common cause, the common effort to alleviate the suffering that the present disaster in Africa has brought in its wake.

The present disaster is one thing, and our duty here is clear; another is to work together to eradicate the causes of catastrophies such as we see today - in the hope that documents such as CL 86/2 and its supplements will describe history and not reality when our children sit in these chairs. I say "our children" because, much to my regret, I must agree with the Director-General - I fear we will not arrive where we would all want to be in our own active time. However, Mr Chairman, we can but try. My own Government is deeply committed to this, to international cooperation for economic, social, nutritional improvement and development for the disadvantaged people of the world.

As an indication of this commitment may I inform you, Mr Chairman, that we have just prepared and sent to Parliament a major report embodying guidelines and basic principles for Norway's future participation in international development cooperation.

The first principle, I am happy to inform you, has the support of all major political parties, and it is that 1.15 percent of our GNP is to be allocated to development financing. It is also my intention as Minister responsible for development cooperation to work for increased allocations in the future.

Another basic commitment is that projects and programmes financed by Norway shall to the fullest extent possible aim at improving the conditions for the poorest people in the poorest countries, with a concentration of effort both geographically and sectorwise. The goal is to achieve a maximum developmental effect from the use of our financial and administrative resources.

On the question of channels for our allocations we intend to maintain in real terms our support for the work done by the United Nations' system of development-oriented agencies and programmes. Today between 40 percent and 50 percent of our total budgetary framework goes to multilateral cooperation. However, our bilateral programmes are continuously getting more extensive and as we gather experience and expertise, these programmes will be able to use efficiently a larger part of future increases in the budget.

I have said we will maintain in monetary terms our share of support for the multilateral agencies. But - and I stress this - the individual agencies and individual programmes will be under continuous evaluation by my Government as to their efficiency, the direction of the programmes (inter-alia their target groups) and for the results of their work. Our commitment is to the poor people, not to the agencies, and we will feel free to shift emphasis to those agencies which work most efficiently for those that need it the most.

Mr Chairman, one of the priorities of Norwegian development assistance is to bring women into the mainstream of the development process. Experience shows that it has been more difficult for women to get their share of development assistance. In our view, increased participation of women in the production process is a prerequisite for improved quality of life, in the families as well as at the national level. Because women constitute half of the world's population, their production potential is enormous. With fairly small investments in the form of improved technologies, training and agricultural inputs, women's work could be made much more productive.

In order to overcome these problems and to step up our bilateral assistance to women my Ministry has drawn up a plan of action with the objective of making assistance to women a regular part of our overall development assistance.

My Government is therefore pleased about the involvement of FAO in this field, which became evident during the valuable discussion in the Committee on Agriculture some time ago. We know that the process of involving women fully in the development process will take time. This is not to be accepted, and the importance of the issue should not be underestimated, as long as women are the backbone of agriculture in large parts of the world. It just means that efforts will have to be increased both at the bilateral level by FAO as well as other multilateral development organizations.

Agriculture, including fisheries, has a central place in the efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition, and to improve economic and social conditions in the rural areas. Norway will therefore support the view in all international development organizations, especially UNDP and the World Bank, that they increase their share of allocations for agriculture and rural development.

The organizational structure in the UN system for development cooperation in these sectors is a result of a historical process. The four central organizations located in Rome - FAO, the World Food Council, the World Food Programme and IFAD - all have their separate tasks.

My Government emphasizes the importance of avoiding as much as possible the overlapping and duplication of work during the realization of these tasks. This will be given priority when we take part in consultation procedures and in the governing bodies of these various organizations. My Government will seek to achieve this objective in cooperation with the other Nordic countries. My Government will also contribute to the work of these organizations so that their activities as far as possible be directed towards the poorest countries and the poorest parts of the population.

For my Government it is important to see to it that FAO puts more emphasis on economic, social and agropolitical problems in relation to the more technical production problems. We will actively pursue these objectives in our trust fund activities.

Mr Chairman, I have used three times already the word "efficiency" and four times equivalents of the words "most needy". This is to underline what is not only my view, nor that only of the rest of Norway's Government; it is also the view of the Norwegian people who are the final decision-makers. In the end they will accept our participation at the present level in development cooperation - be that multilaterally or bilaterally - only as long as the key concepts I have mentioned are clearly in view.

We know from our own bilateral experience that "efficiency" is an easy word to use, but a difficult objective to achieve, especially so in the complex and many-faceted world of multilateral cooperation. This being said, I would add that the situation is intolerable in which different agencies, instead of being seen as cooperating, are perceived by the outside world to be wasting their resources and energies in fighting over who should have which responsibility, something that in an ordinary situation would be a serious blow to the idea of multilateral cooperation. Today - in the situation which is described in the documents before us - and even more poignantly so in the Director-General's appeals - it is intolerable, as I have said.

That is why my Government (and, indeed, here I speak on behalf of all my Nordic colleagues whose observers are present today), accepted with appreciation the decision by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO to institute a joint task force to carry out a full review of all the managerial problems that have arisen for the World Food Programme.

My Nordic colleagues and I are pleased that the Director-General and the Secretary-General have indicated that they share our view on the following aspects of the task force:

1. That the Joint Inspection Unit's report and the report from CFA/18 form part of the basis of the work of the task force;
2. that the reports and statements from the external auditor and the report from the ACABQ form part of the basis of the work concerning financial responsibility;
3. that the Executive Director of WFP is to be fully involved at every stage in the work of the task force, and
4. that this work will proceed with all due despatch so that its Report and conclusions can be submitted to the Nineteenth Session of the CFA, the policy body of the World Food Programme.

We hope that their work will conclude in recommendations so that the problems can be solved administratively, obviating the need for Member Governments to look for other solutions.

May I end my intervention by recalling that 2000 years ago in this city a policy-maker fiddled while Rome burned. Let us not emulate him while the world is burning in so many, far too many places. Let our agencies, governments and individuals act to help, act to build; otherwise history's judgement may be as hard on us as it is on that erstwhile fiddler.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for that inspiring statement. We are very grateful to Ms Reidun Brusletten for coming to deliver her speech.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Punto de orden. La delegación de Colombia no interrumpió a la distinguidísima señora Ministro de Noruega por dos consideraciones. Primero, porque es una dama; y segundo, porque es un Ministro. Pero nosotros consideramos que es peligroso que se planteen temas fuera de orden. Estamos discutiendo el punto 4: "Estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación". En la Agenda que adoptamos ayer no hay ningún punto relacionado ni con el Grupo de Acción ni con el 18º período de sesiones del CPA. Creemos que es mejor, como se ha dicho, cantar en vez de encender la llama.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole, et je voudrais me joindre à certains de mes collègues qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter ainsi que les vice-présidents qui ont été élus pour vous seconder dans la direction des travaux de la 86ème session du Conseil, et pour vous souhaiter à tous la réussite.

La Délégation libanaise est heureuse de participer aux discussions du point 4 de l'ordre du jour sur la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, objet du document CL 86/2 et CL 86/2-sup.1, et de les commenter en faisant deux observations.

La première observation c'est qu'en dépit de la reprise économique dont les prémices sont apparues dans les pays industriels au cours de la première moitié de 1984, les répercussions positives de cette reprise n'ont pas été ressenties sur l'agriculture. De même, le commerce mondial des produits agricoles ne s'est pas amélioré depuis 1981. Nous aurions aimé voir une augmentation substantielle des fonds affectés aux aides bilatérales pour l'agriculture par rapport à l'aide globale.

La deuxième observation: nous sommes particulièrement satisfaits de ce que le document a révélé dans sa troisième partie au sujet de l'amélioration constatée dans la situation mondiale agricole et alimentaire. Il n'est point de doute que la FAO a joué un rôle prépondérant dans l'accélération du progrès et du développement agricoles sur le plan mondial et cet effort recueille toute notre considération et toute notre estime. Toutefois nous sommes quelque peu inquiets en raison de la détérioration des prix mondiaux des produits agricoles, d'où la baisse des revenus des pays en voie de développement exportateurs de produits agricoles, le déséquilibre de leur balance des paiements et l'augmentation de leurs dettes, de leur retard et de leur pauvreté.

Nous sommes particulièrement inquiets en raison de la situation déséquilibrée ou plutôt de la détérioration du développement agricole dans beaucoup de pays en voie de développement. Nous mentionnerons tout particulièrement la situation agricole et alimentaire en Afrique et son niveau actuel auquel notre pays accorde une grande attention, en lui souhaitant la prospérité et le progrès.

Nous sommes particulièrement tristes, ainsi que la conscience mondiale, de voir des milliers d'enfants, de femmes et d'hommes mourir de faim alors que d'autres pays baignent dans la surabondance et étouffent par la suralimentation. Nous sommes également inquiets du fait qu'au cours des dix dernières années la population soit en augmentation constante en Afrique alors que la moyenne du revenu individuel est en détérioration continue et que l'Afrique est devenue un continent importateur d'aliments agricoles après en avoir été un exportateur.

Eu égard à cette situation en détérioration de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique, nous sommes heureux d'entendre la voix du Directeur général s'élever pour inciter la conscience humaine et pour transformer la direction de la FAO en une direction dynamique pour aider les pays dans le besoin. Nous félicitons le Directeur général et remercions la FAO pour sa proposition et son initiative présentées durant la Conférence régionale de l'Afrique et soumises également à la Commission administrative des Nations Unies pour proposer la convocation d'une session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale pour discuter de la situation économique, sociale et agricole en Afrique.

La délégation de mon pays remercie le Directeur général pour cette initiative positive qu'elle considère de bon augure. Nous appuyons cette proposition constructive et positive et invitons nos collègues au sein du Conseil à coopérer avec le Directeur général dans cette noble mission humaine qui revêt une importance incomparable.

L'étude exhaustive et approfondie de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique proposée par le Directeur général revêt, du point de vue de la délégation de mon pays, une grande importance car elle permettra de diagnostiquer le mal, de proposer les remèdes et de régler les problèmes agricoles du continent africain d'une manière claire et pratique susceptible de répondre aux besoins de ces pays.

Notre délégation estime que tant qu'il existe une telle direction et une bonne volonté de la part des pays riches et tant qu'il existe un potentiel suffisant fourni par la communauté internationale représentée par la FAO qui, aux yeux de ma délégation, est la pionnière du développement agricole et rural sur le plan international et devant ce puissant édifice et sa ferme direction nous ne pouvons qu'envisager l'avenir avec espoir et optimisme en souhaitant bonheur et prospérité à tous les pays. A cette occasion nous souhaitons au Directeur général la réussite dans sa noble mission qu'il assume au sein de la FAO et dans le cadre des objectifs que nous poursuivons.

A. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah, the Merciful and the Compassionate: I would like at the outset to associate myself with those who preceded me and to congratulate the Director-General for his all-embracing statement. We would like to commend his constructive efforts to support the activities and programmes of this Organization. I would like also to thank Dr Nurul Islam for his brief and clear presentation of document CL 86/2-sup.1. We would like also to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen who were elected.

Information contained in paragraphs 9 to 13 generate hopes so far as the increase of agricultural production and food production are concerned. The increase was estimated at 3.3 percent, which is a higher percentage than that of the population growth. International cereal stocks were replenished and wheat imports reduced.

Studying paragraphs 25 to 33 has proved that the imports were reduced by 10 percent compared with the level of 1981. Developing countries' raw materials export revenues were higher but they were not enough to compensate for the losses incurred over the previous years. Therefore agriculture trade patterns should be improved amongst developing countries.

In paragraphs 37 to 42, regarding agricultural external assistance we note that there was a decrease of 20 percent over the years 1982 to 1983, and since agriculture is the very foundation of development in developing countries, we launched an appeal to countries for benefitting credit facilities to take enough care in training the cadres who would be managing these facilities in order to respond in the most optimum manner to their needs.

We would like also to launch an appeal to donor countries to provide liquidity for financial funds so as to enable them to carry out their mission.

The situation in Africa is most distressing, as has been mentioned in paragraphs 46 to 52 and we would like to thank the Director-General for the efforts he has exerted to provide emergency assistance to African countries. We do welcome the resolution which aims at guaranteeing the provision of food resources for the needy and we welcome the cooperation taking place within the TCP of FAO. We would like to commend the Organization for its efforts as far as early warning systems in Africa are concerned. Convinced of the necessity of achieving prosperity in food security, Egypt has prepared a Five-Year Plan for agricultural development since 1982 so as to achieve integration between horizontal and vertical expansion programmes, intensive agriculture, rationalizing the utilization of resources, rationalizing consumption, adopting new pricing policies depending on incentives,

conserving the fertility of the soil by avoiding erosion, etc., organizing urban expansion and ensuring that the village is a productive unit in the service of the city. A certain measure of self-sufficiency was achieved, productivity increased and a surplus for exportation ensured.

L.E. WILLIAMS (Trinidad and Tobago): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago I wish to join with all the preceding speakers in congratulating you and the two other Vice-Chairmen of the Council on being elected to office. Our delegation shares the conviction that under your distinguished leadership and guidance our work will be concluded constructively. I also wish to thank the members of the Latin American and Caribbean group for the confidence they have shown in nominating me as Vice-Chairman of this Council meeting.

I now wish to turn my attention to the two documents before us, CL 86/2 and CL 86/2-Sup.1. These documents address themselves to the question of the state of food and agriculture in 1984 and reflect the grimness of the situation in regard to the state of food and agriculture in the developing world. We do not propose to enter into discussion of detail as presented in these documents, since in essence most aspects of the subject have been exhaustively handled by the delegations which have already spoken. We wish instead to direct your attention to some of the broader related issues, the solution of which we believe, at least in part, will be necessary in order to ensure the determination of the food and agriculture problem. Mr Chairman, permit me to direct your attention to the Buenos Aires Declaration and the quotation therefrom as follows: "that the present inequitable international economic order and the profound economic crisis have severely affected development conditions and prospects in the region".

In this present forum, we strongly feel that unless and until the economic relationship between the developed and developing countries is suitably altered, we, of the Third World, will continue to find ourselves in our present disadvantageous position. The unfair price relationship between basic commodities and manufactured products, the inequitable workings of the international monetary system, and the growing protectionist policies all place us at a disadvantage vis-à-vis the developed countries.

We wish, therefore, to support the comments of Argentina and Colombia to the effect that the recently begun economic recovery of the developed countries, which is regarded in some circles as being to the imminent advantage of the developing countries, has been achieved at the expense of developing countries. In reality, the dependence of developing countries on external aid has within recent times increased and their foreign debt situation worsened. The cumulative effects of these policies and practices are reflected, amongst other things, in the worsened state of food and agriculture broadly evident in the Third World. A relevant manifestation of this is the inability of developing countries, a) to maintain their level of funding to agriculture research and development projects or attempt the required numerical increase in such projects, b) to increase the cost of maintaining their curtailed agricultural programmes, or alternatively, to maintain the level of importation of food consistent with their populations' demands.

We would like to refer again to the Buenos Aires Declaration, and with respect to the relevant operative paragraph indicate our support for those initiatives which seek to direct the world's financial and intellectual resources to the more immediate needs for the relief of human suffering and the promotion of food development programmes.

Other significant factors which we think deserve attention are the inter-related issues of urban development and urban drift. It is, we are sure, well recognized that the maintenance and/or enhancement of agricultural activities and productivity are related intimately under Third World conditions to the continued existence of a sufficient human resource in rural areas. A significant problem in the Third World, however, is that of urban population drift, which apart from contributing to the depletion of the human resource in the rural areas, adversely affects food production as well as the food demand characteristics. The documents already referred to adequately appraise the causes of this drift and its seemingly unavoidable consequences.

We wish to suggest here that FAO could enhance its activity in the area of rural development and planning and seek positive influence of relevant international and non-governmental organizations in a similar direction.

Another factor which impacts strongly on the state of food and agriculture in developing countries at this time is that of appropriate technology. Again we believe that accelerating activities in this area will yield lasting dividends and reduce the dependence of some developing countries on food aid, and in others, assist in the conserving of precious foreign exchange.

In conclusion, allow me to thank the Director-General for his worth-while overview of the Agenda items before the Council. Likewise, we wish to report our appreciation to the Secretariat for the substantive documents on this item.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Mr Chairman, Uganda would like to associate itself with the sentiments already expressed by previous speakers in welcoming you again as Chairman of our sessions. I shall start by congratulating the three Vice-Chairmen who have been unanimously elected to assist you in guiding the deliberations of this Council.

We have been impressed by the comprehensive appraisal of world agriculture given by the Director-General and the lucid exposition by Professor Islam of the current world food situation.

Turning to the document before us, we have a few observations to make. This document, as many others presented in various fora, has very little to give us comfort. It indicates the unequal distribution of food stocks, a point in itself which is a source of food insecurity. The document makes it explicitly clear that the investment climate in agriculture is very uncertain, a situation which has been compounded by the growing heavy debt burdens on the part of developing countries.

It is also more worrying, as evidenced in the document, to note that the momentum of flows of official development assistance, which characterized the mid - and late 1970s, appears to be petering out, and the rate of growth in official commitments to agriculture as in 1979, while multilateral commitments actually declined in 1982.

In this context, let me allude to the pathetic situation of IFAD. All of us here recognize and have appreciated the positive role that IFAD has played by focussing its activities on the rural people who till the land and who are the major producers of food. It is saddening to note that the activities of IFAD are in jeopardy. In 1983 the commitments of IFAD had declined by 37 per cent because of problems of funding. We therefore extend our solemn appeal to all countries to facilitate IFAD to stand on a sound footing so that it can carry out its activities. I should hasten to add that we are very much encouraged by the goodwill which has up to now been shown by the international community.

On the question of food aid we are dismayed by the decline in shipments of food aid in the period under review, and as pointed out in this document this decline happened at the time when food aid was most needed. On the other hand we wish to record our appreciation of international committees response to the various disasters, and especially to the disaster caused by the continuing drought in sub-Saharan Africa. In this regard, Mr Chairman, we would like to reiterate our trust in the United Nations' Agencies concerned with food, that they will continue to cooperate among themselves in performing their duties for the good of the target beneficiaries.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je vous souhaite la bienvenue parmi nous et j'associe ma voix aux honorables délégués qui vous ont félicité ainsi que les vice-présidents. J'aimerais aussi souhaiter la bienvenue dans cette salle à l'honorable Ministre de Sao Tomé-et-Principe qui vient de rentrer il y a à peine une heure.

Je remercie le Professeur Islam pour la clarté de sa présentation et le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la préparation du document CL 86/2, document qui est de très grande importance.

Je commencerai mon intervention par les paragraphes 95-110 qui traitent particulièrement de la situation dramatique en Afrique. En effet, les multiples appels que le Directeur général de la FAO a lancés depuis le mois de mai 1983 sur la situation dans ce continent afin de sensibiliser les donateurs, ont paru alors pessimistes à certains. Malheureusement la situation que nous vivons aujourd'hui en Afrique est de loin plus grave qu'alors. C'est la réalité, il faut le dire. Je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour remercier également les donateurs et les pays membres de l'Organisation de la FAO qui ont répondu à ces appels en faveur de l'Afrique et continuent à donner leur soutien aux problèmes du continent africain.

J'aimerais également rappeler que la FAO porte une attention particulière aux questions de coopération régionale et sous-régionale et appuie les institutions régionales telles que le FISE et autres qui ont été créées dans le but fondamental d'aider les pays membres à l'autosuffisance alimentaire de cette région. Ma délégation voudrait également appuyer la proposition de la Colombie en ce qui concerne la nécessité d'une coopération entre les pays en développement, coopération technique et scientifique. Egalement il m'est agréable de dire combien j'ai apprécié l'importance des nouvelles déclarations du Ministre de la Norvège, Madame le Ministre de Norvège, en ce qui concerne la participation des femmes. Nous croyons également dans notre pays, que la participation des femmes dans le secteur rural est très importante à tous les niveaux.

Les ministres africains réunis à Harare n'ont pas caché que l'avenir du développement en Afrique et le soin de développer notre agriculture et notre secteur rural, et par conséquent d'améliorer l'état nutritionnel de tous nos concitoyens, incombe avant tout à nos gouvernements et à nos peuples. Ils ont donné la priorité à l'agriculture et à la sécurité alimentaire. Mais les efforts nationaux ne pourront pas donner de résultats sans une aide internationale, et notamment celle de la FAO. C'est pourquoi notre délégation appuie pleinement la recommandation faite par le

Directeur général de la FAO demandant à l'Assemblée générale d'examiner tous les aspects de la crise économique et sociale de l'Afrique, de même que sa proposition concernant une étude approfondie des problèmes agricoles et alimentaires de l'Afrique.

Nous sommes certains que cette étude telle que l'a définie le Directeur général de la FAO hier matin tiendra compte des situations réelles des pays africains et permettra aux responsables politiques des pays africains de mettre en pratique la volonté politique qui a été exprimée unanimement à Harare, au Zimbabwe.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais appuyer la déclaration, en solidarité avec le Président du Groupe des 77 et je voudrais rappeler que le dernier sommet de l'OUA a consacré la majeure partie de son temps à traiter des problèmes économiques et sociaux de l'Afrique, notamment du développement rural. Ceci confirme encore une fois la volonté politique de la déclaration d'Harare et permettra à l'aide extérieure de mieux s'intégrer dans les plans de développement national, et je suis sûr que de cette façon l'aide sera encore plus efficace.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): Thank you Mr Chairman. I am conscious of the fact that we follow a long list of speakers, many of whom have clearly expressed many of our views, particularly those who have highlighted the inequitable distribution of food, so we will try to be brief.

We too congratulate the Secretariat on their excellent review of the world food scene. The Review Section is particularly comprehensive but we would feel that a more in-depth analysis of the statistics presented would greatly aid our understanding of the current situation, and perhaps this is something they could bear in mind for the future.

As the present Council Representatives for the South Pacific, we are concerned that the present report, omits to review the situation in the developing nations of our region. We must therefore request that some coverage be given to our region in the future. In focusing attention on the South Pacific let us not also forget the special development problems of isolation, limited resources, distance from markets and the absence of a nearby developed economy which many of our island states face in their efforts to develop a balanced and sustained economy.

Thus it is pleasing to see in the Report on the implementation of earlier Council decisions, special mention of assistance to the South Pacific Island States under the Fisheries Development Programme. We hope that such recognition will be extended to the more general agricultural development programmes.

Mr Chairman, many speakers in this discussion have expressed concern about the lack of progress in improving the agricultural trading environment. Indeed, the Report in front of us shows a decline in the last decade of more than 25 percent in agriculture's share of total trade, and New Zealand must place on record her concern at the situation. We believe a healthy and open trade environment is essential to sustain development and the equitable distribution of food. Clearly we believe food may come from three sources - home production, importation and food aid. The latter we believe should be a short term measure for use in crisis situations. Hence New Zealand's aid attention has been on helping the developing countries institute sustainable and efficient production systems, and on improving the trading environment. We will expand on this in later discussions of the Council.

We submit that it is not necessary or desirable that all countries be totally self-sufficient in all food commodities. Given the ability to exploit other sources of foreign exchange, the importation of food may contribute to a better balanced economy, particularly in cases where urbanization has taken place to the detriment of former food sufficiency.

The distinguished delegate from Pakistan yesterday highlighted the paradox of starvation amongst plenty. Surely trade is the vehicle to permanently restore the balance, if only we had the political will to put in place the international economic and trading conditions that this requires. Mr Chairman, it is against this background that we hear with some alarm suggestions that this Organization may be abandoning its attempts to bring about improvements in the world trade environment. We cannot give up. This issue is as important as food aid and other development assistance, and deserves comparable attention from FAO.

Mr Chairman, in closing let us put some meaning to the so far empty calls for freeing-up of trade.

E.W. DENNEY (United States of America): Thank you Mr Chairman. Let me begin by congratulating you on your prestigious position as Chairman of this session. We are confident that under your leadership and that of three capable Vice-Chairmen our deliberations during this two week period will be very fruitful.

The United States is encouraged by the recent improvement in several world wide economic indicators, and fully believes that such improvements will, at least in part, be transmitted to developing economies. Nevertheless, we are acutely aware of the food problems being faced in Africa today and will be providing details on US initiatives for Africa during the next Agenda item.

Mr Chairman, respecting your concerns that our interventions be brief, let me comment on a few items that are indicated in the document which have been referenced by earlier speakers. First let me congratulate the Secretariat for providing a useful and well balanced picture on the state of food and agriculture in 1984. We particularly appreciate the section dealing with patterns of food production and consumption over the past decade, and with urbanization and migration trends. Both sections provide an insight to perspective for those of us concerned with world food problems. Preliminary results of the fifth World Food Survey reveals several important relationships. The survey provides documentation of a close correlation between poverty and hunger, particularly as experienced in the poorest countries. It also gives considerable attention to other factors which affect food consumption, especially prices paid by consumers, but also notes that growing food imports are often very much the result of domestic demand failing to be adequately transmitted to domestic producers.

The Review also notes the important connection between meeting increased urban demand from rural production and the creation of urban marketing systems. The role of prices in facilitating this transaction is obviously very important. In this regard the United States is anxiously awaiting the results of FAO's global price study, especially the analysis of producer price incentives and recommendations for price modifications by food deficit developing countries.

Mr Chairman, before making additional comments on the documents before us, let me take this opportunity to briefly highlight the current agricultural situation in the United States. We fully recognize that our own production and stock trends exert considerable influence on world-wide trends. I will restrict my comments to commodities which are referenced in the supplements, that is wheat and coarse grains. Our wheat stocks are about 8 percent below the level of a year ago but they are still the second-highest on record. These stocks account for some 37 percent of the world total and are roughly equal to our wheat exports during 1983/84. The recently completed wheat harvest is up 6 percent from a year ago and is our third largest. Our coarse grain output in 1984/85 is expected to be 70 percent above the drought reduced 83/84 harvest, resulting in a projected 36 percent stock increase during 1984/85. The payment in kind programmes for both wheat and coarse grain have been eliminated.

Regarding specific comments on the state of food and agriculture, particularly those items that have been referenced by earlier speakers concerning IDA, we agree that a higher replenishment would have provided a greater impetus to economic development, but the United States continues to believe that a 9 billion US dollar replenishment can be highly effective if focused on countries such as sub-Saharan Africa which lack adequate access to alternative financing. We are also encouraged by recent progress made to affect an IFAD replenishment and feel confident that a replenishment will soon be agreed upon.

Concerning the International Emergency Food Reserve, our Government does not agree to an automatic annual replenishment of the IEFRR to an inflexible target level. We believe that each food donor must be flexible in determining the best method for channelling its food assistance. However, we note that contributions to the IEFRR have already reached nearly 550 000 tons during 1984, of which the US share was approximately 210 000 and the year is not yet complete.

We are pleased to see that the percentage of disposable per capita income spent on food imports has gradually declined since 1974 to 1976 among the poorest of countries, and note that this percentage is now lower than any other category of developing countries.

Mr Chairman, since there have been several references to the deliberations of the Inter-governmental Group on Bananas let me reiterate that the United States cannot accept a commodity agreement that fails to balance the interests of importers and exporters, and which transfers resources from consumers to producers. In addition to being undesirable from the US viewpoint, an international banana agreement probably would be unworkable. Export quotas are difficult to enforce under the best of circumstances, and the allocation of a total quota at a level that would have any economic effect is always contentious and often unsolvable.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the United States wants to assure fellow delegates that we remain a full partner in coping with the problems of world hunger, the problems of international economic concerns and many others that have been discussed and that are plaguing us today, and we can only say that during the course of events through IDA and IFAD, our contributions to Ethiopia as well as other African countries, will fully indicate in actions what we are today speaking in words.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): First let me congratulate the Secretariat on what we regard as a very good and very professional economic analysis of the situation prevailing in 1984, with some retrospective analysis over the last decade. We appreciate that the Secretariat has responded to the requests of a number of delegations in the past to disaggregate more. The result is an analysis which, in the words of the document, is assisted by some, 'unconventional groupings of countries'.

Although as a major developed agricultural exporter country we would have liked to see more analysis of the factors affecting the evolution of the agriculture sectors of both the developed as well as the developing countries, we can appreciate why on this tenth anniversary of the World Food Conference the Secretariat decided to concentrate largely on a retrospective analysis of the food situation in the developing countries.

In our view, the document is balanced and perceptive. It notes that considerable progress in increasing food production in the developing countries has taken place. Although it emphasizes that progress has been extremely uneven, it is noteworthy that even in Africa there have been some positive developments. For example, the document notes that eleven countries in Africa increased their dietary energy supply on a per capita basis by more than 10 percent over the past decade.

The document also suggests that increased food imports are not necessarily a sign of failure. Quite the contrary, those countries experiencing rapid economic growth can be expected to increase their food imports as effective demand outstrips the ability of a country to increase domestic agricultural production. In short, this simply reflects high income elasticities of food demand in middle-income developing countries.

Obviously, however, the situation is far from satisfactory in the case of a number of other developing countries. For these countries growing food imports, whether on a concessionary or commercial basis, do constitute a worrying symptom. In some cases this symptom can reflect underlying inappropriate agricultural and/or general economic development policies. In yet other cases growing food imports can be attributed to factors largely outside the control of any government - for example poor resource endowment or the effects of drought. To repeat, the point I am trying to make here is to underline the document's analysis that growing food imports per se are not necessarily a sign of failure. Increased food self-reliance should not be equated with the autarchic concept followed by too many developed countries that food self-sufficiency is equivalent to godliness.

Many delegations have referred to the growing interdependence of the world food economy and the vital necessity of improving the rules governing the agricultural trade, particularly as they relate to all forms of export assistance, and to improving the terms of access to foreign markets. I think I would be remiss if I did not refer to a small ray of hope in this regard. In Geneva last week the GATT Committee on Trade in Agriculture finally agreed on a set of recommendations to its governing body which holds the promise of actually coming to grips with many of the problems which have plagued agricultural trade for far too long. Obviously solutions cannot be expected overnight. Solutions if and when they occur will be slow and incremental, given the vested political interests in play. Nevertheless, the agreement reached last week does reflect a spirit of willingness and compromise on behalf of all parties, developed and developing, which we can only hope will continue over the coming years.

Turning to my last point, I would like to flag at this time the Canadian delegation's uneasiness with respect to the continued significance attached to some very crude indicators. In particular, I wonder whether the time has not come to reassess the world cereal stocks barometer which was developed during the World Food Conference. How valid is the concept that cereal stocks as a percentage of world consumption portrays an accurate assessment of global food world security? A lot has happened since 1974. Contrary to the expectations of the 1974 World Food Conference, real world prices of grains have not increased, in fact they have continued their secular decline. Many grain producers in North America and Europe are facing a continuing cost price squeeze at a time when government budget deficits are so high that the traditional propensity to financially support the farm sector is being increasingly circumscribed. It would appear to me that the next State of Food and Agriculture could well examine the implications to world food security of the developments which are currently impacting on the developed as well as the developing agricultural economies.

In closing, let me say how much the Canadian delegation enjoyed the comments of the Norwegian Minister for Development Cooperation. We fully endorse all the comments made by the distinguished Minister.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos aquí aprovechar la ocasión para saludarlo a usted y para felicitar a los Vicepresidentes electos de Trinidad y Tabago, Indonesia y Reino Unido. El Director General de la FAO ha sido explícito y claro con una exposición que nos permite valorar, en toda su magnitud, las responsabilidades del 86º Consejo de la FAO, en estos momentos.

Queremos al empezar a discutir o analizar el documento que se nos ha presentado, primero apoyar en todas sus partes la declaración del Sr. Carandang, representante de Filipinas y Presidente del Grupo de los 77. El Grupo discutió muy cuidadosamente este documento. Por nuestra parte, hemos estudiado

y reflexionado bastante el CL 86/2 presentado por el Sr. Islam, en una inteligente y profesional síntesis de una complicada y compleja situación. Le conferimos al tema de agricultura y alimentación, la razón de ser de la FAO, Organización del Sistema de Naciones Unidas que puede hablar con voz propia sobre la alimentación y la agricultura en el mundo, que viene haciendo esfuerzos gigantescos por cumplir el mandato que le ha dado la comunidad internacional.

El Director General de la FAO Edouard Saouma, sin lugar a dudas, es reconocido por su dinamismo, tenacidad y capacidad para dirigir los esfuerzos hacia la consecución y concertación de medidas en el plano regional y mundial, para aumentar la producción de alimentos, en particular en los países subdesarrollados, reforzar la seguridad alimentaria e intensificar el apoyo internacional.

En este contexto, el documento es un esfuerzo a felicitar, amplio, bastante profuso, con nivel técnico superior, un compendio de datos y cifras de los que surge el mismo diagnóstico de hace veinte años. Sobre el documento, se han planteado en la sala muchas cuestiones que no vamos a repetir; no quisiéramos tampoco hablar sobre cuestiones tan sabidas como redundantes en nuestros documentos de estos últimos años. Creo que es tiempo suficiente para no detenemos aquí; creo que es necesario individualizar los obstáculos que hacen que mantengamos en todos los informes y documentos las palabras: preocupantes, decepcionantes, resultados inciertos, seguirán deteriorándose las condiciones, no se ven soluciones al drama terrible, hambruna, tragedias ... Se habla hoy ya en nuestros documentos y en la televisión italiana, sin explosión atómica o termonuclear, de millones de muertos. ¿Qué es esto? Realmente, este documento nos hace sentir una amarga impotencia ante la situación que analizamos. Y preguntamos ¿por qué no preguntamos cómo surgen y se multiplican los problemas económicos y financieros en la agricultura? ¿Qué mecanismos provocan la fluctuación de precios? ¿A quiénes benefician nacional e internacionalmente? ¿Por qué no profundizamos en estas cuestiones prácticas que todos conocemos en vez de responsabilizar al mundo subdesarrollado con la explosión demográfica y con el auge urbanístico? No es el llamado Tercer Mundo el responsable de que estos fenómenos sean perjudiciales; podían ser muy útiles. Esto es discutible sobre bases científicas. Quisiera decirlo si bien no creo que este es el foro para discutir esto.

Los modelos y los estudios de factibilidad de los organismos financieros internacionales son los que han planeado el crecimiento urbanístico en todo el mundo subdesarrollado, y ahora son responsables ellos. Sobre la explosión demográfica, nosotros nos resistimos a aceptarla cuando somos incapaces de redistribuir en una sociedad donde la miseria sigue imperando en el seno de la opulencia. ¿Qué derecho tenemos para decretar sobre el derecho humano primario de la pareja?

Además, señores, cuando todos sabemos aquí, todos lo sabemos que la atenuación de este fenómeno, de este fenómeno será el resultado, y no otro, de elevar los niveles socioeconómicos y culturales. ¿Vamos a hacer esta estadística para ver los resultados?

¿Por qué no profundizamos en el multilateralismo como el esfuerzo común para lograr la aproximación progresiva, continua de los niveles de desarrollo y del crecimiento económico, en donde puede jugar un papel muy importante la FAO y otros organismos en el mundo, donde la coparticipación de técnicos y especialistas de los países desarrollados junto con los técnicos y especialistas de los países en desarrollo, esta comunión puede propiciar y preparar a los países una equiparación de niveles que les permitan afrontar las relaciones bilaterales, que siempre existirán entre unos países y otros por herencia, historia, por proximidad, por intereses económicos?

Pero, bilateralmente en grado de ser realmente bilaterales, y no dependientes, obligatoriamente constreñidos a una aceptación. Multilateralidad con la ayuda; multilateralidad en la participación de programas en desarrollo; multilateralidad en la capacitación; multilateralidad en la investigación. Creemos que la multilateralidad puede ayudar a los grandes países desarrollados a ayudar a encontrar el "partenaire" capaz y eficiente de ayudarlos en sus crecientes necesidades, que las tienen tanto productor y consumidor.

Entonces, sí tendría algún sentido esta otra palabra muy utilizada de la interdependencia, que no es formal típicamente. ¿Podrá haber interdependencia con un régimen de dependencia económico, técnico y financiero? ¿La autosuficiencia que también se utiliza, también se podrá no sólo lograr sino a medias tener sin que las condiciones del intercambio producto de un orden económico injusto y negativo cambie? ¿Cómo podemos enfrentar el proteccionismo, qué medidas tenemos para enfrentarlo? ¿Repetirlo en setecientos mil informes de los organismos internacionales? Nada más, porque no tenemos otra forma de resolver el endeudamiento que tenemos actualmente. ¿Nos puede permitir una política nacional independiente? Falso. Los países pequeños dependerán siempre en gran medida del comercio exterior. La concepción de un programa nacional y económico se hará con las relaciones preferentes de acuerdo a las ventajas de precios; pero para ello, debemos tener la suficiente independencia. Independencia para obrar fuera de las concepciones oligopólicas y monopólicas que rigen el mundo hoy, que imponen el intercambio desigual permanente en el comercio, y que imponen las barreras a la producción arancelarias.

Creo que debemos profundizar también un poco en el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional que estamos, desde 1979, pugnando los países subdesarrollados, y que consiste no solamente, en primer término diríamos, en romper la desigualdad que hace que tengamos que pagar por los productos que compramos

a diez o quince veces más de lo que pagamos en 1950 -busquen las estadísticas para que vean los precios que estamos pagando y son los de 1950- y sin embargo, los precios de nuestros productos fundamentalmente los estamos comprando a precios de 1931 y 1932, o sea, aquellos precios de los llamados, del llamado momento de la gran depresión.

A veces, el documento nos plantea una palabra muy interesante; que la recuperación ahora es un suspiro para los países en desarrollo o subdesarrollados como nosotros. Planteamos, ¿qué tipo de suspiro?; ¿será el último suspiro, no?

Es fácil comprender lo que esto significa en cuanto a crear dependencia, intercambio, desigualdad. Mientras exista este desequilibrio en los precios, ¿podemos llamar al actual Orden Económico justo y equitativo? El Orden Económico impuesto posibilita a un país crecer él solo, pues sus mecanismos se lo permiten, sus mecanismos. ¿Es casualidad que en medio de su recuperación, las altas tasas de interés subieran a la estratosfera junto con el programa espacial? ¿Es casualidad que para pagar su cuota, como ahora mismo se ha expresado sobre el convenio del banano, para pagar su cuota comprendida en la primera reposición del FIDA, expresaran descaradamente que cómo iban a convencer a sus legisladores si no obtenían ningún beneficio en el FIDA? La palabra es interdependencia.

Ahora se esgrime el liberalismo a ultranza, el libre comercio, la libre empresa. Espontaneidad inherente que surge dentro, pero que están expuestas a una espontaneidad dada por el dominio del monopolio y el oligopolio contra los precios, fluctuaciones y mercados.

Todas estas cuestiones planteadas, señor Presidente, contestan el porqué de la incertidumbre en cuanto al desarrollo del Tercer Mundo; el porque se mantienen las mismas condiciones de hace 20 años, el porqué no hay posibilidades reales dentro del actual Orden Económico Internacional para la negociación global Norte-Sur, para el Convenio del Trigo, para el Convenio Azucarero, -porque no existe la voluntad política ni la voluntad asistencial. Por lo menos los hechos son así y son los que cuentan.

Nuestras respuestas al documento que se nos pidió, y que debemos recoger en este Consejo de FAO con todas sus premoniciones, que tiene bastantes el documento, y con sus observaciones; pero debemos reafirmar si queremos hacer algo por esas observaciones y por esas premoniciones del documento, reafirmar, repito, la profunda convicción de una solución duradera a los problemas de los países subdesarrollados, que ello dependerá de una constante y fundamentada reestructuración de las relaciones económicas internacionales a través del establecimiento de un nuevo Orden Económico Internacional. Este párrafo es muy bonito, no lo hice yo, por eso es bonito. Este párrafo es el primer párrafo que se presentó sobre esto en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Creo recordar que era en 1979 ó 1980.

Sobre la grave situación africana, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación preferiría que primero Africa nos expresara sus criterios. Quisiéramos oírles a ellos antes de que los sabios empecemos a hablar sobre Africa. Africa sabe que Cuba está dispuesta a ayudarlos pero, como digo, quisiéramos oírles sobre qué es lo que quieren y cómo lo quieren.

Finalmente, hay una cuestión muy importante que está en el documento y también en la Declaración del Director General que nos parece que es importante para los países en desarrollo: el reconocer al Director General todo el apoyo que presta a los Programas de Cooperación Técnica entre los países en desarrollo.

DATO ALWI JANTAN (Malaysia): Mr Chairman, I would like first of all to take this opportunity on behalf of my delegation and myself to join those distinguished speakers before me in expressing our pleasure at seeing you in the Chair once again in order to take the deliberations of this Council to their successful conclusion. I would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

Further, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for its notable effort in producing this comprehensive report on the State of Food and Agriculture 1984, which not only provides an excellent in-depth review of trends and events in world food and agriculture since the 1970s, but also focuses attention on important features of interest in the agricultural and rural development policies and programmes worldwide.

My delegation wishes to express our deep appreciation to the Director-General for his brilliant analysis of the food situation and world economy. Professor Nurul Islam is also to be congratulated on his excellent introduction to the item under consideration.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished delegate of the Philippines in his capacity as current Chairman of the Group of 77. His statement highlighted various questions of importance to us.

We would also like to share the concern expressed by a number of delegations on the current state of food and agriculture in the developing world and the seemingly insurmountable obstacles and problems faced by these countries in what is often regarded as a world of affluence and plenty. This really must be the irony of this century. Malaysia has strived and has been quite successful in its efforts to increase food production. However, this has been achieved only through sheer grit and determination in the face of a wide range of problems.

However, more needs to be done not only to keep abreast with developments in other sectors, but to ensure that enough food is available for the growing needs of the population. The National Agricultural Policy, introduced by the Government early this year, has been formulated to address itself to the need to sustain the contribution of the agricultural sector, and to the need to be sensitive to present and future needs of the country, as well as being responsive to world trends in agricultural export commodities. The objective of the NAP is to maximize income from agriculture through the utilization of the resources, and the revitalization of the sector's contribution to the overall economic development of the country. In order to achieve this, appropriate strategies and programmes which take cognizance of the constraints and prospects have been formulated and are being implemented.

Returning to the current situation of food and agriculture, what are the strategies and options left to the developing countries and to FAO in trying to assist developing countries? It is to this issue that I wish to address myself.

Malaysia is firmly of the view that primarily there is no real alternative to helping ourselves and to helping each other. We have heard of some success stories; we have heard how some of us have been able to help ourselves, but we might like to hear more about how we can help each other. We submit that this cooperation might be pursued at three levels - first of all, through dialogue and cooperation on a global basis and secondly, through regional cooperation by using existing institutions and organizations where appropriate. We in the Association of South Asian Nations are forging ahead with this kind of cooperation on a sustained basis. We have established a food security scheme, and a joint venture on fertilizer production. We cooperate in research and training as well as a host of other activities in various sectors of agriculture. But there is still much more to be done. We submit that at these two levels, FAO has a role to play in promoting, facilitating and assisting dialogue and cooperation between developing countries. We request the Director-General to consider including this area of activity within his programme priority for economic and technical cooperation between developing countries.

The third level of cooperation has to be bilateral cooperation transcending regional boundaries. We have made a start in a modest way by offering technical assistance to those countries which might need it. As indicated in document CL 86/2 Sup. 1, Table 8 outlined multilateral and bilateral commitments to agriculture, and in our view these should be further strengthened. While Malaysia is concentrating on development efforts in agriculture and food production, we are continuing collaboration with other developing countries through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme which is consistent with the concept of technical cooperation among developing countries. Through this Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme we are hoping to pursue collaborative efforts and to share development experience with countries outside the region. At present, a few countries in Africa and the Pacific have already availed themselves of this cooperation. We feel it is our moral obligation to continue to play this role and we are convinced that if this kind of assistance is multiplied many times by those countries in a position to give this kind of assistance, we shall be going a long way towards helping each other to be self-reliant in food.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation would hate to see this Eighty-sixth Session of the Council end with a message of doom and despair for the countries of the developing world but rather, a greater resolve, commitment, greater hope, and faith in God and in ourselves.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, may I first express how happy we are to see you chairing this Session. It is a reflection of our full confidence in you and our respect for you personally, and for your intimate knowledge and experience of the complex issues before us. I would also like to congratulate all the three Vice-Chairmen on their unanimous election.

The setting and tone of our deliberations have been given a definite focus and direction by the thought-provoking address of the Director-General. We are conscious of his dynamism and his consistent efforts for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and we place on record, our deepest appreciation of his efforts. We also wish to thank Professor Nurul Islam for his lucid introduction of the excellent documents placed before us. In his characteristic style he has concisely put forward the main trends contained in the Review of the State of World Food and Agriculture. We are conscious of the difficulties involved in the presentation of such a broad panoramic study embracing, as it does, a wide variety of countries and the infinitely diverse circumstances that affect each, and within a set of intricate and closely connected parameters with widely differing impacts, parameters which cover financial, economic and trading performance. The study has touched on vital matters of food consumption, nutritional requirements, the development of natural resources, and has taken a hard look at the long-term implications of the problems relating to population growth, with urbanization and rural urbanization and its impact on such things as rural development strategies - all this within the shadow of disaster, death, hunger and starvation which imminently looms in Africa.

Obviously, it is difficult to assimilate all that these documents have summed up in such a concentrated and concise fashion. Nevertheless, despite the complexities, directions are inherent in each section of the report; also there are the main elements that can form the framework of an integrated plan of remedial action. Ten years ago, in the face of impending crisis, the World Food Conference formulated its call for more concerted action involving the need to expand food production to enhance food security and to strengthen international support for domestic efforts to be taken by developing countries. Today that call remains equally valid, but as a sharper delineation of understanding of all the complexities and intricacies involved.

The prognosis regarding the world food and agricultural situation that emerges from the documents is a mixed one. On the positive side, global progress has been made in agricultural and rural development. Record levels have been achieved in food and agricultural development, particularly cereal production. There has been some upturn in the prices of most agricultural commodities; per capita dietary energy supplies have improved for at least two-thirds of the 90 developing countries under review. The world economy as a whole is making progress, reflecting recovery also in the industrial sector. However, these positive trends have to be viewed with caution rather than with complacency. As the Director-General himself pinpointed, riches exist in the midst of poverty. He highlighted not only the dire African situation, but the precarious food situation in other regions of the world. On the negative side, food production increases in the developing countries have failed to meet the targets established in 1974. Regional performances are grossly uneven. There is marked polarization in the availability of food and growth in the developing countries has not been commensurate with the recovery in the developed countries and their prospects depend on the ability of the developing countries to continue the world recovery in the face of restraint and restrictions in financial assistance, in agricultural markets, and the Damocles sword of debt which hangs over a great number of developing countries. Particularly relevant in this context of future action is the granting of external aid and the fall in commitments.

Turning to the food situation, the review document has identified what it calls a central dilemma. Unless food imports are allowed to rise in this situation, the food needs of people will not be met, but raising imports may be detrimental to food production and foreign exchange balances. The example of Bangladesh bears this out. Agriculture is a dominant sector of our economy. It accounts for over half of the Gross Domestic Product, but it is largely weather-oriented. Only 25 percent of arable land is irrigated. The short-term growth in Bangladesh depends on what happens to agriculture. Despite an average growth rate of 4.3 percent over the last four years of our second Five-Year Plan, the basis of the growth is low in comparison to our first Five-Year Plan from 1975 to 1980, which achieved a 5.2 percent growth rate. This decline was entirely due to a slowing down of growth in the non-agricultural sector, particularly in industry and construction. Industrial growth declined from 7.5 percent to 4.4 percent against this agricultural sector increase from 3.8 percent to 4.2 percent, mainly due to favourable weather in 1982/83 and 1983/84 compared with drought in 1979/80, and was partly due to a shift in investment priority in favour of agriculture and 28.2 percent of our public sector development expenditure was concentrated on agriculture.

While this vast growth of the agricultural sector reflected the priorities attached by the government, the slowing down of the industrial sector was a matter of serious concern for several reasons - firstly, the structural change needed for the consistent growth of the economy could not be effected without industrial development. This was not possible through agricultural development alone because of the weak recovery of subsistence agriculture along with the industrial sector. Secondly, agriculture, dominated by its inherent labour-expelling characteristics, could not alone solve the endemic unemployment problem of Bangladesh even though modern agricultural technology is land-augmenting and labour-intensive.

As a result, with ever-increasing population pressure on land, both functional landlessness and unemployment problems have been accentuated further. Of immediate concern, industrial growth failed to maintain its earlier momentum, resulting in widespread idle capacity, reflecting lack of adequate domestic demand. In general, the long-term need of the economy for structural change was also compromised with the short-term concern for structural adjustment in an unfavourable international economic environment. In the face of depressed international trade and aid conditions, Bangladesh faced a serious balance of payments situation. The Government had to take extremely tough measures, also following a period of bad harvest and virtually stagnant economic conditions in 1981-82. These measures were to deflate adequate demand and the investment level to such an extent that in spite of substantial recovery of the agricultural sector and the favourable weather conditions, economic growth continued to remain depressed in the next-two years. In fact, industrial growth fell to historically low levels due to the lack of domestic demand. Measures for structural adjustment to the external economic situation leading to slowdown in growth could not but entail serious sacrifices of the population as they came in the wake of a declining per capita income. Nutrition levels further declined in a year of stagnant economy in 1981-82. Households below poverty level, that is getting less than 90 percent of nutrition needs, increased to almost 60 percent. Despite these adverse effects and weather, the bright side of the economy has been the significant increase in food grains from 13.35 million tons in 1979-80 to 15.1 million tons in 1982-83, and an expected 16 million tons in 1983-84. However,

despite these increases, a poor man hardly participated in this game as they were also accompanied by a rise in prices. Since the bad harvest of 1981-82, as the rising price level resulted in hardships for the common man, distribution of food grains under public food distribution had also to be kept high to relieve distress. Against this high offtake of food-aid food and in order to avoid depletion of public foodstocks to a dangerously low level, the Government had to import substantial quantities of food. The apparent paradox of high food imports, even in recent years of good to excellent harvests, reflects the dilemma and points to both the short-term and long-term problems. The long-term underscores that mere accelerated production of food grains cannot insure food security at the household level. The problem cannot be resolved without rapid income and employment generation in non-farm sectors. The short-term transient problem of rapidly rising food grain prices in the years of excellent harvests has a simple explanation in a monetary factor. Prices rose due to a number of factors: the expansion of the fund sector as foreign exchange resources increased and remittances, both on the forces of international trade, but the main reason, however, was due to the reduced import capability resulting in downward adjustments of domestic demand through such measures as increasing prices of public utilities and goods and reduction of investment levels. This has eased the balance of payments difficulties but with very perverse results. Firstly, it led to liquidity expansion and rise in prices, which ultimately neutralizes the immediate benefits of pressure gains. As inflationary pressure was felt more on the agriculture and food sector, this forced a larger import of food. Thus by depressing domestic demand, it led to substitution of food import for normal import. A consequence of depressed domestic demand for import of non-food commodities has included domestic resource mobilization. Finally, by depressing demand, they have delayed recovery of the economy.

I have given the example of our country to demonstrate the extreme complexities involved. Clearly, there are no simple panaceas for the problems that we face. The review document, as I have mentioned, has touched on a series of remedial measures in each of its sections. The Director-General himself in his programme priorities has spelled out a list of measures that need to be taken. The approaches to these remedial actions are trilateral approaches and integrally involved in the concept of the food security compact which the Director-General himself has elaborated. Quite clearly recognized by all the regional economic meetings is the inescapable reality that the major burden for self-reliance lies on the developing countries themselves, but in the face of the difficulties before developing countries, despite their best efforts, the need for international support and the consolidation of that support continues. The review document has indicated the approaches and outlines, and we believe that it has provided us with food for continuing thought in the months and years to come.

M. YOSHII (Japan): Mr Chairman, first of all, I would like to express my congratulations to you on your re-election as the Independent Chairman, as well as the three Vice-Chairmen of this important Council. I am sure that this Session will be successful under your guidance.

I have listened with special interest to the Director-General of FAC Dr Saouma. We note with appreciation, as he rightly mentioned, that a new sense of urgency by the developing countries themselves to solve their own problems came up as evidenced in the Buenos Aires Declaration in which the ministers adopted in a clear, pragmatic, action-oriented way a new orientation in the results.

We also believe what Dr Saouma said to be of utmost importance: African countries are to be FAO's first and greatest priority and that a new major study to concentrate on practical action to increase food production is going to be undertaken.

I also want to thank Professor Islam for his excellent presentation on the State of Food and Agriculture 1984. The Secretariat has prepared an extensive and detailed study on the State of Food and Agriculture 1984, and my delegation wishes to thank the FAO Secretariat for this fruitful achievement.

The document CL 86/2 focuses upon selected issues from the time of the early 1970's food crisis with particular reference to the food situation in the developing countries. The 1973-76 oil crisis brought about a deepening recession of the world economy. The agricultural sector had also been adversely affected by those events. The fluctuation in commodity prices had made a serious impact on producers and consumers.

The documents point out that despite all the above-mentioned facts, global progress has been made in agriculture and rural development and that per capita energy dietary supplies have improved in about two-thirds of the 90 developing countries reviewed in this document.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that the improvement in the overall world situation is a result of the continuous efforts made by individual farmers together with activities on a national and international level. However, the regional performances have not been very consistent. Asia had shown some improvement, but Africa has very much deteriorated. The serious food shortage in many African countries is of great concern to us. I hope a fruitful contribution will come out when we discuss the matter later in this Session.

Agriculture is the important sector in the economy of developing countries. Many developing countries, however, are still in short food supply, heavily depending upon food imports. Imports are necessitating a great amount of foreign exchange resources which otherwise would have been used for direct development of their economies. My delegation strongly believes, therefore, that efforts by developing countries themselves to increase food production are a vital first step towards solving the world food problem and the economic development of those countries. Japan is certainly prepared to contribute to such efforts of the developing countries.

My delegation would like to briefly touch upon the world cereals trade which represents the largest group of agricultural trade. The international cereal market has been characterized by the instability of prices. This could be accounted for by the fact that the relatively small portion of the total amount of production is geared towards export and that a large amount of imports and exports is concentrated in a very limited number of countries. Therefore, production variation and import and export policy changes in those countries has severely affected the world cereal market. My country, as one of the major importers of grains, has particular concern for market stabilization, and we feel that it is necessary for this country to make further efforts in minimizing the adverse effects on the world market when a policy change production, consumption or trade is made. At the same time, coordinated action on the international level should also be sought to increase market stability. We think that this could be done through a greater exchange of information on supply and demand, bilateral trading agreement and appropriate stock management policies where in turn we should not give up the idea of establishing an international grains agreement with economic provisions.

I. ROUSSEV (Bulgarie): Permettez-moi de m'associer aux félicitations des orateurs précédents et de vous souhaiter plein succès pour l'accomplissement de votre mission.

Je vous prie de transmettre aussi mes remerciements au Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, pour ses efforts infatigables au service de notre Organisation et pour les analyses claires qui ont été exposées dans sa déclaration d'hier.

Nous avons minutieusement examiné le document relatif à l'état de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture à l'échelle mondiale au cours de 1984. Le Secréariat de la FAO a mis au point un rapport analytique qui passe en revue l'état de l'alimentation et du développement de l'agriculture. L'image est complétée par des chiffres et des données et elle est éloquente. Nous avons noté, parmi les données qui ont été soumises à notre attention que la quantité de calories absorbées quotidiennement par les habitants de notre planète a augmenté, ce qui se rapproche théoriquement de la quantité nécessaire d'énergie. Permettez-moi d'exprimer, en même temps, la prochaine préoccupation de notre délégation du fait que des millions de gens dans le monde souffrent de la faim aujourd'hui. Nous constatons avec inquiétude que la production des denrées alimentaires dans le monde n'a aucune croissance et même a subi une baisse importante.

Les rythmes de l'augmentation de la population dans certaines régions dépassent de loin ceux de l'accroissement de la production des denrées, ce qui crée des difficultés supplémentaires dans leur alimentation. Dans ce contexte, je voudrais souligner qu'on ne saura résoudre avec succès ce problème que dans des conditions de paix tout en mobilisant et unifiant les efforts de tous pour les pays concernés et de toutes les organisations internationales. La République populaire de Bulgarie est fermement convaincue que la prise de mesures concrètes pour une réduction substantielle des arsenaux militaires accumulés dans le monde et pour le désarmement, contribuera au dégagement de moyens financiers et de ressources humaines importantes pour une partie qui devrait être affectée à la liquidation de la faim et de la sous-alimentation dans les pays en développement.

De profonds changements sociaux et économiques sont survenus dans l'agriculture de la République populaire de Bulgarie au cours des quatre dernières décennies. Tout en mettant à profit les possibilités offertes par le système socialiste et en utilisant les progrès de la science, l'agriculture de la République de la Bulgarie a remporté des résultats considérables et elle est devenue un secteur modèle et rentable de l'économie nationale. Dans ces conditions, la population engagée dans l'agriculture a diminué quatre fois et la production agricole de notre pays s'est accrue trois fois, ce qui permet d'exporter une partie après avoir satisfait les besoins du pays en produits alimentaires. Un tel développement est accompli grâce à l'application poursuivie d'une politique économique, sociale et agraire au cours de ces quatre décennies, qui a mobilisé tous les éléments productifs, hommes et femmes, concentration de la terre et moyens de production dans les coopératives, intégration des sciences agricoles à la production. Permettez-moi de réaffirmer la bonne volonté de la Bulgarie de partager son expérience avec tous les pays concernés à la recherche des solutions du problème d'importance vitale liée à l'alimentation de la population.

A cet égard j'aimerais relever qu'en acceptant une politique agricole appropriée, il faudrait, de la façon la plus précise, prendre en compte les conditions spécifiques du développement de différents pays.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the Merciful and the Compassionate.

Mr Chairman, this august assembly will undoubtedly be very successful in its deliberations over the various items included in our Agenda under your able leadership.

First of all, I would like to thank the Director-General of FAO because he has introduced this analytical, all-embracing document to this Council. I would like to congratulate him also for his overall statement, which we endorse.

I would also like to thank Dr Nurul Islam for his clear and detailed introduction of this document, an introduction which enabled us to discuss it fully.

We would like also to endorse the declaration made by the Group of 77 delivered by the Chairman of that Group.

Mr Chairman, from this forum, the Council of the Organization, and for numerous years the delegation of my country has always expressed its misgivings. We have always warned against the gravity and seriousness of the food situation in the developing countries in particular. We have asked developing countries to adopt accelerated measures in view of increasing food production and in view of supporting and stressing food security. The delegation of my country, drawing upon the lessons learned by the international economic crisis in the 1970s, was amongst the first delegations to draw the attention of the Council to such issues. Despite some progress that has been achieved at the international level in the field of rural and agricultural production and development, increasing demands on food are still far beyond the achievement that has been made. There are African and non-African peoples suffering serious food shortages. Not only that; some of these people are suffering famine and hunger which are destroying numerous human lives. Mr Chairman, we believe what has been said in one of the sayings of our Prophet Mohammed. It means in substance that if an organ of a human body is suffering failure, then all the other organs in the same human body will be suffering that failure. Our society, Mr Chairman, is such a human organism and we are the organs of this organism. Now there is this international failure, so to speak, an evil which we will always suffer as long as even one person is suffering and facing food shortages and famines.

The present situation in Africa, especially to the west of the Sahara, is a situation that needs the efforts of all the members of the international community. This is true, of course, but this should not incite us to overlook what is happening or what might happen in other countries of the world. I am speaking in particular about the least developing countries and mostly poor countries, or the poorer countries so to speak. All the more so because there are some serious indications that enable us to say that some food producing countries, or some food-exporting countries, or some developed or industrialized countries will be reducing their food assistance to Third-World countries, be it at the bilateral or multilateral level.

Moreover other important elements should be taken into account, like for example, the world-wide economic recession which has occurred over the past few years and which harmed the development of the agricultural sector, international inflation or world inflation, the ever-increasing cost of development, the increase of commodities prices needed to achieve this development in developing countries. All these economic factors have led to an increasing dependence on the part of developing countries. They were reduced to import more foodstuffs which led to an imbalance in the balance of trade. This also has led to an increase in food assistance which they receive either bilaterally or through international organizations and, in fact Mr Chairman, this food assistance was not used in a manner which guarantees sustainable food security for these countries. On the contrary, this food assistance had a negative impact on the agricultural production in the developing countries, a fact highlighted in this document. We made a big mistake and the developing countries are paying a high price now. We have drawn your attention to this fact time and time again, and we have asked developing countries to be wary about this tendency or these tendencies. We have asked various organizations to increase development projects benefitting developing countries, projects aiming at increasing food production for the peoples of these countries.

We are all aware, as has been mentioned in paragraph 36 of this document, that the main characteristic of food assistance or food aid should be ultimately to reduce the cost of food imports. Did this happen in fact? Mr Chairman, this document, highlights the fact that imports from developed countries have increased greatly, especially of these commodities used to achieve development in the developing countries. We have heard that some developed countries have increased their imports from developing countries to the same percentage or to the same tune or to the same amount. Well of course, this, Mr Chairman, underscores one fact. That fact is that there exists a serious deterioration in international terms of trade. As a result of this the developing countries are suffering an economic recession, their debts are even higher, whilst developed countries have embarked upon an economic recovery.

Distinguished delegates, Mr Chairman, developed countries can correct, so to speak, this situation, and guide anew the efforts exerted on the development path. Developing countries should refuse this situation and should try through various means, channels and efforts to correct this problem. Hence, in view of achieving noble ideas like food security for all the peoples of this planet, it becomes incumbent on the international community to introduce a new international economic order. In this connection we would like to highlight one very important point, Mr Chairman; that is, that the efforts exerted by developing countries to achieve food security should be accompanied by similar efforts exerted by developed countries to help these developing countries. We are ready to admit that achieving such a goal is the very responsibility of the developing countries: how faithful they are, how determined and persevering they are and how willing they are to ensure prosperity for their peoples. All these are elements and factors that should be ensured and guaranteed for the developing countries to achieve food security. As has been mentioned, life is meaningless, or rather we cannot hope to live properly if we are not willing to work properly.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we would hope to see reflected in this document in a positive manner the efforts made by some developing countries, such efforts which enable these countries to achieve a good measure of food security and self-sufficiency for some of the main foodstuffs, or even semi self-sufficiency. These efforts should be appreciated, because in fact they prove that true will on the part of some developing countries was a means to achieve progress in the field of food security. On this occasion, Mr Chairman, I must admit that a nation producing the food it needs, depending upon its efforts and means, has the right to self-determination of its fate and the fate of its people.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): J'avais demandé la parole simplement pour vous demander au nom des pays de la Communauté d'inviter les représentants de la CEE à prendre la parole sur ce point fondamental de l'ordre du jour. Je vois que vous avez déjà pris une décision dans ce sens. Je vous en remercie beaucoup.

C'est l'occasion pour moi de me féliciter avec vous encore une fois pour votre élection à la présidence de cette session. C'est un plaisir pour nous tous de vous avoir encore une fois comme président. Je voudrais également étendre mes félicitations aux trois vice-présidents.

R. RABE (Observateur de Madagascar): Permettez-moi d'exprimer ma gratitude vis-à-vis du Bureau du Conseil qui m'a donné l'occasion de prendre la parole et d'intervenir à ce point important de notre ordre du jour.

C'est un grand plaisir pour ma délégation que de vous voir conduire les débats de cette session avec la haute compétence qui a toujours été la vôtre, de féliciter les vice-présidents nouvellement élus, le nouveau Secrétaire général, et j'aimerais m'associer aux orateurs précédents pour souhaiter la bienvenue aux éminents délégués ici présents ainsi qu'au représentant des Iles Salomon admis comme observateur que je salue en toute fraternité.

Permettez-moi également d'en profiter pour exprimer la satisfaction du Gouvernement malgache pour l'efficacité avec laquelle la FAO oeuvre au renforcement de la production agricole des pays en développement. Toutefois, en dépit des efforts déjà accomplis jusqu'ici et des progrès réalisés pour relever le niveau de l'alimentation mondiale, beaucoup reste encore à faire face à des situations dramatiques et persistantes car, comme l'a dit si justement le Directeur général lors de la dix-huitième session du Comité des politiques et Programme d'aide alimentaire, "la misère reste au sein de l'abondance".

Ainsi qu'on s'accorde à le reconnaître partout dans le monde les problèmes les plus graves auxquels sont confrontés la plupart des pays en développement sont ceux qui ont trait à la production alimentaire. Ces pays connaissent à des degrés divers la pauvreté, la faim, la malnutrition et le manque de denrées alimentaires de base qui affectent dans une large mesure la vie de centaines d'êtres humains.

Cette session est importante dans la mesure où ses préoccupations rejoignent parfaitement les soucis de la quasi-totalité de nos gouvernements qui, dans leur politique nationale, accordent une place de premier choix à l'amélioration de la production alimentaire. Et l'intérêt particulier revêtu par cette rencontre réside dans le fait que dans la confrontation de nos riches expériences en la matière jailliront, j'en suis persuadé, les réalités pratiques en vue d'arriver à l'autosuffisance, les stratégies et les programmes pour mener à bien ce noble combat que nous engageons depuis deux décennies.

A cet égard, le document CL 86/2 du Secrétariat fait une analyse très objective de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. C'est à notre avis un document très précieux. Nous tenons à en féliciter le Directeur général.

Il faut en effet partir du principe que la faim est multisectorielle et nécessite des programmes et une action coordonnés, que le remède n'en est pas une aide alimentaire en soi, mais plutôt la création d'une structure de développement ayant des effets durables, générateurs d'autres, adaptée aux agriculteurs tels qu'ils sont et là où ils sont, et envisageant avec souplesse comment ils seront capables d'assumer les nouvelles techniques, les crédits et autres frais, compte tenu du sol, du climat et de la structure des terrains.

Conscients de ces obstacles structurels, les dirigeants africains réunis à Harare en juillet 1984 ont réaffirmé leur volonté et leur détermination de s'attaquer au mal, et ce, en réalisant les différents objectifs du Plan d'action de Lagos, la Stratégie Internationale pour la troisième décennie du développement, le Plan alimentaire régional pour l'Afrique, le Programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural, le Plan d'action correspondant à la nouvelle définition de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et la Stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches.

D'où l'importance qu'ils attachent à la mise sur pied d'un programme de développement portant sur les capacités industrielles, locales et régionales en veillant par ailleurs à favoriser d'abord une production industrielle qui renforce les tout premiers efforts de survie dans le développement (outils agricoles adéquats, moyens de transport et autres soutiens), à protéger les produits artisanaux et à favoriser l'industrie de transformation alimentaire et autres similaires.

On ne le répètera jamais assez: toute stratégie contre la faim doit encore prendre en considération un autre facteur: la dynamique des populations dans la région concernée, en fonction de la justesse des statistiques de mortalité, des schémas migratoires, des taux de fertilité et des comportements à l'égard de la composition des familles.

Il faut tenir à l'esprit que le développement actif et autonome est, dans tous ces processus, précédé de deux autres phénomènes insuffisamment pris en considération: la perturbation, au niveau des gens et de leurs perceptions, des infrastructures et de leurs capacités (cadres, routes, source d'énergie, budgets, etc.) qui devraient faire l'objet d'études préalables.

Certes, dans tous ces domaines, la FAO entreprend déjà diverses actions en vue de relancer la production agricole, sauvegarder l'élevage, améliorer les systèmes de transports, de communications, ainsi que d'approvisionnement en eau, pour créer les conditions favorables à l'intéressement des paysans, "acteurs" et bénéficiaires désignés de toutes ces mesures. Mais il conviendrait, à n'en pas douter, de renforcer ces actions d'une manière coordonnée pour éviter les efforts dispersés dont les résultats sont toujours aléatoires.

Dans beaucoup de cas, des techniques simples, ne nécessitant pas l'emploi d'experts de très haut niveau, apportent plus de fruit et l'on pourrait consacrer les fonds aux vrais besoins d'investissement manifestés.

La recherche-développement, la formation et la sensibilisation des paysans à des techniques plus performantes mais à leur portée doivent tenir une place de choix dans les actions de la FAO.

Dans le domaine de la pêche, l'accent devra être mis sur la connaissance des ressources, le contrôle de leur exploitation, le transfert de technologie et la valorisation des produits pêchés.

La Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches a mis en exergue le rôle important joué par les pêcheurs artisanaux dans l'exploitation des ressources marines. L'on devra déterminer, les actions permettant de leur apporter un appui afin d'améliorer leur système de pêche et d'assurer un débouché intéressant à leurs produits.

A plusieurs reprises, l'on s'est demandé si la faim et la privation peuvent être extirpées. Je répondrai "oui" avec confiance. Et ma réponse est réellement fondée car pratiquement, à la suite des appels réitérés et des situations graves, je crois que la communauté Internationale a été mobilisée et a désormais compris la plupart des erreurs commises au niveau des concepts et approches dans les projets de développement. Nous devons reconnaître ces erreurs passées si nous voulons, à présent, suivre des stratégies efficaces permettant de lutter contre la famine et la pauvreté.

La route devant nous sera longue et difficile. Rien ne se fera sans heurts, croyez-moi. Mais j'affirme que cette victoire est possible. Aujourd'hui, nous avons suffisamment appris sur la signification de la faim et sur ses aspects sociologiques pour savoir comment la combattre et planifier sa destruction. Nous avons la volonté politique de mener ce combat, ainsi que les moyens financiers, fussent-ils modestes, nous permettant de prendre nos responsabilités.

Une lueur à l'horizon: une amorce de redéploiement des excédents alimentaires se dessine, mais elle est encore nettement insuffisante face au gouffre à combler. De gros efforts seront encore à consentir mais ils demeureront vains si la volonté d'améliorer sensiblement le système de relations Nord-Sud n'est pas encore acquise, si les prix des intrants et matériels de production n'ont pas été révisés à la baisse pour encourager les agriculteurs et, enfin, si les charges de la dette bousculent encore la réalisation de tout programme sérieux de développement.

Arrivé au terme de mon propos, la question qui me vient à l'esprit est celle que nous nous posons tous: que sortira-t-il de cette réunion?

Oh! Certes! Je n'en doute pas. De nos discours, des multiples rapports qui ont été ou seront discutés et dont les conclusions sages ou habiles seront approuvées, on pourra faire de très beaux résumés, exalter la qualité de nos sentiments, l'ardeur de nos résolutions.

Mais que seront les lendemains?

Tout à l'heure, j'ai parlé des espoirs que nous nourrissons et même si tous les problèmes ne seront pas résolus du jour au lendemain, nous savons que d'autres pas seront accomplis pour enrayer définitivement la faim de notre planète.

Tel est le vœu du Gouvernement malgache, tel que je vous l'apporte et tel qu'avec vous nous travaillerons à l'exaucer.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas.

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/4

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIEME SEANCE PLENIERE CUARTA SESION PLENARIA

(20 November 1984)

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 tercera 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. SITUATION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

- 4. State of Food and Agriculture, 1984
- 4. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1984
- 4. El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, 1984

J.K. MUTHAMA (Observer for Kenya): I would like to start my contribution by congratulating you for continuing to give us your wise leadership in the deliberations of the Council. My delegation also wishes to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen who have been elected to assist you in your difficult task.

Like many earlier speakers, we wish to congratulate the Director-General and the Secretariat for the excellent documentation we have before us. The keynote speech by the Director-General is something which should give the Council much inspiration and a sense of direction. I would like particularly to mention the aspect which was emphasized by the Director-General, that is, that the problem faced by the food and agricultural sector, particularly in developing countries and in Africa in particular, is not a passing problem; it is not ephemeral or transient. It must be recognized as a problem which has arisen due to very fundamental circumstances related to infrastructure and the capacity to develop. It is clear that the drought has also made the position worse.

Another aspect emphasized by the Director-General was the priority that this Organization intended to give to Africa, particularly its practical support in helping Africa to be self-sufficient. The delegation of Kenya feels that this is very commendable work, but that it is work which should be accompanied by action-oriented programmes. I am glad to say that earlier speakers have shown by their comments that there is an increasing concern with increasing understanding of the problems involved and the need for the practical handling of them. All parties interested in solving these problems of food and agriculture must ask themselves whether these problems are really practical ones. Many of them are soluble. Many delegations indicated that solutions do exist, but that it is important to look at the necessary solutions with a long-term perspective.

Unfortunately, it appears that both donors and recipients in the international community seem to be more geared to reacting or responding to crises, and as we have seen, when the crisis comes, the help comes too late and usually in insufficient quantities. The Kenyan delegation feels that sufficient knowledge does exist and that sufficient analytical work has been done. We feel that probably the solution to the problem is being paralyzed by further analyses, and that we are paralyzing the problem rather than solving it by continuing our endless analyses.

The questions to which we should be addressing ourselves in reality are these: does a physical, technical base exist to improve agriculture and food to the required levels? Do the necessary financial and investment resources exist to achieve the required level of production? Does the necessary political will exist? Is the necessary priority given to solving these issues which are impeding development? Are the multinational organizations of the United Nations properly oriented to address themselves to these problems? Are the donors committed to rid the world of the scourge of hunger giving the right level of resources at the right time? Or is it "too little, too late", as we have seen with the crisis in Africa?

Overall, the documentation provided by FAO and presented by Professor Nurul Islam indicated that investment in agriculture is inadequate, and that in fact there is declining support by the donors, particularly the multinational organizations such as IFAD, IBRD and UNDP. If we look closely, we find that the compounding of the problems of inadequate investment in agriculture with unfavourable balance of trade and decline in the prices of exported raw materials in real terms makes it impossible for developing countries to have a surplus in money or foreign exchange for investment in agriculture, and this will tend to make the position worse. The food crisis which has been exacerbated by drought has meant increased imports of food; this in turn has further eaten into the limited foreign exchange available, which again makes the question of investment in agriculture more difficult. We should not forget the serious macro-economic consequences of the problems with which agriculture has been faced. The problem relates to government revenues which has led to budget deficits, unemployment and debt servicing problems, all of which tend to make the position of agriculture and the movement towards self-sufficiency even more difficult.

It is unfortunate that overseas development assistance is also declining, and that developed countries have not found it necessary to increase the level of their contribution to ODA nearer to the 0.7 percent of GNP which was the target set by the United Nations system for the purposes of financial assistance. The problem of protectionism, as explained by earlier speakers - particularly the Chairman of the Group of 77 - is making it even more difficult for developing countries to get out of the vicious circle of under-development. There is the question of the deteriorating external environment; there is the question of lower prices of raw materials and trade barriers which impede the export of manufactured goods. All this adds up to reducing prospects for development and export; it leads to a diminished prospect of foreign exchange earnings and, of course, reduces the prospects of surplus cash for supporting development.

In conclusion, my delegation feels that there is need for self-examination, even self-criticism, by all the three parties which seem to be playing a part in the field of food and agriculture. On the side of the donors, my delegation feels that there is need for renewal of commitment and flexibility in aid granting so that developing countries can get rid of impediments to development, that they can have or develop programmes which donors can support and which would reach the root causes of underdevelopment such as infrastructure, manpower development, improving managerial capabilities, supporting recycled extensions, looking at the aspects and developing these aspects which will assure these countries of more reliable and sustainable production, for example, by developing irrigation systems.

The other partner in this field are the multilaterals, and my delegation feels that it is necessary for them to look at their mandates realistically and ask themselves, whether these mandates are still relevant to the problems, whether what was relevant 40 years ago is still relevant today and to come out openly and adopt approaches which are relevant and which do give developing countries or a recipient of aid, realistic support. Of course, different countries have got different constraints, and each approach has got to be particularly tailored to the needs of each particular country.

Now, to the recipients, there is no doubt that we have our own problems and that there are a lot of things that we have to do in order to create a correct climate for investment in agriculture and for improvement in food production and agriculture development in our country. There are aspects which deal with policy, commitment, development of infrastructure, communication, storage and developing marketing services, research services and above all, developing incentive prices which will encourage farmers to produce.

D. DE GASPAR (World Food Council): For the World Food Council, the reports prepared for the Eighty-sixth Session of the FAO Council are of great interest, in particular the two documents, the State of Food and Agriculture 1984 and Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO. Both documents merit careful attention by all concerned as the international community seeks resolution of global food problems. The first document, on the State of Food and Agriculture, is most welcome, as it represents a useful addition to the body of analysis which has sought to understand the changing nature of the world food problem since the 1974 World Food Conference. The FAO Secretariat is to be commended, in particular on its insightful review of the linkage between food and urbanization and migration.

As other analyses have suggested, this document places the food and hunger dimension in a broader context encompassing economic, social and environmental factors. Its conclusions suggest the continued precarious balance for many developing countries which are struggling to meet their food needs. This theme was central to World Food Council ministerial concern at its Tenth Session held this past June in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at which the World Food Council assessed the progress in the remaining problem areas for meeting the recommendations and objectives of the 1974 World Food Conference, as requested by the United Nations General Assembly. At that meeting, the World Food Council ministers recognized that the principal fear in 1974 of diminishing food supply globally, relative to population growth and hence rising food prices, had not been warranted. In fact, global food production has increased by some 3.2 percent annually, and even higher rates of growth were achieved by the densely populated countries which comprise four-fifths of the population of the developing world. Asia, in particular, with production increases of 3.4 percent annually has dramatically transformed its prospects for sustained higher levels of food production and development. This is a significant achievement which is due to priority investment in the application of scientific means to increase productivity and by the careful formulation and management of policies and price incentives which assist farmers. Yet, despite significant increases in aggregate food production and trade, chronic hunger and malnutrition remain a reality for hundreds of millions of people. Reaching the poor and destitute has proven to be a much more intractable problem than many imagined in 1974. Notwithstanding improved information on the geography of hunger and the various types and causes of malnutrition, there is still wide divergence of opinion on the short- and long-term way of helping the poor and the chronically hungry as well as on the policy conflicts and investment trade-offs that different approaches might imply. In general, however, the hungry are no longer seen as existing in isolation from their economic and social environment. Instead, it is now realized that the problems of hunger are closely linked to poverty and underemployment to land tenure systems and to the impact of changing technologies. The Addis meeting likewise attached major importance to the tragic and unrelentless dimensions of what has come to be termed the African food crisis.

Since the World Food Council first raised the alarm in 1980 about the deteriorating African food situation, the Council has called for greater donor/recipient cooperation, increased external resources and improved trade opportunities as well as major policy changes by the African countries themselves. The present drought and famine situation has only compounded the difficulties of meeting the longterm policy and resources realignments. Therefore, despite many similarities in analysis between the World Food Council and that of the FAO Council document, there are certain areas that deserve further exploration and emphasis.

With regard to world cereal stocks, the World Food Council documents have placed considerable emphasis on the major policy problems surrounding the unmarketable cereal surpluses of the major food exporters

and the adverse effects of low international cereal prices on developing country food strategy and plans for the economies of developing countries exporters of grain. The World Food Council stressed the fact that low international cereal prices, not just high international prices, can mitigate developing country efforts to resolve their food and development problems. Secondly, with regard to food security arrangements, the World Food Council assessments stressed the potential resource conflicts in simultaneously meeting the food security needs of both consumers and producers and subgroups of them over both the long- and short-term. There are major policy conflicts and resource tradeoffs entailed in meeting the particular food security requirements of certain groups of citizens in any country. This point, in the World Food Council's view, has not yet received adequate attention heretofore in food security discussions.

With respect to food aid, the Council sought to highlight the use which programmed food aid could have for enhancing the national food strategy and food objectives of developing countries. Special attention has been devoted to focusing the application of food aid to ease the food price dilemma and the need to ensure adequate incentives to producers while simultaneously protecting low-income nutritionally vulnerable consumers. By the same regard, the 1982-83 decrease in multilateral concessional assistance for agriculture by 20 percent, as indicated yesterday by Professor Nurul Islam, suggests the continued and pressing relevance of the World Food Council Executive Director's proposal for a \$1 billion food policy support programme over five years to further food policy adjustments in developing countries.

In reviewing the second document, Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO, the World Food Council is pleased to see the conclusions and recommendations of its tenth Session held in Addis Ababa annexed to this document. It should be nonetheless noted the particular interpretation found in paragraph 44 of the document regarding multilateral interagency coordination. The Council stressed that full-level coordination among assistance agencies was at the heart of the problem, and that this fundamental issue was complicated by the different objectives and policy orientations of the non-food agencies, including the financial institutions.

In looking to the future, the World Food Council ministers recognized that major hurdles must still be confronted by the international community in meeting the still valid objectives of the 1974 Conference. These tasks include sustained efforts by the developing countries in the implementation of their national food strategies designed to increase food production and improve access to food by low-income groups. More comprehensive policies and programmes are required which integrate hunger-reducing measures into the process of economic and social development. Use of food aid of developed countries producers to achieve long-term food self-reliance even as emergency food needs are being met, adjustment of developed countries' policies to reduce trade protectionism and the instability of financial and commodity markets affecting developing countries' objectives and ensuring adequate and reliable food imports, increased development assistance for the least-developed countries, particularly in Africa, and improved coordination and management of international assistance efforts. It was in these terms that the World Food Council called upon the international community to review its commitment to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by the end of the century. The ministers affirmed that hunger can no longer be blamed solely on humankind's inability to produce enough food. Hunger today is largely a man-made phenomenon. Human error or neglect creates it, human complacency perpetuates it, and human resolve can eradicate it.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): We are very grateful for the various comments and suggestions made by the distinguished delegates which will enable us to improve and expand the analyses and the statistical information in the expanded version of the State of Food and Agriculture which will be published later. I will confine my replies to a number of questions, not necessarily covering all the phases of the important questions raised in the course of the debate.

One question a number of delegates have referred to related to the possible inconsistency between paragraph 14 and paragraph 15 of the main document. Paragraph 14 relates to an analysis of the impact of the growth of industrial economies on the exports and growth in developing countries. The example given there is an hypothetical example dealing with the impact of a certain percentage change in the industrial countries' growth on the developing countries. This analysis is based upon a number of assumptions which have not been spelled out in that short paragraph. Neither does this analysis predict what will happen nor does it say what has happened in the past. It is an analytical device on the basis of hypothetical assumptions. The main impact of growth in industrial countries, however, as indicated in this paragraph, is through an increase in the exports of developing countries, and secondly, to a possible impact on the flow of resources from the developed to the developing countries.

Now, in both these cases, the expected favourable impact may not materialize. Firstly, the response of exports of the developing countries depends on the nature of exports; the response of agricultural exports from developing countries to growth in industrial countries is weaker and slower than that of manufactured exports. Secondly, the impact could be uneven and amongst various developing countries. Agricultural exports of low-income developing countries, most of them, face stagnant demand and sometimes competition incentive substitutes. They respond much less than the other exports. Therefore,

aggregate analysis of the type mentioned in the paragraph does conceal significant differences in terms of impact of growth in industrial countries on the actual situation in developing countries. Moreover, the impact of growth could be offset by rising protectionism in the developed countries which restrict exports to developing countries and also, as had been emphasized in the subsequent paragraphs in the same document, by the impact of high interest rates, which by adding to the debt service burden of developing countries have resulted, as indicated there, in net outflow of resources out of the developing world to the developed world.

For example in Latin America, as many distinguished delegates have emphasized, the severe debt service burden has imposed upon them the need for drastic readjustment policies in the domestic economy, resulting in squeezing of domestic consumption, imports, rate of growth. So the complicated set of factors which determine inter-dependence between developed and developing countries has not been fully analyzed in this paragraph. We hope that in a fuller document these issues will be more clearly indicated.

As far as paragraph 57 is concerned that refers to an entirely different phenomenon. It describes how the agricultural exports - total world agricultural exports-have behaved in the past, and how the share of developed countries and developing countries has developed over the years, and I would say the share of developed countries in world agricultural exports had increased. The factors responsible for this increase have also been described in the subsequent paragraphs. Therefore paragraph 14, as far as exports are concerned, refers to all exports. Paragraph 57 refers only to agricultural exports and their evolution over the last ten years. So from that point of view they are totally consistent. In fact, as the document emphasizes including the supplement, the improvement in the trade of developing countries shown in 1983 is only compared to the earlier 1982/83 because this is an annual review, so we have compared specifically last year 1982 with 1983. Now if you compare over a longer period; the situation is very different. For example, while the terms of trade of developing countries have, improved in 1983 compared with 1982, it still remains greatly depressed below the earlier years, especially 1979/80. Again the value of agricultural exports of developing countries, although registering an improvement in 1983 over 1982, is very much below the level of 1981 over all areas.

Comments have been made from the floor as to the inadequacies of treatment of various regions. Admittedly in this short version as you call it, mini so far, we have been unable to deal in detail with all the aspects of food and agriculture. In the full version which is published later, we intend to have, as we have done in the past, fuller coverage of regional details.

We are very grateful to the distinguished delegates for their comments on our treatment of urbanization. Indeed, in dealing with this subject we have been drawing upon the work of other United Nations agencies including the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, as well as the United Nations Population Division, and in the more extended version and treatment of the subject in the later fuller version of the State of Food and Agriculture we will certainly take the various aspects mentioned with the distinguished delegates in mind.

Two questions have been raised on the issues of cereal stocks. First, is this concept of safe minimum level of cereal stocks 17 to 18 percent of annual consumption a still valid and appropriate one? This is an issue, a subject of constant review and discussion in the Secretariat as well as the various FAO Committees and fora. For example, we had a detailed discussion on this subject in the Ad Hoc Expert Consultation we had some years earlier on measures to meet acute and larger scale food shortages. This concept obviously is not without its limitations, but what it seeks to indicate is a number of features in one unified concept of stocks of cereals as a proportion of annual consumption. At a global level this concept has indeed been found useful. For example, it has been found that when the world cereal stocks fall below 17 to 18 percent of world annual consumption of cereals, further depletion of cereal stocks is associated with a rise in the price of cereals, the world price of cereals.

Secondly, the aggregate stock figure is not used in isolation. It has to be put in a proper context. Two features especially must be remembered: a) the composition of the cereal stocks, wheat, rice and other coarse grain. Depending on the composition, any impact on food security is different, but on the whole we have assumed that these crops are substitutable in consumption which is, of course, a limitation on this; b) I believe the geographical distribution of stocks is also relevant. When you analyze in any of our documents where they mention this aggregate ratio, we immediately also describe its composition and its geographical distribution, because geographical location does determine the ease of accessibility to stocks on the part of developing countries. If it is concentrated in one region of the world then it is not as effective for ensuring food security as if it is dispersed throughout the affected regions.

Therefore, in the absence of a better indicator we continue to use this, but this does not imply that we do not see the need to re-estimate the safe level of the stocks using more up-to-date data, and review the matters if necessary and examine the relationship between variations in world stocks and variations in world export prices. Work along these lines is already underway by the Secretariat.

The distinguished delegate of India asked a question about information on the current status of the South Asia food security reserve proposal. This proposal is now being considered by the FAO Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific Region, which reviewed it at its first session in 1983. The Commission felt that there were some further studies needed to be undertaken to work out some of the details of the proposal. Moreover, before further studies are undertaken there was a need to elicit the clear reaction of the countries concerned regarding the acceptability of such an idea. In the meanwhile the FAO Secretariat has planned to undertake a project for determining optimum national reserve stock levels as a first step in that direction.

I may mention here in this connection a Symposium on World Food Security which you had here earlier this year - this is in reference to a comment by a distinguished delegate as to the need of analyses on the impact of policies in both the developed and the developing countries on world food security. This symposium was attended by 13 experts from both developed and developing countries, people with considerable research experience in the area of world food security. They had clarified or deliberated on clarification some of the issues and the questions which were raised in the context of the Director-General's revised concept of world food security. Among the issues they had considered were precisely the concept of food reserves both national and international, as well as the role of food reserves in the context of promoting world food security. The concept of optimum level of reserves at the national level in the developing countries was also discussed in relation to the alternative of relying on trade as a means of stabilizing supplies and prices in developing countries. We hope to publish the papers presented to the symposium as well as the record of the discussions in the near future.

One additional question was asked about the International Monetary Fund food financing facility. Since its inception three and a half years ago five countries have made drawings under this facility for a total sum of about 475 million US dollars. The question therefore has been raised why, in view of the present and the last few years' food situation, why there have not been greater drawings from this facility. One reason is that the food grain prices in the international market have tended to decline since the facility was set up, thus one of the situations which the facility was intended to cope with, namely large increases in the import price of cereals such as occurred in the 1973-75 period, has not in fact arisen. However, one might ask how is it that given the temporary shortfalls in many countries in domestic food production that drawings have not been more widely spread.

The most important reason it seems to us is that the cereal financing facilities of the International Monetary Fund is combined with another facility which is in fact part of the bigger facility, compensatory financing facility for export shortfalls. Now if a member opts for this scheme, that member cannot switch back to the original well-established compensatory financing facility, at least for three years. As a consequence, when it opts for this scheme it runs a certain risk of diminished drawing for compensation in the event of future adverse fluctuations in its export earnings. One way obviously of meeting the situation is to delete both the schemes. The International Monetary Fund will be carrying out a review of this scheme next year because it was originally established for four years. So the Board of the International Monetary Fund will now take a decision on a) whether to continue the scheme, and b) whether any modification is necessary. We, in the Secretariat, hope to do a further analysis on the experience with this scheme in the past few years, and we hope our analysis will contribute to the process of a review by the International Monetary Fund.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have had nearly seven hours of discussion on this item and I want to thank the 40 delegates and observers who have made contributions. I would like to join all of them in congratulating and thanking the Director-General, Dr Saouma, Dr Islam and all their colleagues for the balanced and perceptive survey of the State of Food and Agriculture presented in CL 86/2 and CL 86/2 Sup.I. It is neither necessary nor possible to highlight or summarize many of the points made by the delegates, but nevertheless I would like to touch on one or two items.

First, it is obvious that delegates from several developing countries have rightly stressed that external constraints leading to a net outflow of resources from their nations have limited the possibility of harnessing the needed capital for the modernization of their own agriculture. Rising cost of debt servicing, adverse balance of trade, deteriorating terms of trade with regard to the produce farmers sell and the goods and inputs they purchase, are all negative factors and have been referred to. Therefore the agriculturally less advanced nations face the dilemma of having to increase farm productivity without having the resources to invest on rural and farm infrastructure and development. From my own travels I find this is a very crucial problem, the inadequacy of capital for the modernization of agriculture. Unless a solution can be found, productivity will continue to stagnate in many of these nations. There are many examples known to distinguished delegates here to show that even a small help to small farmers by way of more favourable input and output pricing policies often triggers great progress.

Delegates have also stressed that emphasis on external constraints does not mean that urgent attention is not needed to the removal of the internal constraints through appropriate Government policies at home. In this context the Harare and Buenos Aires Declarations have been referred to frequently and they both point out the need for developing countries to adopt policies which can promote growth and self-reliance coupled with social justice. Several delegates have also forcefully brought out the need for greater attention to input security and to the principal factors of production, particularly to water harvesting in rainfed areas and scientific water management in irrigated areas. Reference has also been made to the need for preparing value added products from all parts of plants and animals, through the adoption of modern techniques of biomass utilization and bioconversion, thereby helping to generate greater opportunities for employment in rural areas. We all know that history teaches us that a significant improvement in the standard of life occurs only when a part of the labour force is withdrawn from the routine operations of farming and deployed in agro-industrial and industrial pursuits. The need for the symbiotic development of agriculture and industry on the one hand and rural and urban areas is hence obvious, and has been rightly stressed by several delegates.

The Chairman of the Group of 77, the distinguished delegate of the Philippines, wanted me to deal specifically with the prospects for improving productivity through low input technology. Inputs are needed for output and therefore the term 'low input technology' can be misleading. What, however, is implied normally by this term is not the reduced application of inputs like nutrients but altering their source, as for example, the substitution of purchased mineral fertilizers with home-grown ones.

It is in this context that nitrogen fixed in the soil through the Azolla-Anabaena symbiotic association, to which the Chairman of the Group of 77 referred, assumes importance. This source of nitrogen addition needs water and has been used by farmers in China and Viet Nam for centuries. The Philippines has a large programme in areas where the phosphorus content of the soil is adequate to sustain Azolla growth. Among other biological sources of nitrogen are blue green algae, free living bacteria in the soil, green manures and the inclusion of grain and fodder legumes in the rotation. All these sources can add enough nutrition to sustain a 3 to 4 ton per hectare crop. Higher yields than this will need the addition of mineral fertilizers. Hence, we should promote an integrated nutrient supply system involving organic recycling, biofertilizers and mineral fertilizers. I would like to mention in this context that the International Winged Bean Institute, established in Sri Lanka, to which FAO has extended support, is planning to initiate a programme of research for the improvement of several perennial legumes which can provide fuel, fodder, feed and fertilizer.

Reference has been made by some delegates to the urgent need for bridging the yield gap prevailing in many countries in major food crops. Where water is available and nutrients can be supplied in needed amounts, about 7 to 8 tons of cereal grains can be harvested per ha. per crop.

If we take this as the ultimately feasible national average yield at currently available levels of technology, countries can be divided into four major groups based on the size of the gap between potential and actual yields: Group 1 countries, practically no yield gap, in other words already the average yield is over 6 to 7 tons; Group 2, 25 percent gap; Group 3, 50 percent gap; and Group 4, 75 percent or more. Only a multi-disciplinary constraints analysis can help to reveal the precise constraints responsible for the gaps and their relative importance. Ecological, technological, socio-political, institutional and economic constraints all play a part - the precise contribution of each of these major groups of constraints may vary from country to country, and in large countries from region to region within the country. The undertaking of such a study will be helpful both in determining priorities in investment and in the choice of strategies for development. We all know that in many developing and densely populated countries there is no option except to produce more food from less land in the future. The pathway of exploitative agriculture leading to the mining of soil fertility will yield short-term gains but will spell long-term doom. We need to follow a middle path, often referred to as ecological agriculture. Scientifically, this middle path usually adds the term 'integrated' before such aspects of crop management like pest control, water management and nutrient supply. Such integrated systems require group action and cooperation on the parts of numerous small farmers. Social engineers and developmental administrators will therefore have to work out the public policy measures such as group insurance and other group incentives; needed to stimulate and sustain cooperative action among farmers living in a village or watershed or command area of an irrigation project in protecting the health of the plant and in promoting the care of the soil. Such a path of agricultural development alone can help us in achieving the desired productivity gains without long-term harm to terrestrial and aquatic productivity.

Several delegates have emphasized that all this can be accomplished only if the supreme consideration in our work is human happiness. Mahatma Gandhi in my country asked over 50 years ago all those in charge of formulating development projects to ask themselves whether the project they are about to initiate will make any change in the life of the poorest segment of the population. The Minister for Development Cooperation of Norway forcefully restated this principle today. I see in the deliberations on this Agenda item seeds of hope and I thank you for this.

4.1 The food situation in Africa

4.1 Situation alimentaire de l'Afrique

4.1 La situación alimentaria en Africa

CHAIRMAN: This leads us logically to what I consider to be the most important of the items before us. We are fortunate enough to have the Director-General himself to introduce this topic.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Ministres, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Dans mon allocution d'ouverture, je vous ai tracé les grandes lignes de la situation alimentaire en Afrique. Permettez-moi d'y revenir plus en détail.

Certes, les autres régions ont elles aussi leurs problèmes et leurs besoins et nous ne saurions les oublier. Mais en Afrique, qui d'entre nous oserait le nier, c'est d'une véritable tragédie qu'il s'agit. Non seulement la situation n'a guère de chance de s'y améliorer dans un avenir proche, mais tout porte à croire qu'elle s'aggraverait encore l'an prochain.

Comme Pindique le document dont vous êtes saisis, la récolte a de nouveau été mauvaise en Afrique australe-en Angola, au Botswana, au Lesotho, au Mozambique, en Zambie et même au Zimbabwe.

Il est maintenant certain que la récolte principale de 1984 qui aura bientôt lieu en Ethiopie sera désastreuse et que par conséquent la situation alimentaire de ce pays restera très grave l'an prochain aussi. A la demande du Gouvernement éthiopien, j'ai envoyé une mission d'évaluation des récoltes qui se trouve présentement dans le pays. Elle est dirigée par M. Dalton, un expert de nationalité américaine. Ses termes de référence sont très spécifiques et limités à fournir la meilleure estimation professionnelle possible de la récolte de décembre 1984, c'est-à-dire la récolte principale en Ethiopie. Bien qu'il soit trop tôt pour avancer une évaluation quantitative, la mission m'a confirmé hier à travers M. Dall, mon représentant en Ethiopie ici présent, que la prochaine récolte en Ethiopie sera très pauvre à cause des pluies tardives ou trop faibles, et cela même dans de nombreuses régions traditionnellement excédentaires. Certains estiment que la récolte sera d'un tiers inférieure à la moyenne. En vérité, une sombre perspective pour 1985. J'aurais souhaité que M. Dalton soit ici pour vous faire directement rapport.

La situation paraît d'ailleurs si grave que M. MacPherson, administrateur de l'USAID, de retour d'Ethiopie, vient de déclarer à la presse que les besoins en aide alimentaire pourraient ne pas s'élever à 500 000 tonnes de céréales comme déjà annoncées, mais bien à près d'un million de tonnes.

Au Kenya, à la suite de la pire sécheresse que l'on ait connue depuis bien des années, la récolte principale de 1984 sera sans doute inférieure de près de 40 pour cent à celle de l'an dernier.

Dans les pays du Sahel, la récolte en cours s'annonce beaucoup moins bonne que l'on espérait il y a quelques semaines encore. Dans le nord de ces pays, on signale un peu partout de très mauvaises récoltes et la production globale risque encore d'être inférieure à celle de l'an dernier qui avait déjà souffert de la sécheresse. Les perspectives sont particulièrement inquiétantes au Burkina Faso, au Mali, en Mauritanie, au Niger et au Tchad.

Sur la base de chiffres encore préliminaires, la FAO estime aujourd'hui que 21 pays d'Afrique devront faire face à de graves pénuries alimentaires en 1985 et qu'ils auront besoin au total de plus de 4 millions de tonnes d'aide alimentaire, soit, au bas mot, un million de tonnes de plus qu'il n'en a fallu cette année à l'ensemble des pays africains frappés par la crise.

A ce propos, permettez-moi d'ajouter quelques précisions sur nos évaluations des besoins. Elles sont l'aboutissement d'un travail très minutieux accompli dans le cadre du système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO auquel participent une centaine de gouvernements ainsi que la CEE et diverses organisations internationales. Les informations proviennent de sources très diverses. Nous utilisons les données communiquées par les systèmes nationaux d'alerte rapide, par d'autres services des pays concernés et par le personnel sur le terrain de la FAO et du PAM. Les données agrométéorologiques sur les zones vulnérables, en particulier sur le Sahel sont régulièrement analysées pendant la campagne agricole. Nous avons également recours aux images transmises par satellite. En cas de crise majeure, l'OSRO organise des missions multidonateurs ou des missions FAO/PAM qui établissent une évaluation plus détaillée.

Nous tenons compte aussi des prix, des taux de fret et des besoins nutritionnels de la population qui sont très différents selon que ce sont des enfants, des personnes adultes ou des personnes âgées. Les besoins d'aide sont calculés à partir non seulement du volume de la production, mais aussi de la consommation et des stocks qui existent dans le pays et sur la base de comparaisons avec les années antérieures. La capacité d'importation commerciale est un des éléments clés.

Nous lançons une alerte spéciale chaque fois que les approvisionnements sont menacés dans un pays donné. Pendant la saison des pluies nous distribuons tous les dix jours aux donateurs traditionnels d'aide alimentaire des rapports spéciaux sur la situation alimentaire et l'état des cultures dans le Sahel. C'est une routine: chaque dix jours, on envoie des rapports, dans les cas vraiment critiques. Nous diffusons aussi régulièrement d'autres informations. Enfin, nous nous attachons particulièrement à aider les pays à mettre en place des systèmes nationaux ou régionaux d'alerte rapide au moyen de crédits extra-budgétaires.

Quant à l'exactitude de nos évaluations, je me bornerai à dire que c'est précisément là où il y a le plus gros écart entre la réponse des donateurs et nos estimations des besoins que la famine tue le plus. Je pense en particulier à l'Ethiopie, où pour diverses raisons l'assistance n'a pas été fournie assez tôt, ni en quantités suffisantes. C'est un fait, je ne critique personne, c'est là la réalité, on pourrait en dire autant du Mozambique et du Tchad.

Je ne prétendrai certes pas que notre système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide soit parfait. Loin de là et bien au contraire. Je tiens beaucoup à l'affiner et à le perfectionner de façon notamment à pouvoir répondre aux besoins de secours d'urgence qui je le crains persisteront inévitablement en Afrique en 1985 et au-delà. Nous présenterons un document sur ce système au Comité d'aide au développement de l'OCDE qui doit se réunir ce mois-ci.

Nous avons aussi l'intention d'organiser à Rome, en février prochain, une consultation technique avec les organismes donateurs pour améliorer les méthodes d'évaluation et la diffusion de l'information qui est vitale, qui est cruciale, pour prévoir les situations critiques et pouvoir agir à temps. En avril, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, qui se réunira dans cette salle, réexaminera l'ensemble du système. Je ferai tout pour renforcer ce système d'ici la fin de l'exercice et dans le cadre de notre prochain Programme de Travail et Budget.

Un système d'alerte rapide est évidemment inutile s'il ne déclenche pas des réactions immédiates. C'est pourquoi, nous transmettons le plus vite possible l'alerte à la communauté internationale. Hélas, aussi solide que soit la base de nos évaluations, les premières alertes que j'ai lancées et les initiatives que j'ai prises, dès le début de 1983, à propos de l'Afrique ont été accueillies par certains avec scepticisme.

Le groupe d'action spécial FAO/PAM, pour l'Afrique a été constitué en avril 1983 et j'ai lancé mes premiers appels à la communauté internationale en mai et juin de la même année. En octobre 1983, j'ai convoqué une réunion de haut niveau de représentants des donateurs et des pays sinistrés, ici à Rome, puis j'ai adressé un appel à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, où je me suis rendu fin octobre. Enfin, en novembre 1983, j'ai organisé à Rome une réunion officielle des ministres et des hauts fonctionnaires des pays donateurs à l'occasion de la Conférence de la FAO; celle-ci a adopté à ce sujet la Résolution 83/1.

En décembre 1983, mon représentant a assisté à Londres à la réunion du Comité de l'aide alimentaire du Conseil international du blé, pour appeler l'attention sur la crise alimentaire africaine et lancer un appel à l'aide. Au début de 1984, j'ai envoyé deux représentants personnels de très haut niveau dans les capitales des pays donateurs, qui sont allés en Europe, dans les pays nordiques, dans d'autres pays occidentaux; ils sont allés aussi en Asie pour alerter les gouvernements sur la situation très grave que traversait l'Afrique et pour essayer de mobiliser davantage d'aide pour la relance de l'agriculture de ce continent.

Entre temps, le groupe d'action spécial a continué à publier ses rapports de situation. Voici le Numéro 6, que vous avez sûrement déjà vu.

En février 1984, le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et moi-même avons convoqué une réunion conjointe à New York pour alerter toutes les délégations. En avril 1984 j'ai signalé la détérioration de la situation alimentaire en Afrique australe. En juillet 1984 la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique a naturellement fait une place toute particulière à ce problème et a adopté la Déclaration de Harare.

Il ne suffit pas de renforcer le système d'alerte rapide ni de réagir immédiatement quand il donne l'alarme; il faut aussi que l'aide alimentaire puisse arriver rapidement dans les zones sinistrées. A ce sujet, j'ai demandé qu'un point concernant les mesures à prendre pour accélérer la livraison des secours alimentaires d'urgence soit inscrit à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine session du Comité des politiques alimentaires (CPA). Je crois comprendre que le Directeur exécutif exposera ses idées sur les problèmes logistiques lors de cette session. J'espère pouvoir bénéficier pleinement de son appui et de son concours dans ce domaine.

J'ai appris avec une grande satisfaction que les Etats-Unis avaient décidé en juillet 1984 de mettre en place des stocks alimentaires dans des zones vulnérables. J'en suis d'autant plus heureux qu'il s'agit d'une mesure que je préconise depuis longtemps. Puissent les autres donateurs suivre cet exemple, et en particulier la CEE. Un tel dispositif permettrait de faire parvenir les secours à ceux qui en ont le plus besoin beaucoup plus rapidement qu'en passant comme aujourd'hui par des ports et des aéroports encombrés.

Je reste aussi convaincu qu'il faut accroître la Réserve Alimentaire Internationale d'Urgence. Il est vrai qu'en 1984, les contributions à la RAIU ont dépassé de 8,8 pour cent l'objectif de 500 000 tonnes fixé par l'Assemblée générale en 1975. Il faut s'en réjouir, mais il n'en reste pas moins que ces ressources sont encore très insuffisantes pour répondre aux seuls besoins de l'Afrique cette année et presque sûrement en 1985.

Le mois dernier j'ai lancé un appel pour mobiliser des contributions supplémentaires à la RAIU. Certains gouvernements ont déjà promis - et je les en remercie - 50 000 tonnes de plus pour le restant de 1984, mais je continue à espérer que d'autres contributions supplémentaires seront fournies dès cette année et en tous cas l'an prochain. J'espère aussi que les gouvernements voudront bien réexaminer ma proposition antérieure de porter l'objectif de la RAIU à 2 millions de tonnes à fournir sur demande.

A propos de la crise alimentaire en Afrique, je ne saurais non plus passer sous silence l'effort à faire dans l'immédiat pour relancer l'agriculture et l'élevage, pour s'attaquer aux causes du problème. Il est impératif de donner aux ruraux les moyens de relancer la production vivrière durant la prochaine campagne et de protéger contre la maladie le cheptel qu'il leur reste; pour beaucoup de pays c'est la richesse principale. Je parle de certains pays du Sahel, de la Mauritanie en particulier. Le sixième rapport de la situation du Groupe d'action spécial FAO/PAM, qui a récemment été soumis aux donateurs, montre à quel point leur aide est indispensable dans ce domaine.

Il faut agir sur deux fronts. Envoyer de l'aide alimentaire et aider à relancer l'agriculture des pays africains. Puissent les pays donateurs agir en conséquence.

En ce qui concerne l'Ethiopie j'ai reçu la semaine dernière la visite de M. Dawit Wolde Giorgies, Commissaire pour les secours et le relèvement des zones sinistrées. Il venait des Etats-Unis. Il est venu me voir après avoir rencontré M. MacPherson. Nous avons surtout parlé de ce dont l'Ethiopie a besoin pour la réorganisation de la reprise de l'agriculture dans les zones de réinstallation afin d'éviter l'éternel retour des crises.

En ce moment, la priorité des priorités est, bien sûr, l'aide alimentaire d'urgence. Mais, étant donné que la récolte de 1985 s'annonce fort mal, nous devons dès maintenant penser à plus long terme. J'ai donc décidé de monter une mission en Ethiopie, à laquelle j'espère que des représentants des pays donateurs accepteront de participer, afin d'évaluer les besoins d'un demi-million de victimes de la famine qu'il faut réinstaller.

Il s'agit d'une réhabilitation de l'agriculture. Il s'agit de faire démarrer et d'intensifier l'agriculture dans des zones où il y a des réfugiés venus du nord qui se trouvent là, sans travail, sous des tentes. Et il y a des sols disponibles. La mission doit quitter Rome ce vendredi et passera environ deux semaines là-bas. Je me rendrai aussi moi-même en Ethiopie à la fin du Conseil.

Cette mission pourrait déboucher sur un appel international de contributions, suivi d'une réunion de donateurs que je pense convoquer à Rome vers le 20 décembre.

Des mesures analogues de réorganisation et de relance seront sans nul doute nécessaires dans les autres pays africains les plus touchés; ils auront surtout besoin de moyens d'irrigation et de forage, de semences, d'engrais, de pesticides, de machines agricoles et d'infrastructures de base.

Seule une aide extérieure massive pourra permettre de couvrir ces besoins. Je ferai de mon mieux pour la mobiliser. Toutefois, nous devons aussi faire un effort particulier dans le cadre de notre Programme ordinaire. Je suis donc en train de procéder à un réajustement de nos activités - en réaffectant une part de nos ressources budgétaires, à concurrence de 5 millions de dollars - afin d'aider les pays où, selon le Groupe d'action spécial, la relance de l'agriculture et autres mesures de redressement sont les plus urgentes. Ceci s'appliquerait à un ensemble de pays africains.

Bien entendu, j'en rendrai compte en tant que de besoin au Comité du programme et au Comité financier ainsi qu'à la prochaine session du Conseil. Je suis sûr que vous m'apporterez votre appui sans réserve.

Monsieur le Président, la crise alimentaire actuelle de l'Afrique aussi aiguë soit-elle, ne doit pas détourner notre attention des problèmes structurels qui en sont la cause profonde. Il est plus que temps de s'y attaquer.

Ces problèmes structurels sont de quatre ordres - techniques, sociaux, économiques et politiques. La solution à leur trouver variera d'un pays à l'autre.

Par ailleurs, tout le monde reconnaît que c'est avant tout aux pays eux-mêmes qu'il incombe de résoudre leurs problèmes alimentaires à long terme. Les ministres africains réunis pour la treizième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique ont été très clairs à ce sujet.

Dans la Déclaration d'Harare, ces ministres s'engagent à adopter des politiques plus efficaces pour le développement du secteur alimentaire et agricole et à veiller à une meilleure utilisation des ressources par les pouvoirs publics.

Malheureusement, quand il s'agit de réaliser leurs programmes, les gouvernements se heurtent à de graves obstacles techniques et financiers qui ne peuvent être surmontés avec les seuls moyens nationaux. La communauté internationale tout entière doit participer au combat pour l'autosuffisance alimentaire de l'Afrique.

L'Afrique demeure donc, en cette période de crise, la priorité numéro un du Programme de travail de la FAO. Près de la moitié des dépenses de l'Organisation lui sont consacrées. En outre, comme je l'ai annoncé à l'ouverture de cette session, la FAO va mettre en chantier, à l'intention de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique de 1986, un examen détaillé des causes profondes de la crise alimentaire de l'Afrique et des moyens d'y remédier.

En conclusion, je voudrais une nouvelle fois rendre hommage à la générosité des gouvernements des pays donateurs - la plupart sont représentés ici - qui ont fourni et continuent de fournir une aide d'urgence à l'Afrique.

Je n'hésite pas à leur demander, pour l'immédiat et à plus long terme, de faire encore un énorme effort en axant davantage leurs programmes d'aide bilatérale sur le développement du secteur alimentaire et agricole et en appuyant les activités de la Banque mondiale, du FIDA et de la Banque africaine de développement dans ce domaine.

Pour ma part, je puis leur donner l'assurance que la FAO s'efforcera sans relâche de faire plus et mieux, à la fois directement et en coopération avec les Etats Membres ainsi qu'avec d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies.

Nous devons tous nous attaquer à ce gigantesque problème de l'Afrique, si possible ensemble, dans un effort à la fois intense et de longue haleine. Autrement, nous nous enfoncerons, jusqu'à franchir les bornes de la résistance et de la compassion humaines, dans l'horreur dont témoignent affreusement les images du martyr de l'Afrique.

Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie.

Applause.

Applaudissements.

Aplausos.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Director-General. You have certainly set the tone for our subsequent discussion. I request those delegates who will be participating in the discussion to lay emphasis on points of action rather than merely restating the situation prevailing today. The more action points which can be brought out, the more helpful will it be.

T.R. PODA (Burkina Faso): Joignant la voix du Burkina Faso à celle des pays ici représentés, notamment la brillante intervention du président du Groupe des 77, la délégation burkinabé salue et apprécie hautement votre nomination à la présidence de la 86ème session du Conseil de la FAO.

Notre délégation tient également à féliciter les trois vice-présidents pour leur nomination.

Avertis de l'importance des questions à traiter, vous saurez sans doute, avec la collaboration de tous, mener à bien les travaux de la présente session. La délégation Burkinabé ne ménagera aucun effort pour y apporter sa modeste contribution.

L'ordre du jour ainsi adopté comporte des questions d'une importance, capitale pour des centaines de millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants. Il s'agit donc de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, des activités de la FAO et du Programme alimentaire mondial, ainsi que du Programme d'action de notre Organisation, situation dépeinte de la façon la plus concise mais aussi la plus expressive possible par le Directeur général, M. Edouard Saouma, allocution que nous apprécions beaucoup, et nous tenons à lui présenter nos félicitations.

Cette année encore plus de 600 millions d'êtres sont menacés de disparition. Ce sont les laissés pour compte dans un monde miné par l'égoïsme mais aussi et surtout par les volontés politiques de certains pays qui se réclament de grandes puissances civilisées; il s'agit de pays préoccupés plus par la course aux armements et aux sphères d'influence que par la souffrance des peuples. Ici, à la FAO, nous devons représenter les "sans voix" et toutes leurs aspirations légitimes. Nous devons mettre toute notre énergie et toute notre intelligence au service de la lutte des peuples qui, chaque jour, dans un monde de plus en plus austère travaillent à effacer de la planète la faim, si justement qualifiée par le Directeur général de la FAO, de "lèpre" qui défigure la civilisation du vingtième siècle.

Pendant de longues années, et aujourd'hui encore, des millions de regards se sont tournés et se tournent vers la FAO pour attendre un soulagement dans une conjoncture alimentaire extrêmement difficile. Pendant de longues années la FAO a su, par des "SOS" lancés çà et là, répondre partiellement à leur attente: mais l'équilibre de l'acrobate qu'est la FAO devient de plus en plus fragile car sous-tendu par des pays et des organisations qui, malgré leur bonne volonté, se trouvent confrontés aux questions de certains de leurs contribuables qui supportent mal de voir l'aide s'éterniser aux dépens de leur portefeuille. Equilibre également fragile parce que le système du profit ne s'efforce pas de produire pour tous mais seulement pour ceux qui ont les moyens. Ne voit-on pas encore de nos jours détruire des milliers de tonnes de vivres et museler le niveau des productions pour préserver la stabilité des marchés?

Equilibre fragile enfin, parce que les solutions aux problèmes de la faim dans le monde préconisées par les organisations internationales n'ont pas toujours associé les principaux intéressés. C'est pourquoi nous exhortons la FAO à être, aujourd'hui plus que jamais, à l'écoute des masses paysannes et ouvrières qui savent désormais identifier leurs problèmes et qui très souvent n'ont besoin que d'un simple catalyseur pour assumer leur propre développement et se passer de l'aide qui, dans certains cas, blesse leur dignité et compromet leur souveraineté.

Une redéfinition des formes d'intervention de la FAO devient alors nécessaire.

Au Burkina Faso, depuis l'avènement de la Révolution nous avons résolu de confier au peuple la construction d'une société nouvelle basée sur la confiance en soi, la dignité retrouvée, la justice et la recherche de la paix universelle. Dans ce pays de sept millions d'âmes, hommes, femmes et enfants organisés initient et édifient chaque jour des chantiers dans tous les secteurs de la vie socio-économique.

Au Burkina Faso, nous avons placé la confiance en notre peuple. Nous voulons que la FAO, toutes les organisations internationales et tous les pays se convainquent que le peuple Burkinabé est désormais capable de construire les "fondements matériels de son avenir". Les expositions de différents produits faites à l'occasion de la quatrième Journée mondiale de l'alimentation ont confirmé une fois encore les capacités réelles des Burkinabés.

Engagé dans la construction d'une économie autosuffisante et planifiée avec le peuple, le Gouvernement pose chaque jour des actes concrets qu'aucun régime de l'ex Haute-Volta n'a osé poser. Il s'agit par exemple de la réforme agraire, mesure indispensable pour octroyer les terres cultivables aux masses laborieuses. Il s'agit également de l'engagement pris à travers le programme populaire de développement où un accent particulier a été mis sur l'agriculture afin d'amener tous les fils du pays à investir, d'ici fin 1985, un capital humain et financier de plus de 160 milliards de nos francs, et nous fondant avant tout sur nos propres ressources, entre autres la force et la capacité de production des masses populaires burkinabés. Ce programme populaire de développement sera suivi d'un plan quinquennal couvrant la période 1986-90.

Comme le disait le capitaine Sankara, Président du Burkina Faso, à la Tribune des Nations Unies récemment, notre ambition économique est d'œuvrer pour que le cerveau et les bras de chaque Burkinabé puissent au moins lui servir à inventer, à créer de quoi s'assurer deux repas par jour et de l'eau potable.

Nous nous devons toutefois de reconnaître que nous avons le poids de 23 années de néocolonialisme et aussi l'adversité de la nature que nous devons vaincre à tout prix. La sécheresse née de la désertification compromet nos cultures. Cette année notre déficit céréalier sera de l'ordre de 160 000 tonnes sur une estimation globale de 600 000 tonnes pour l'ensemble des huit pays du Sahel. C'est pourquoi il faut par des programmes cohérents et intégrés attaquer le mal à sa racine: en même temps que nous allons chercher l'eau dans les profondeurs souterraines pour la survie des masses rurales et du bétail, nous nous engageons dans un vaste programme de reconstitution de notre couvert végétal. La reconstitution de l'environnement est essentielle pour les pays sahéliens. Dans ce cadre la FAO a un rôle très important à jouer car l'agriculture, pour être rentable, doit s'appuyer sur une terre meuble et seul le couvert végétal est à même de lui offrir cette garantie. C'est donc la condition sine qua non - à l'instar de celle de l'eau - pour le développement de l'agriculture. En cela nous saluons déjà l'initiative de la FAO qui se propose de faire de 1985, l'année internationale de la forêt. Que le monde entier puisse saisir cette occasion pour méditer sur le devenir d'une planète sans arbres, mais que les Sahéliens et tous ceux qui sont touchés par le fléau de la désertification mettent en terre un plant chaque fois qu'il leur est possible de le faire. Nous devons mettre fin à la précarité de notre écosystème que certains pays veulent utiliser pour perpétuer une politique cynique et criminelle tendant à placer les pays nécessiteux dans une situation pérenne de mendicité. Nous disons non à cela; oui à la politique qui, faut-il le leur rappeler, doit nous aider à nous passer de l'aide.

Nous inspirant de la déclaration de Harare nous apportons notre appui à l'établissement d'un programme d'action de sécurité alimentaire pour l'Afrique. Nous appelons de tous nos vœux le démarrage de la campagne panafricaine de lutte contre la peste bovine et assurons le Directeur général de l'appui ferme du Burkina Faso pour toutes les initiatives qu'il apprendra dans ce sens. Le Burkina Faso partage de manière globale la déclaration de Harare sur la crise alimentaire en

Afrique et plus particulièrement son point qui, parlant des pays africains, indique "nous réaffirmons notre détermination de prendre en main notre destinée et de jouer le rôle qui nous revient au plan national et international".

Nous devons faire en sorte que chaque jour qui se lève soit un pas vers un avenir meilleur. Pour ce faire, nous devons unir tous nos efforts pour combattre la faim et les affameurs des peuples.

ASSEFA YILALA (Ethiopia): First of all, like all the other previous speakers, I would like to express my congratulations and good wishes of success in the deliberations of the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council to you, Mr Chairman, your Vice-Chairmen and other members of your convening body. I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank the Director-General of FAO, Dr Saouma, for bringing the drought situation and extreme food shortage problems of Ethiopia to the attention of the international community once again. His remarks on Africa have a greater and foremost priority as an indication of concern, for this is a major problem facing our planet today. This is encouraging and a support to the efforts that we are making in our respective countries in saving the lives of hungry people at this very grave moment.

The Ethiopian delegation would like to indicate its appreciation for the presentation of both the previous paper and the paper that was presented in the afternoon by Dr Edouard Saouma. The various aspects of the State, of Food and Agriculture were duly considered in these presentations.

Since August 1984, when these reports were released, the state of food and agriculture has not shown any better signs of improvement at all. Instead, it has become worse and a cause for hunger and suffering for millions of Africans. The food aid requirement has increased due to the inadequate rains in the month after August.

At this point, I would like to draw your attention to the situation in Ethiopia with a view to explaining this grave situation. In accordance with a report released by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission of Ethiopia, the number of people to be affected with food shortages in 1985 is estimated at about 7 million, requiring over 1.2 million metric tons. This food aid requirement is as much as what was estimated for the whole of Eastern Africa in August.

Because of the increased shortages in food supplies and because of the magnification of the problem, most of the developing countries have channelled their meager resources to the distribution and supply of food in those affected areas, thus leaving very little or none to the development of other sectors.

As you all know, agriculture is the main occupation of Ethiopia, with over 85 percent of its population engaged in it at a subsistence level. The drought that affected many African countries had its worst blows on Ethiopian agriculture both in 1983 and 1984.

The small rains in 1983, which were normally of importance to 20 percent of agricultural produce, failed. The big rain, which is of importance for the remaining balance of agricultural produce, started late and stopped early, as was reported by Dr Saouma.

The food shortage that we observe in Ethiopia today is mainly the effect of the failure of the small rain in the latter part of 1983 and inadequate rainfall during the main production season of 1984. The effect of the failure of rain has caused suffering and hunger to over seven million Ethiopians today.

To reduce some of these food shortage problems, a national committee composed of members from the highest government bodies was established. Under this national committee, 12 committees are also organized for the different functions of the emergency relief operations and short-term agricultural measures.

For relief operations: distribution of food crops, encouraging the participation of people and farmers' organizations, improving the efficiency of its agricultural marketing cooperations and the importation of additional food, either through purchase or through donations, is in operation.

For short-term agricultural production: resettlement schemes where climatic conditions are favourable for crop production, encouragement of all people to participate in vegetable production in the backyards and available fallow land to supplement the food shortages, and distribution of seeds, fertilizers, implements and oxen for plowing are all being monitored by these committees in collaboration with the effective implementing agency.

At this point whatever assistance is coming from other sources would get the full support of this committee thus organized. Thus, a maximum effort is being organized by the government and people of Ethiopia. The prevailing food shortage crisis is beyond the means and resources available. Agriculture being the main source of any foreign currency and with the failure of crops this year, the importation of farm implements and farm inputs is also becoming difficult.

A harsh drought has also affected the livestock population, thus reducing plowing capabilities, while the need to get assistance on food crops becomes priority number one, considering ways and means of seeking solutions with the objective of enabling Ethiopian farmers to produce their own food.

At this point, we would like to support the Director-General's idea of sending a high-level delegation to study the conditions of settling the farmers, enabling them to produce food as much as possible.

We are also appealing to all members of this session to bring this grave situation facing Ethiopia today to the attention of all, using whatever forum is available to wield their united arm to solving our existing problems.

J.D. SANDY (Sierra Leone): Mr Chairman, it is indeed a pleasure to see you guiding the affairs of this Council together with you distinguished Vice-Chairmen. I wish you well. I would also like to say to the director-General that his thought-provoking statement was to a large extent disturbing, particularly when drawing our attention to the food situation in Africa and specific areas. On behalf of my government and myself, we pay tribute to his concern and his untiring efforts to help us alleviate our poverty. He has mentioned in no uncertain terms that he will focus and give priority to African agriculture and livestock. We commend him for that.

I also wish to pay tribute to Dr Islam for his critical appraisal of the agriculture and food situation in the world. The people of Africa depend upon agriculture now, and they will do so for the foreseeable future. Our agricultural production has to expand if we are to survive. It has to expand faster if we are to lift ourselves out of our present poverty and provide for all our people the basic material requirements of human dignity and real freedom. Equally, agricultural expansion has to be directed to meet our needs. I will have to depart a little from rhetoric. We all know the constraint imposed on agricultural development in Africa: protectionism, trade barriers, pricing policy, social and political problems - I need not go over that; those are all well-known to us.

Apart from those constraints, there are one or two points which I want to bring to the attention of the Council and to FAO. I think this is the right time for me to do it. If I do not do it, I may not have time to say it before I leave. As much as we are concerned about the constraints imposed on our development of agriculture, we of the African continent do not pay lip service to development in agriculture. What I want to bring to your attention is the disbursement policy of financial agencies. Now that I am speaking here, most financial agencies have suspended disbursements to my country because they say we have failed to pay our service charges. This is a critical area which gives us some concern. Just at the peak of our planting season, we always get telexes from these Financial Institutions that disbursement will be suspended if service charges are not met. Just at that time when the enthusiasm is at its height, farmers disbursements are suspended because service charges of about 6 000 or 3 000, have not been paid and these withdrawals may persist for about 2 months. At that time, we cannot move. The counterpart funds provided given by government are used to pay staff, and we depend on the agreement we have concluded with Financial Agencies for remittances to be made for us to meet the farmers and give them credits, and give them inputs. And when that is lacking for two months, you know exactly what happens. We have four months in which we have to do all our preparations and planting. If we took two months out of that, it means they have frustrated our efforts, and if we have any failure this year, it is because of the disbursement policy adopted by Financial Organizations.

I will appeal to you and your colleagues if you can prevail on them to review their disbursement policies. This has given us some concern.

Now that we have been warned of drought, I want to draw the attention of FAO that we in Sierra Leone would seek simple and small irrigational projects conducted in our swamps. We shall be conducting our workshop on swamp development from the 26th to 30th of this month in Sierra Leone. I will not be there because I am here. But one of the points which I asked my officials to bring to the notice of participants is that we have been warned by drought; this year we have less rain. We should begin to focus our attention on small irrigation projects rather than still continue to depend on rainfed crops. I would like the Council to take note of that.

I would like finally to thank you for giving us this opportunity to tell you, our constraints in agricultural development. We think the Organization can still continue to assist us to eradicate hunger and poverty, and enhance our earning capacity, enhance our dignity and freedom. Let us act to build Africa. I appeal to the Organization for more funds, for them to continue to help the African continent.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): May I ask your indulgence to allow me to make a brief statement regarding the depressing food situation in Africa. However, before doing so, I would like to join speakers before me in thanking the Director-General for the excellent conference arrangements and documentation and for extending the invitation to the government of the Republic of Malawi to attend this Council. I wish also to thank the government and the people of the Republic of Italy for the warm welcome and hospitality my delegation has received since its arrival in this historic and beautiful country. May I also thank you for conducting the deliberations so far so well. I have no doubt that this will continue. At the same time, I also wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election and trust that they will assist you in conducting the deliberations of our Council.

Now, if I can go to the topic which the Director-General has introduced this afternoon, the food crisis in Africa. The regrettable and deplorable food crisis is a well-known phenomenon to all members of our Council in recent years. Indeed it has attracted hasty international attention and even action in the form of food aid to affected countries. While this approach is appreciated, namely to respond to sudden food crises and shortages, deplorably it does not address itself to long-range food self-sufficiency of a country. To complement food aid, action must be taken now to address those areas in the food production system that would achieve and sustain increased food production. The principles of self reliance as embodied in the Harare Declaration and the policy of food self-sufficiency as outlined by His Excellency, the Life-President of Malawi, Dr H. Kamuzu Banda, who is also Minister of Agriculture, must be fully appreciated and supported by the international community and multilateral organizations, if Africa is to be pulled out of its present humiliating and degrading predicament. The unhappy situation in Africa has arisen because of many factors including the following: - increasing desertification, persistent drought, shortage of trained manpower, high prices of inputs, low prices of agricultural products in the international market -for example sugar, inadequate linkage between agricultural research and agricultural extension, and one area, Mr Chairman that I would like to emphasize very much, perhaps to give it as an example as a need in African agriculture today, is lack of sufficient research information in soil classification, appropriate fertilizers for these soils, rainfall patterns and suitable crop varieties for the areas. In many areas of the agricultural systems the small-holder farmer is often left to fend for himself without the necessary support from government services. If these gaps in essential agricultural information can be filled I believe that a lot can be achieved in the quest for increased agricultural production, given favourable weather conditions.

If you would allow me to make just one or two points in so far as my country is concerned, the food situation in Malawi. As it has been stated, many countries on the continent of Africa are facing food shortages of crisis proportions. Malawi, on the other hand, has been spared this harrowing experience although it has had its share of persistent droughts which have become common occurrences in Africa in recent years, and we have just heard from our colleague from Sierra Leone that the rains have come out of turn in his country. In spite of droughts, Malawi has remained self sufficient in food. This happy situation has been achieved because the Government of Malawi accords a very high priority to the sufficient food supply, so much so that the country must remain self sufficient under any circumstances by policy. The Government emphasises the need for diversification and the diversified food base means that all known food crops must be grown in sufficient quantities.

However, this does not mean that Malawi has no problems. It has many, the main one being transport. Being land-locked the country suffers from slow movements of its exports and imports. This often results in insufficient supplies of inputs and other essentials. In turn these slow down the development of the country.

Finally, I wish to stress the need for our countries to pay increasing attention to the following areas: developing irrigation potential, developing agro-industries, establishing fertilizer plants in our regions, reorganizing our agricultural research and extension strategies, improving the quality of life in rural areas by creating employment opportunities and necessary social amenities. This list can be extended by all colleagues here.

KONG CANDONG (China) (Original language Chinese): The very important statement made by the Director-General just now on the African food situation clearly explains the severeness of the African food problem and also shows how great the attention is given by FAO and Dr. Saouma to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition.

We have learned from the introductory statement made by the Director-General that some countries of the African continent are suffering from consecutive severe drought. Their food production and supply availability are deteriorating. A great number of victims are threatened by hunger and starvation which cannot but cause our deep uneasiness and concern.

The Chinese People had experienced similar misfortunes as is being experienced by the African people. The Chinese Government and People therefore deeply sympathize with the African People. Though China is a very low-income and economically less developed country, it is willing to increase its assistance to those African countries within its ability. Ever since this year, the Chinese Government has decided to commit on several occasions a total of 80 000 tons of emergency food assistance for disaster relief to the disaster stricken African countries, to show its sympathy and her support to the fraternal African people. We would also like to appeal to the international community to strengthen cooperation, make joint efforts and take urgent relief measures, to help the African People to get rid of hunger and poverty as soon as possible, and to support the development in a big way of agricultural and food production. We are convinced that the African People are able to speed up their development of agricultural production and solve their food problem by relying on their own efforts, coupled with the support of the international community.

C. SUPSARN (Thailand): First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to express my pleasure, at seeing you in the Chair again and would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairman for their election.

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 to focus on those of its functions which relate to the general policy of the Organization, including obviously the world food agriculture situation.

Today we are meeting at perhaps the most difficult period of this decade with the food crisis in Africa. As we have learned from the document before us and from the Director-General's introductory statement that, despite recent improvements in some countries, the food supply situation in much of Africa continues to be difficult. There are many countries in Africa which still face acute food shortages. While my delegation is most concerned about their extremely serious situation, we are happy to note with satisfaction the timely step taken by the Director-General of FAO in establishing FAO/WFP Task Force as well as the appeals made to donors for more assistance as indicated in paragraph 95 of document CL 86/2. We also agree with the point indicated in paragraph 100 of the same document that rehabilitation and post-emergency measures are also required to restore agricultural production and help prevent recurring food crises in countries prone to drought. In this connection, my delegation would like to appeal to donor countries to support the projects covering such a measure.

It is also gratifying to note that FAO is continuing to assist many African countries in establishing and developing an early warning system as well as preparing contingency plans for famine relief distribution, as indicated in paragraphs 58 and 60 of document CL 82/2 Sup-1.

In conclusion, my delegation strongly supports the Harare Declaration and considers the Declaration an important instrument for the attainment of self-reliance in Africa. We see that proper and appropriate emphasis and priority is highly placed on agricultural and rural development.

My delegation sees that no matter how good and strong the will of this Declaration is, it will not be an easy task to accomplish unless the Declaration is given full support by international organizations, the donor countries as well as the non-governmental organizations. To this end, my delegation wishes to give unqualified support to the efforts being made by FAO to help the African countries to attain that noble goal.

M. ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Ma délégation a écouté attentivement la déclaration du Directeur général de la FAO sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique. Je voudrais saisir tout de suite cette occasion pour le remercier et lui exprimer tout l'appui de ma délégation à ses appels réitérés en vue d'alerter la communauté internationale et à ses nombreuses initiatives pour les drainer vers les pays africains touchés par la crise les aides nécessaires.

La situation alimentaire mondiale est dominée par la crise alimentaire aiguë que connaissent actuellement plusieurs pays africains. En effet, et comme le souligne le document idoine qui nous est soumis, l'Afrique demeure en 1984 et même en 1985 source permanente de préoccupations. D'ailleurs il n'est pas étonnant que le Directeur général ait de prime abord commencé sa déclaration hier en évoquant la tragique situation alimentaire en Ethiopie.

A cet égard, ma délégation estime que la communauté internationale, d'ailleurs sensibilisée par les nombreux appels du Directeur général de la FAO, du Secrétaire général de l'ONU et des autres organisations internationales, devrait prendre davantage conscience de la gravité de la situation. Les aides devraient être accrues afin de pouvoir sauver des vies humaines. Cela relèverait de l'assistance à personnes en danger avec ce que cela implique sur le plan de la conscience et de la responsabilité collective de la communauté internationale.

Ceci dit, la Tunisie appuie et appuiera toutes les initiatives de la FAO tendant à court, à moyen et long terme à lutter contre la faim dans le monde et notamment dans plusieurs pays africains.

Le document soumis à notre réflexion appelle de la part de ma délégation un certain nombre d'observations et commentaires.

Premièrement, ce document ne nous donne pas l'impression que la crise alimentaire qui frappe actuellement l'Afrique tend à s'atténuer dans un avenir plus ou moins proche. Au contraire, il est affirmé au paragraphe 48 du document CL 86/2, Suppl., et le Directeur général l'a d'ailleurs confirmé tout à l'heure, que la crise alimentaire africaine se poursuivra en 1985 et pour cause, les récoltes de 1984 ont été médiocres dans plusieurs pays africains et les cultures attendues dans les pays du Sahel sont fortement détériorées.

Deuxièmement, l'aide alimentaire promise par les pays donateurs a atteint actuellement le chiffre de 2,7 millions de tonnes, alors que les besoins d'aide ont été estimés tout à l'heure par le Directeur général à 4 millions de tonnes. Il y a en conséquence un manque qu'il serait urgent de combler. Qu'il me soit permis à cet égard d'exprimer la vive reconnaissance et la considération de ma délégation pour tous les pays donateurs qui, dans un élan de solidarité internationale, ont contribué justement à atténuer tant soit peu cette crise. Toutefois, une aide accrue indispensable devra être mobilisée par les donateurs pendant les mois à venir.

Troisièmement, ma délégation est convaincue que l'aide alimentaire en quantité suffisante, ainsi que des approvisionnements par l'intermédiaire des circuits commerciaux n'auraient pas l'impact voulu s'ils ne sont pas accompagnés de mesures énergiques de nature à résoudre les problèmes logistiques dans les pays africains. Il y a en effet la capacité limitée des ports d'accueil, le mauvais état des routes, le manque d'entrepôts et les moyens de transport qui sont autant de facteurs limitant l'efficacité de l'aide, d'où il importe au plus haut point d'améliorer la logistique de ces pays.

En conséquence nous estimons extrêmement important que, i) les pays donateurs prévoient des mesures correctrices pour les fournitures de moyens logistiques de manière à rendre leur aide plus efficace; ii) que la gestion des installations logistiques soit améliorée par les pays intéressés eux-mêmes; iii) éviter que les expéditions vers les zones touchées soient coordonnées dans l'espace et dans le temps.

Les causes de la crise alimentaire en Afrique sont maintenant connues de tous grâce à la FAO, grâce au rapport du Groupe d'action special FAO/PAM.

Le paragraphe 105 du document CL 86/2 a donné un résumé concentré. Il s'agit de la sécheresse, de la récession mondiale, du désordre intérieur, de la carence de l'infrastructure, du manque de personnel qualifié, des politiques inaptes à promouvoir le développement rural, etc.

Il importe, et comme l'a précisé le Directeur général tout à l'heure, de s'attaquer aux causes du problème. Le document CL 86/2 Suppl. dans ses paragraphes 57 à 66 consacre justement à ce sujet une partie des possibilités d'action pour promouvoir la reprise rapide et la remise en état des zones sinistrées. Ma délégation adhère aux propositions de la FAO et à son contenu, notamment celles relatives à la mise en place d'un système alimentaire rapide à l'échelon national et régional, à la fourniture de semences de culture vivrière, et enfin au soutien technique et international de l'élevage dans ces pays.

Il s'agit là d'un certain nombre de réflexions sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique que ma Délégation a tenu à formuler. En tout état de cause les ministres de l'agriculture lors de la réunion de la dernière conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique au Zimbabwe ont été unanimes à reconnaître que l'autosuffisance alimentaire constitue pour les pays africains un objectif prioritaire; et ils sont résolus à prendre en main leur propre destinée. Il s'agit là d'une déclaration où les ministres africains ont affirmé et réaffirmé leur confiance en la FAO et au Directeur général. Ma délégation est convaincue qu'elle ne restera pas lettre morte et que les pays africains affronteront l'avenir avec résolution et courage.

Je voudrais enfin formuler l'espoir et même la conviction que la déclaration que vient de prononcer tout à l'heure le Directeur général et ses appels nombreux et pathétiques en faveur d'une assistance accrue à l'Afrique, trouveront dans les délais les plus rapprochés possibles un large écho favorable auprès de la communauté internationale qui est tout entière impliquée dans cette affaire.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): The Director-General in his introduction of this subject was concise and precise to the point. The problems of the food crisis in Africa have been studied by various agencies and have been discussed in many fora but most of these discussions have centred on issues pertaining to constraints prevailing at the material time, with little or no attention on debating ways and means of implementing concrete plans of action for increasing food production.

We believe that those of us assembled here are duty-bound, under the present crisis, to come out with a clear positive line of action of how we will tackle the problem of increased food production.

My delegation believes that, in the first instance, radical reorientation of national development strategies, coupled with high zeals of political will on the part of our governments, will be required to effect the appropriate measures of increased food production. This intent of political will and conviction to self-reliance was manifested by the African Ministers of Agriculture in the famous Harare Declaration.

In our opinion, for the long-term solution of food production in Africa, concerted efforts are required in the following areas: manpower resources development in areas of training, research, delivery systems and institutional development. The importance of availability of trained local manpower at all levels for agricultural development cannot be overemphasized. In this respect, the governments will have to enhance their retentive incentives in order to avoid a brain drain of trained manpower. We commend the Director-General for having produced a study on the assessment of trained agricultural manpower in Africa.

The next point of focus is irrigation. Given the unreliability of rainfall, heavy dependence on rainfed agriculture cannot offer sufficient food security. The delegate of India yesterday, and many others today, informed us how irrigation has played a major role in increasing food production in their countries. Probably this is an area where TCDC would be explored. We are aware that in many developing countries large scale capital intensive irrigation projects would compete for the scarce resources; we therefore recommend the development of small-scale irrigation schemes which could suit smallholders and are more feasible and easy to implement.

The third area is research and technology. My delegation would recommend that adaptive action-oriented research and improved technologies be pursued to develop crops which could fit the smallholder's farming system and techniques in the different countries. Here we have in mind prospects for increasing productivity of the basic staples in our various countries, including maize, millets, sorghum, cassava and tubers which constitute about 60 percent of the staples in Africa but which have had the least technical packages which could be extended to farmers. We note that the proposed new major study on Africa, by FAO will focus on these food crops on aspects of increasing their yields and improve their nutritional quality and on implication for national government and the donor community. We therefore endorse this study in the belief that it may come out with concrete and realistic practical solutions.

The next area is livestock disease control. International and technical support is needed to effect programmes of disease control.

Last but not least, we are of the view that the subject of agrometeorology has not been given its due emphasis in the Africa Region. Crop forecasting and early warning systems depend very heavily on an efficient, reliable system of agrometeorology. In this regard we fully endorse paragraphs 58 and 59.

These are among the areas we believe need urgent attention to effect increased production.

In conclusion, let me once again thank FAO for the tremendous work it is doing to promote increased food production; we give special recognition to the various efforts and initiatives of the Director-General in alerting the international community and mobilizing assistance for Africa.

G.P. KHOJANE (Lesotho): Taking the floor for the first time, let me first tell you how happy my delegation is to see you in the Chair. We believe that your well-known qualities will enable you to bring the deliberations of this Council to a successful conclusion. These remarks also apply to all members of your bureau.

In taking the floor it is a great pleasure for me to address this Council on this important issue of the critical problem in Africa. The problem has been very ably exposed by the Director-General and fully described by the many other delegations which have spoken before me. My delegation wishes to put on record its appreciation for the efforts of the Director-General of FAO in making the world community aware of this critical problem and the subsequent action to try to contain the situation.

Many lives have been saved as a result of emergency food supplies provided by the world community. Lesotho as one of the 22 countries seriously affected by the prevailing food shortage in Africa has benefited from the assistance given by the international community in response to the appeals made by the Director-General.

The pathetic food situation in Africa is a result of several factors among which are persistent drought, population growth and ignorance. These factors are not new, but it is the magnitude of the effects that is new. Not only are the people and land going to waste and extermination but the remaining individuals are on the brink of losing hope. This sense of futility must be stopped forthwith. It is with this background in mind that my delegation calls for greater emphasis in action programmes designed to improve food security both in long- and short-terms. In the short-term supplies of food aid is save lives. In the long-term great emphasis is to be placed on the production of food. In this context harnessing of water resources for irrigation, training of personnel and farmers should be given priority. My delegation notes with great appreciation the work which FAO has undertaken in Africa on these issues. However, what is now required is to initiate action programmes to implement the recommendations. Africa has land, water and human resources to implement irrigation schemes, and what is lacking is the know-how and necessary investment. The political will and commitment of the African governments have been demonstrated in the Lagos Plan of Action and most recently in the Harare Declaration.

In the wider context my delegation further calls for population management policies as part of the food problem. The population growth rate, rural/urban migration, are issues which, though outside the scope of agriculture, complicate food requirements. To this end my delegation calls for greater cooperation and coordination among the United Nations agencies in order to improve the socio-economic plight of the poorest of the poor.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation de mon pays souhaite remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour nous avoir permis, grâce à un document fort approprié, d'étudier la grave situation alimentaire que traverse l'Afrique, et les calamités auxquelles elle doit faire face.

Qu'il nous soit permis ici d'exprimer toute notre reconnaissance au Directeur général de la FAO pour avoir si souvent alerté l'opinion mondiale et mobilisé ainsi les élans de solidarité visant à inciter la communauté internationale à drainer le maximum de ses ressources à la région sinistrée.

L'Afrique est sur la sellette depuis déjà quelques années. Les dirigeants de cette région eux-mêmes ont collectivement pris conscience de la gravité de la situation et des sombres perspectives qui en découlaient. Le Plan d'action de Lagos a été la parade pour enrayer toute velléité de disette qui guette notre continent depuis quelques années déjà. Nous nous réjouissons de la contribution de la FAO pour traduire en objectif de production ce plan, par l'entremise de son assistance aux gouvernements de la région dans la définition des stratégies nationales d'autosuffisance alimentaire. Les efforts intérieurs et extérieurs devraient donc consister à réunir des moyens financiers techniques et humains pour mettre en oeuvre ces stratégies.

En effet, nous considérons toujours pour notre part que la meilleure aide est celle qui nous aide à nous passer de l'aide comme l'a dit tout à l'heure le ministre du Burkina Faso, et à créer les conditions de coopération entre pays, basées sur le principe des avantages réciproques et d'égalité. Nous concevons donc l'aide d'urgence octroyée à l'Afrique comme une assistance limitée dans le temps, même si elle doit se renouveler en raison de la répétition des causes qui la motivent.

A cet égard, nous sommes satisfaits de la large diffusion que la FAO a faite de la déclaration de Harare où les décideurs de la politique agricole des Etats africains ont solennellement reconnu que l'autosuffisance alimentaire était l'objectif premier qu'ils s'efforceraient d'atteindre en comptant avant tout sur leurs propres forces. L'appel lancé en direction des pays développés pour qu'ils leur apportent l'appoint indispensable est justifié par les contraintes auxquelles se heurtent les économies de leurs pays, qui sont largement exposées dans le document soumis à notre examen. Ces problèmes auxquels se heurte l'Afrique sont complexes et doivent être examinés et résolus dans leur globalité et de manière intégrée. Toute tentative parcellaire d'aborder ces questions est vaine et inefficace. Mais disons que l'Afrique est confrontée à un problème de l'insuffisance de productions vivrières. Cette insuffisance est elle-même consécutive à un niveau d'investissements dans l'agriculture encore trop faible; mais comment peut-elle s'y prendre si elle doit tout à la fois faire face à des importations commerciales massives de denrées alimentaires, et investir pour accroître sa capacité de production agricole, sans oublier le service de la dette!

Voilà des secteurs qui tous exigent des sorties de devises qui, comme nous le savons, font défaut à tous ces pays à déficit vivrier et à faible revenu.

Dans l'état actuel des choses, la plupart, sinon tous les pays africains, ne sont guère préparés à recevoir une aide alimentaire d'urgence massive en raison de la quasi-inexistence de structures de stockage et de conservation sans oublier les moyens de transport qui constituent des facteurs limitants non négligeables. Cependant l'aide urgente étant une nécessité absolue pour sauver des vies humaines, les donateurs doivent être invités à contribuer à lever ces goulots d'étranglement. Il importe pour cela que des études soient faites sur chacun des pays pour recenser ce qui doit être fait pour apporter sans encombre l'aide alimentaire d'urgence aux groupes cibles. Cela est d'autant nécessaire que la FAO nous dit qu'il s'agit de situations qui ne sont guère éphémères et qui vont continuer encore à nous préoccuper dans un avenir prévisible. La délégation de mon pays appuie toutes

les initiatives de la FAO visant à prendre des mesures pour promouvoir la reprise rapide et la remise en état des zones sinistrées dès que les conditions redeviendront favorables et en cela nous sommes d'accord et encourageons ce qui est préconisé dans les paragraphes allant de 58 à 66 et avec les commentaires qui ont été formulés par le délégué de la Tunisie tout à l'heure.

Enfin l'Afrique serait condamnée si nos partenaires de la Communauté internationale n'étaient pas attentifs à notre appel et se limitaient à agir seulement pour faire face à des situations ponctuelles d'urgence qui l'amèneraient à considérer cette région comme déversoir permanent des surplus agricoles. Nous pensons au contraire que l'Afrique doit jouer un rôle plus dynamique et participer en tant que partenaire aux relations économiques internationales. Nos craintes sont grandes devant le fléchissement des montants des engagements publics à l'agriculture. De même nous nous inquiétons de la diminution de la proportion de ces engagements attribués à des conditions de faveur, et à cet égard la situation que connaît le FIDA nous préoccupe et cela d'autant plus que le FIDA semble tout indiqué pour contribuer au développement des pays d'Afrique.

Nous sommes d'avis que l'heure est à l'action. Nous pensons que toutes les études nécessaires existent ou sont en cours d'être achevées. La seule question qui se pose à présent est de savoir où trouver les ressources pour créer les conditions d'un accroissement approprié de la capacité de stockage de production, de conservation et de distribution des denrées alimentaires.

Nous sommes certains que les institutions financières internationales comme le FMI, si pressées d'accorder des facilités d'accès au crédit à l'Afrique du Sud raciste, sauront apporter leur plein appui aux peuples qui souffrent et dont l'accès à la nourriture est fondamental.

Pour terminer ma délégation tient à exprimer sa gratitude au Directeur général pour sa sollicitude envers notre région et espérons de tout coeur que ces nombreux appels susciteront des réactions appropriées conformes à la dimension de l'ampleur de la situation qui prévaut à présent en Afrique.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): First of all, my delegation would like to extend its heartiest felicitations to the Director-General for his all-embracing statement bearing on the tragic food situation in Africa. We would also like to congratulate the Secretariat for their most comprehensive situation reports on Africa. This special focus on Africa shows the gravity of the situation on this continent and the highest priority accorded to it by the Director-General of FAO. Through you, Mr Chairman, we pledge to the Director-General our whole hearted support to the initiatives he has taken and is taking to alleviate the grave situation of hunger in Africa.

The statement of the Director-General graphically depicts the appalling picture of grave human tragedy taking place in Africa. It emanates from his deepest concern for the famished, for the hungry, for the destitute, for the dying in parts of Africa. It is heartening to note that his passionate appeals for succour to the international community have met with success and that thousands of precious human lives have been saved from tragedy. But I think there is a long way to go. In the words of Robert Frost:

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
I have promises to keep
And miles -to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep"

Africa is beset today with natural calamities, with man-made disasters which have only added to this cruelty being perpetrated on Africa. Growing protectionism, deep economic recession, decline in external assistance to the agricultural sector, higher interest rates, decline in export earnings, balance of payments problems and the intractable debt crisis have added to the misery. It is painful to note that despite some improvements in some countries in western Africa, a large number of African countries will continue to face food emergencies through 1985, while the situation in Ethiopia and Chad has now assumed critical proportions.

Hence, there is an urgent need for continuing emergency assistance to those countries. World food and agricultural production will be the second highest in the last 25 years and world crop production will be one of the best in the last decade. Cereal production will achieve a new record in 1985, but unfortunately, due to uneven distribution, there will be oases of plenty in deserts of shortages which only mean a difference between life and death to so many. It is not a challenge to our conscience that on the one hand there are mountains of plenty and on the other, part of mankind continues to meet fateful death because the hand that is most in need cannot reach out to where the food is? The shadows of famine accentuate the tribulations of Africa.

Emergency assistance must be stepped up to save the dying from death. But we should also think of long-term measures on which heavy reliance can be placed to enable Africans to stand on their own feet so that they can combat drought and desertification and do away with the wasteful death of thousands of precious human lives. They say if you give a man a fish he will have one meal, but if you teach him how to fish he will eat all his life. We should think seriously of longer term

measures to improve the lot of Africans as underlined by the Director-General, to promote not only rapid recovery and rehabilitation of the affected zones but also to extend assistance to develop self-reliance where necessary. Many measures in this regard have been spotlighted this afternoon. We also fully endorse the recommendations of paragraphs 57 to 66 of document CL 86/2-Sup.1.

Ours is an interdependent world. It is our confident hope that we can build a better and more beautiful world if the required political will can be mustered. The long, dark night of suffering must come to an end in Africa. My delegation wholeheartedly shares the vision of the Director-General, and his new frontiers of hope and optimism in creating a golden age in which famine is unknown and hunger an exception. For the attainment of this objective we must work together in complete harmony and unison, one and all, no matter where we are, and whatever our task may be.

I would like to mention that Pakistan in some modest way is contributing its share to the alleviation of hunger and the promotion of food security in part of the world, and will continue to do so in the future.

J.D.L. RICHARDS (New Zealand): My country recognizes the extent of the problem of world hunger on a global scale and acknowledges the responsibility of the international community to respond to desperate human needs. Given the gravity and scale of the problem in Africa, it is only right that the main focus of attention should be there. Many African countries face drought, famine and disaster which have undermined living conditions and threatened the survival of whole communities. In many countries, the present emergency is overwhelming the hard won developmental efforts of several decades.

The present crisis in Africa imposes a severe test on the international community. Because conditions are so grave, it is all the more vital that a coordinated response be forthcoming. It is gratifying that we are now witnessing this response in Ethiopia, the concerted effort needed to help the countries most affected to protect their people and to get back on the road to development. The United Nations system through FAO, the special relief agencies and WFP has an important role to play in the humanitarian relief process. Many donors with substantial programmes of development cooperation in Africa have moved to consolidate their assistance. Multilateral agencies, the development finance institutions, the UN agencies and non-governmental groups, both religious and secular, have adjusted their priorities to meet these new needs.

New Zealand welcomes these new initiatives to focus more attention on Africa. New Zealand also recognizes the need for adequate mechanisms, both at the international and the national level, which can respond quickly and efficiently to food shortage crises in low-income, food-deficit countries. New Zealand is a major exporter of primary products but the nature of our terrain is such that traditionally most of this trade is in livestock products to such an extent we often have to supplement our grain production with imports. Our major commodity production is not much sought after for emergency food aid. We have found that the most effective assistance we can give in this context, especially in relation to the needs of Africa - which is a long way away from us - is through the contribution of cash grants through established multinational channels such as WFP, occasionally earmarked for specific purposes. Therefore, we have made grants this year to the UNHCR and we have made a grant recently to WFP for emergency drought relief. The public in New Zealand is also aware of the suffering and the need, and like ordinary people in many other countries, is responding outside the framework of government action.

New Zealand has found from its own experience in development assistance that the most effective aid is that which contributes to the growth of production capacity of a developing country, thereby increasing its wealth and enabling it to make its own improvements in social infrastructure. In this creation of wealth the role of the small farmer is a key one. New Zealand's development cooperation programmes have always emphasized the need for the small farmer to receive increased attention in the allocation of development expenditure and in establishing research priorities and production incentives.

In the task of rebuilding the agriculture of drought-ravaged African countries we believe that these considerations will have to be taken into account. If it does not seem presumptuous to say so, it is gratifying to note the terms of the Harare Declaration in this connection. I am sure that the Declaration and its implications will be studied with some interest by the authorities in New Zealand.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): As this is the first statement by the United Kingdom I would like to add my welcome to those previous delegations gave to your chairmanship and to say how fortunate we are to be able to draw upon your counsels and guidance during the course of our meeting. May I also add that as well as those qualities which one expects from a chairman, you also display a valuable, deep, expert knowledge of the problems of agriculture in the developing world which I am sure is of great benefit to us all.

May I begin by welcoming the positive tone of the opening speech by the Director-General. I will refer to this later, but I should preface my remarks by saying how welcome and how sensible we found many of the elements of his statement. In common with many other countries outside the African continent, I would like to stress that the Government and public of the United Kingdom are considerably concerned over the problems of Africa. We are anxious to help in every way we can. Equally, I hope that it will be felt that my remarks are not simply those of an outside expert, but are comments from someone who has had experience of development in Africa and who has worked with African farmers. I have a great appreciation of and respect for the way they face their problems; I also appreciate the problems facing the various governments and civil servants in that continent.

My comments then come in two parts. First of all, I will make some general comments about problems in Africa, secondly, I would like to propose a role for FAO particularly in relation to the drought-stricken countries. In any discussion on Africa I think it helps quickly and briefly to look back over what has happened during the last decade. We think that in the early 1970s both donors and governments misread the strength of the fragile economies in Africa. So far as agriculture was concerned, governments, often without any other source of revenue, taxed agriculture through artificially depressing producer prices to subsidize development plans in other sectors, for example, industry. We now realize that the results were often disastrous - falling agricultural production and very often developments in other sectors which were very unsatisfactory. We can all think of loss-making industrial plants, or irrigation systems which will demand subsidy. At the same time, inefficient marketing boards and government intervention often damaged production and discourage growers. For their part, donors financed large infrastructure projects which the African economies could not support. And the donors did not provide recurrent costs. A common theme in those days, was, "We will build the hospital; you will find the drugs and the money to pay for services". Governments themselves were overwhelmed by demands for more projects, more development from their people. Governments had to respond. At the same time, donors pressed those governments with more projects and more paperwork to support their own programmes. The result was often a collapse of management and administration within the recipient governments which in turn had a damaging effect on agriculture and the ability of the country to produce. And all this time the population was rising - more children, more pressure on health care, more pressure on schools and, more serious, more pressure on the fragile land, often leading to the breakdown of traditional farming methods and the steady increase of the urban landless and dispossessed. In many countries this pressure, coupled with the harsh climate, has produced a stark landscape of erosion. Fly over Africa today and one can see that the soil has washed out into the Indian Ocean and the Atlantic, inland there is often bare rock. These problems have been discussed many times before and I apologise for reiterating them. Nevertheless I feel we should to just this, to try and put into a serious context what we are talking about.

So where do we go from here? The first thing that my Government - and I am sure others - emphasize is that external assistance will not be effective unless African governments themselves adopt appropriate policies which encourage agricultural production. We cannot stress this too strongly - the necessity for governments to adopt appropriate policies. In this connection we also very much welcome the practical realism of the Harare Declaration and the recent statements by the OUA in Addis Ababa.

We often talk about appropriate policies, and perhaps it may be helpful at this point to give some examples of the sort of things that we consider are important and significant. There is no uniqueness about this, it is not concealed wisdom. They have been widely publicized in such important documents as the World Bank's Programme for Accelerated Development in sub-Saharan Africa and many other documents. All the experts, both African and outside the continent, seem to be agreed that one very important factor is to increase producer prices and give rewards to farmers. Make living in rural areas a more acceptable, more pleasant and a better, more worth-while life for people. It was very gratifying yesterday to hear reports from the distinguished delegates of China and India of the great increase in agricultural production in their countries which had come about through recent policy changes and reforms. Those of us who are aware of what is happening in those countries are also aware that one of the key features in both cases has been increasing producer prices, giving more rewards to farmers.

To follow this we urge governments to abolish inefficient marketing boards and government intervention agencies which skim off revenue and lose money. Where agencies skim off the money, the producer suffers. This surely cannot be a wise way of organizing the market. In fact, even "organizing" the market begs some questions, and there is certainly an argument for free markets in agricultural goods within Africa.

Another issue which cannot be ignored is land tenure and the need to adopt policies which give small farmers security and an incentive to produce more than just enough to feed their families. Governments can help too by strengthening rural economy, by encouraging improved marketing and agro-industries. This was brought out by the delegate of Malawi in his intervention.

It is necessary to encourage proper soil conservation methods, especially reforestation. Also, improving the production of marginal lands by adapting research and bringing better methods to farmers. Here other developing countries can help. There are techniques and methods in the subcontinent of Asia and Latin America which relate to the provision of water and dry land farming which have the promise of benefitting Africa. There is an important role here for technical cooperation between the developing countries and we noticed that the FAO publication Sharing Experience for Progress has some very interesting ideas on this which could be developed. Finally, and probably most important of all, governments really will have to come to terms with introducing effective family planning programmes. I will not dwell on the statistics. What I will do is refer you to this FAO publication, Land, Food and People; and the projections that are contained in it and the very serious problems that will be faced at the end of the century when Africa's population rises to over 780 million. Governments have to do something about this or all other efforts will fail and the land will deteriorate.

Now, I have spoken about policies by governments, but we also recognize that along with this there, must be action by donors, and we would commend to donors as part of their policies and actions to support appropriate policies within the developing countries. We very much urge donors to have a dialogue with the recipient country about policies in the context of greater donor/recipient coordination. Again, we consider coordination to be a very important element in the effective use of development assistance. Donors have to consider grand projects very carefully. We want no more "cathedrals in the desert". Donors, too have to rethink their policies and direct efforts not to new projects but to rehabilitate the existing infrastructures, the roads, telecommunications, transport, etc. They also have to be prepared to adopt programmes which build institutions and develop the skills of people. It is necessary here to pay particular attention to developing management skills both within farming and within government, and accounting skills.

While we would not dissent from any of the comments made this morning by New Zealand about having a balance between food production and importing, in very vulnerable economies where there is no ready source of foreign exchange, we would hope that the donors would recognize the importance of food production, and here I would refer to the European communities' Food Strategy programme in four African countries - Zambia, Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda - as an example of the sort of initiative we have in mind. Again I refer to the publication Land, Food and People and suggest that donors should start considering the political importance of the conclusion that by the end of the century there will be 19 countries, many of them in Africa, unable to feed themselves.

This has not been a very happy intervention, in the sense that I have identified many problems and painted a very gloomy picture. I think this is necessary; it reflects the reality of the situation and the magnitude of the problem. There is a need for concerted action by the international community. All the international organizations have a role to play, the European Community, the World Bank, UNDP, they all have a role to play in assisting African countries to solve their problems. But in FAO, we have a particularly important source of unique and unrivalled expertise. We very much welcome the Director-General's commitment to increasing work on the problems of Africa. We welcome the promise of a study looking at very significant aspects of African agriculture, the increasing of production and acceptability of locally grown foods. This is of necessity going to be complicated and long-term study and here I must confess to having a sympathy with Kenya who, if I heard right, expressed a desire for perhaps less analysis, fewer studies and more actions.

We think, that in the case of the drought-stricken countries there is an opportunity for more immediate action by FAO, which is uniquely placed to assist the rehabilitation of agriculture in the drought-stricken countries. Let us pause for a moment and think of the problems of the restarting agriculture in these countries which have suffered disorganization, the problems cannot be overstated, these problems of transport, problems of organizing a demoralized population. They are very immediate problems. The Joint Task Force Report No. 6 identified some rehabilitation projects, but looking at them, our view is that these are likely to require some more work before they can be implemented. We would also suggest that the situation has deteriorated more rapidly than was envisaged in September, when the report was produced. We feel there is a need now for a more action-oriented approach to provide information so that both donors and recipients can rapidly identify what is needed and how these inputs can be distributed to farmers. Tunisia mentioned the problems of logistics. We cannot stress these problems too highly.

Against this background, where our present energies are quite rightly focused on the immediate need to save lives and feed the hungry, we suggest that in addition to this, we have to try and anticipate the immediate difficulties of restarting agriculture when the relief operations have fed the hungry. The areas affected are not homogeneous, and the problems may differ from region to region. For example, in some countries there may be areas less affected by drought which could provide seeds and stock to restart agriculture in the affected areas. Other countries may not be so fortunate and may require the mobilization of external resources to start the process of regeneration. Related problems we can foresee include the logistics of providing the inputs, seeds, fertilizer, etc., and equally important, identifying the necessary mix of grants and credit for

impoverished farmers and the human problem of moving people back onto their land and phasing out relief aid. It is our belief that it is not too early to start thinking about these issues, and we believe that if mobilized, the expertise within FAO could play an important role in assisting countries drawing up their own rehabilitation programme. At this point I must say again that we were very gratified to learn that this thinking does appear to accord very much with the statement of the Director-General. No great investment is required. A relatively modest but a well-structured technical cooperation programme should suffice; the expertise is already in-house in FAO here in Rome. On the invitation of governments and in consultation with donors, small teams of experts could visit the countries involved, assess the situation and help prepare action-oriented rehabilitation plans. To do this, they would have to not solely visit capitals, but go into the field and visit the farmers. Last night I was talking to a very distinguished expert of your own Organization, and we both considered the problem of rehabilitation. One of the very first things that we agreed on was the importance for people to get outside capitals, to speak to the farmers, to learn what was needed and then articulate this and translate it in such a way that it could be acted upon by governments and by donors. Such rehabilitation plans could be widely publicized within the donor community and activated on the basis of monitoring through, for example, the FAO Representatives. The cost of all this would be very small compared to the price of human misery and inefficiency if the international community does not think further than famine relief and longer-term rehabilitation. I would suggest that our approach is very much in accord with the activities outlined in document CL 86/2 and complements the Task Force Report. We think the crisis in the drought-stricken countries in Africa is so serious that it is legitimate to call upon FAO to plan and fund such rehabilitation mission by redeploying and redirecting its existing resources rather than waiting till the next biennium.

In this regard we are again very pleased to hear the Director-General indicate that \$ 5 million has been put aside to help with rehabilitation.

We consider it is very important faced with a crisis of this magnitude to demonstrate to the public that we are capable of adjusting our priorities and directing scarce resources to the most important of objectives. We welcome the tone of the Director-General's speech and his very speedy action to redeploy and redirect FAO's resources to the problem of Africa. In commending to you the proposals by the Director General, I would like to ask you to put this in a historic context in terms of our assistance to Africa. Africa and the problems of African agriculture are going to dominate us until the end of this century, and it is perhaps wise at this point to consider how history will judge us. Over ten years ago the distinguished British scientist and author C.P. Snow suggested that what we would see in the latter part of the twentieth century would be a society, a world in which the people who were fed watched the people who were starving on their television sets. I suggest to you here that this is something that we cannot let happen. It would be inconceivable to future generations that we allowed this to occur, and it is in this sense that I speak in support of the Director-General's comments and also commend us all to consider these problems extremely seriously.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/5

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIEME SEANCE PLENIERE QUINTA SESION PLENARIA

(21 November 1984)

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

- 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)

- 4.1 The food situation in Africa (continued)
- 4.1 Situation alimentaire de l'Afrique (suite)
- 4.1 La situación alimentaria en Africa (continuación)

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): The thrust of the Director-General's speech introducing the problem of Africa was crystal clear and obvious. He is a man of action. He is not here to talk but to take the maximum he can from all donors in all cases to stem the rot which is the lot of our suffering brethren on our continent today. Rightly, he wants it done as quickly as possible. He is prepared to put all the forces of the FAO, its knowledge, its experience, its technology, its manpower, in this all-out effort. It has been well said that at such times procrastination is the thief of time. Delay is the deadliest form of denial. Africa in its present plight cannot afford any delay in providing it with the succour it needs. It must be said to the credit of the donors that they have risen splendidly to the occasion.

We are deeply concerned over the situation in Africa, as all those who have spoken have expressed it. We fully endorse the heartfelt and immaculately prepared Harare Declaration, Our hearts go out to the sufferings of these countries over the decline in the dietary energy supplies, the DES. We feel the need in this connection for a change of the present inequitable world economic order and the liberalization of world trade to enable the countries to get foreign exchange for development. We would also like to plead for an expeditious conclusion of international commodity agreements in a number of commodities representing producers and consumers so that developmental measures and financial facilities are available.

We fully support the move for a substantial increase in food aid, which has been estimated at 20 million tonnes by the end of 1985. At the 1974 World Food Conference the annual food aid target was fixed at 10 million tonnes. During 1983/84 the total food aid shipments for cereals was of the order of 9.5 million tonnes and it is forecast at 9.7 million tonnes for 1984/85.

This shows that the food aid target has not yet been achieved. Contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve for 1984 have slightly exceeded the target, of 500 000 tonnes, which is an encouraging feature.

At various international fora, India has been constantly pleading for raising the IEFER to the level of 750 000 tonnes.

We support the suggestion for reviewing the IEFER to the level of two million tonnes. This figure was agreed to also at the non-aligned meeting held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of our late lamented beloved leader, Indira Gandhi. We also support the necessity for the replenishment of the resources of IFAD.

We fully support the intensification of efforts towards a resumption of negotiations for a conclusion of the international grains agreement, with economic provisions.

We agreed with you for the follow-up of the Director-General's report on world food security. Measures need to be taken at national levels -- food security action programme, strengthening of the CFS. There is a great need for maximizing efforts towards a liberalized international trading environment. We fully support the world food security programme compact for consideration by the Committee on World Food Security.

The importance of the creation of effective delivery systems in Africa, increasing production by supplying improved seeds, mineral fertilizers, pesticides, machinery, and implements and certain specialized inputs in livestock production cannot be overemphasized. Minor or small-scale irrigation schemes are of the greatest importance. Bridging the gap between the actual production and the potential production, as I said two days ago, also requires greater consciousness to be created for the purpose.

There is a great need to build up appropriate applied reserves. Timely planning and supply of appropriate agricultural inputs, particularly seeds, are a vital necessity. Food aid must reach the suffering millions. Food aid may be in plenty but does it reach the actual people who are in need of it, who have been fatally affected by the elements and by other situations? This is the effort which the FAO is so gallantly trying to reach. It must not get blocked. The public distribution system must be well geared and well oiled. Infrastructure is most vital, particularly for transport. Sometimes it happens, as you rightly mentioned, that even in India earlier we had to live for a

period of time virtually from ship to shop. That situation fortunately we have been able to overcome. But here it is very vital in Africa today that after the food aid which is being so generously provided, there must be the transport for it to reach all sections involved. Food aid, however, I am sure the house will agree, is only a temporary remedy, a vital one indeed to solve the immediate needs, but it is not a long term remedy. The long term remedy will have to involve some permanent remedies. They would include ways and means of increasing production, better innovative practices in agriculture, in productivity, agricultural research, the application of appropriate technology, the application of modern methods of agriculture, showing the farmer the way to such methods by dint of example and proof of better yields to show him how to double and treble his crop and the prevention of what is known as dual cultivation, which ruins the soil by trying to burn it.

This happens in a number of developing countries. Therefore, the improvement of soil is a vital necessity. The development of underground water resources is another extremely important feature in such areas where conditions of scarcity exist, and has to go hand in hand with dry-land farming which requires greater attention than it has been receiving so far; build-up of reserve stocks to be kept in the pipeline; appropriate storage facilities to be provided and most important, there should be minimum wastage or destruction of stocks. Pest control therefore is a vital necessity. If less food were destroyed more people could be better fed. For instance insect damage could be remedied by the skills of applied entomologists, and vaccines could also be provided to a much greater extent.

Perhaps I may quote the Indian experience. Our strategy has been responsible for the impressive increase in our food grain production which makes us self-sufficient today. Food grain production has risen from only 50 million tons in 1950/51 to as much as 151 million tons today, which has helped us to become self-sufficient. This is also due to good monsoons in recent years. The strategy includes increasing crop area, increased irrigated area and increased area under high-yielding varieties, the increase and balanced use of chemical fertilizers of which we are now the fourth largest producer, although we still import them; extensive use of pesticides and intensification of pest surveillance programmes, advice on packaged practices of improved technology, soil and water management programmes, minimizing the impact of bad weather through the introduction of crop life-saving techniques, popularizing cropping patterns and introducing compensatory production programmes. I have mentioned this experience because it might be possible to apply some parts of this strategy to the African continent as well.

A disturbing feature is that while the cereal import requirements of low income food deficit like Africa have increased, their share of cereal imports covered by food aid programmes have decreased by more than 60 percent since the world food crisis in 1972/74. Food production has not been keeping pace with population growth in 52 countries which share a population of nearly 500 million people. It has been pointed out that there is sufficient evidence that farming industries throughout the world can greatly increase food production if agricultural scientists are given adequate public support, and farmers are guided and encouraged by more rational agricultural policies than those now in practice. Some major constraints on agricultural outputs may also be due to unsatisfactory policies and programmes and dislocation instead of coordination of effort.

In India our agricultural scientists have developed economically viable technological packages for various crops and research on pest control and disease management; these are being carried out intensively. We fully share the worldwide concern for the distress in Africa, as I have stated, and we offer cooperation and other types of assistance in a number of areas. Perhaps I may mention some in which we can come forward immediately to render assistance. They are the following: the build up of infrastructure for agricultural research, education and extension. This can be done through our PUSA Institute, the Institute for Agricultural Research and others. We can build up and operate food reserves, as we have eminent experience in so doing. We can assist in construction and storage for food grains and for agricultural inputs which are so necessary. We can set up training centres. We can help to train personnel in food management which is also so very important. The formulation of projects for food security can be made. Organizational measures for preventing storage losses and other post-harvest losses caused by wastage or destruction can be undertaken. The organization of production of seed from the point of view of breeder seed and seed for distribution among cultivators - here, the hybrid and high-yielding qualities of seed have been very effective; to assist in organizing lab-to-land programmes for the farmers and provision of mini-kits which is also very important for them, and are a part of the lab-to-land programmes. In addition, India made a contribution to the African Development Bank and donated some thousands of tons of sugar to the affected countries of Africa.

I conclude with an appeal to everyone concerned. Let there not be paralysis by too much analysis, because the need of the hour in Africa is instant action.

H. REDL (Austria): Over the past months the Director-General of FAO has drawn the attention of the world to the food requirements resulting from drought in more than 20 African countries. He has reiterated appeals for emergency food assistance in which he strongly focused on Ethiopia. My delegation appreciates the presentation of an up-dated oral report by the Director-General on the food situation in Africa. The Report gives information about Ethiopia and describes the present actual situation.

Certain questions arise from this as follows: first of all, the number of people directly affected now in Ethiopia by the droughty (2) total food requirements in quantity and type for a six-months period ahead; (3) how to operate the coordinating systems of the relief operations, particularly with respect to logistics; (4) beyond the next six-months period, an estimate should be given for how long emergency relief operations will be required; (5) what medium and long-term plans exist to restore and to bring back the area to a self-supporting capacity. The SADCC Report Agriculture

Towards the Year 2000 points out that nearly three-fifths of the required doubling of production between the years 1980 and 2000 would come from increased yields. Only a quarter would come from the expansion of arable lands. Improved crop management, use of improved seeds, balanced use of fertilizers and irrigation were all feasible, and certainly ranked first amongst those measures which should receive priority in package programmes to help in overcoming as early as possible the emergency food aid phase.

Assistance for the supply of larger seed quantities to disaster areas should include provision to post-emergency operations, particularly for the establishment and strengthening of national seed programmes. Aid should be given with explicit provision that national seed production organizations and facilities must be developed to be able to cover country needs as quickly as possible. Such support should focus on measures which would allow affected countries to become self-sufficient in seed production and supply. Good examples of successful seed programmes are those in Kenya and Zimbabwe.

It is our opinion that repeated massive seed donations will have a negative effect on the development of national seed production and supply efforts, since massive seed imports might not always include adapted varieties, and may unnecessarily increase the risk of introducing pests and diseases and further encourage affected countries to request the annual seed requirement as emergency aid. Similar feasible and appropriate measures in the sphere of fertilizer use and crop management should be phased from the emergency operations into the subsequent restoration period.

The FAO and WFP Task Force has been reporting regularly and factually on the emergency food situation. We believe that the FAO Early-Warning System is an excellent instrument which many times has proved its utility and indispensability for all of us. Therefore, we hope that these activities will be strengthened for the benefit of the developed and the developing countries in the future. The Director-General has warned us of the impending situation particularly in Africa, and has issued appeals. By so doing he has acted according to his responsibilities. My delegation is confident that the Director-General of FAO, often acting literally like a warning system himself, will carry out that responsibility with the efficiency it deserves.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation has studied the documents on this subject and has listened with great attention to the introduction by the Director-General. His introduction has not only set the tone of our discussion; the Director-General also speaks adequately of his great and deep concern for the suffering caused by the tragic situation in Africa. We are aware of his relentless efforts to ameliorate those sufferings.

The prevailing grave food situation in Africa cannot perhaps be described by anyone better than the Director-General himself, who began his opening statement to this Session by saying:

"As we open our Eighty-sixth Session, the real backdrop to our meeting is not the array of flags at the back of the hall, but the image of stark human tragedy which is taking place in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa - the appalling pictures of emaciated children, the victims of war, the columns of refugees trailing across a dusty landscape into urban squalor."

We are also further perturbed by the fact that the present acute food supply situation may not improve in the near future; it may even further deteriorate in the next year for most African countries because of their crop failure in consecutive years. This will lead no doubt to continuing emergency food aid operations on an enhanced scale, an operation to be carried out more vigorously, effectively and expeditiously. We commend the Director-General for his ceaseless efforts to mobilize additional aid to alleviate the present crisis and restore the productive capacity of the affected countries.

We also thank the donor countries and organizations concerned for their generous response to the appeal of the Director-General in the cause of suffering humanity. The Director-General will have our full support for all the future steps he may take in this regard.

Turning now to long-term measures for agricultural production and development and food production, the Harare Declaration made by the Ministers of the African countries is very relevant. The main theme of this Declaration is self-reliance and reaffirmation of their determination to become the controllers of their own destinies. The Ministers also accepted that the burden of developing the agricultural and rural areas and raising the nutritional standards of all their people rested substantially on the efforts of their own governments and people. They are also pledged to continue to give highest priority to agricultural and rural developments. Policy and priority programme measures to achieve these objectives have also been adequately identified in the Declaration.

To name a few, these are training and research on appropriate technologies, crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry, eradication of disease such as rinderpest, irrigation development, water management and so on. However, to implement the long-term programme, these countries will need substantial technical and financial assistance from the international community and organizations, which we hope will be readily forthcoming.

In conclusion, we are happy to note that Africa will remain the number one priority area in FAO's programme of work. This is a programme for undertaking a study concentrating on practical action for increasing major domestic food production, and on a basic need for water and other necessary inputs to increase yield, is welcome to my delegation. We consider this is a step in the right direction, and we support the programme. We express our hope, and are sanguine, that the African countries will overcome the present difficult situation by their own efforts with, of course, support from the international community and this Organization.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): When speaking on Agenda Item 4 on Monday, I touched briefly on the policy in the Federal Republic of cooperation with developing countries, and indicated the high priority which my Government has given for a long time to food, agriculture and rural development. Therefore, I shall confine myself to a few complementary remarks.

In my country, fruitful cooperation with developing countries such as Africa has been our main focus during 1983/84. In view of the critical food situation in 24 African countries, the Federal Government took special measures and initiated certain actions. Without going into detail or repeating what I have already said, allow me to mention the following measures taken by the Government of my country and by non-governmental organizations.

First, in addition to the development assistance already pledged, the Federal Government established a special action programme of about 50 million DM for the affected African countries.

Second, in 1983, the Federal Republic of Germany delivered 139 000 tons of cereals to the aforementioned African countries as food aid amounting to 75.2 million DM.

Third, direct German food aid for Africa in 1984 up to now amounts to 177 000 tons of cereals. These are 75.5; percent of the overall German aid under the International Food Aid Convention.

Fourth, the Federal Republic of Germany increased the German contribution to the International Emergency Food Reserve last week further by 14 000 tons of cereals bringing our total 1984 contribution to that Reserve up to 51 000 tons. We note with satisfaction that the target of that Reserve of 500 000 tons has already been surpassed. With regard to the suggestion to increase this target, we continue to be reluctant. In spite of the present situation, the international community should endeavour that emergency situations be avoided as far as possible.

Fifth, regular and special programmes of my country in the field of food security assistance in Africa are amounting this year to 75.9 million DM.

Sixth, add to this and to other measures, for example, humanitarian aid; non-governmental organizations, and the citizens of my country decisively contributed with the aim to help solving the African food crisis. For example, the Catholic Church in my country collected 20 million DM which form the capital base of the "Pope John Paul II Foundation of the Sahel".

In response to a television report on African food problems, citizens of my country individually transferred 46.8 billion DM to the accounts of non-governmental organizations such as the churches and the German Agro-Action in order to support special action programmes in favour of African affected countries.

Finally, my delegation welcomes various initiatives taken by the Director-General, in particular the envisaged practice-oriented study on major domestic food crops such as maize, sorghum, millet and cassava as well as tubers and roots and the basic needs of water, seeds and inputs necessary to increase yields and improve nutritional quality. We also welcome his intention to refocus some of the FAO activities under the Regular Programme and within the current budget resources in response to the present food and agriculture situation in Africa. The international community has the knowledge and experience to cope with that critical situation. The determination of African countries to improve decisively their food and agriculture situation in their countries, as recently expressed in the Harare Declaration at the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa, should be taken as a positive signal and commitment.

J. POSIER (France): Prenant la parole pour la première fois, la délégation française voudrait tout d'abord vous adresser ses félicitations pour votre élection et vous dire qu'elle se réjouit de vous voir présider cette assemblée. Elle adresse également ses félicitations aux trois vice-présidents qui ont été nommés à vos côtés. La délégation française voudrait d'autre part dire combien elle a apprécié les allocutions prononcées par M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de l'OAA. Les propos de M. Saouma viennent à leur heure et nous ne doutons pas qu'ils contribueront fortement à une nécessaire prise de conscience. La délégation française voudrait adresser ses félicitations également au Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui nous ont été fournis en ce qui concerne la situation alimentaire mondiale et plus spécialement la situation alimentaire en Afrique.

La démarche retenue qui consiste à mettre en perspective la situation que connaissent les pays africains d'une part, en la comparant sur le plan conjoncturel avec celle de l'ensemble des pays en développement, d'autre part en étudiant l'évolution de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation sur une période longue, nous paraît particulièrement pertinente. Cette démarche conduit à mieux mettre en lumière, si besoin était, le caractère dramatique de la situation que connaissent actuellement nombre de pays du continent. Ce caractère dramatique apparaît tout d'abord lorsque l'on examine les derniers chiffres disponibles en matière de production agricole. Ceci est tout spécialement vrai en ce qui concerne les céréales, qui constituent la nourriture de base de la majorité des populations, pour lesquelles le Sixième rapport de l'équipe spéciale OAA/PAM fait état d'une chute de 15 pour cent par rapport à la dernière récolte normale, c'est-à-dire la récolte de 1981.

La crise est particulièrement aiguë dans de nombreuses parties du continent qu'il s'agisse de l'Afrique australe, qui connaît sa troisième période de sécheresse consécutive, de l'Ethiopie où 6 millions de personnes sont menacées, ou des pays du Sahel où la situation s'est considérablement dégradée depuis peu. Un tel état de fait frappe d'autant plus que cette année, au niveau mondial, la production alimentaire et agricole a augmenté de près de 5 pour cent. Certes, une bonne partie de cette augmentation résulte des bonnes récoltes qui ont eu lieu en Europe et en Amérique du Nord, mais le niveau de la production dans les pays en développement, considérés dans leur ensemble, est lui-même relativement satisfaisant puisqu'on estime qu'il dépassera de plus de 3 pour cent celui atteint en 1983. La distorsion entre l'évaluation constatée en Afrique, et l'évolution d'autre part, de l'ensemble des pays en développement, est encore plus nette si l'on considère, comme le Secrétariat nous y invite, les dernières années qui viennent de s'écouler.

Alors qu'en 1974, en pleine crise mondiale de l'alimentation, les observateurs préoyaient que la demande d'aliments dans les pays en développement augmenterait beaucoup plus vite, on constate que l'évolution a été différente et que la situation a connu une amélioration sensible depuis cette période. Cette amélioration est nette sur le plan alimentaire puisque la ration calorique moyenne par habitant a augmenté dans les deux tiers des pays en développement malgré l'accroissement démographique. Mais ces chiffres rassurants masquent des situations très diverses selon les types de pays et selon les continents. Alors que l'Amérique latine, et surtout l'Asie, ont connu des progrès, les choses se sont très nettement dégradées dans les pays à faible revenu, et tout spécialement sur le continent africain qui regroupe la majorité de ces pays. Face à une telle situation, que faire ? A court terme, les priorités qui s'imposent face à la communauté internationale sont évidentes. Il s'agit de répondre de la manière la plus rapide aux situations de détresse. Ma délégation se réjouit de l'écho rencontré par les initiatives qui ont été prises en vue d'une mobilisation accrue des ressources et notamment par l'appel lancé par le Directeur général de l'OAA pour une augmentation de la RAIU en faveur des pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne. Comme vous le savez, mon pays y a répondu positivement par une offre de contribution supplémentaire de 5 000 tonnes de céréales. Il s'efforcera de renforcer encore dans ses programmes bilatéraux d'aide alimentaire la priorité accordée aux pays d'Afrique subsaharienne touchés par la sécheresse: une hausse de contribution comme supplément de 5 000 tonnes de céréales. Il s'efforcera de renforcer encore dans ces programmes bilatéraux d'aide alimentaire la priorité accordée aux pays d'Afrique subsaharienne touchés par la sécheresse.

En outre, une importante réforme de notre dispositif a été récemment mise en oeuvre afin de mieux faire face aux situations d'urgence. Cette réforme prévoit tout d'abord un meilleur suivi de la situation alimentaire de nos principaux partenaires. A cet effet, une cellule de veille a été

constituée, qui travaillera en liaison avec les institutions multilatérales concernées, et tout spécialement l'OAA et le PAM. En cas d'aggravation de la situation, un plan d'urgence appelé ORSEC/Sahel, peut être déclenché pour aller régler la mise à disposition des êtres.

Des contributions financières ont été dégagées en vue de faciliter dans un certain nombre de cas les transports et la mise à disposition des produits. Enfin, des semences, des céréales et plantes potagères ont été intégrées à la liste des produits livrés afin d'assurer la possibilité d'une bonne récolte. Toutefois, l'aide alimentaire d'urgence ne constitue pas une raison suffisante dans une expertise à long terme; il est indispensable que soient créées les conditions qui permettront à l'Afrique de tirer parti du potentiel considérable qui est le sien en matière de développement agricole et alimentaire. Créer ces conditions cela implique d'abord de fournir aux pays africains les ressources financières dont ils ont besoin pour asseoir leur développement agricole. Comme le Secrétariat de mon Gouvernement, dès lors que face à la faiblesse actuelle du volume des crédits accordés à des conditions commerciales le relai n'a pu être pris au niveau de l'aide publique multilatérale, considère que l'insuffisance des engagements multilatéraux est particulièrement grave pour les pays d'Afrique, le Gouvernement français regrette qu'une solution n'ait pu encore être trouvée malgré tous ses efforts en ce qui concerne la seconde reconstitution des ressources du FIDA. Il exprime le ferme espoir que les difficultés rencontrées pourront être surmontées dans les délais les plus rapides. De même il regrette que la 7ème reconstitution de l'AID ait dû se faire à un niveau trop modeste et que cet organisme ait été amputé du quart des ressources qui lui auraient été nécessaires.

Qu'il me soit permis de rappeler l'appel lancé et renouvelé par le Président de la République française à l'occasion de la dernière session du Conseil des Gouverneurs du FIDA en faveur de la mise en place d'un fonds spécial pour l'Afrique, décision déjà prise par mon Gouvernement de consacrer à ce fonds spécial, malgré son effort de rigueur budgétaire plus de 500 millions de francs pour 1985. Créer les conditions du développement agricole et alimentaire cela veut dire aussi, comme nous le rappelle cette déclaration, aller au-delà des mesures ponctuelles, articuler une vision cohérente de la voie à suivre. A cet égard il importe que tous les pays, même ceux qui connaissent les difficultés des conjonctures les plus graves, se dotent d'une politique nationale visant à réduire leur dépendance vivrière et à renforcer leur autonomie alimentaire. Une telle politique est en effet indispensable pour que soient intégrées, de manière cohérente, les opérations d'aide alimentaire et pour que celles-ci n'entraînent pas d'effets négatifs sur le niveau de la production alimentaire locale. Mais les efforts des pays en développement, spécialement des pays africains, pour développer leur production, risquent d'être voués à l'échec si les marchés internationaux continuent d'être affectés des mêmes fluctuations excessives, en ce qui concerne les prix, et les quantités commercialisées qu'ils ont connues au cours de ces dernières années. Un minimum de stabilité est indispensable à cet égard.

Mon gouvernement continue d'apporter son soutien le plus résolu aux initiatives visant à assurer l'organisation des marchés mondiaux et des produits agricoles.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): Fellow delegates, I had planned a somewhat different intervention of my own, but I would like instead to quote at some length from excerpts of the Chief of our Agency of International Development, Mr Peter McPherson in our United States Government, because I think it expresses very clearly what we are all trying to do here with the Director-General, with all our colleagues. We are all involved in the same enterprise, and his words are very much to the point. He had been, as you know, recently to Ethiopia; the President asked him to go.

"There are no words adequate to describe the magnitude of the tragedy occurring in much of Africa. At the request of President Reagan, I recently went to Ethiopia for an assessment. I have seen hunger, pain and despair in many places, but nothing in my experience" - and he has a long experience, he was a member of the Peace Corps many years ago - "nothing in my experience matches the suffering or the complexity of the crisis in Ethiopia. I am still convinced, however, that if the world works together, hundreds of thousands of men, women and little children can be saved. My trip to Ethiopia led me to several conclusions. In Ethiopia alone at least seven million people are at serious risk. In the next twelve months, the total food assistance that donor nations need to provide for Ethiopia alone will be in the range of a million tons. A massive logistical problem exists. A plan for deliveries must be agreed upon. The United States has developed some ideas, but there must be a coordinated attack by donors. It is essential that a Donor Convention should be convened," - and so indeed our Director-General has referred to it - "with the need for this within the next few weeks. The United States has contributed substantially and is prepared to continue to provide aid". In the last thirty days we have sent about 130 000 tons and two other donors have also contributed some 200 000 in this time, but more is absolutely essential, and we must get it there.

"Private individuals and business have committed food aid too, and it is critical that we come together in some agreement as to how all this can be distributed, and the United States would welcome the participation of the Soviet Union and other Eastern Bloc countries. This is a worldwide responsibility and a world-wide problem. A great deal of focus has been centred on Ethiopia,

but that is not the end of the problem. It is widespread in Africa." As we heard from the Director-General yesterday, they are only months behind the serious problems that we see in Ethiopia. We must consider some of the President's proposals which I think are very practical.

"Among these proposals is the positioning of emergency supplies". Again, as the Director-General has told us, it is absolutely essential, and we have already started these pre-positioned supplies. Already they are on the way to two countries in Africa, according to the President's directive. He has a special fund of some 50 million dollars, which is in addition to the other, so that we can meet an emergency food situation.

We are also planning for funds that will be necessary to pay the ocean freight and the inland transportation in special emergency situations. It is not enough to get the food to the dock; it has got to get to where the people are and to the mouths of the hungry, establishing a task force to predict shortages and emergencies, as we have all decided must be needed. Further, we must have some long-term programmes that will be along the lines of the United States' economic policy initiative, the EPI for Africa. It is directed towards those countries which have a good framework for the macro-economics and the sector level particularly in agriculture, and if we do not deal with agriculture at the working level where the little, peasant lives at the end of a road, which hardly is a road, if we do not deal with it there we are not going to be dealing with it. We must have a strong focus on agriculture in Africa, and although the problems are grave, as Mr McPherson said and to quote the Director-General who said there is therefore no cause to despair but every reason to go on striving. This is a duty of governments, and indeed it is, and Mr McPherson says the same thing. We must not lose the momentum of public interest and concern that has attended the crisis in Ethiopia. Above all we must not lose hope. Despite the magnitude of the problem it can and will be addressed. 25 or 30 years ago India often saw tragic famines and look at what they have achieved today because of improved technologies, policies, training and determination. India is virtually grain independent.

We must respond to emergencies, we must create the circumstances in which people can help themselves and the Harare Declaration kept emphasizing that - self-help. All of the short-term help of the industrialized countries cannot be seen as the only solution. Ultimately the developing nations must provide a climate that allows their people to prosper and grow.

I would like to add a personal note. I got a letter yesterday and I was working until about 11 o'clock last night answering some of the mail. This was a student in America who had joined a hunger project and wrote me saying we must have the political will to solve this problem, and I wrote her last night that political will is not going to be enough. We need what the Bible said - wisdom and understanding. Wisdom, when King Solomon was talking to Almighty God, that is what he asked for. We are going to need wisdom and understanding, we are going to need intelligence and heart and compassion. We are going to need patience and persistence, we are going to need good will and above all a little humility. I keep thinking as I have spoken so often of what the Minister of Agriculture of Mali said, we are involved in a great enterprise and in this we are all partners. We are brothers on this planet, and as was said long ago in the United States, "If your brother needs help, if thou lovest God thou must help him."

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): First of all, I would like to thank the Director-General for his very impressive introduction.

With regard to the African food situation, my Government is of the opinion that the present food crisis in Africa is not solely the result of the successive droughts and other natural calamities, but rather has a variety of structural causes. Although the emergency relief operation to the affected countries is surely a matter of urgent and deepest concern as a tentative measure, we believe, at the same time, that long term and comprehensive measures to eradicate the fundamental causes of the present problems should also be found through the overall structural analysis and be implemented.

We feel that the African countries should assume the primary responsibility in taking necessary measures and we are pleased to see that these countries are now, in fact, determined to reinforce their national efforts with a renewed spirit of self-reliance. We think the measures needed in order to cope with the food problem should be determined according to each country's specific agricultural conditions, and this is particularly true of the crops where priorities should be placed in every country. In this context we believe that, in Africa, more attention should be given to the improvement of the traditional food crop varieties which can resist the severe natural conditions. Emphasis should also be given to the improvement of the productivity of small farmers, who are playing and will play the vital role in food production in those countries.

At the same time, we are well aware of the limitations of the African countries' self-efforts, despite their firm commitment. My delegation, therefore, recognizes that the assistance from the international community is indispensable in order to make such self-efforts fruitful and successful. In this connection, it is highly desirable to proceed in a rather frank and constructive manner with a policy dialogue between the recipient countries and the donors including the international organizations, so that

the international assistance can give full play in solving the food crisis. It is also important to mobilize all the United Nations agencies, and to make effective use of the total range of the United Nations capabilities. In this connection we hope that FAO, as a very competent agency, will play its important role within the UN system in solving the severe problems in Africa.

Finally, let me briefly touch upon Japan's recent efforts in the field of cooperation with the African countries. This year, my country has already pledged, as an initial step, an amount of more than 115 million US dollars of food-related assistance for Africa. Besides this official assistance several activities have been undertaken in Japan. For example, the "Month of Africa" was recently declared, during which a number of nation-wide African-related efforts were taken in order to further enhance the Japanese understanding of the situation in Africa, to spark a broadbased fund-raising drive, and to arouse popular support for and cooperation with African countries.

The Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr Shintaro Abe himself, is now in Ethiopia visiting the drought-affected areas. In addition, a joint survey mission composed of government and non-government personnel is also visiting several African countries in order to investigate the effects of the drought and to find how Japan can most effectively render assistance.

My delegation concludes its statement by saying that my country stands ready to continue to promote its utmost assistance for the efforts made, by these. African countries.

N.H. PASINI (Argentina): Mi país sigue con gran preocupación la grave crisis alimentaria que afecta al Africa y que se ha agudizado como consecuencia de las catástrofes naturales y de otro tipo ocurridas en los últimos tres años. Antes de señalar los comentarios de nuestra Delegación, deseamos destacar, una vez más, la labor de la FAO, y muy particularmente el énfasis puesto por su Director General en indicar a la comunidad internacional el sensible agravamiento de la situación que ya ha cobrado numerosas vidas humanas y que amenaza a millones de africanos.

Quizás si la comunidad internacional hubiese reaccionado rápida y masivamente ante los primeros llamados de la Organización, se podrían haber ahorrado vidas y sufrimientos. De todas maneras, nos unimos a aquellas delegaciones que han dejado constancia de sus agradecimiento por la ayuda que en la actualidad se está haciendo llegar a las zonas más afectadas.

En los dos días anteriores, el Consejo analizó el estado mundial de la agricultura, y numerosas delegaciones hicimos hincapié en la necesidad de establecer reglas internacionales de juego más justas que permitan un crecimiento sostenido del mundo en desarrollo.

Creemos que la situación particular del Africa requiere un esfuerzo conjunto de toda la comunidad mundial, en la que, de acuerdo a las posibilidades reales de cada uno, se coopere en la emergencia que evidentemente hoy tiene prioridad absoluta, pero que también se comiencen a adoptar las medidas de fondo que requieren corrección.

La gravedad de la situación tiene reflejo en la declaración del Director General deayer, en el hecho de que en sólo cuatro meses la modificación de la situación significó cuatuplicar las necesidades alimentarias pasando de poco más de un millón a cuatro millones de toneladas. Si pensamos que las cifras son provisionarias, y agregando que a veces las donaciones no llegan a tiempo, es evidente que las perspectivas no son alentadoras.

Coincidimos con lo expresado en el párrafo 100, en el sentido de que además de las medidas de socorro, se necesitarán otras de carácter profundo que permitan superar las deficiencias estructurales. Consideramos válidas las afirmaciones y recomendaciones del párrafo 105. La mayoría de los países africanos difícilmente pueden salir de la actual crisis de pobreza, o evitar futuras crisis alimentarias si no se solucionan los graves problemas estructurales que los afectan.

La comunidad internacional, y particularmente los países que tienen una mayor responsabilidad en la situación actual, deben evitar que el desastre mencionado en el párrafo 107 se convierta en una realidad para fines de este siglo. Existen los medios para ello, pero se requiere una firme voluntad política de cooperación que lamentablemente todavía no vislumbramos.

Desde ya, mi país ratifica su decisión de hacer lo que directamente esté a nuestro alcance, y apoyar las medidas que en foros como éste, se pueden adoptar en beneficio de aquellos que más sufren.

En este sentido, y buscando fórmulas posibles de cooperación, mi delegación desearía contar con más información acerca de los proyectos que se mencionan al final, del párrafo 100. Ello porque nuestro Gobierno está estudiando la mejor forma de ofrecer financiación y cooperación técnica en proyectos relativos a producción y sanidad de ganado de distinto tipo, al manejo y mantenimiento de las pasturas, y a la infraestructura de almacenamiento de insumos y productos agrícolas en los países africanos. Este pequeño esfuerzo nacional coordinado con la cooperación internacional, permitirá el incremento de la oferta de alimentos, y tiende a hacer real en el menor tiempo posible, la autosuficiencia alimentaria de dicha región, objetivo fijado en forma prioritaria para la reunion de Harare, y que mi delegación comparte plenamente.

Ya en el terreno de la materialización de los objetivos señalados precedentemente, debemos mencionar que nuestro país, dentro de sus posibilidades, ha otorgado a países africanos créditos en términos concesionales para la adquisición de productos y bienes, estrechamente vinculados a la alimentación y a la producción de alimentos.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Nuestra delegación felicita, de manera muy especial, al Director General por sus importantes palabras de apertura a este tema tan dramático sobre la situación alimentaria de África que merece toda nuestra atención. En dichas palabras, el Director General nos hizo una síntesis del especial interés, iniciativa y esfuerzos que él, en lo personal, y la FAO en su conjunto han realizado en favor del conocimiento de la problemática y también del establecimiento de vías de solución para enfrentar la situación de los países africanos.

Todas esas acciones son, así lo subrayamos, dignas de elogio. Coincidimos con el documento CL 86/2 cuando se afirma que las causas de la crisis africana no son sólo de tipo coyuntural, como pueden serlo la sequía, la recesión mundial o la guerra civil, sino sobre todo de carácter estructural; es decir, relacionadas tanto a la escasez de técnicos y la falta de un sistema de comunicación adecuado como al Orden Económico Internacional prevaleciente.

En efecto, la situación que prevalece en muchos países africanos no es obra del azar, y tampoco consecuencia primordial de lo que han hecho o han dejado de hacer esos pueblos. Sobre ellos recae el peso abrumador de un esquema de explotación económico y político internacional, y la miseria y el atraso, producto en buena parte del antiguo orden colonial. Muchas son naciones jóvenes que se enfrentan a un mundo y sus recursos que ha sido repartido y vuelto a repartir entre los países poderosos económicamente.

Las alternativas para muchos países africanos son escasas no sólo porque su competitividad es baja sino porque las circunstancias internacionales han agravado sus expectativas a través de carencias sistemáticas de divisas y de créditos, de insumos productivos, de capacidad técnica, de cooperación y ayuda internacional, o bien también por la aplicación de modelos de desarrollo que han distorsionado el uso racional y equitativo de sus recursos disponibles.

El ciclo vicioso de financiamiento se cierne de manera alarmante sobre esos países. Es decir, no tienen financiamiento porque no se desarrollan, y no se desarrollan porque carecen de ese financiamiento y de los recursos que ello les permitiría.

El deterioro ecológico, la desertificación y el empobrecimiento de los suelos son también, así debemos pensarlo, en buena parte producto de la pobreza y de la lucha desesperada por la sobrevivencia diaria, lo que resta a la vez posibilidades a la sobrevivencia futura. Debemos, en consecuencia, pensar en romper esos ciclos viciosos. Creemos por lo tanto que, si bien los programas de cooperación y de ayuda alimentaria, dadas las condiciones actuales, deben por ahora estar dirigidos a la emergencia, llamamos la atención para no sacrificar lo importante por lo urgente. Por tanto, y al mismo tiempo, y como se ha dicho ya en repetidas ocasiones, esos programas de cooperación y de ayuda deben formar parte de un plan de desarrollo a largo plazo con el cual el mal pueda comenzar a ser erradicado de raíz. Sólo así, podremos caminar, como se declaraba en Harare, hacia la autosuficiencia alimentaria de los países africanos.

El párrafo 109 del documento CL 86/2 proporciona cifras que nos permiten apreciar la magnitud del esfuerzo colectivo que los países africanos tendrán que hacer para poder salir de la prolongada crisis económica, y por tanto de la crisis social y política en la que se encuentran sumergidos.

En este esfuerzo, es necesario entonces, que la FAO les ofrezca todo su apoyo por medio de facilidades logísticas, capacitación técnica y servicios de comunicación como ya lo ha estado haciendo bajo la iniciativa y el esfuerzo del Director General, tal como se informa en el documento CL 86/2-Sup.1.

En este sentido, le damos todo nuestro apoyo al estudio que está preparando la FAO sobre África porque estamos seguros que ello contribuirá o permitirá que la infraestructura que la FAO está permitiendo desarrollar en algunos países africanos, logrará estar mejor dirigida no sólo para satisfacer las necesidades de las importaciones a las que dichos países se han visto obligados durante los últimos años, sino también a crear las condiciones de un crecimiento agrícola y alimentario alto y sostenido.

Insistimos, en todo caso, en que deben ser los propios países africanos los que establezcan las prioridades y las formas de encauzar la ayuda alimentaria en general y la cooperación técnica internacional. Instamos pues a todos los Gobiernos, organizaciones, y particulares a que respeten sus intereses y prioridades.

Por otro lado, mucho apreciamos que la FAO facilite, a través de información y de coordinación de esfuerzos, la cooperación Sur-Sur que tiene en África un objetivo primordial. Nos unimos en esto a lo que otras delegaciones han expresado. Finalmente apreciamos en todo lo que vale las manifestaciones y acciones de ayuda alimentaria que por la vía multilateral han sido enunciadas en este foro, y reiteramos la solidaridad del Gobierno y del pueblo de México con los pueblos africanos, en estos momentos tan dramáticos.

S. BAHARSJAH (Indonesia): The news of the great suffering in Africa reached us in Indonesia exactly at the time when we were rejoicing for a remarkably successful and productive year. With a total production of rice of 25.5 million tonnes we have finally achieved a long awaited goal of self-sufficiency. However, our rejoicing has been mixed with sorrow and a deep feeling of solidarity with the peoples of Africa who are less fortunate. Indeed, as we were reminded earlier by the delegate of Saudi Arabia, humanity is like a human body which suffers whenever any part of it is in pain.

In the process of achieving self-sufficiency, we learned that it requires adherence to some basic principles: a strong and unwavering commitment from the highest level down to the whole nation; consistent policies, even as we encounter adverse economic and climatic conditions; fruitful and effective interaction with the international community.

I bring this up in discussing the situation in Africa because as we are confronted with the frightening and devastating magnitude of the calamity in Africa, we cannot help but conclude that this also is a product of a long process involving some basic things. True, a succession of severe droughts had been dominantly instrumental in bringing about the calamity. But, as has been mentioned by the delegate of Japan, there are basic and structural things involved in it also. Therefore my delegation welcomes the Harare Declaration and we regard this as a significant step towards solving the problem in the longer term.

My delegation regards the powerful report of the Director-General itself with the position of the Group of 77 as stated two days ago by the delegate of the Philippines in his capacity as current chairman of the Group.

We also wish to state our preparedness to support any action that the Director-General deems necessary to take. In conclusion, as this is the first time that I take the floor, allow me to congratulate you in the chair and also to express my gratitude on being elected as Vice-Chairman to this august body.

F. de MENEZES (Sao Tomé-et-Principe) : Etant donné que mon ministre ce matin n'a pas pu venir à cause d'un petit malaise, je vous adresse quelques réflexions que j'ai été amené à mettre sur papier ce matin en vous écoutant.

Au nom de la délégation Sao Tomé-et-Principe je voudrais vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, de vous voir diriger à nouveau nos réunions malgré les épreuves que votre pays vient de connaître.

Nos félicitations vont également aux autres membres élus du Bureau.

En ce qui concerne le point que nous analysons et discutons depuis le début de cette session du Conseil et plus spécifiquement la situation alimentaire de l'Afrique, vous permettez que je commence par féliciter et remercier le Secrétariat du Conseil pour les documents qu'il nous a préparés pour, d'une part, nous rafraîchir la mémoire sur certaines particularités de nos propres réalités et situations et également attirer notre attention sur d'autres réalités et situations de notre continent.

Envers le Directeur général de la FAO les adjectifs utilisés seront probablement faibles pour refléter ce que nous pensons de toutes ses actions en faveur de nos divers pays d'Afrique et nous voulons lui dire quelle est notre gratitude pour l'introduction qu'il a faite hier sur ces sujets si graves pour lesquels au moins il y a un consensus; car aucun des pays de la communauté internationale n'est insensible à ces problèmes.

Etant complètement solidaires avec les termes des analyses qui sont faites de notre situation alimentaire, nous pensons que toute déclaration longue que nous pourrions faire ici n'ajouterait pas grand chose à tout ce qui a déjà été dit. En écoutant les divers pays donateurs qui se sont exprimés avant nous et qui s'adresseront probablement à nous sur le même sujet, en écoutant surtout les diverses actions qu'ils se proposent de consentir au-delà de ce qu'ils ont déjà pu faire jusqu'à ce jour, nous nous sentons moins seuls dans ce malheur qui s'abat implacablement sur nous.

Néanmoins je voudrais vous faire part ainsi qu'au Conseil de notre ferme appui s'agissant de demander davantage pour que les systèmes d'alerte de notre organisation se poursuivent en devenant de plus en plus des systèmes sur lesquels nos pays doivent et peuvent compter.

Pour terminer, nous voudrions également demander à tous les pays membres donateurs de tout mettre en oeuvre pour aider notre organisation dans les actions de réhabilitation des pays pour ceux d'entre nous qui connaissent aujourd'hui des situations plus que désastreuses, par exemple l'Ethiopie et d'autres afin de prévoir pour un bref avenir de nouvelles situations de sécheresse.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) : Avec la situation alimentaire en Afrique, le Conseil aborde le point le plus important de son ordre du jour.

Je voudrais, en tout premier lieu, féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO pour les diverses initiatives qu'il a prises depuis avril 1983 en faveur de l'Afrique, ainsi qu'il nous l'a rappelé dans sa brillante intervention.

Ses différents appels, ses interventions devant tous les forums des Nations Unies ont alerté la communauté internationale en temps utile.

Les différentes missions envoyées sur place pour évaluer la situation des récoltes ont permis aux pays donateurs de s'organiser pour venir en aide à ce continent affligé par tant de fléaux : désastres naturels et causés par l'homme, dans un contexte international difficile, fait d'un recul de l'assistance extérieure à l'agriculture et d'une dégradation de la situation commerciale de ces pays aggravant un endettement insupportable.

Le rapport de situation No 6 de l'équipe spéciale FAO/PAM fait le point très justement de la situation dans les différents pays affectés.

Rien que sa couverture montre, d'un seul coup d'oeil, grâce à une image par satellite, l'étendue du recul de la couverture végétale dans un grand nombre de pays et fait comprendre l'emprise de la sécheresse sur ce continent.

Il n'est pas étonnant, dans ces conditions, que l'Afrique ait besoin, encore, en 1985, d'un surcroît d'aide pour faire face aux déficits vivriers.

Le Conseil ne peut que féliciter le Directeur général pour les différentes initiatives qu'il a prises et l'inciter à poursuivre dans cet effort humanitaire et de solidarité internationale.

On entend parfois, de-ci de-là, des réflexions selon lesquelles les estimations de la FAO sont exagérées et créent un sentiment d'urgence injustifié. Malheureusement, dans ce cas, il nous faut reconnaître que la FAO n'a certainement pas péché par excès. Si quelque chose est vrai, c'est plutôt de grande prudence que l'on peut qualifier ses évaluations. La FAO dispose d'un système d'information et d'alerte rapide particulièrement utile pour la communauté internationale. C'est le seul système au monde pour son importance et son universalité. Il doit être appuyé par tous et servir de point de référence pour tous les donateurs et certainement ne pas être affaibli par des initiatives en ordre dispersé.

La délégation libanaise a donc été particulièrement heureuse d'entendre les mesures que le Directeur général compte prendre pour renforcer encore ce système et le rendre toujours plus efficace. Le Conseil souhaitera peut-être donner son ferme appui à la FAO pour renforcer ce système. Comme le Directeur général l'a souligné dans son intervention, il ne suffit pas d'avoir ce système d'alerte rapide, il faut qu'il déclenche des réactions immédiates.

On peut se féliciter, à cet égard, de la générosité avec laquelle la communauté a répondu aux appels du Directeur général et s'est portée au secours des pays affectés. Force est cependant de reconnaître que cet effort devra se poursuivre et même s'intensifier durant 1985 si l'on veut éviter des catastrophes aux dimensions apocalyptiques. Il faudra également que cet effort soit mieux coordonné. L'aide devra aussi être échelonnée pour assurer un flux ordonné de façon à ce que les moyens de transport et les canaux de distribution soient en mesure de l'absorber.

Enfin, comme le Directeur général l'a souligné, on ne peut se borner à fournir une aide alimentaire d'urgence, aussi importante que cela soit, pour alléger les souffrances des populations concernées. Il faut aussi prendre, dès maintenant, les mesures nécessaires à la réhabilitation de l'agriculture et de l'élevage dans ces pays. En un mot, restaurer la capacité productive de ces pays et relancer leur économie par la fourniture d'intrants, en particulier : engrais, pesticides, semences améliorées, outils, etc.

Ma délégation ne peut donc que se féliciter de l'envoi par la FAO d'une importante mission en Ethiopie pour préparer un plan de relance de l'agriculture et de l'élevage. J'espère que la communauté internationale ne lésinera pas son appui pour sa mise en oeuvre. Des plans de ce type seront sans doute nécessaires également pour d'autres pays. Ma délégation appuie la proposition du Directeur général de réajuster certaines activités régulières de l'Organisation pour faciliter le lancement de tels programmes de réhabilitation de la production agricole et animale. Elle souscrit, en particulier, à un réajustement des ressources budgétaires à concurrence de 5 millions de dollars.

En conclusion, je voudrais répéter les sentiments de solidarité qui animent la délégation libanaise devant le drame de l'Afrique, et son soutien total aux initiatives du Directeur général de la FAO pour soulager les populations déshéritées et reporter ces pays sur la voie du développement.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): At this stage of the debate on item 4.1, the Food Situation in Africa, after hearing the lucid and detailed interventions of 26 delegations we can afford to be brief.

My delegation would like first of all to register its sincere appreciation for the painstaking efforts that the Director-General has been exerting in order to be able to make an accurate assessment of the realities of the value situations. I should like to greatly acknowledge his promptness in presenting a clear and precise picture of the emergency situation, once it is verified, to the international community and in issuing timely appeals for the amounts required, thus making an early response possible to the impending disaster. In this connection, the Group of 77 commends the Director-General for the way he has been implementing the early warning system. We believe that this system deserves to be strengthened.

My delegation would likewise wish to record its recognition of the generous manner in which the governments and the citizens of donor countries have responded to the gravity of the situation. The amounts of aid in kind and in cash that have already been pledged and would still be required are huge outlays by any measure. This would be possible only because of the great feeling of solidarity that they have for our less fortunate brothers in Africa in the hour of their need.

The Philippine delegation would also like to pay tribute to the courage and indomitable spirit with which the governments and peoples of Africa afflicted by this tragedy are facing the situation. In the Harare Declaration the governments and the peoples of Africa reaffirmed their firm determination to become the controllers of their own destiny, and fully accepted that the burden of developing their agriculture and raising the nutritional standards of their peoples rested substantially on the efforts of their own governments and their own peoples. This is not the statement of peoples that have been prostrated by their misfortunes. Because the already tragic situation in Africa threatens to deteriorate further next year emergency food aid is absolutely essential. In this connection the Group of 77 believes that the pre-positioning of stocks in vulnerable areas ensures fast delivery of aid and believes that it should be undertaken whenever possible.

The Group also supports a proposal to increase the IEF to 2 million tonnes on a stand-by basis. Emergency food aid, as everybody knows, by its very nature is temporary. To prevent the prolonging and the recurrence of emergency situations there is an immediate need for rehabilitating the agriculture and the livestock sector. The Group of 77 fully supports the Director-General's proposal to rehabilitate the agriculture and livestock sectors, to restore food production during the forthcoming growing season and to protect the remaining herds.

We support the refocusing of the Organization's activities involving up to US \$5 million within the current budget resources in order to assist and support the countries identified by the task force as the most in need of agricultural rehabilitation and post-emergency measures.

We support the launching of the mission to Ethiopia with the participation of donor countries to assess the requirements for resettling the 500 000 victims of famine as well as the rehabilitation in other seriously affected countries of Africa.

The Group fully supports the in-depth study being prepared by FAO on the root causes of the African crisis and the remedial measures required.

Finally, I cannot conclude without mentioning the efforts of the Group of 77 in Rome in trying in a small way to help by launching a project on human resource development which envisions the training of trainers engaged in the production of staple foods. Such training would be given free of charge in developing countries which have appropriately developed technologies and climatic and soil conditions similar to those of the countries of origin of the teachers. However, our problem is where to get the money to cover the DSA cost of the training. If we can overcome this hurdle, this is an endeavour which could help the African countries to overcome their manpower constraints and meet their training requirements.

D. NSENGIYAREMYE (Rwanda): Comme les autres délégations qui ont pris la parole avant moi, la délégation rwandaise saisit cette occasion pour vous féliciter de la sagesse avec laquelle vous conduisez les débats de ce Conseil. La même délégation tient aussi à féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Edouard Saouma, pour le rapport exhaustif qu'il a présenté au Conseil concernant la situation alimentaire mondiale en général et en particulier la crise que traverse actuellement l'Afrique. Par son engagement personnel et par ses appels pathétiques à l'opinion internationale pour mobiliser les pays riches à secourir des millions d'êtres humains menacés par la famine, le Directeur général de la FAO a rempli pleinement son rôle. Ma délégation ne peut que l'en féliciter et l'encourager à persévérer, car la crise africaine s'avère beaucoup plus profonde et touche beaucoup plus de pays que ceux pressentis précédemment.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation joint sa voix à celle du Directeur général de la FAO et à celles d'autres délégations qui se sont déjà exprimées pour inviter les pays riches à fournir une aide alimentaire d'urgence suffisante à toutes les populations menacées par la famine.

Mais au-delà de cette aide alimentaire d'urgence, qui s'avère nécessaire, ma délégation estime qu'il est grand temps que les pays africains, avec l'appui de la coopération internationale, prennent des mesures concrètes pour combattre et prévenir la famine.

Ma délégation est convaincue que la famine n'est pas une fatalité pour l'Afrique. En effet, l'histoire récente nous a démontré que certains pays par une volonté politique sans failles et grâce à l'application des méthodes appropriées de production vivrière, sont parvenus à vaincre la famine dans des régions où elle était devenue endémique depuis de nombreuses années.

L'Afrique de son côté, peut et doit vaincre la famine, si elle consacre tous ses efforts et toutes ses ressources à l'augmentation et à la valorisation de la production vivrière. Comme l'ont reconnu solennellement les Ministres de l'Agriculture dans leur déclaration de Harare en juillet 1984, les gouvernements africains doivent se convaincre que l'autonomie alimentaire constitue la priorité des priorités de tous leurs programmes.

De leur côté, les pays riches doivent se convaincre aussi qu'il est de leur propre intérêt d'aider les pays pauvres à sortir de la crise et à s'engager sur la voie du développement. Dans ce monde où toutes les économies sont devenues interdépendantes, il ne peut y avoir de paix durable ni de développement réel, quand une partie de l'humanité souffre continuellement de faim et de misère.

Il s'agit là de considérations d'ordre général, et je souhaite que les différentes délégations puissent les approfondir et les compléter.

Par ailleurs le Directeur général de la FAO, en présentant la situation en Afrique, a proposé un train de mesures concrètes, qui de l'avis de ma délégation méritent d'être encouragées. Il s'agit notamment du système d'alerte rapide, de l'augmentation de la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence et de la réhabilitation des actions agricoles et d'élevage.

Le système d'alerte rapide mis en place par la FAO constitue un outil précieux et irremplaçable pour la collecte et la centralisation des données, leur analyse et leur interprétation; il permet à la FAO et aux Etats Membres de savoir à chaque instant la situation alimentaire dans le monde et dans chaque pays. C'est pourquoi ma délégation recommande que le Conseil demande à la FAO d'affiner ce système et de le rendre le plus fiable possible. De plus, il faudra que chaque Etat Membre se dote d'un tel système et travaille en étroite collaboration avec la FAO.

Concernant l'augmentation de la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence, ma délégation est convaincue que la crise actuelle va durer et partant estime indispensable d'augmenter de façon substantielle cette réserve, comme l'a souhaité le Directeur général de la FAO.

Quant à la réhabilitation des activités agricoles et d'élevage, il s'agit là de la seule manière efficace pour couper le cycle infernal de la famine. C'est pourquoi ma délégation soutient la proposition du Directeur général de la FAO, de réaffecter une partie des ressources budgétaires de l'Organisation, jusqu'à concurrence de 5 millions de dollars, à de telles actions.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous faire part des efforts entrepris par le Gouvernement rwandais pour conjurer la famine qui menace sa population. Depuis dix ans le Gouvernement rwandais s'est engagé résolument dans une politique d'autosuffisance alimentaire si grandes que soient les contraintes à surmonter.

A cet effet, une série d'actions visant à promouvoir et à augmenter la production vivrière ont été initiées et se poursuivent toujours. Ces actions se rapportent principalement aux thèmes suivants: la conservation des sols; l'utilisation rationnelle des moyens de production; l'association agriculture-élevage; la valorisation des marais et des bas-fonds; l'amélioration du système de collecte et de stockage des produits vivriers et la constitution des stocks de sécurité alimentaire. Toutes ces actions et bien d'autres que je n'ai pas énumérées ici, rentrent dans un plan d'ensemble connu sous le vocable de "stratégie alimentaire", et qui vise à assurer l'autosuffisance alimentaire de la population rwandaise qui atteindra 10 millions d'âmes en l'an 2000.

Malgré ses efforts en matière d'autosuffisance alimentaire, le Rwanda connaît actuellement une grave pénurie alimentaire, due à la sécheresse qui s'est abattue sur le pays en avril 1984 et a détruit presque 50 pour cent de la récolte principale de l'année 1984. Le Gouvernement rwandais a dû faire appel à l'aide alimentaire d'urgence pour combler le déficit. Ma délégation profite de l'occasion pour renouveler ses sincères remerciements aux pays amis et aux organismes internationaux, en particulier la FAO et le PAM, pour leurs interventions en sa faveur.

Toutefois, le Gouvernement rwandais n'entend nullement s'en remettre à l'aide internationale. C'est pourquoi les actions définies dans son programme de stratégie alimentaire se poursuivent et s'accroissent pour pouvoir prévenir d'autres catastrophes similaires.

Je ne voudrais pas terminer ma déclaration sans dire un mot du reboisement. Le grand danger qui menace l'Afrique, et dont la sécheresse et la famine que nous connaissons actuellement ne sont que des conséquences, s'appelle Désertification.

Aussi ma délégation estime que le rétablissement des grands équilibres écologiques constitue une condition sine qua non à la survie de l'Afrique. C'est pourquoi elle recommande qu'un programme de protection et de gestion rationnelle des forêts, là où elles existent encore, soit mis en place et que partout ailleurs, des actions intenses de reboisement des zones dénudées soient entreprises.

A cet effet, certains pays peuvent s'inspirer de l'exemple de mon pays où une journée nationale de l'Arbre a été institutionnalisée voici huit ans déjà. A l'occasion de cette journée, chaque homme, chaque femme, chaque enfant plante au moins trois arbres. Ainsi nous espérons qu'en l'an 2000 toutes les collines rwandaises seront couvertes de verdure.

C'est dans ce cadre que ma délégation soutient la proposition de proclamer l'année 1985, Année internationale de la forêt.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): May I make it clear first of all that unlike many in this room, I am not personally an agricultural development specialist; neither do I have first-hand knowledge of Africa. If I have any expertise at all, it is understanding the domestic and agricultural trade policies of the developed countries.

Having said that, I can only hope to recall the advice of two wise Americans. One of my professors at university drummed into me that man is an economically rational being, and a farmer, whether living in Europe, North America or a developing country, will increase production provided he has a financial incentive and a reasonable agricultural infrastructure. The other piece of advice I received early in my professional career was from an experienced United States agricultural trade policy official, who advised me that to understand agricultural trade policies, one has to understand domestic agricultural policies, and to understand domestic agricultural policies, one has to understand domestic politics. His final piece of advice was that as an agricultural economist I should never forget that politicians in making policy decisions have to take into account a number of factors, of which economic efficiency considerations form only part.

As you will appreciate from these opening remarks, I would not presume to diagnose the long-term problems of African agriculture, let alone offer solutions. Our African colleagues have made it clear already that they recognize the solution lies largely in their hands, and given time they are as capable of transforming and improving African agriculture as India and China have done for their agricultural sectors. For its part, Canada has assisted and will continue to assist in responding to longer-term agriculture development needs, as well as the shorter-term drought-induced emergency food requirements in Africa.

In this latter context I simply note that last year Canada shipped 92 million dollars worth of bilateral and multilateral food aid to Africa, and in 1984/85 we will be increasing our food aid shipments to Africa by 50 percent, that is, to approximately 135 million dollars.

Finally, let me say how much Canada values the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System. We welcome the indication by the Director-General that the Secretariat will continue to improve and strengthen this valuable System.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panamá): Hemos escuchado con mucho detenimiento la declaración del Director General y notamos con satisfacción que la misma expresa una ampliación de las medidas contenidas en los párrafos 57 a 66 que en el documento CL 86/2 Sup.1 se refieren específicamente a la situación alimentaria en Africa. Por lo tanto, reiteramos lo manifestado en nuestra declaración inicial en el sentido de que apoyamos con firmeza cualquier propuesta tendiente a resolver la crítica situación con la cual se enfrentan dichos países hoy.

De consecuencia, consideramos muy positivas las medidas oportunamente planteadas por el Director General, tales como la reorientación de recursos del Programa Ordinario con la reasignación de 5 millones de dólares de cara a dar respuesta a la situación etíope; el establecimiento previo de existencias de alimentos en zonas vulnerables; la necesidad de aceptar las propuestas de aumentar los niveles de la RAIE de 500 mil toneladas a 2 millones de toneladas de reservas anuales.

Es obvia la necesidad de encarar los problemas con un carácter duradero que tienda a la rehabilitación de los sectores agrícolas y ganaderos a través de pequeños proyectos de desarrollo, con la plena y activa participación de las comunidades rurales.

Para terminar, debo aquí hacer notar que al escuchar las intervenciones de algunos de los países donantes aquí presentes pude observar la ayuda concreta que estos países están suministrando a Africa. Confiamos en la continuación de este respaldo de la Comunidad Internacional, especialmente de la Comunidad Internacional formada por los países industrializados.

A. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My country's delegation wishes to express its gratitude to the Director-General for his factual and detailed statement on the food crisis in Africa. We fully welcome the initiatives taken by the Director-General to solve this crisis. We wish him full success in all the efforts he has undertaken, especially those aimed at harnessing governmental aid within the framework of FAO programmes to provide necessary support to the countries affected by the crisis.

Egypt also fully welcomes the possibilities for cooperation, within the framework of the Organization's programmes or bilateral agreements in solving the structural problems that have prevented African countries from solving their food crisis. We are ready to provide training facilities and expertise to achieve this.

At the end of my statement my delegation urges African countries to undertake constructive and serious steps to solve their food problems by attempting to achieve self-sufficiency.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Hemos oído a Africa hablar ayer por la tarde, a Etiopía, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Uganda, Lesotho, Congo, Rwanda, Santo Tomé y Príncipe. En sus intervenciones hay decisión y voluntad políticas manifestadas en la Declaración de Harare.

Hay pueblos decididos a transformar su vida, su sociedad; han solicitado, han llamado para que todos juntos los ayuden sin condiciones previas; han planteado que el FMI, que tanta ayuda ha dado a Africa del Sur, debe ayudar a los que hoy necesitan aunque no puedan revertir con creces su inversión ahí; se han hecho llamamientos para que los organismos financieros amplíen su política crediticia; necesitan divisas para su rehabilitación general; han expresado su reconocimiento al Director General por los esfuerzos realizados y por los que saben seguirá haciendo; tienen confianza en la FAO para llevar adelante la lucha por una Africa nueva.

La FAO alertó; la palabra del Director General ayer predijo y llamó la atención y mantiene su alerta de que todo indica que empeorará el próximo año, pero lamentablemente a la FAO se le llamó alarmista y no se le dieron los recursos suficientes a tiempo.

Nuestra delegación prestó mucha atención a la declaración serena, sin estridencias espectaculares, del Director General de la FAO, y la apoya en todas sus partes. Su evaluación, las medidas propuestas para la entrega de la ayuda de emergencia, el aumento de la RAIE; también en todas sus partes, el análisis del Director General sobre los problemas estructurales africanos que constituyen la raíz de la crisis africana.

Debemos también saludar y felicitar, porque creo que es justo que lo hagamos, que la respuesta humanitaria de los gobiernos donantes ha llegado; ha llegado y esperamos que siga llegando pronta y dispuesta a seguir después. Pues el problema de Africa, señor Presidente y señores miembros del Consejo, no es, como dijo la distinguida representación mexicana, un problema coyuntural de hoy. Tiene raíces muy profundas en el pasado; después de la destrucción de sus riquezas, destrucción de su equilibrio ecológico, de años de dominación política administrativa que no fueron capaces de crear las bases estructurales para el desarrollo cultural, técnico y productivo; sobre todo en los tiempos que disfrutaban libremente de sus diamantes, marfiles, oro, bauxita, hierro, uranio, cobalto, cobre, níquel, petróleo, algodón, café, maní, la gran Africa rica en recursos.

Hoy la realidad obliga a la Comunidad Internacional a socorrer a millones de hambrientos en Africa; evitar la muerte física de quienes, hace tiempo, la desnutrición y la depauperación los han hecho vivir en un letargo alienante; niños enflaquecidos por el hambre perenne y endémica. La ayuda alimentaria urgente es un imperativo hoy, pero la verdadera solución para los pueblos africanos es la concertación de un vasto plan multilateral y bilateral de los que quieran participar, sin utilidades, al inicio, para la rehabilitación de su agricultura y la recuperación de su capacidad financiera fundamentalmente.

Quiero alertar que no debemos excusarnos con la existencia cierta de situaciones políticas controvertidas de algunos puntos del continente que puedan imposibilitar, por el momento, la concertación del esfuerzo unido. Dediquémonos a los puntos estables y sanos, que de paso estaremos ayudando a tranquilizar los puntos no estables. Creemos que hoy, si actuamos a tiempo, son más los puntos estables. La situación puede contagiar otros puntos, y entonces la situación será más difícil. Dediquemos la inteligencia a la técnica y medios que tenemos, por favor, evitando la instrumentalización del hambre africana con propaganda individualista de quienes tienen muy buenos medios de propia propaganda.

Nosotros queremos recordar una frase que nuestro Presidente del Consejo de Estado de Ministros expresó en Naciones Unidas en 1979. Expresó: "Me dirijo a las naciones ricas para que contribuyan y me dirijo a los países pobres para que distribuyan."

Este Consejo tiene la facultad de vigilar la situación alimentaria; por lo tanto, tiene la facultad también de seguir de cerca esta situación africana que se nos ha presentado hoy. Queremos proponer,

en nombre de Colombia, Congo, México y Cuba, una Resolución, un Proyecto de Resolución. Este Proyecto de Resolución debe remitirse al Comité de Redacción; es nuestra proposición. El Proyecto de Resolución que queremos proponer como resumen de esta discusión es el siguiente:

"El Consejo, considerando la dramática y difícil situación agrícola y alimentaria de los países de África, particularmente de aquéllos situados al sur del Sahara, y teniendo en cuenta los importantes principios de la Declaración de Harare, resuelve reconocer y apoyar decididamente los esfuerzos del Director General de la FAO en favor del mejoramiento de esa situación; particularmente la importancia atribuida al Servicio de Información Global y a la revisión de las actividades del Programa dentro del presupuesto actual, así como todas aquellas medidas que la FAO está adoptando con pleno reconocimiento de la comunidad internacional para aplicar las inmediatas medidas de rehabilitación. Apoyar las propuestas del Director General sobre el estudio que se realizará en los países de África acerca de los principales productos, el necesario incremento de la producción y el uso indispensable de insumos tales como semillas, fertilizantes y otros. Hacer un llamado ferviente y urgente a los gobiernos, a todas las organizaciones y a todos quienes están en condiciones de contribuir, para que ofrezcan asistencia técnica y financiera a los países de África, en condiciones, términos, volúmenes, oportunidad y coherencia que realmente hagan eficaces la asistencia, y eviten la muerte de millones de seres humanos.

Demanda igualmente a los gobiernos y organizaciones que ofrezcan asistencia técnica y financiera suficiente e indispensable para que se logre la rehabilitación agrícola de los países africanos, y se active su propia producción agropecuaria, base indispensable para la recuperación económica, social y humana de esos Estados.

Reitera su confianza y plena solidaridad a los Gobiernos y pueblos afectados de esos países de África, en la seguridad de que ellos aportarán sus contribuciones nacionales indispensables para que la asistencia y la cooperación de la comunidad internacional produzca los mejores y más eficaces resultados".

Esta es la proposición. Creemos que desde la tarde de ayer se ha abundado bastante, y se ha coincidido bastante, en el apoyo general a lo propuesto por el Director General de la FAO. Por lo tanto, pido al señor Presidente, se incluya este documento que hemos propuesto en el Comité de Redacción.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. The Drafting Committee could consider the draft resolution as introduced by Cuba on behalf of several other nations.

M. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je voudrais avant tout remercier le Directeur général de la FAO des initiatives qu'il a prises il y a maintenant plus d'un an et demi pour avertir l'opinion publique du drame qui pointait en Afrique. Grâce à ses appels, la communauté internationale a pu être mobilisée et les donateurs intervenir. Je voudrais également les en remercier. Leur générosité était un grand encouragement, une assistance réellement appréciée, mais il faut rester vigilants car l'urgence est loin d'être passée, et 1985 restera particulièrement difficile.

C'est pourquoi la communauté internationale doit disposer d'un excellent système d'information et d'alerte rapide tant au niveau national que régional et mondial.

La FAO peut nous aider grandement à mettre en place de tels systèmes au niveau des pays, des sous-régions. Au niveau mondial, évidemment, seule la FAO peut organiser et faire fonctionner un tel système. Ma délégation appuie donc avec toute sa conviction le système FAO d'alerte rapide aujourd'hui en place. Elle a pris note avec intérêt et appuie les mesures d'ordre général que la FAO compte prendre pour renforcer et affiner encore ce système. C'est notre système, je le dis bien. Tous les Etats Membres se doivent de collaborer à son fonctionnement et à son perfectionnement. Nous appuyons donc sans réserve les par. 57, 58 et 59 demandant à la FAO de continuer à faire les efforts qui s'imposent pour aider les Etats africains à mettre en place et à développer leur système d'alarme à l'échelon national et régional.

À cet égard nous nous associons à la déclaration faite par le délégué de l'Autriche à ce sujet, et aux délégations qui nous ont précédés, et nous proposons et nous appuyons également la proposition de l'Autriche à inciter d'urgence à appuyer les pays africains dans leurs efforts pour développer les projets de développement au niveau national et au niveau régional.

Comme l'a dit le Directeur général hier, l'aide alimentaire d'urgence est cruciale et les populations dans le besoin l'apprécient à sa juste valeur mais, au-delà du court terme, il faut penser à relancer l'économie des pays africains affectés en particulier dans le secteur agricole. C'est pourquoi ma délégation appuie vivement les propositions que le Directeur général nous a faites hier pour lancer un programme de relance et de réhabilitation du secteur agricole et animal, en commençant par l'Ethiopie mais qui atteindrait progressivement d'autres pays du continent, surtout les pays membres du CILSS frappés durement par la sécheresse.

Comme l'a dit hier le distingué représentant du Royaume-Uni, et ce matin si brillamment le distingué ambassadeur des Etats-Unis, ceci devrait être une priorité absolue. Le fait que le Directeur général se soit décidé à divertir à cet effet des ressources importantes de l'ordre de cinq millions de dollars, des ressources régulières du programme, est un signe de l'adaptation aux exigences de la FAO dont il faut féliciter le Directeur général et lui donner des encouragements dans cette voie.

Avant de terminer, j'aimerais attirer l'attention de cette Assemblée sur le fait que les ministres africains réunis à Harare n'ont pas caché que l'avenir du développement en Afrique et que le soin de développer notre agriculture et le secteur rural, et par conséquent d'améliorer l'état nutritionnel de tous nos concitoyens, incombent avant tout à nos Gouvernements et à nos peuples. Ils ont donné la priorité à l'agriculture et à la sécurité alimentaire, mais les efforts nationaux ne pourront pas donner de résultats sans une aide internationale et notamment celle de la FAO.

C'est pourquoi notre délégation appuie pleinement la recommandation faite par le Directeur général de la FAO de demander à l'Assemblée générale d'examiner tous les aspects de la crise économique et sociale de l'Afrique; de même sa proposition concernant une étude approfondie des problèmes alimentaires de l'Afrique.

M. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the Merciful, the Compassionate.

First of all we wish to welcome the statement made by the Director-General. It was an important, comprehensive statement arising out of his sense of responsibility. It goes without saying that the deteriorating situation prevailing in the African countries is a very serious one. It is a source of concern for the international community. Most of these countries have had to face sharp shortages in the amount of rainfall. This has led to a further deterioration of the problem and to drought. This drought seriously affected the agricultural sector as well as the livestock sector in the African countries. The main crops of a number of African countries were of a low quality and fell below the figures expected for 1984. Provisions and expectations indicate that the situation of food shortage in Africa will continue in 1985. This was stated in paragraph 48 of the document being currently discussed. It has been said and it is still being said that the African countries themselves have first and foremost to depend on themselves in developing their agricultural sector. We have not forgotten that a number of these countries were once upon a time countries that exported food commodities. However, many factors both meteorological and economic have led these African countries to their present situation. These countries are endowed with a genuine desire to overcome their present crisis. Proof of this is the Harare Declaration. It indicates the will and desire to adopt those effective policies that will enable the African countries to achieve the highest levels of food and agricultural development and thus to achieve their own food security.

But national efforts must be complemented by international support. This is due to the obstacles and weather conditions encountered by the African countries and of course to the economic problems that they are facing.

We urge through you, Mr Chairman, all countries in a position to do so, or all the food-producing countries, to seek to increase the aid they extend to African countries in their present crisis. We urge these donor countries to help Africa to achieve its own food security.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a result of its deeply entrenched faith and beliefs fully sympathizes with African countries. We have taken part and continue to provide support to the African countries, be it through bilateral channels or through multilateral ones. We are fully convinced that the Director-General will continue to exert all possible efforts to assume his responsibility and will seek by all ways and means to reduce the seriousness of the present situation. The international community, the rich and able countries, should support him in this effort.

Finally, the Lord God helps those who help themselves and those who help their brethren.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I shall be as brief as possible. My Minister expressed yesterday morning in her general statement the feelings and intentions of the Government of Norway as regards the disastrous situation in Africa. There should be no need for me to elaborate on this. I can however inform you of one fact, that after participating in yesterday's meeting my Minister approved an additional measure of 50 million Norwegian kroner for immediate emergency use in Ethiopia, Mali, Chad and Mauritania. The Minister's approval has already been communicated to Oslo for immediate action, but the real reason I had to ask for the floor was first to thank FAO and the Secretariat for the documents that are before us that they have produced for this, maybe the most important

point on our Agenda. As you know, my delegation is not in the habit of handing our compliments as a matter of routine, but we feel we must sincerely thank the Secretariat for this well reasoned, well analysed, profound documentation that we have here. I wanted this to go on the record.

The second reason was to thank the Director-General for his important initiative concerning Ethiopia and specifically state that we fully support this initiative. We intend to accept the Director-General's invitation to take part in the fact-finding mission, whatever forms our support will take that we will have occasion to come back to after the fact-finding planning phase is over, and we hope that will be shortly.

Let me finally express the hope that the donor community as a whole will give this initiative its most serious consideration, and that the welcoming words we have heard this morning and yesterday will be in a rather more substantive form tomorrow.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Colombia como orgulloso miembro del Grupo de los 77 es siempre solidaria con las declaraciones de nuestro distinguido Presidente, el amigo Horacio Carandang, de Filipinas. Igualmente queremos compartir plenamente la reciente y magnífica intervención que ha hecho nuestro colega y amigo Mahdi, de Arabia Saudita. Nuestra solidaridad con esas declaraciones y con otras que se han hecho aquí en esta sala y que facilitan nuestra intervención.

Queremos concretamente referirnos a lo que hemos escuchado de parte del Embajador Ariza, de Cuba, quien autorizadamente y a nombre de Congo, de México, y de Colombia también, ha presentado un proyecto de resolución. El Embajador Ariza, de Cuba, explicó muy bien el objeto de nuestra propuesta. Consideramos que el debate sobre un tema tan importante como éste no deberá concluir lánguidamente sólo con retórica y literatura dispersas en el texto del Informe.

Consideramos que los esfuerzos que viene haciendo el Director General de la FAO y todas las iniciativas de nuestra Organización, que apoyamos, merecen algo más que un programa de televisión que seguramente luego será presentado en muchos países como demostración de lo que se está haciendo en favor de la solución de los problemas africanos.

Hemos asistido al desarrollo de este debate y nos complace destacar algunas de las intervenciones que han hecho los representantes de países donantes, cuya función es esencial en esta oportunidad dramática. Queremos destacar en particular la declaración emocionada, sentida y sincera como siempre a las cuales nos tiene acostumbrados, la distinguida Embajadora Fenwick de los Estados Unidos. La Embajadora Fenwick nos ha hablado de su experiencia personal y nos planteó una serie de ideas y de iniciativas que a nuestro juicio merecen la mayor atención, particularmente aquellas relacionadas con la coordinación indispensable entre los distintos donantes.

Las declaraciones de los representantes de la República Federal de Alemania, Reino Unido y otros países, también han sido muy positivas. El distinguido colega y amigo Høstmark, de Noruega, acaba de reiterar aquí los conceptos generosos y altruistas que inspiraron ayer la declaración de la señora Ministra de Cooperación para el Desarrollo de Noruega, cuyo discurso escuchamos con la mayor atención y con todo respeto, porque ella ofreció consideración particular a los problemas africanos. Hubiéramos querido escuchar otras manifestaciones igualmente concretas y positivas de otros donantes pero, en fin, estamos ya llegando al final de nuestros debates.

Como todos sabemos, excepcionalmente el Consejo adopta resoluciones sólo sobre asuntos verdaderamente trascendentes; por ello hemos pensado que una resolución como la que proponemos puede dar más fuerza, resaltar mejor las conclusiones de este debate. Nos excusamos con otros colegas quienes, seguramente, habrían deseado participar con nosotros en este texto, pero podemos asegurarles que hemos trabajado a marchas forzadas y solamente en este ángulo olvidado de la letra C y, por ello, no tuvimos ocasión de haberles informado con la debida anticipación. Sin embargo, tuvimos oportunidad de entrar en contacto con algunos colegas a quienes transmitimos el espíritu de la resolución, con la esperanza de que puedan apoyarnos.

Somos conscientes de que hay ideas contenidas en el texto leído en las que seguramente faltan muchos conceptos igualmente importantes; pero hemos tratado de ser muy breves y concretos. Sin embargo, toda iniciativa complementaria por parte de los miembros del Consejo será muy bienvenida y, como lo dijo el Embajador de Cuba, a través del Comité de Redacción y con la adecuada asistencia de la Secretaría, podremos lograr un texto que sea de plena aceptación para todos los miembros del Consejo cuando discutamos el Proyecto de Informe. Este texto representa, apenas, la demostración de nuestra buena voluntad de contribuir a que la situación africana merezca la mejor, más concreta y destacada consideración por parte de los miembros de este Consejo.

A.M.KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): The speakers that have preceded me have truly expressed the dimensions of the crisis in Africa, and the ways and means of solving it in the immediate future and the long term. I do not wish to add anything else to what has been said with the exception of my country's support for all the proposals that have been submitted.

I asked for the floor, Sir, to reaffirm three points. First of all the importance of the early warning system established by FAO, as this system has proved its great usefulness in monitoring the famine and in fact has predicted its event, and despite all this many authorities and donors failed to respond to it appropriately.

The second point is the measures established by the Director-General to rehabilitate agriculture and the livestock sectors in the affected countries. This will be achieved with the support of international organizations and donor countries. However, I find that the draft resolution submitted by Cuba, Congo and Mexico has, in fact, appropriately expressed these points. My country's delegation therefore supports this draft resolution, and finds that it is a practical and a useful one.

I also agree with what was said by my friend, the head of the Colombian delegation, Mr. Bula Hoyos, namely, that this draft resolution would need enriching so to speak. However, any improvements to be added by the Drafting Committee should also take into account any further additions to be made by the Member Countries. I would therefore request that the draft resolution be re-read and that proposals for expanding its content be made.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): J'ai écouté avec émotion la présentation passionnée et très efficace du Directeur général sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique et surtout en Ethiopie. Le Directeur général a lancé encore une fois un cri d'alarme sur cette situation. Mon gouvernement a déjà répondu à cet appel et il est en train d'intensifier ses efforts, soit sur le plan alimentaire, soit sur le plan des moyens de transport.

Nous serons très intéressés de connaître les résultats et les suggestions de la Commission de la FAO qui se rendra en Ethiopie ces jours-ci. Le but de cette commission est, à notre avis, typique de ce qu'il faut faire à court et à moyen terme pour assurer l'autosuffisance du continent africain. Il s'agit d'attirer rapidement dans la production agricole des régions de nouvelles implantations de paysans qui pourraient se transformer en réfugiés à la merci de l'aide au lieu de devenir des producteurs. Quatre-vingts pour cent de l'effort italien d'aide au développement est concentré déjà sur les pays de l'Afrique sub-saharienne et particulièrement dans la zone du Sahel. L'expérience tragique de la famine qui sévit dans le continent africain et les difficultés rencontrées pour canaliser les aides d'urgence nous indiquent que la plus haute priorité doit être donnée au développement de la production vivrière locale, à l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans la limite du possible sur une base nationale mais aussi régionale et sub-régionale, à la création d'infrastructure, à la divulgation de nouvelles technologies simples mais efficaces, à la création dans les zones plus vulnérables de stocks de réserve, à la lutte contre les pertes avant et après récolte, à la disponibilité de semences sélectionnées, pesticides, fertilisants, à la mise en place de politiques agricoles efficaces y compris des prix rémunérateurs pour les agriculteurs.

A propos des fertilisants et de leur rôle très important dans l'augmentation de la production agricole je voudrais rappeler que l'Italie participe avec 7 millions de dollars à l'"International Fertilizer Supply Scheme" de la FAO. Mais tous ces programmes présupposent, exigent, par leur caractère, parce qu'il s'agit de programmes à long terme, une assistance financière et technique accrue, des mesures de protection pour des économies et des productions agricoles qui seront longtemps fragiles et même très fragiles.

L'Italie est convaincue que si le problème de l'endettement du tiers monde ne trouve pas une solution, si on ne s'oppose pas à la tendance actuelle à réduire et congeler l'aide publique au développement, particulièrement l'aide multilatérale, si on ne renverse pas cette tendance - je me réfère ici surtout aux difficultés rencontrées par l'AID, le FIDA, le PNUD, etc. - et si on renonce à créer, même progressivement, un système économique mondial plus équilibré et plus juste, je crains que tous nos programmes spécifiques d'urgence et de développement ne soient destinés à un échec.

Je voudrais maintenant, en ma qualité de pays qui assure la présidence de la Communauté économique européenne, vous prier de donner la parole au représentant de la CEE. Je pense que cette intervention du représentant de la CEE est essentielle parce que la CEE en elle-même est un protagoniste capital de l'aide au développement et de l'aide alimentaire.

G. DESESQUELLES (Observateur de la Communauté économique européenne): En tant que l'un des plus importants donateurs pour le continent africain la Communauté tient à souligner qu'il aurait été dans l'intérêt de tous de permettre au représentant de la Communauté de s'exprimer parmi les membres du Conseil de l'Organisation. Il me semblait que ce type de procédure avait recueilli le consensus lors de nos réunions précédentes, après l'accord du Président et de notre assemblée.

Dans ce cadre, nous avons accueilli avec intérêt les modalités de notre participation lors de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement des pêches qui, à notre avis, a constitué un bon exemple pour une coopération plus étroite et plus précieuse à l'avenir.

Je voudrais maintenant revenir à l'ordre du jour. Selon les dernières estimations de la FAO, novembre 1984, la production céréalière mondiale s'établirait, en 1984, à 1 761 millions de tonnes, soit 127 millions de tonnes de plus qu'en 1983. Les stocks mondiaux de céréales à la fin de la campagne 1984/85 pourraient se situer à 29 millions de tonnes, soit 29 millions de tonnes de plus à la clôture de la campagne précédente, ce qui représenterait 18 pourcent de la consommation annuelle.

Les disponibilités mondiales de céréales, tant du point de vue production que du point de vue du niveau des stocks, seront plus importantes en 1984/85 qu'en 1983/84. Dans les pays en développement dans leur ensemble la production de céréales a augmenté de plus de 40 pour cent entre 1972/73 et 1982/83.

La présente campagne 1984/85 s'annonce assez favorablement, la production totale de céréales dans les pays en développement étant estimée à près de 900 millions de tonnes, soit près d'un pour cent de plus que la bonne récolte de la campagne précédente. Néanmoins, cette amélioration générale se traduit par des évolutions divergentes pour les différentes régions en développement, en particulier en Afrique. La production céréalière est stable depuis une dizaine d'années, ce qui implique une diminution de céréales par tête dans ce continent.

Dans la CEE la production de céréales passe de 123 millions de tonnes en 1983, à environ 146 millions de tonnes en 1984, ce qui démontre l'importance que peuvent avoir la recherche agricole et les possibilités techniques actuelles lorsque les conditions climatiques sont favorables.

Pour venir en aide aux populations souffrantes de la faim de par le monde, rappelons que dans le seul secteur de céréales, la CEE et ses états membres ont établi un programme pour 1984 de près de 2 millions de tonnes, ce qui va au-delà de leurs engagements fixés par la Convention d'aide alimentaire, qui s'élève à 1.650.000 tonnes. Les livraisons sont notamment du blé, de la farine et du riz; dans certains cas, l'aide a pu être exécutée en produits achetés à des pays en développement (maïs blanc, sorgho).

Comme déjà mentionné par les pays à déficit alimentaire, la situation en Afrique est particulièrement préoccupante. C'est la troisième année consécutive de sécheresse qui frappe d'une façon encore plus dure qu'en 1973/74, et qui se greffe sur une détérioration à plus long terme de l'agriculture africaine due à la dégradation des ressources naturelles, des problèmes démographiques et des difficultés de mise en oeuvre des politiques de développement.

Des appels ont été lancés d'augmenter l'aide alimentaire en faveur des pays sinistrés et la Communauté économique européenne, comme les autres donateurs, a répondu par des actions d'aide supplémentaires et par une accélération de la mise en oeuvre des actions décidées. Dans ce contexte, la CEE tient à souligner l'utilité du système d'alerte rapide comme source de données sur l'évolution de la situation alimentaire dans les différents pays du tiers monde et elle accueille favorablement toutes les propositions susceptibles d'en améliorer la précision et l'efficacité.

En ce qui concerne l'ensemble de la région soudano-sahélienne toutes les informations concordent. La situation en Ethiopie est particulièrement dramatique. La sécheresse compromet la survie de plus de six millions de personnes, soit environ 15 pour cent de la population totale.

Mais le désastre ne frappe pas que l'Ethiopie. Dans les autres pays du Sahel on peut évaluer à 2 ou 3 millions le nombre de personnes sinistrées, dont plusieurs centaines de milliers se déplacent en quête de nourriture et de soins (notamment en Mauritanie, au Niger, au Mali, au Tchad).

Bien qu'un certain répit puisse être assuré par la récolte en cours la situation risque de s'aggraver encore après quelques semaines, les récoltes étant, dans plusieurs pays, inférieures de 30 à 40 pour cent à celles de l'année dernière.

Dès le début de l'année les signes d'une crise dramatique étaient suffisamment clairs et notamment suite aux appels de la FAO, pour que la Communauté engage une action spéciale en faveur des pays d'Afrique frappés par la sécheresse.

En avril 1984 un plan d'urgence communautaire était mis sur pied et mobilisait près de 80 millions d'Ecus.

Pour l'Ethiopie seule le montant des aides humanitaires réalisées ou en cours de réalisation en 1984 s'élève à 43,8 millions d'Ecus, dont 38,3 millions d'aide alimentaire et 5,5 millions d'aide d'urgence (transferts de secours - semences - matériel - programmes médicaux). A cet égard, j'indique que la Communauté a été jusqu'ici en 1984, le plus important donateur individuel en faveur de l'Ethiopie.

Pour les trois prochains mois on peut estimer les besoins d'urgence des pays du Sahel et de l'Ethiopie à environ 60 millions d'Ecus.

En raison de la gravité exceptionnelle de cette situation, la Communauté économique européenne vient de décider au début du mois un nouveau plan d'urgence au bénéfice des populations de ces pays. Ce plan comporte la mobilisation d'environ 32 millions d'Ecus au titre du budget communautaire. Il devrait s'insérer dans le cadre plus général de mobilisation et de coordination des aides des Etats Membres de la Communauté.

S'agissant plus particulièrement de l'Ethiopie, mais la problématique n'est pas sensiblement différente ailleurs, l'essentiel de l'effort devra porter sur l'acheminement de l'aide.

D'ici trois mois, en raison des nouvelles récoltes et de l'arrivée prévue de plus de 160 000 tonnes de céréales dans les ports éthiopiens, les difficultés pourraient connaître un certain répit. Néanmoins pour que les quantités disponibles atteignent les populations sinistrées, il est indispensable de renforcer la capacité d'absorption des ports et surtout la capacité d'acheminement par camion à l'intérieur du pays. La Communauté et ses états membres entendent jouer un rôle essentiel en finançant le renforcement et le fonctionnement du pare de véhicules. Mais elle devrait également financer, comme elle le fait déjà (pont aérien en cours entre Asmara et Mekele), des transports de vivres par avion.

Après ce premier stade, quand auront été utilisées les disponibilités immédiates, il sera nécessaire de fournir de nouvelles aides alimentaires que la Communauté estime pour sa part de l'ordre de 100 000 tonnes.

Ces événements incitent à la réflexion non seulement à cause de la souffrance infligée à des millions d'êtres humains, mais également en raison du caractère inadapté et insuffisant des moyens à la disposition pour remédier aux problèmes posés. En effet, à court terme, l'augmentation de l'aide alimentaire et surtout l'organisation d'infrastructure de réception et de distribution paraissent les seuls moyens permettant de lutter contre la famine et la malnutrition.

Comme le Directeur général l'a déjà mentionné dans l'introduction de ce point de l'ordre du jour, l'aide alimentaire ne peut être qu'intérimaire, car à long terme elle risque de se substituer aux ressources qu'il faut absolument développer dans les pays mêmes. De plus, elle induit un modèle de consommation et par ces facilités qu'elle offre, elle dissuade les pays bénéficiaires de se battre pour leur auto-suffisance.

Trop souvent les problèmes à long terme mentionnés ci-dessus, à savoir la dégradation des ressources naturelles et les problèmes démographiques n'ont pas reçu l'attention qu'ils méritent et ces pays n'ont pas donné à leur agriculture, au monde rural, la priorité qui convenait.

Le seul moyen durable d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire est d'accélérer la production vivrière dans les pays en développement grâce à des mesures à long terme. A cet égard, je rappelle que la Communauté économique européenne a marqué son accord lors de la 8ème session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, qui tend à inclure outre ces aspects de stockage et les pertes après récolte, la production et la commercialisation.

Ce concept correspond à la position constante de la Communauté en la matière et à ses actions sur le terrain. La Communauté entend valoriser la priorité agricole vivrière dans le cadre de stratégies alimentaires. C'est le sens de l'action que la Communauté poursuit dans le cadre de la Convention de Lomé.

Il ne s'agit pas de nier le marché mondial et les rapports commerciaux, mais il importe que chaque pays adopte une politique qui définisse clairement les moyens pour atteindre sa sécurité alimentaire. Dans ce contexte, la CEE tient à rappeler l'importance qu'elle attache à la conclusion d'accords internationaux afin de stabiliser les marchés de produits agricoles. Elle regrette que les négociations recueillies en vue de la conclusion d'un accord sur le sucre comportant des clauses économiques n'ont pas pu aboutir, malgré les efforts sérieux que la CEE a faits et elle continuera son action pour arriver à un tel accord.

L'un des efforts qu'il nous faut faire est d'aider ces pays à prendre conscience de ce que la cohérence de leurs actions et la cohérence de leur politique avec les aides extérieures sont les conditions du succès.

J.F. NGUEMA-NZE (Observateur du Gabon): La crise alimentaire analysée en même temps que la situation déficitaire de la production agricole en Afrique est malheureusement celle qui est décrite par la FAO de façon lucide et l'avenir n'est guère à l'optimisme. Dans ce contexte, le Gabon, bien que pays de forêts, n'est pas plus à l'abri de menaces du climat. En 1983 par exemple, la saison sèche a duré autant que la saison de pluies et les nuages de poussière ont fait leur apparition pour la première fois; c'est un signe inquiétant. Comme pays de forêts, il n'en connaît pas moins les limites dans le développement de son agriculture. Par exemple, la mise en culture d'un hectare ou l'ouverture d'un kilomètre de routes coûte plus cher en zone forestière qu'ailleurs.

C'est pourquoi mon pays, dans un premier temps, a donné priorité au développement des secteurs autres qu'agricoles afin d'utiliser les produits au financement de l'agriculture. C'est ainsi que tout en soutenant la production agricole d'exportation, le Gabon consent à l'heure actuelle des efforts importants dans les productions carnées et vivrières afin de freiner les importations qui dépassent annuellement trois milliards de francs CFA, c'est-à-dire l'équivalent de 60 millions de francs français.

Au plan régional le Gabon collabore étroitement avec ses partenaires au sein de l'Union douanière, économique de l'Afrique centrale et au sein de l'Organisation africaine du bois en vue de la mise en oeuvre des projets communs de développement de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des projets de gestion rationnels du patrimoine forestier, d'harmonisation des législations et réglementations en matière de protection, et de commercialisation des produits agricoles et forestiers. En matière de conservation des denrées alimentaires, les tubercules ont une durée limitée. Par conséquent beaucoup d'efforts sont à faire dans ce domaine et les résultats sont encore à affiner.

Un projet n'a de chance de succès que s'il est conçu en tenant compte des réalités locales et gérées de façon rationnelle; d'où la nécessité de mettre un accent particulier sur la recherche d'une meilleure connaissance des rapports projets/environnement d'une part, et sur la formation des cadres en matière de formulation, d'analyse et de gestion des projets d'autre part.

Une étude menée par le Secrétaire général de l'UDAC il y a quatre ans avait constaté que la situation était globalement déficitaire dans la sous-région. La rigueur de la saison sèche en 1983 et les contraintes économiques actuelles ne sont pas pour améliorer la situation, tout au moins de façon satisfaisante. En 1984 le Gabon n'a pratiquement pas connu de saison sèche en raison de pluies intensives qui se sont abattues tout au long de l'année. Il y a lieu de craindre les effets négatifs que cela entraînera pour les campagnes en cours, et à venir, l'impossibilité par exemple de pratiquer des cultures sur brûlé, prolifération possible d'insectes et de champignons nuisibles aux cultures, sans oublier l'aggravation de la dégradation d'un sol déjà fragile de par sa nature.

Au niveau des mesures d'incitation, l'Etat gabonais sur financement propre ou cofinancement a créé des ranchs et des volets de production vivrière au sein de sociétés d'état, de développement des cultures d'exportation, il a pris des mesures pour transformer l'actuelle caisse nationale de crédit rural en banque agricole pour favoriser l'accès des petits agriculteurs au crédit.

Enfin, un effort a été consenti pour permettre aux employés des administrations publiques et privées de créer des plantations vivrières. Pour ce qui concerne la consommation des intrants, le Secrétaire général de l'UDAC a entrepris, avec la collaboration de l'ONUDI, l'étude des besoins en engrais azotés, potassiques et phosphatés pour les pays membres de l'Union, ainsi que les conditions d'approvisionnement et les possibilités de la production de ces engrais locaux dans un cadre communautaire. Vous conviendrez avec moi qu'une meilleure programmation du développement rural doit s'appuyer sur une meilleure connaissance des données. C'est pourquoi l'apport de la FAO est indispensable pour permettre à nos pays, non seulement d'effectuer périodiquement des recensements agricoles, mais aussi de favoriser la création et le soutien quand il le faut, de ces mesures de statistiques agricoles fonctionnelles aux niveaux nationaux et sous-régionaux. De même la mise en place d'un système mondial d'information d'alerte rapide aurait pour centre la FAO, les organisations intergouvernementales, sousrégionales et les antennes nationales et urgentes pour d'une part permettre à la FAO d'évaluer avec exactitude les besoins et intervenir avec promptitude, et d'autre part, faire en sorte que les donateurs d'aide prennent des décisions rapides en toute connaissance de cause.

Aussi le Gabon encourage et soutient-il les initiatives prises par le Directeur général à ce sujet. Je lance donc un appel à l'adresse des pays donateurs pour faciliter la réalisation de ce projet. Je me félicite d'avance des décisions qu'auront déjà pris ces pays-mêmes à ce propos. Je sais que l'UDAC dans le cadre de la coopération institutionnalisée existant entre les deux organisations a sollicité l'intervention de la FAO dans les différents secteurs énumérés plus haut pour aider chacun des pays membres de cette Union, et la sous-région elle-même, à relancer l'agriculture et l'élevage.

Je connais aussi la grande disponibilité et la sensibilité de la FAO face à ces sollicitations. Mais, hélas, notre organisation est limitée dans ses moyens, aussi le Gabon estime-t-il indispensable que les donateurs d'aide mettent à la disposition de la FAO les moyens lui permettant de relancer les productions vivrières et animales; car à notre avis "mieux vaut prévenir que guérir". En effet, entretenir un état d'assistance alimentaire sans envisager de réaliser des mesures de relance de la production agricole vivrière, notamment, relève d'irréalisme. C'est pour cela que le Gabon donne son accord à ce que le Directeur général puisse opérer des aménagements à l'intérieur de son budget, nécessaires pour répondre à cet impératif.

Pour terminer, le Gouvernement de mon pays souhaite que la FAO travaille plus étroitement avec le Gabon, pour l'aider dans ses efforts en vue d'atteindre son autonomie alimentaire, pour appuyer les efforts de l'UDAC persuadé que la réussite d'un programme alimentaire ou de soutien au développement de l'agriculture passe nécessairement par une coopération sous-régionale, efficace, concrète et réaliste c'est-à-dire une coopération qui tienne compte des spécificités de chaque pays et qui bénéficie du concours international en raison des difficultés techniques et financières énormes qu'entraîne la mise en place de programmes de développement nationaux.

Enfin, le Gabon souscrit au projet de résolution présenté par la délégation de Cuba au nom du Groupe des 77.

- 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 the Chairman and Members of the Drafting Committee (continued)
- 2. Election de trois Vice-Présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction (suite)
- 2. Elección de tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y de los Miembros del Comité de Redacción (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I probably at this stage should announce the composition of the Drafting Committee. I am reading the names in alphabetical order. According to our Convention, they represent all parts of the world: Argentina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Italy, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Tunisia.

I will announce the Chairman as soon as he is elected.

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'AUMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/6

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEXTA SESION PLENARIA

(21 November 1984)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.40 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)
- 4.1 The Food Situation in Africa (continued)
- 4.1 Situation alimentaire de l'Afrique (suite)
- 4.1 La situación alimentaria en Africa (continuación)

J.B. MUTELO (Observer for Zambia): Mr Chairman, I would like to start by congratulating your Vice-Chairmen on their election. We have every confidence that you will steer this Council's deliberations to a successful conclusion, Zambia therefore wishes to assure you of our continued efforts to lighten your burden.

With the general improved health services such as providing good drinking water, improvement in nutritional provisions, most of which are provided by FAO and its associated United Nations organizations, infant mortality has been reduced. Indeed, the general life expectation has been extended. These have contributed to increase the population. Zambia is equally aware that there have been improvements in the production of food with the help of these same organizations. However, food availability has not matched the population growth because of natural and man-made calamities. These, among others, have caused deterioration in the food situation in the developing world, giving a false notion that if you are under-developed you are naturally a hungry nation.

By and large, the world's food reserves have been increasing and agricultural production has globally improved except for 1983, when it was reportedly lower than expected. While the world food resources and agricultural production are rising and the world economy recovering, African economy has been battered by a no less hostile climate, and in all, the developing countries have experienced a much greater storm of recession than anywhere else. Coupled with the drought which started in 1968 and has now spread over southern Africa, the continent is now failing desperately with the problem of feeding itself.

Having improved health services to reduce mortality in both young and old and having improved the agricultural production methods, one would conclude that the lack of food has been caused by over-population. However, the food crisis in Africa is caused by neither of these. It is in fact caused by the general world recession and natural catastrophes such as drought. Zambia is aware of and fully appreciates the efforts of FAO and its Director-General in conjunction with the World Food Programme in making appeals and arrangements for the delivery of food to the needy who in most cases are in remote areas of the recipient countries. The problem of transporting food to where it is required, what is generally known as the end of the line, has in itself become a crisis within a crisis. When famine strikes and people are dying in thousands, we normally think of emergency food aid, and this has worked very well. The Zambian Government is thankful to the World Food Programme and of course to FAO for the quick response and for the efficient manner in which these cases have been handled. Normally the food aid consignments are air-freighted and rushed to the capitals of the starving countries for the food to be delivered to the needy. Zambia is aware of the general complaint by the donor countries that food does not reach the people for whom it is intended. We appreciate their concern, but they have not taken into account the most obvious aspect of under-development, such as lack of basic infrastructure like roads, transport system, spare parts and fuel. These would have under normal circumstances been made available were it not that every cent is spent for the purchase of food. This completes the vicious circle of inability to avoid hunger single-handed.

Experience has shown that food aid could be particularly effective when associated with other forms of assistance. Zambia feels that food deliveries in remote areas can be effective if appropriate transport and storage facilities are made available. It is our view that donor coordination in food aid should be an integral part of a comprehensive multidisciplinary short- and long-term agricultural development programme package. The inadequate delivery systems and the problem of foreign exchange has made it difficult for Third World countries to harmonize their agricultural aspects of development programmes. FAO should look at this problem of basic infrastructure and the delivery systems in the developing world and come up with a solution to the current problem, either on a country-by-country basis or at the regional level. The comments made in document CL 86/2 paragraphs 101 to 110 should be studied further so that a practical solution could be found to solve the current problems experienced by the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference Region (SADOC), as well as the individual countries themselves. Zambia is one of the Southern African countries and a member of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference which has been badly hit by the current three-year drought.

Like other developing countries, the recession of the late 1970s has done Zambia great damage. Be that as it may, the LIMA Agricultural Programme was launched with a view to making Zambia self-sufficient in food. Unfortunately, the launching of this programme coincided with drought. In addition to this problem, a number of hardships have been experienced and need attention, the most

pressing being lack of foreign exchange to purchase fuel, productive machinery, transportation equipment, agricultural requisites, spare parts and inadequacy of agricultural extension services.

The African countries in the Dakar and in the Harare Declarations have reaffirmed their determination as emerging nations to establish an economic viability that would complement and strengthen their hard-won political independence. They have accepted to undertake the burden of developing their agricultural and rural sectors. They now need the means to do so. This was again reaffirmed during the Twentieth OAU Summit Conference in Addis Ababa. In addition, the CFA, the Governing Body of the WFP, passed a resolution at its Eighteenth Session in support of the Declarations.

Given the resources, Africa can easily overcome the present situation. Developed countries should therefore cough up and provide the means for development. We also believe that with the assistance of FAO, a dialogue could be arranged between the developed countries and developing countries to try and identify the correct pattern which could be adapted to different situations.

Finally, Zambia would like to thank the Director-General of FAO for his timely initiative he has taken in spearheading and instituting the Early Warning System. The usefulness of this system cannot be over-emphasized. The Zambian Government fully supports this work and are appealing to the international community to make every effort to act on the findings and reports of the Early Warning System.

J. LADAN (Observer for Nigeria) (Chairman, Africa Group): I could not take the floor before now because normally members of the Council take the floor first before Observers. Therefore, as the Chairman of the Africa Group I could not come earlier to express our views on this Agenda.

May I first of all congratulate you, on the very efficient way you have been conducting this session. I am sure we will reach the final portion of this Agenda and the final part of our discussion in the Session with a most satisfactory result and more concrete proposals to see to the day-to-day running of the activities of FAO.

This Agenda item is indeed very important to Africa and may I, on behalf of my delegation and also on behalf of the Africa Group in Rome, express our sincere appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for his deep concern for and untiring efforts in bringing the critical food situation in Africa to the limelight. His appeals have been fruitful, and today the international community is paying greater attention to the plight of our people. We are also grateful to the many donors who have responded positively to these calls.

When the food crisis in Africa became evident and the Director-General addressed the problem last year and early in 1984 in Rome, not many countries who were in a position to help these countries affected by the crisis, responded immediately. There were many doubts expressed about the extent of this problem. As a result of this lack of response, many people, who could be helped either died or continued to suffer through malnutrition. This situation, although it is now being corrected through greater awareness from the international community, calls for future action which will see to it that whenever a crisis develops of this magnitude there should be no hesitation from any quarter to respond. Steps could be taken to find out if the warning that, for example, came from FAO, could not be relied upon. Countries (donors) could send their own nationals to that region or countries to find out, similarly to what was done by the United States recently as we have been told by the delegation of the United States. At least one government official was sent to Africa to assess the situation and the findings of that official even startled the United States administration and which brought them to take more positive action in the direction they are now taking. We will continue to appeal to the Director-General to go ahead with this humanitarian call for the cause of Africa, and we still hope that the donors will also not be tired of this call from the Director-General and others.

The Director-General in his address proposed steps to be taken by him, including allocating 5 million US dollars in the area of rehabilitation of livestock and crops. These are welcome steps and we all support him in these directions. However, we feel that this amount allocated in itself may not be enough. Although it is only a short-term measure, we should try and seek better ways of addressing the problems of rehabilitation. We know that in rehabilitating crops in particular we have to think about the long-term, medium-term and short-term ways of facing the problem. In the short-term, for example, those farmers affected should be provided with the seeds for the coming season, because it is obvious that in all the countries that are affected, their farmers have consumed even the available seeds that are needed by them for their next season.

Secondly, the question of providing irrigation inputs is very important. So we should look into ways of providing these for exploring both the underground and surface water for irrigation as proposed by the distinguished delegate of India. I think it is very relevant to respond to the short-term also in this way. Concerning the livestock rehabilitation, we should also try to encourage other countries who have not done so to support the Programme of Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign and also the

Programme of African animal trypanosomiasis. It is evident by now that livestock are equally suffering from the drought. In many of those countries affected, the infestation by the tsetse fly limits the areas to which the livestock can move to get better pasture and water. So to reiterate, the problem of African animal trypanosomiasis should be included in efforts of rehabilitating agriculture both in the crop and livestock sector. The problems of rinderpest outbreaks are still fresh in our minds as they came at the same time as the drought. Although this programme will soon be launched in Africa we feel that the scope of the Programme of the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign should be expanded and pursued. We would welcome positive moves in this direction to this effect.

We have also been told by the Director-General that the crisis is not yet over. Up to about 21 countries may still be at risk of future crisis. So we fully support the proposals to preposition stocks close to the areas that are vulnerable to future food shortages. We also welcome any steps to create pipe-line stocks and, where there is indication that the rainy seasons are better and crops are better, to improve the storage facilities and post-harvest loss-reduction methods to help these countries. We fully support the proposal that the resources of IEFER should be increased, including the cash component so that in moving the aid materials money could be used to purchase foods that are locally produced and more suitable as ad lib material from the region. The cash components will also be used to pay for the local transportation.

Those countries that are now suffering are not alone in their predicament. There are others, and other countries could also be at risk without knowing. We do welcome the proposal of the Director-General to strengthen the early warning system. I am sure we will all agree that if countries that have been affected by the drought had adequate preparation they could be better off. So we fully support the strengthening of the early warning system proposed by the Director-General and we hope that by the time he has completed his study and presented it to the World Food Security next year we shall see concrete action in the line he would propose.

We should continue to look into the long-term solution to the African problem. We now all know that in the Harare Declaration the African Ministers of Agriculture reaffirmed their political determination to address themselves to the problems of their people, and this in itself is a clear indication that Africa is ready to tackle its problems. What is needed now is outside assistance to complement whatever efforts these countries will require. In the long-term plan for Africa, both FAO and the outside donors could greatly assist Africa in the areas of research and training and in the development of a better farming system that will be applicable to the local conditions. In the long run also, FAO, as a leading institution, should continue to carry out more studies on Africa with a view to enlightening the countries that may be interested in the region. However, we do share the view of the distinguished delegate of India that said let us not have "paralysis" from "too many analysis". I think by now we have identified so many problems facing Africa. FAO has a lot of experience on Africa, more than any multilateral organization dealing with agricultural problems. Many of the developed countries have also known the problems of Africa. They can at least start a project or projects in the direction of long-term plans either afresh or in combination with what has been proposed in the Harare Declaration and in the direction of the Lagos Plan of Action and other past studies especially by FAO.

Nonetheless, we also support the proposal of the Director-General to carry out an indepth study into the real problems of African agriculture which he promised to present to the 1986 Session of the Regional Conference for Africa with a view to finding out some other measures that would be more applicable to the situation in Africa. To our mind, the Director-General should identify, in addition, those "white elephant projects" that are not suitable for Africa and the steps to correct them. He should not only identify, "white elephants" projects but also "green elephant projects" that should not have cost that much. This type of study is necessary because some countries that are blaming Africa's failure due to lack of policies are the same countries, though not at governmental levels, whose experts give advice that are not applicable to African conditions. When this advice fails the blame is always put on the African countries. So, as a good gesture, may I indicate to the Director-General that in addition to identifying these "white elephants" and the "green elephants" projects that fail in Africa, he should also ascertain whether the affected countries are still in heavy debt arising from them. He should recommend writing off these debts either by the countries from where these experts come from or from other financial institutions in a more compassionate way. I am sure this suggestion could be applied to what the distinguished delegate of U.S.A. said when she quoted the Bible about wisdom and good heart. I am sure many will agree that many of the problems of Africa were brought about through wrong advice even if they could be associated with wrong policies.

I wish on behalf of my delegation and on behalf of the Africa Group in Rome, to thank the Director-General, the donors and all those delegates who have positively contributed to this Agenda item and we hope that a solution to the African problem, which has the potential danger of becoming a permanent problem, can be resolved.

P. BOURGODS (PNUD): Parlant vers la fin de cet important débat, j'aimerais m'exprimer surtout, mettre l'accent, sur les aspects pratiques des efforts à faire. Par ses représentants résidents dans chacun des pays affectés, le PNUD a été parmi les premiers à signaler l'approche d'une situation d'une gravité exceptionnelle. L'appel du Secrétaire général remonte déjà à plusieurs mois. L'ampleur et la violence des souffrances humaines dépassent probablement les pires craintes. Les représentants du PNUD dans ces pays, comme coordinateurs des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies et le représentant du PAM sont associés à l'ensemble de l'action d'assistance d'urgence et au réajustement des actions de développement dans chacun des pays. L'excellente documentation, enrichie par le débat, permet d'identifier les différents facteurs qui conduisent à des situations tragiques que nous connaissons. Même si ces choses étaient connues, c'est leurs combinaisons qui ont conduit à cette situation. Elle reflète, en fait, que des économies moins développées ne peuvent résister à des facteurs implacables climatiques et certains facteurs humains. Il est compréhensible qu'au sein de ce Conseil ces problèmes soient considérés sous l'angle le plus dramatique de l'alimentation et de la production agricole. Mais il est clair que si une assistance immédiate de grande ampleur a la priorité, il est nécessaire et urgent de mettre en marche les économies affectées. Le débat a montré les liens qui existent entre le processus de production et l'alimentation et entre les prix, les engrais, les transports ainsi que les questions de population. Mais souvent à l'origine de l'insuffisance de la production il y a les problèmes d'éducation, de santé, de renforcement de la formation professionnelle, etc. C'est donc par une approche multidisciplinaire dans laquelle s'insère comme un effort majeur le secteur de la production agricole et de l'alimentation vivrière, qu'il est indispensable d'approcher les problèmes de développement de ces pays. A ce niveau multisectoriel du développement, la solution n'est pas de repartir de table rase. Je ne peux m'empêcher de mentionner que l'année dernière un ministre chargé du développement d'un des pays du Sahel remarquait que lui et ses collègues avaient dû subir plus de 400 missions d'identification des besoins ou de projets d'organismes multilatéraux, bilatéraux et d'organisations non gouvernementales. Des structures existent au niveau des pays les plus affectés, qui ont dans une large mesure identifié les besoins, établi les priorités, préparé des programmes et des projets, certes, la dimension du désastre nécessite des réajustements mais le travail de base a déjà été fait. Ces structures comprennent non seulement les responsables nationaux mais aussi les représentants des organisations internationales et des programmes bilatéraux ou d'organismes non gouvernementaux. Le PNUD tient une place importante dans cette structure au niveau des pays et cela non seulement comme fonds central de coopération technique, qui en dépit de ses limites a l'avantage d'une grande flexibilité pour refléter les activités prioritaires des gouvernements, mais également parce qu'il est plus que tout autre un organisme du système des Nations Unies à même d'avoir une approche multidisciplinaire à l'effort de développement. Cette fonction spécifique du PNUD qui s'appuie sur des relations quasi journalières avec des organismes de planification et de coordination du gouvernement d'une part, et, d'autre part sur les avis des représentations plus spécialisées des diverses institutions du système des Nations Unies, est maintenant de plus en plus acceptée par divers organismes d'aide extérieure. Cet élargissement des tâches du représentant résident du PNUD, allant au-delà des ressources strictes du programme, est particulièrement apprécié, en particulier dans les pays moins développés. En Afrique, par exemple, les gouvernements s'appuient sur le représentant résident pour la préparation, en coopération avec les autres organisations du système, et en consultation avec d'autres programmes d'aide, des tables rondes des donateurs. Pour les pays où la Banque mondiale n'a pas de groupe consultatif, le représentant du PNUD joue donc un rôle local pivot.

L'expérience acquise permet aujourd'hui d'améliorer les mécanismes de préparation et le suivi des tables rondes, et de renforcer dans ce processus le dialogue désirable entre bénéficiaires et donateurs, ainsi que d'utiliser pour les études macro-économiques l'expérience reconnue et respectée de la Banque mondiale. Plusieurs interventions hier et notamment ce matin montrent l'importance de ce dialogue pour faciliter le suivi des tables rondes. Les structures donc existent; et il est clair qu'en plus de l'aide d'urgence nous ne repartons pas d'une table rase. Il faut utiliser ces structures, les améliorer mais cela signifie aussi changer quelque peu des habitudes bien ancrées d'actions séparées non identifiables et cela, non seulement, d'organismes bilatéraux. Les récentes réunions du Comité d'aide au développement de l'OCDE montrent une prise de conscience de ce besoin d'une harmonisation des approches et des procédures. Il est certain que notre devoir est d'obtenir le maximum de ressources mais nous savons aussi que les besoins demeureront supérieurs. Il est donc indispensable de tout faire pour qu'une meilleure harmonisation de l'aide extérieure - et surtout une meilleure intégration de cette aide dans l'effort national de développement - ait lieu.

Les appels du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et l'action du Directeur général de la FAO pour resserrer les liens de travail entre les divers programmes et institutions du système vont dans la même direction.

Le PNUD pour sa part y donne tout son soutien, et par ses bureaux de Représentants résidents qui sont pour la plupart coordinateurs du système, il se met à la disposition de la communauté internationale pour une action renforcée et mieux intégrée d'aide au développement.

Mon message est ici que sous le choc de la faim et de la misère auquel il faut faire face immédiatement, nous ne devons pas oublier qu'à moyen et long terme il n'y aura d'amélioration que si une aide substantiellement accrue et plus ordonnée est consacrée au développement des pays les moins développés.

Cette aide elle-même devra évoluer, et dans sa composition l'accent devra être mis beaucoup plus que dans le passé sur la formation des ressources humaines. Les organismes de prêt de capitaux l'ont bien reconnu en augmentant depuis quelques années l'élément de coopération technique dans leurs prêts à faible intérêt. Une augmentation essentiellement d'aide pour la formation des hommes et des femmes qui permettront un développement endogène soutenu: c'est l'esprit même de la Déclaration d'Harare. Une grande part de cette aide devra être fournie sous forme de dons. Les bénéfices qui dérivent de la formation des hommes ne viennent qu'à long terme. Malheureusement, en dépit des efforts énergiques de l'administrateur du PNUD pour mobiliser l'opinion en faveur d'un effort accru pour la formation des ressources humaines les chiffres n'indiquent guère qu'une stabilisation du niveau des contributions. L'IDA et l'IFAD ont eu même des difficultés plus grandes. Ainsi, à la dernière Conférence des contributions, nombre de gouvernements ont annoncé des augmentations de ressources; mais ces augmentations ont été annoncées en monnaie nationale; et quand on exprime cela en dollars à un taux aussi élevé les ressources globales marquent le pas. La situation ne doit pourtant pas faire oublier les augmentations très substantielles de certains pays et en particulier de notre pays hôte, l'Italie, dont la contribution a augmenté de quelque 28 pour cent.

Un autre aspect à mentionner pour conclure est que l'aide du PNUD à l'Afrique a progressé ces dernières années malgré la stabilisation des ressources générales du Programme. En effet, 80 pour cent de nos ressources vont aux pays dont le revenu par habitant est de moins de 500 dollars et les chiffres indicatifs de planification, même s'ils sont ajustés, montrent une préoccupation particulière du Conseil d'administration du PNUD pour le développement africain. Je vous remercie.

M. BALLA SY (Observateur du Sénégal): Je voudrais d'emblée vous redemander de bien vouloir m'excuser de mon retard.

Lors de votre élection, M. le Président, mon pays vous avait adressé à juste raison ses vives félicitations et vous avait également manifesté son soutien. Je voudrais donc avec votre permission vous renouveler aujourd'hui ces marques de sympathie et de confiance bien méritées eu égard à votre brillante qualité d'homme de science.

A vos vice-présidents j'adresse également les mêmes félicitations.

Je voudrais me féliciter de la qualité du document présenté par le secrétariat général sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique ainsi que de l'introduction concrète et précise qui a été faite par le Directeur général de la FAO. Je rappelle bien que vous avez dit après cette introduction que nous devrions nous consacrer essentiellement à des propositions concrètes. Je suis parfaitement d'accord avec vous pour les raisons suivantes : c'est que le document a posé tous les problèmes et que l'introduction du Directeur général a tracé les orientations très précises qui coïncident rigoureusement avec les préoccupations de mon pays et qui ont toujours été défendues par la majorité des pays africains.

En conséquence je ne peux rien ajouter à ce document mais je voudrais surtout l'appuyer en faisant quelques observations si vous le permettez.

D'abord la situation qui prévaut en Ethiopie et qui menace sérieusement la plupart des pays du continent africain devrait, à mon avis, susciter de la part des pays de la communauté internationale certaines réflexions. A ce propos, je voudrais faire quelques appréciations statistiques qui sont les suivantes :

Premièrement, en 1960 l'Afrique avait réalisé l'autosuffisance alimentaire; deuxièmement, la production céréalière qui atteignait dans la plupart de nos pays plus de 800 millions de tonnes est aujourd'hui à un niveau inférieur à 450 millions de tonnes; troisièmement dans la majorité des pays du continent africain la croissance démographique a atteint un taux annuel moyen de 2,5 pour cent; quatrièmement, l'aide publique internationale n'a cessé de baisser en volume. La diminution des ressources de l'IDA, la stabilisation des ressources du PNUD ainsi que l'échec des dernières négociations sur la seconde reconstitution des ressources du FIDA sont assez significatifs; cinquièmement, depuis une dizaine d'années la FAO et d'autres organisations internationales ont toujours signalé la gravité de la sécheresse et de la desertification.

Compte tenu de ces considérations, pouvait-on vraiment s'attendre à voir en Afrique une situation meilleure que celle que nous connaissons aujourd'hui ? A mon avis la réponse est négative. Et pourtant depuis dix ans environ 750 à 1 000 millions de tonnes sont injectées chaque année dans les pays en déficit alimentaire. Comment donc pouvons-nous expliquer que la situation plutôt que s'améliorer s'empire ?

A ce propos j'éviterai vraiment de m'immiscer dans le débat controversé sur l'aide alimentaire repris ce matin par la BBC. Je dirai seulement que donner à manger à une personne qui a faim est une action noble et louable; un geste qui mérite toute notre admiration en somme. Mais il faut bien dire que cette personne après avoir mangé aujourd'hui, aura toujours besoin de manger à nouveau le lendemain. Et si elle n'a pas les moyens de produire elle devra encore demander de l'aide pour survivre. Comme quoi l'aide alimentaire d'urgence est indispensable et nécessaire, mais son efficacité risque d'être toujours compromise si parallèlement elle n'est pas accompagnée

des mesures suivantes : a) soutien des institutions de financement et d'appui comme la FAO, le FIDA, l'IDA et le PAM en particulier; b) encouragement sur les plans bilatéral et multilatéral des projets de développement conformément aux objectifs définis par les pays concernés; c) élaboration d'un plan d'action pour soutenir les efforts de formation et de recherche scientifique des pays en développement dont la bonne volonté se heurte toujours à des difficultés financières et techniques; d) encouragement de la constitution de stocks de sécurité dans les zones menacées. Cette initiative déjà prise et appliquée par les Etats-Unis d'Amérique mériterait d'être soutenue, encouragée et imitée par les autres pays donateurs; e) des efforts supplémentaires devraient également être consentis pour améliorer les conditions d'acheminement et de distribution de l'aide alimentaire.

Je ne saurais donc conclure sans souhaiter qu'à l'avenir le rapport publié régulièrement par l'équipe spéciale FAO/PAM soit mieux exploité afin que leurs suggestions soient désormais davantage prises en considération.

Cela est d'autant plus important que ce qui se passe aujourd'hui en Ethiopie a été signalé par ces rapports, et si les mesures adéquates avaient été prises à temps l'on aurait, aujourd'hui, évité d'être submergé de nouvelles à sensation et d'images humiliantes qui n'honorent pas la communauté internationale. Il vaut donc mieux prévenir que guérir.

Je crois fermement que l'une des meilleures méthodes préventives est une application concrète des orientations dégagées dans les documents qui nous sont soumis; et à cet effet il faut souhaiter que la FAO continue à mettre l'accent sur son rôle d'assistance technique et son appui dans l'analyse des perspectives alimentaires; que les pays développés accroissent l'aide alimentaire déjà importante qu'ils donnent aux pays en développement, et mettent à la disposition de ces derniers les moyens techniques et financiers susceptibles de leur permettre de mettre en oeuvre leur politique de développement agricole. Ces derniers pays sont certes responsables parce qu'ils devront de leur côté renforcer leurs efforts, intensifier la coopération sud-sud, afin de favoriser le transfert du savoir-faire et la nécessaire complémentarité existant entre eux.

Voilà, à mon humble avis, les défis que nous devons tous relever sinon, d'ici l'an 2 000, nous serons encore ici à nous lamenter devant des images dramatiques d'un autre pays ... pourquoi pas peut-être du mien !

W.R. MESWELE (Observer for Botswana): I wish first of all to congratulate you on your elevation to this very important and onerous task. I also wish to congratulate the vice-chairmen on their election. There is no doubt that under your able guidance this Council's deliberations will be steered to a successful conclusion.

My delegation welcomes the statement made by the Director-General on the food situation in Africa as well as the documents which have been prepared for this particular discussion and hopes that the international community will cooperate in this difficult moment that we are facing. The food situation in southern Africa is critical, more especially in Mozambique and Botswana. Due to the calamity that we have been facing for the past three years, the livestock situation has deteriorated tremendously, more especially in the southern part of the country which we rely on as far as crop production is concerned. This year's rains came late, early this month, which means that there is a likelihood that most of the farmers will be reluctant to plough due to last year's experience. The grazing situation in the eastern and southern part of the country has worsened. Hence we are encouraging farmers to move their livestock to the western part of the country where the grazing situation is fairly favourable. But even then it means that the government must drill more boreholes.

The cumulative effects of this calamity on the people as well as the livestock has necessitated the government to commit \$40 million for 1984 alone on the drought relief programmes. This could only be done by diverting some of the scarce resources both in terms of manpower and finance from the ongoing programmes. Some of the relief projects which are being implemented include free seed distribution to farmers, labour-based relief projects, the standing of fields, drought power assistance schemes, etc.

The Botswana government has also had to write up the seasonal loans for the 1983/84 ploughing season as well as residual long-term loans in order to reduce the debt burden on the farmers, and the amount involved in this was \$2.5 million. For a young country, this is by no means a simple thing.

Implementation of these projects could not have been possible without the generous assistance from the international community, namely the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and donor agencies such as UNDP, FAO, WFP and EEC. The Botswana government is most grateful for these efforts and looks forward to continued cooperation from these agencies.

In the long term, however, it is important to set in place policies and programmes which will alleviate the effects of these calamities. In this regard Botswana is in the process of preparing a national food strategy which will become part of the next national development plan. The

government will also concentrate more efforts on the development of irrigation schemes in the few areas of the country where there is a potential. But the implementation of these programmes is largely dependent upon the availability of resources, with particular emphasis on skilled manpower. In this regard we appeal to the international community for assistance, in particular the FAO.

M. Mokammel HAQUE (Observer for the Commonwealth Secretariat): May I convey the greetings and best wishes from the Commonwealth Secretary-General to this important session of the FAO Council. He has asked me to assure you of our readiness to work closely with this Council and the countries it represents to the very best of our ability at this critical time of food shortage and famine which are hitting many of the countries of Africa.

For the past two days, we have listened carefully to the delegates who have spoken. The crisis in Africa has been building up for quite some time. We agree with several distinguished delegates that in spite of the international recognition of this crisis and the desire to help the affected countries, death and starvation still stalk millions in Africa. It is time to mobilize all the resources at the command of the international community to tackle the crisis in Africa. They require emergency disaster relief and food aid, but other medium and longer-term needs for rehabilitation of agriculture, in making the required adjustments in food policies, in infra-structure building and requirements for investments in agriculture and rural development will all have to be provided by the international community with greater commitment and political will, in a framework of deeper international cooperation, and what Ms Fenwick called this morning, "with greater wisdom, compassion and humility".

We have been told how in the past 20 years, India has been able to change a gaping shortage in food production in the mid-1960s into a national food reserve of more than 22 million tons now, and has become more or less grain sufficient. India's national will and determination expressed through its policies, mobilization of resources and the performance, supported by multilateral and bilateral assistance, led to this significant achievement. Many countries in Africa with greater potential than many countries in other parts of the world have the same potential for the future.

The Commonwealth Secretariat has come forward in helping the African Member Countries through increased technical assistance and human resource development programmes. In addition, for Commonwealth Africa technical workshop on dry-land farming systems, training in the preparation and implementation of agricultural and rural development projects, training for irrigation managers as well as training for aquaculture development and exclusive economic zone management for Africa are in our working programme this year. In all these activities we are in constant touch with FAO and other relevant organizations with their promised collaboration.

We are looking forward to the indepth study of the food and agricultural problems of the African region, with proposals for remedial measures which the Director-General has promised in the implementation of the Harare Declaration made earlier this year. The Commonwealth Secretariat fully supports his initiatives in this regard, also the plans and initiatives taken by the World Bank, World Food Council, WFP, IFAD and other relevant regional and multilateral organizations. We have consistently called for greater resources for them in implementing their programmes in agricultural and rural development; especially for the small and landless peasants, for the poor, the needy and the hungry.

In all these efforts for increasing food production, the small farmer in Africa and other disadvantaged groups in rural areas must receive the recognition and priority they deserve. History and our past experience tells us that in Asia and elsewhere their contribution was significant in changing the food scene from deficit to higher sufficiency, or even into a surplus situation in some cases. They must be allowed to participate in the mainstream of development and in changing their own fate. We also consider that the formulation of national food and agricultural policies with adequate support for management of projects and the need for skilled manpower, amongst other things, are crucial in the successful implementation of their agricultural policies.

As you are well aware, the 49 Member countries of the Commonwealth Secretariat (45 of which are developing countries depending primarily on agriculture for their economic well-being) rely heavily on the services which FAO and its sister organizations can provide. We in the Secretariat therefore are continuously vigilant in linking our programmes with those of the multilateral and sometimes bilateral agencies to avoid overlapping, and to make the best use of the limited resources available. Indeed, the Commonwealth Ministers of Agriculture meet regularly in this building on the eve of the FAO biennial conferences, the last such meeting being held in November last year as a practical measure for ensuring the promotion of our respective programmes.

The Commonwealth contains about a quarter of the world's population, and about a quarter of our members are from the continent of Africa. Two-thirds of the world's rural poor, those below the subsistence level live in our developing Member Countries. The Commonwealth's commitment to the cause of the rural people and the rural poor is, therefore, total. Though we represent a major portion of the world's poor, our resources are limited. We have been very grateful for the support extended to us by FAO in the past and are sure such collaboration will grow in the future. I can assure this Council that we are only too keen to share our efforts with the FAO and to extend the impact of our joint programmes to the wider community represented by the FAO Council.

We, in the Commonwealth, believe that the efforts of this Council under the extremely able guidance and the initiatives of the Director-General of FAO, whose concern for Africa has won widespread admiration, will culminate in the adoption and implementation of the emergency measures, and the other longer-term policies, measures and provision of investment resources, things of which Africa is in dire need, - with the unstinted support of the international community. Africa must be helped to help itself.

J.E. MENDES FERRÃO (Observateur pour le Portugal): Nous avons eu la possibilité de vérifier soit par le brillant exposé très réaliste du Directeur général, soit par les interventions de nombreuses délégations, soit par notre connaissance directe, que la situation alimentaire est préoccupante en Afrique au Sud du Sahara. Mon pays suit avec beaucoup de préoccupations la situation alimentaire africaine pour laquelle les situations de sécheresse anormalement longue ne sont pas les uniques causes, ne sont pas certainement les plus profondes mais sont actuellement les plus évidentes, même terriblement évidentes. Tout le monde se montre très préoccupé par la situation des pays et régions que traversent des famines généralisées mais combien de personnes pourraient aussi exprimer ces souffrances d'autres qui ne peuvent pas s'exprimer parce que pendant notre réunion, pendant nos interventions elles sont décédées. C'est pour nous un sujet de méditation. L'aide alimentaire devrait être urgente et efficace à travers un système de distribution bien organisé permettant d'atteindre les habitants qui vivent loin des grands centres et qui sont, dans la plupart des cas, les plus affectés.

Cependant cette aide ne devra pas être entendue comme une émergence et non comme une fatalité, elle devra croire aux grandes potentialités de l'Afrique et à la volonté et au courage des Africains. Mon pays connaît très bien les problèmes d'Afrique. Et il maintient un dialogue généralement reconnu par un grand nombre de pays d'Afrique développés; il maintient également un grand effort pour aider certains pays de ce continent mais en canalisant pour eux des ressources dont notre pays lui-même aurait besoin en raison de notre situation économique très difficile.

Nous pensons néanmoins que l'aide technique que nous avons donnée et que nous sommes disposés à augmenter est aussi une contribution très positive pour le développement des pays africains de telle sorte que dans l'avenir ils puissent rendre autosuffisants les produits de base dans la mesure du possible.

Nous ne pouvons pas oublier les problèmes du développement de l'agriculture qui n'est pas indépendant du développement général des pays; mais nous avons conscience que les calamités actuelles sont tellement graves qu'elles exigent des mesures d'urgence coordonnées auxquelles ne peuvent pas être substituées en ce moment des solutions même plus profondes mais qui exigeraient de la communauté internationale des actions à long terme. Nous ajoutons nos préoccupations communes que nous avons eu la possibilité de vérifier ici pour des pays ayant des états de développement extrêmement divers. Tout ceci exige, quant à mon opinion, un mouvement de solidarité et de responsabilité collective que j'aime à souligner et je pense qu'avec cet esprit nous aurons la possibilité d'apporter une aide significative aux graves problèmes de la faim en Afrique.

P.G. SCALIERS (Observer for Greece): I wish to join previous speakers and to express my pleasure in seeing you chairing this Session. My congratulations go also to the three Vice-Chairmen for their election.

At this late hour, I shall be very brief. Since my country is a member of the EEC, I associate myself with the statement made this morning by the Representative of the EEC. However, I wish to give additional information concerning the interest of my Government to the food situation in Africa and in particular in Ethiopia.

The Greek Government, in response to the appeals made and wishing to contribute to the common efforts of the International Community to alleviate the sufferings of the Ethiopian people, has opened a special fund, which has so far raised approximately 14 million Drachmas.

Furthermore, 1 000 tons of dried fruit and evaporated milk to the value of 10 Million Drachmas and vaccines worth three million Drachmas, have been earmarked for Ethiopia.

Lastly, the Church of Greece has already handed over a sum of 5 million Drachmas to UNICEF, for the Children of Africa.

Mrs S. PILLAY (Observer for the International Alliance of Women): I shall be brief. On behalf of the International Alliance of Women, as well as the Ad Hoc Groupe of NGO Permanent Representatives to FAO stationed in Rome, I would like to give our whole-hearted support to the efforts of FAO to relieve the misery in Africa. I would like to re-emphasize that we are willing and ready to assist in whatever manner we can in this urgent task.

As the Director-General pointed out yesterday, continuing concerted and intensive action programmes have to be implemented to prevent a recurrence of similar crises in the area. No matter what efforts or concrete approaches on developing issues are made by the countries themselves, continuing and determined international assistance is required to help them. I am told - and I shall be happy if someone says I am wrong - that only as few as 5 countries in Africa today have access to international credit. I am sure you will agree that this situation needs urgent correction. Restoration of environmental balance in the area to arrest future desertification of the Sahel countries and to control floods in those areas is an urgent necessity. Equal emphasis has to be placed, however, on research on indigenous foods, their methods of cultivation and utilization and imparting this to the rural people through an efficient network of extension workers drawn from among the peasants themselves.

Today, in Africa as in all developing countries, there is a fascination and preoccupation with imported foods, as if food produced in affluent countries would magically solve their own food and nutritional problems. Indigenous foods, especially vegetables and fruits which are growing in their own countries are neglected and ignored. Educational programmes at present levels are urgently required to combat this attitude. There are several plant foods which grow in some of these countries which are not utilized at all as food due to ignorance that they are edible and nutritious.

To cite an example, some fruits, such as breadfruit, jackfruit, bitter melon, certain lentils and several others grow wild in Africa - in Nigeria, for instance - and are overlooked as a source of food. Similar ignorance prevails in several other countries in the region. In view of this, my organization is planning a latitudinal seminar in 1985 to popularize hitherto unutilized food - I do not mean imported foods, but indigenous foods growing in the countries themselves. We hope to involve several countries in the African region - Nigeria, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, to mention some of them. We hope to demonstrate the actual use of these vegetables and fruits as food and their nutritional value. While natural calamities like drought, floods and other climatic conditions, population explosion and various similar phenomena have contributed to the present situation, we cannot overlook the fact that the political climate of the area has contributed equally to many of the bad situations that have arisen. May I therefore take the liberty of calling on the countries concerned to ensure that political considerations do not stand in the way of effective national food strategies.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished representative of the International Alliance of Women. I was interested in the comment you made about the Conference on Underutilized Plants, native plants of Africa. There is also an International Council for Underutilized Plants. There is also a lot of information. Maybe this could be of some help to you.

EL MABROUK SAID (Observer for Libya) (original language Arabic): Let me at the outset express my deepest thanks to the Food and Agriculture Organization headed by its Director-General for his relentless efforts to face problems regarding famine in Africa. I concur with his analysis highlighted in his important statement. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, being an African country, feels very deeply the profound and deep humanitarian problems facing Africa today. We have tried as far as we could to alleviate that crisis, a crisis endangering the lives of thousands and thousands of human beings. My country has decided to provide \$10 200 000 to help drought-stricken countries. I would like to indicate also that thousands of tons of foodstuffs and medicines, drugs and equipment were granted to Ethiopia, three carrier planes were given to Ethiopian authorities to transport this assistance to stricken areas.

The Director-General has underscored the structural problems and said that tackling these problems would be the only radical means of solving food shortages in Africa, and I agree with him when he says that we should study all the structural problems so as to be able to find a global solution to this problem.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): I have an announcement to make. I have just been informed by my Government that the Council of Ministers under the Chairmanship of President Kyprianou decided to grant a symbolic amount of Cyprus pounds 50 000 for the relief of drought- and famine-stricken victims in Ethiopia.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Comme vous le savez, nous avons déjà parlé sur ce point de notre ordre du jour mais je voudrais, à mon tour, et à la demande de mon gouvernement, pouvoir annoncer ici que le Conseil des ministres du Gouvernement de la République populaire du Congo a décidé, compte tenu des souffrances qu'endure le peuple éthiopien, d'accorder 2 millions de francs français à la République sœur d'Ethiopie.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, I should like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the debate which has taken place in the Council on this item. Rarely has the Council spoken with as much unity of understanding, identity of appreciation of the issues and strength and determination.

The debate has shown clearly that, whereas in the past some have felt that my warnings were alarmist, today there is complete agreement on the gravity of the critical food situation in Africa, on the need for expanded food aid to avert further deaths and reduce human suffering. By the same token, it is undeniably recognized that food aid is only a temporary measure. The real solution to Africa's food problem lies in the rapid and effective development of its agriculture.

Appraisal and monitoring

Almost every delegation which spoke has recognized the importance of early appraisal and close monitoring of the agricultural situation. Our efforts are based on three distinct activities.

Firstly, we all rely on the Early Warning System of FAO. Once again this system has proven its uniqueness and its value to the global international community. I have been honest in pointing out to you that like all systems, it is capable of further improvement. I am encouraged to note the full support given to our activities in the Early Warning System and the endorsement of my proposal to strengthen and improve it, as resources may permit during this biennium.

The second level of our activities is the Joint FAO/WFP special Task Force on Africa. Both the African nations affected and the international donor community have expressed their confidence in the work of the Task Force and the need to continue it as long as the food crisis persists. Our efforts will be maintained. There will be a N° 7 report and a N° 8; we will continue to monitor.

The third level of activities consists of the missions mounted by FAO to the affected countries. Their continued success will depend on the close involvement of potential donors and the active participation of the governments receiving these missions.

Food aid

I fully share the views expressed in the Council on the importance of the immediate response through expanded food aid. In answer to my appeal for further contributions to the IEFR, the International Emergency Food Reserve, additional contributions of some 64 000 tons have been provided during the past month by several countries. I may mention just some of them: Belgium, Canada, France, Finland, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, New Zealand and Sweden. I have maybe forgotten some, and I hope others will also join. We are all grateful for this further generosity.

I should, however, clearly indicate that, as our analysis of needs in 1985 shows, these additional contributions to the International Emergency Food Reserve should not be considered as a one-time necessity. The resources of the International Emergency Food Reserve need to be at a significantly higher level than the target of 500 000 tons of cereals, which, after all, was established almost a decade ago, 1975. Population has increased in the meantime by perhaps 800 million people, most of them living in the developing countries. The greater part of the resources of the International Emergency Food Reserve still go for continuing refugee operations, which show no sign of abatement. There are about 9 million refugees in the world. More than 65 percent of the IEFR goes to the refugees. The African food crisis therefore must be expected to make further demands on the

International Emergency Food Reserve. We are happy that we have for the time being no Asian food crisis, we hope we will never have one, but in such case we shall need many more resources. At the CFA next year we shall discuss ways and means to expand and speed up emergency food assistance.

Rehabilitation

I am greatly encouraged by the unanimous realization of the imperative need for immediate measures for the rehabilitation of agriculture in the affected countries. I acknowledge with gratitude the endorsement given by the Council to my proposal to refocus the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO in order to allocate \$5 million to implement programme activities, including the provision of modest amounts of inputs to the most affected countries. At the same time, I shall strive to mobilize extra-budgetary resources from the donors. We have heard this morning and this afternoon some announcements of aid to African countries, and I appreciate these donations and pledges.

Planned development

The planned development of African agriculture must proceed with renewed commitment and determination. We shall hasten our work on the African Food Study so that as a final complement to all the work which has been undertaken by African governments themselves and by FAO on agricultural development policies, we can determine specific agricultural development measures which are not only feasible but also realistic.

Investment needs

Plans and studies will, however, only show fruition when the resources needed for development of Africa's agriculture are made available. Here again we are unanimous in recognizing the need for additional investment resources for Africa on concessional terms. Some two-thirds of multilateral development assistance are devoted to agriculture, whereas just over one-fifth of bilateral development assistance goes to agriculture. Here I would appeal to all governments channelling development assistance bilaterally to make a special effort to increase the share of agriculture in their total development assistance. I intend to include next year as well a special section in the State of Food and Agriculture dealing with the African food situation.

The sympathy of the world lies with Africa. We must not forget, however, that so does our continued confidence in the ability of the governments and people of Africa to overcome the problems which they have long had to face. With the united commitment that the Council has expressed and with the support which Member Nations continue to repose in the Organization, I can assure you and pledge to you our unflagging resolve.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Director-General, for both your opening and closing addresses now. I am glad Members of the Council and Observers participated in a very extensive and active manner in this discussion.

I said at the beginning of the discussion on this item that this is the most important item on the agenda for the Eighty-sixth Session on the Council. I am grateful to the 48 delegates and observers who dealt with clarity and emotional and intellectual involvement the problems of agricultural advance and agrarian prosperity in Africa both in the short-term and long-term perspectives. You, Mr. Director-General, explained clearly what needs to be done in both the time dimensions, immediately and in the long term. I join with the Director-General, Dr. Saouma, and the Members of the Council and the Observers who have spoken in thanking the various bilateral and multilateral donors and Non-Governmental Organizations for their generous response to the call of the hungry.

My country, as the Indian Ambassador said this morning, India, has a long reserve of experience in handling famines caused by natural calamities, by drought and floods. Since I have personal experience in managing one of the widespread droughts of this century in my country during 1979, I would like to share with you, briefly some of the principal lessons we have learnt. As the Ambassador of India said this morning, thanks to the generous help from those in a position to help, particularly the United States of America, and thanks mainly due to the country's own efforts, widespread famines and food scarcities have been avoided so far since 1947 when the country became independent. In fact, the last serious famine which claimed nearly 3 million lives was in the undivided Bengal which is now partly Bangladesh and partly West Bengal of India, during World War II. The Drought Famine Management System adopted in India has three major components. First, The Most Seriously Affected Areas (MSA) in terms of human and livestock distress are given the highest priority in relief and rehabilitation measures. Carefully designed Food for Nutrition programmes for pregnant and nursing mothers, children, old and infirm persons and all who are too weak to work are operated in such areas. Simultaneously, a Food For Work programme on an open ended basis is operated both to provide opportunities for all who are in a position to work to earn their daily bread and to develop the infrastructure necessary for handling famine management procedures, such as underground water harvesting, establishment of drinking water sanctuaries and organization of livestock camps near a water source, where livestock are fed with a maintenance ration consisting of any available cellulosic material enriched by urea and an energy source like molasses.

The second component of the strategy is to pay attention to raising food production in the Most Favourable Areas (MFA) through compensatory production programmes and through the additional supply of fertilizer and other inputs at low prices. For this purpose, MFA or Most Favourable Areas, is defined as an area where soil moisture will be adequate to sustain a crop. To implement the compensatory programme, seed and fertilizer reserves will obviously be necessary. While grain reserves are essential for food security, seed and fertilizer reserves are essential for crop production stability in areas prone to natural calamities.

The third, and the most important in my view, component of the strategy is the development of a Good Weather Code for chronically drought prone areas. It is only in the occasional good rainfall years that meaningful work can be done to contain desertification and build the ecological infrastructure necessary for stable agriculture. The Good Weather Code could list all the steps that should be taken in normal rainfall years such as afforestation including aerial seeding, soil conservation, water harvesting, building of seed reserves, construction of storage facilities and many other steps mentioned by the distinguished delegates.

Unfortunately however, in normal years of rainfall neither national nor international sources of additional funding become available and unique opportunities for eco-development are lost. Planning for adverse weather should therefore become an integral part of the planning process in all countries which have this problem of recurrent droughts or floods as the case may be.

I hope the three pronged Drought and Disaster Management Strategy developed in India over the years on the basis of over a century of experience in handling natural and man-made disasters could be suitably adapted wherever they are relevant.

Several delegates have emphasized the need for the development of technologies which can help to elevate and stabilize food production in sub-Saharan Africa. I fully share their view. The agricultural situation in Africa presents several enigmas. Ethiopia, for example, is known as a land with "13 months of sunshine". Agriculture is the most important solar energy harvesting enterprise. Why then should Ethiopia face such difficulties? Similarly, many of the important food crops of Africa like sorghum, maize, millet and cassava are generally feed crops, feed crops fed to the animals in the developed world. Where they are used as feed crops or feed material, the yields are as high as eight to nine tons per ha. Where they are vital staples of the people, unfortunately the yields are less than one ton per ha. What can we do then to harness the "green power" of Africa provided by abundant sunshine and improve the yield of basic staples?

Obviously, the answer lies in developing a blend of appropriate packages of technology, services and government policies. The progress made in Asia and Latin America in improving per capita food production during the last 15 to 20 years was triggered by new technologies coupled with irrigation development. A key component of the new technology is genetic strains which are capable of responding to good management, particularly the supply of water and nutrients. The other and very important ingredient of success, particularly in south east Asia, is the development of early maturing varieties. Such short duration varieties of cereals, which are flexible in relation to sowing dates, have helped in imparting a drought escaping character, except of course in seasons when there is a complete failure of rainfall. For example, quick and high yielding varieties of tef, the unique millet consumed mainly in Ethiopia may help to stabilize production. This is where biotechnology can help because natural variability for these characters is very limited. We must harness all the tools of modern science in restructuring maturity periods and cropping patterns in many African countries.

Concentrating on extension services alone without suitable technologies will not help much. I have seen several extension services which have nothing to extend either by way of new knowledge or the inputs needed to apply that knowledge.

Distinguished members of the Council, history teaches us that calamities often provide the greatest opportunities for quantum leaps in technological and economic progress.

I am sure our African colleagues will send home the verbatim records of our discussion on this item, since if ever any proof is needed for the existence of human solidarity in handling calamities of this magnitude, the proceedings of yesterday and today will provide it.

In 1965-66, India faced unprecedented drought and the likelihood of extensive famine. The supply of nearly 10 million tons of food grains by donors, most by the United States under its PL 480 programme coupled with well organized delivery systems, organized by both governmental and non-governmental organizations, prevented deaths due to famine. At that time most agricultural experts of the world had written that India can never feed itself. Under what is called the triage analysis, which is

well; know to you and which was very popular at that time of grouping people into three categories, India was written off as a hopeless case. Yet it is in that very year of 1966 when the Government had to, as the Ambassador said, live from a ship to shop existence, the Government of India initiated the High yielding Varieties Programme in wheat, rice, maize, sorghum and millet. This changed the subsequent Indian agricultural history. I am confident that the present calamity will catalyze similar action and results in Africa. An American statesman, William Bryan, once said "Destiny is not a matter of chance: it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for: it is a thing to be achieved". It is my fervent hope and prayer that 1984 will be a turning point in the agricultural destiny of sub-Saharan Africa, just as 1966 was the turning point in the history of Indian agriculture.

I once more want to thank you, Mr. Director-General, for the leadership you have given in this matter, and the distinguished delegates for your extremely valuable participation. We are most grateful to all of you and now the discussion on this item is closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Now one of our very distinguished Vice-Chairmen, Dr Baharsjah, unfortunately has to leave us at the end of this week and we should not forego the privilege of having him in the chair here, so he has very kindly agreed to chair the discussion on this item.

Now I want to tell you something about Dr Baharsjah. He was very modest this morning when he said that Indonesia this year will harvest nearly 26 million tons of rice. Fourteen years ago Indonesia was producing 10 million tons of rice. This year 26 million tons of rice, and this tremendous progress not so much written and sung, but it is tremendous progress, and in this progress Dr Baharsjah and his colleagues have played a significant role.

S. Baharsjah, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair

S. Baharsjah, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia S. Baharsjah, Vicepresidente del Consejo

III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

6. Follow-up on World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development; for discussion and/or decision

6. Suivi de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches

6. Actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros

CHAIRMAN: As Dr Swaminathan has pointed out, due to the great importance of Items 4 and 4.1 we are somewhat running late. I would like to invite the cooperation of the distinguished delegates so that we can make our deliberation fruitful and efficient, and so that we can still discuss all the items that we have set to discuss in this Eighty-sixth Session of the Council.

From June 26th to July 6th this year the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development was held here at FAO Headquarters. The initiative of the Director-General of FAO was obviously met with great support, and no less than 147 delegates from Member Countries attended the Conference in addition to a number of representatives of the United Nations organs and bodies, international organizations and international non-governmental organizations. Today, this time, we will deliberate on the report on the results and the follow-up of the Conference. We have a full report of the Conference and we also have the highlights, namely document CL 86/14.

J.E. CARROZ (Sous-Directeur général, Département des pêches): Il n'est probablement pas nécessaire, M. le Président, que je résume le document CL 86/14 qui vous est soumis sur la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches. Beaucoup des délégués ici présents ont participé activement à la Conférence. D'autre part, le document est si bref que vous avez sûrement eu le temps de le lire. Il me paraît donc plus judicieux de fournir des informations complémen-

taires dont il n'est pas fait état dans le document, qui a été rédigé à peine un mois après la fin de la Conférence. Ces informations porteront évidemment sur les mesures déjà prises ou proposées par le Directeur général pour mettre en oeuvre la Stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches, les cinq Programmes d'action et les diverses résolutions adoptées par la Conférence.

J'aimerais tout d'abord rappeler que la Conférence avait recommandé que les résultats de ses travaux soient portés à l'attention du Conseil économique et social et de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Ce Conseil s'étant réuni immédiatement après la Conférence, il n'avait été saisi que d'un rapport oral dont il avait pris note et avait décidé de renvoyer la question à l'Assemblée générale. C'est la semaine dernière que celle-ci a examiné le rapport final de la Conférence, qui lui a été soumis par le Président de la Conférence lui-même, Son Excellence Pedro Ojeda Paullada, à l'invitation du Directeur général. Comme j'étais présent, je puis dire que l'exposé du Président a été extrêmement bien accueilli. La délégation des Pays-Bas a alors présenté un projet de résolution qui avait fait l'objet de consultations préalables et était co-parrainé par le Bangladesh, le Canada, la Chine, la France, la Guinée, la Jamaïque, le Mexique, le Nicaragua, le Pakistan et les Philippines. Aux termes de ce projet, l'Assemblée générale approuve la Stratégie et les Programmes d'action; elle invite les états et les organisations internationales concernées à tenir compte des principes et des lignes d'orientation définis dans la Stratégie; elle prie instamment les organismes donateurs de fournir le soutien nécessaire à la mise en oeuvre des Programmes d'action; enfin, elle invite la FAO à continuer de jouer son rôle important en aidant les Etats à améliorer l'aménagement et le développement des pêches.

J'en viens maintenant aux commissions de pêche de la FAO. Comme l'indique votre document, l'intention est de leur soumettre également le rapport de la Conférence mondiale. Ceci a déjà été fait pour les commissions qui s'occupent de pêche en Méditerranée, dans l'Atlantique au large de l'Afrique occidentale, dans les Golfs et dans l'Océan Indien sud-occidental. Il n'est évidemment pas possible d'entrer dans les détails, mais j'aimerais souligner que les discussions engagées sur le rapport servent un double objectif elles permettent de mieux définir les composantes régionales et sous-régionales des cinq Programmes d'action et elles offrent aux organismes donateurs participant aux réunions de ces commissions régionales la possibilité d'harmoniser leurs activités et leurs plans avec ces Programmes.

Monsieur le Président, c'est évidemment la prochaine session du Comité des pêches, prévue pour fin avril 1985, qui sera l'occasion d'un examen détaillé des mesures prises ou suggérées pour faciliter la mise en oeuvre de la Stratégie et des Programmes d'action. Pour ce qui est de la Stratégie, le document mentionne l'élaboration de propositions concernant la préparation des rapports périodiques qu'envisage l'une des résolutions de la Conférence mondiale. Quant aux Programmes d'action, ils vont exiger un ajustement des activités du Département des pêches, aussi bien dans le cadre du Programme ordinaire que dans celui des programmes de terrain. Le document qui est devant vous donne quelques indications à cet égard, aux paragraphes 19 à 25. Vous noterez que le Directeur général a l'intention d'examiner avec une attention particulière le soutien à apporter aux initiatives découlant de la Conférence mondiale lorsqu'il formulera ses propositions de Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87 dans le cadre des prévisions budgétaires qu'il soumettra à la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Les cinq programmes d'action prévoient essentiellement des activités au niveau sous-régional et régional et principalement, mais non pas exclusivement, dans le cadre multilatéral. Ceci pour un montant d'environ 15 millions de dollars par an sur une période de cinq ans à partir de 1985. Leur exécution dépendra évidemment des fonds extra-budgétaires qui seront mis à disposition.

Le document qui est devant vous indique dans son paragraphe 24 qu'un certain nombre de pays a déjà manifesté lors de la Conférence leur intention de contribuer à l'exécution de ces programmes. A cet égard j'aimerais souligner que lorsque nous parlons dans ce paragraphe 24 de la France on a dû dire qu'il s'agissait en fait de la Communauté économique européenne par la voix du membre responsable de la Commission des communautés européennes et celle du représentant de la France agissant en sa qualité de président du Conseil des ministres des communautés européennes. Comme la Conférence s'est déroulée il n'y a guère plus de quatre mois, il serait prématuré de donner des chiffres mais je puis dire qu'aux résultats des consultations déjà obtenus avec un certain nombre de donateurs près des deux tiers des fonds nécessaires pour 1985 semblent déjà acquis, et ceci ne tient pas compte des activités qui pourraient être menées sur une base bilatérale. Je pourrais ajouter que d'autres consultations auront lieu avant la fin de l'année avec des donateurs.

Pour terminer, quelques mots sur les diverses résolutions adoptées par la Conférence. Je n'ai pas d'élément nouveau à apporter sur la résolution concernant la promotion du rôle du poisson dans la lutte contre la sous-alimentation et le paragraphe 28 du document témoigne de l'importance que la FAO attache à cette question; ni sur les résolutions concernant la lutte contre la pollution, les programmes spéciaux en faveur des pays sans littoral et la promotion technique et économique entre pays en développement.

En revanche, la résolution sur le rôle du pêcheur, qui a beaucoup retenu l'attention de la Conférence mondiale, appelle peut-être quelques observations. Dans cette résolution la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches invite le Directeur général à adopter comme thème de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation en 1986 les pêcheurs et leurs communautés et la contribution de ces pêcheurs et de leurs communautés à la production alimentaire. Comme l'indique votre document le Directeur général a décidé qu'il tiendrait compte de cette invitation. D'autre part, la résolution demande au Directeur général en termes très prudents, d'envisager de proclamer une Journée mondiale de la pêche tous les ans. A cet égard, le paragraphe 34 du document mentionne qu'il y a déjà dans le système des Nations Unies 27 journées ou semaines dédiées chaque année à un thème spécial. Il mentionne également que le Conseil économique et social recommande la plus grande réserve lorsqu'il s'agit de proposer de nouvelles journées ou de nouvelles semaines. De plus, je devrais dire que chaque année une journée dédiée à un thème particulier a évidemment des incidences financières pour l'Organisation qui en est responsable.

Enfin cette même résolution sur le rôle du pêcheur invite le Directeur général à étudier la possibilité de programmer une année internationale du pêcheur et à faire des recommandations appropriées aux organes directeurs de la FAO. La proclamation d'années internationales est désormais soumise à des procédures spéciales établies par le Conseil économique et social et par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies elles-mêmes. Comme l'indique votre document l'Assemblée générale a déjà décidé que 1985 serait consacrée à la Jeunesse, 1986 à la paix et 1987 serait l'année du logement pour les sans-abris.

J'étais la semaine dernière à New York à l'Assemblée générale et je me suis informé. Il semble qu'à la présente session de l'Assemblée générale aucune décision ne sera prise concernant années internationales. Quelques thèmes ont été mentionnés pour les années immédiatement disponibles c'est-à-dire à partir de 1988, mais aucune décision n'a encore été prise. Je préfère m'en tenir là et naturellement je serais prêt à répondre à toutes les questions.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): We had a wonderful fisheries conference and I am glad that the report reflects some of the interesting topics that were brought up there. I would like to mention, because there was nothing about it in the report, the UNDP/FAO/Chilanga project for land-locked countries. I have seen it. The small farmers dig their own ponds with expert advice as to whether they have enough water and whether they have the proper soil and they become independent income producers. For anybody who is interested, I have a whole lecture on fish aquaculture for landlocked small farmers.

Second, I would like to stress also the role of the small fisherman. Take Lake Kariba. Lake Kariba used to produce 470 tonnes of fish but now, with 94 percent of the catch due to small fishermen the catch went up to 6 236 tonnes. In other words, we must see what works and foster those people who can make the nutritional improvements.

I also feel very strongly about another thing which is not to do with fish production as such, I would like to say to the countries that are developing and that have national interests to protect, be very careful when you make contracts with outside companies and countries. I know of one very sad case. What I am now recommending is IDLI, the International Development Law Institute, which is here in Rome and is also in other countries. It is financed by a number of countries, I am happy to say, including my own, Italy, France, and so on. What it does is to train, in contract and international law, lawyers who can protect their own countries' interests when they are making any contracts with any foreign company or government.

There is another point that I would like to bring up. That is to those who are going to be trained, to those who are going to take courses and seminars with IDLI, the International Development Law Institute. I do hope that they will consider the independent citizen. I do hope that they will begin somehow strive to establish the rights of a citizen against a state. I do hope that they will begin to discuss and advocate the protection of individual human beings who are wrestling so often with controls that they cannot even influence. Those are my thoughts. I would wish that the people would sit down and listen, and learn to respect and trust the small fisherman, the small farmer, the people who are going to make the improvements. They must go down into the villages and to the beaches, and listen to the small fishermen and farmers who will rescue the world from hunger.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): En ma qualité de représentant du pays qui assure la présidence de la Communauté économique européenne, je voudrais vous prier de donner la parole au représentant de cette communauté étant donné que celle-ci a une compétence directe en ce qui concerne les problèmes de la pêche dont le représentant de la Communauté parle directement pour la Communauté et est le

protagoniste direct de cette politique à l'intérieur de la Communauté et pour la Communauté en tant que telle. A ce propos, je voudrais vous rappeler qu'à l'occasion de la Conférence de la pêche il a été convenu que la Communauté, bien que conservant son statut d'observateur sans vote, aurait le privilège de parler parmi le groupe des Etats Membres en raison de cette compétence directe qu'elle a sur les problèmes de la pêche dans la Communauté. Donc je vous prie, Monsieur le Président, dans votre sagesse, de donner la parole au représentant de la Communauté.

CHAIRMAN: I have a list of those who wish to speak. The request of the delegate of Italy will of course be taken into consideration.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je crois savoir que l'intervention de la Communauté est très brève et, en somme, il s'agit de respecter un précédent qui a résolu la question de cette façon à l'occasion de la Conférence de la pêche, c'est-à-dire sur le même argument.

CHAIRMAN: Normally they would speak after the Council Members. However, I would like to deviate from the rule at this time, if you could be brief - unless there is any objection from the Member countries.

G. DESESQUELLES (Observateur de la Communauté économique européenne): La Communauté tient à féliciter la FAO une fois de plus pour son initiative d'organiser la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches en vue de mettre sur pied une stratégie mondiale de la pêche pour les années à venir, ainsi que cinq programmes d'action pour l'aménagement du développement des pêches.

Concernant la stratégie, la Communauté partage avec la FAO l'avis que les principes et les orientations qui sont définis représentent un cadre souple de référence à l'intention de gouvernements et organisations internationales qui aimeraient unir leurs efforts dans le domaine de la pêche. La Communauté souhaite saisir cette occasion pour déclarer que, comme par le passé, elle entend pour-suivre la collaboration avec la FAO ainsi que pour exprimer son intention de resserrer les relations entre les deux organisations dans l'avenir, notamment dans ce domaine de la pêche.

Par ailleurs la Commission des communautés européennes regrette que le statut actuel d'observateur de la Communauté, ne lui permette pas de participer pleinement à la mise en oeuvre de cinq programmes d'action, pour tenir compte des compétences de la Communauté en matière de pêche comme c'est le cas aussi en agriculture. Il serait souhaitable que la Communauté puisse bénéficier d'un statut adéquat lui donnant davantage de possibilités de contribuer au développement des pêches.

A cet égard je ne reviendrai pas sur l'adaptation nécessaire du paragraphe 24 du document CL 86/14 déjà annoncé par M. Carroz. La Communauté et ses Etats Membres tiennent à réaffirmer, ce qui a été énoncé lors de la Conférence mondiale par la voix du membre responsable de la Commission des Communautés européennes et celle du Président en fonction du Conseil des ministres des communautés européennes, que la Communauté était disposée à continuer à accorder des aides financières et techniques au développement des pêches dans les pays en développement dans le cadre de la Convention en vigueur entre la Communauté et les pays d'Afrique, Caraïbes, Pacifique ainsi que dans le cadre des autres accords de coopération.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Both the documents and the very attractive presentation of the Report of the last FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development are very revealing and give a comprehensive view of the importance which deserves and rightly deserves to be given to fisheries.

Fisheries is a very important source of food and marine products. In addition to being an important source of food it provides a livelihood for millions of fishermen all over the world, and as the seventh biggest country in fisheries production we can speak with some experience of both deep sea fishing and coastal fishing and the steps that have been taken and can be taken, particularly by developing countries, to increase the production still further, because fisheries can now be a very vital supplement to the normal food supplies which sometimes are so much short. To meet the growing demand for fish through better management of widely-fished and overexploited species is the most important part. The development of aquaculture, the elimination of wasteful fish harvesting and utilization practices, is very important to be realized and to be appreciated. The improvement of economic well-being and social conditions of the many extremely poor small-scale fishermen and their families, which we have in plenty and many other developing countries also have them, so that

their welfare would be looked after by this industry of fish, emphasis on the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition is also important. We have an extensive economic zone comprised of 2 million square kilometres and the annual potential harvest of this area comes to nearly 5 million tons. The present production from the marine sector is about 2 million tons; two-thirds of this comes from the traditional non-mechanized sector and one-third from the mechanized sector.

The ways and means by which fisheries can be developed are several. A contribution can be made from large vessels, as is the case in developed countries although in developing countries the percentage of their contribution may not be large. In our case, almost the entire production comes from within 50 metres depth extending to 18 nautical miles from the shore. The annual growth rate of marine fishery production in India comes to about 6 percent and therefore, as in other developing countries, still more momentum could be imparted to this. Deep-sea fishing vessels are extremely important for the development of fisheries. We have permitted a loan of up to 90 percent for the import of such vessels, and the cost of deep-sea fishing vessels is provided by the Government at subsidized rates of interest. For the indigenous construction of deep-sea fishing vessels, with full government incentives, a loan of up to 95 percent of the cost of the vessel is provided. In addition, a 33 percent subsidy is given to shipyards on construction of fishing vessels and a 10 percent price preference provided.

There is another scheme for the charter of foreign fishing vessels and joint ventures. The main objectives in the charter of foreign fishing vessels are the identification of suitable craft and gear for different fisheries in different areas, training of personnel - almost the commonest factor in all agricultural and fishery schemes - transfer of technology through training and personnel, and a clear picture of the composition of catches intended for domestic and export markets. However, charter is a short-term measure, and in our case it is proposed to replace charter vessels with ownership vessels in a phased manner. We also encourage joint ventures with equity participation. We regard the construction of fishing harbours as extremely important, both major and minor. We have about seven major harbours and nearly 30 minor ones already functioning. We have 6 000 mechanized fishing vessels using these harbours. Capacity to accommodate 2 000 fishing vessels is also being provided.

Another important factor as far as small-scale fishing is concerned is small landing centres which help at numerous places to provide accommodation for mechanized vessels. A total capacity of 12 000 mechanized vessels has been created. New fishing harbours are under consideration. Deep-sea fishing trawlers must have proper repair facilities. This is very important because often, due to insufficient repair facilities being available, deep-sea fishing trawlers suffer and have to be docked for a long time. Having been Minister of Fisheries for some years, I am aware of these difficulties.

In our seventh plan this year, it is proposed to have two dry docks; one on the east and one on the west coast of India. They will have terminal marketing facilities, which we regard as being of extreme importance - otherwise, the catch will suffer from deterioration.

The world's fishery resources should be used to a greater extent. We have ten centres in operation but hope to increase this number. Training of personnel would include a central institution of fisheries, nautical and engineering training in south India. It is the organization responsible for imparting training to personnel in deep-sea fishing centres and thousands have been trained not only from India, but from other countries as well.

Another important aspect in the development of fisheries is the outboard motor. We have about 5 000 at the moment for increasing fish production from the traditional fishery sector. Inland fisheries have great potential, particularly in a country like ours with its rivers and banks, ponds, lakes, brackish water, swamps and estuaries. It can be developed, and its potential is tremendous.

For the development of Indian fisheries, we need to have regional fish seed farms, pilot projects, on sewage-fed fish culture, conservation of fisheries in lakes, reservoirs, rivers and game fisheries. Schemes for fresh-water aquaculture, fish farmers and development agencies, with transfer of technology for integrated aquaculture national fish seed programmes, projects of reclamation, reservoirs, fisheries projects, brackish water fish farming - we have undertaken all these and more with considerable success and are prepared to assist any country wishing to take the opportunity of learning from our experience.

The principal objectives of fresh-water aquaculture are resources under the optimum fishery production in the area of its operation, providing training and popularization of new evocations of fish culture. Fish farming must be made economically more viable, and nationally coordinated research projects are very necessary. Small-scale fisheries play an important role, as they do in all developing countries. In India, two-thirds of the total marine fish production comes from small-scale fisheries. Production from traditional fishing craft can be increased by improving its efficiency. Its marketing system should allow remunerative prices to the fishermen - providing incentives for increasing landing centres, and for fishery industrial estates.

Another important source of development for fisheries is motorization of little craft. The Bay of Bengal programme of small-scale industrial development pointed out a number of important advantages of the regional support programme. A new phase is being launched for fishery technology, aquaculture, extension training, fishery resources, legal advisory services, development support, coastal engineering, fish utilization and project coordination. This is a unique example of regional cooperation between developing countries in the area. The participating countries in the project are Bangladesh, ourselves, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and, if I am not mistaken, Indonesia.

Not all appropriate management of marine and inland fishery resources needs to be developed to a greater extent than has been done already. We must ensure that fishery resources are rationally utilized to make the greatest possible use of food supplies for the benefit of the poorest and the weakest. We must put the accent on nutritional aspects, information, the re-evaluation of national policies of integration of fishery development programmes with national food policies and plans. Attention must be given to nutritional aspects, the establishment of methodology for fishery development projects, improvement of data based on the contributions of subsistence fisheries, on food supplies for use by the government in the formulation of policies with regard to protein availability, and the drawing-up of nutritional expertise from within FAO and other national institutions.

Processed, canned and dried fish are most important for proper development. The diversification of value-added fishery products and the introduction of them into various segments of the market are another vital factor in the development of fisheries and marine products.

With reference to the suggestion made by the Assistant Director-General for Fisheries with regard to the observance of a fisheries day (and I believe there have been difficulties in finding yet one more day for the purpose of its observance) I do not think that that is as vital as doing whatever we can in the well-formulated schemes which appear in the report and the various solutions in the paper before us. That is far more important. We may name a fisheries year or a fisheries day providing that the implementation of these projects during the year can be financed. As it is, FAO does a splendid job throughout, and I do not think there will be any slackening in its efforts whether a day or year is appointed or not.

J.L. MESSEGUER SANCHEZ (España) : Permítame, el primer lugar, felicitar al Director General por el magnífico documento CL 86/14 que contiene un breve pero importante resumen de los resultados obtenidos en la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros.

También la delegación española quiere agradecer las palabras de introducción de este tema pronunciadas por el señor Carroz, Subdirector de la FAO para temas de pesca.

No cabe duda que sobre el régimen jurídico aprobado por la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Derecho del Mar, la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO ha supuesto una importante clarificación en cuanto las directrices a tener en cuenta para establecer, a nivel mundial, una estrategia común en materia de ordenación pesquera encaminada fundamentalmente a la salvaguarda de los intereses nutricionales de la humanidad. En este sentido la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO debe suponer un hito histórico de referencia a la vez que un reto a todos los países, tanto de desarrollados como en desarrollo, para cooperar en el ámbito pesquero contra la malnutrición mediante la óptima utilización de los recursos pesqueros de los mares.

En relación con el párrafo 13 del documento relativo a la ejecución de la estrategia y de los programas de acción, la delegación española quiere manifestar en este momento su total apoyo a la Resolución a la que el mismo se refiere, hasta el punto de estar en condiciones de anticipar al Consejo que el Gobierno Español está dispuesto a organizar, en colaboración con la FAO, un symposium internacional sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros que cumpliría en esencia el mandato de la Resolución de cooperar con el Director General en la elaboración de informes sobre la situación de la ejecución de la estrategia y de los programas de acción.

Este symposium internacional se prevé celebrarlo en la ciudad de La Coruña, uno de los puertos más importantes en materia de pesca, la semana anterior a la inauguración de la exposición mundial de pesca que se celebrará en Vigo entre los días 17 a 22 de septiembre de 1985.

El symposium tendrá como objetivo principal conocer en general la situación mundial de la pesca y en particular la situación nacional de la pesca con sus problemas y necesidades en los países en desarrollo invitados por el gobierno español. El informe que se elabore se elevará al Director General para que le sirva de ayuda en seguimiento de la ejecución de la estrategia y de los programas de acción aprobados por la trascendental Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros.

Por último, la delegación española quiere prestar de nuevo su apoyo más decidido a todas las demás Resoluciones aprobadas por la Conferencia Mundial, y estima de gran importancia que la Conferencia de la FAO en su 23° período de sesiones apruebe una Resolución en la que se ratifiquen las conclusiones de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca.

Mrs. M. SURAKUL (Thailand): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat on the preparation of Document CL 86/14, the Follow-up on the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. My delegation considers this a well prepared and comprehensive document which covers the whole range of activities undertaken by FAO after the conclusion of that Conference.

In order to fulfil the effective concrete courses of action as agreed upon by that Conference, my delegation fully agrees with paragraph 19 of the Document calling for an adjustment of FAO activities in fisheries, through both the regular and field programmes. We see the adjustment as necessary for the effective implementation of programmes of action. The execution of the programmes, however, will call upon extra budgetary funds and other forms of support from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and financing institutions.

My delegation is appreciative of the prompt responses by donor agencies and financing institutions. A number of countries have already indicated their intention to support the programmes. In particular, China continued to support and improve the management of Wuxi Centre of the Asian Network of Aquaculture Centre for the benefit of the developing countries within the spirit of TCD and ECDC.

Being grateful for that generosity, my delegation is looking forward to seeing more by way of contribution and assistance in the implementation of the strategy and programmes of action.

My delegation also would like to recall that during the Conference there was unanimous recognition of the key catalytic role of FAO in worldwide fisheries development. In this connection, my delegation wishes to stress the importance of the role of FAO at regional and sub-regional level.

My delegation, therefore, strongly supports the suggestion made in paragraph 5 of the document under discussion, that the delivery of sub-regional, regional and inter-regional development programmes through a network of technical support associated with FAO regional bodies needs to be fully strengthened.

My delegation is of the opinion that FAO should endeavour to maintain the technical support units attached to its regional fishery bodies, as this mechanism has proved to be very useful in Member Countries. For the record, my delegation is pleased to note with satisfaction and to lend its full support to all the action and activities taken by FAO, as indicated in the document.

Sra. M. LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): La delegación mexicana desea felicitar ampliamente a la Secretaría por la preparación de este documento que sintetiza, en forma notable, las actividades de la Conferencia Mundial para Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros, evento muy importante para todos los países porque abordó a la pesca y la acuicultura en su contexto más completo. Felicita asimismo a la FAO por su atinada labor en la puesta en práctica de varias de las acciones complementarias, como nos ha sido brillantemente expuesto en su presentación por el doctor Carroz.

La Conferencia se celebró en el momento de reajuste al nuevo orden jurídico de los océanos, y ante el desafío de hacer el mejor uso de los recursos pesqueros que constituyen el patrimonio natural más importante de alimentos de la humanidad.

En la Conferencia se puso énfasis en que la pesca es una actividad generadora de alimentos, empleos, y en muchos casos de divisas. Se subrayó que la pesca industrial, artesanal y de pequeña escala pueden ser complementarias u opcionales según los países.

Se destacó asimismo la importancia del comercio internacional, de la inversión en el sector pesquero, la cooperación internacional, la organización, la capacitación, la seguridad laboral, social y ambiental así como el papel de la mujer en las actividades pesqueras. Todo ello, íntimamente ligado al bienestar y desarrollo de las familias y las comunidades pesqueras.

Recordamos aquí que la Conferencia ratificó la estrategia y el conjunto integrado de cinco Programas de Acción que fueron el producto de una importante labor preparatoria realizada por la FAO y los países miembros. Ello se hizo dentro del marco de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar. Se aprobaron asimismo una serie de Resoluciones que han sido presentadas en los párrafos 13 y del 18 al 21 del documento.

La delegación mexicana se solidariza ampliamente con ellas. Nuestra delegación expresa asimismo su pleno reconocimiento a la FAO por su labor de gestión ante organismos y gobiernos donantes para lograr el financiamiento de los Programas de Acción, y felicita a los países que durante la Conferencia, o posteriormente a ella, se han o están pronunciando para contribuir a los logros de esos Programas.

Esperamos que la labor de coordinación con otros órganos y organismos e instituciones internacionales sea eficaz a fin de poner en práctica medidas tales como las adoptadas o propuestas por el Director General, contenidas en los párrafos 28 al 36 del documento, que son una respuesta a las Resoluciones 4 a 9 aprobadas por la Conferencia.

Esperamos, en particular, que las gestiones de la FAO nos permitan hacer realidad todos los puntos contenidos en la Resolución 7 y se contribuya así a mantener el espíritu de nuestra Conferencia. Esperamos que, conforme se expresa en el párrafo 17 de las Conclusiones, la FAO nos presente para el 16º período de sesiones de COFI, un informe de las medidas ya tomadas o que se estén tomando para ejecutar la Estrategia y Programas de Acción, así como sobre el estado que guarda la aplicación de sus recomendaciones, a fin de que sea presentado posteriormente a la Conferencia de la FAO en 1985.

Queremos finalmente felicitar al Director General de la FAO, Doctor Edouard Saouma por el impulso que le ha dado al sector pesquero y a la estrategia para su desarrollo.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Dans un document fort clair que le Secrétariat nous a présenté, ainsi que le Secrétaire de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches, M. Carroz, le Sous-Directeur général du Département des pêches qui était alors Secrétaire général de la Conférence, nous a commenté ce document, répondant à l'avance à certaines des questions que je ne proposais de lui poser.

Qu'il me soit permis de le remercier car en fait ce sont ses efforts et le travail que lui-même et toute son équipe ont mené avant la Conférence, qui ont contribué pour une large part au succès de celle-ci, succès d'abord dans l'organisation, succès dans les débats, où chaque délégué a fait preuve de compréhension pour les positions des autres délégations; succès de compétence dans l'appréciation de la situation mondiale des pêches et de l'énoncé des remèdes et des solutions possibles permettant d'oeuvrer utilement pour le développement et l'aménagement des pêches; succès enfin, couronné par l'adoption de la Stratégie et des cinq Programmes d'action.

Bien évidemment, il est encore trop tôt pour juger des résultats concrets de la Conférence, résultats sur le terrain, et pour déterminer la mesure dans laquelle les cinq Programmes d'action ainsi que certaines résolutions adoptées par la Conférence, vont contribuer à l'amélioration du sort des petits pêcheurs dans les pays en développement et pour voir comment ces pays vont pouvoir attirer plus efficacement une exploitation de leurs zones économiques exclusives, pour permettre l'accroissement de la consommation de poisson de manière à améliorer l'adéquation et avoir un appoint utile dans la lutte contre la faim.

A ce stade, nous ne pouvons donc qu'apprécier et approuver les suggestions et les actions déjà entreprises par le Secrétariat pour assurer le suivi de la Conférence mener à bien le rôle qui a été confié par cette dernière à notre Organisation.

Nous avons noté qu'à côté du Programme ordinaire du présent biennium, c'est-à-dire celui actuel, les plans de travail du Département des pêches sont en cours de réexamen en vue d'assurer dans les limites budgétaires approuvées la fourniture de l'aide technique et du soutien nécessaire pour planifier et exécuter les programmes d'action.

C'est là où M. Carroz nous a donné quelques indications sur les ressources financières dont il dispose: les deux tiers environ, nous l'a-t-il dit, sont déjà obtenus de la part de certaines organisations ou de certains donateurs pour financer ses actions.

Mais j'aimerais lui demander si cela lui est possible, de nous donner quelques précisions sur les modalités pratiques de cette réorientation et également: comment se répartiront les fonds ainsi recueillis vers les cinq Programmes ainsi considérés.

De même, mais là c'est avec hésitation, (en effet, je crois qu'il est vraiment trop tôt): peut-on nous donner quelques informations sur les intentions du Directeur général en ce qui concerne la part qui sera réservée au secteur de la pêche dans le budget du prochain biennium, c'est-à-dire 1986-1987, et sur les éventuelles majorations qui seront certes difficiles à proposer - et plus encore malheureusement à accepter - lorsqu'elles ont des répercussions sur le niveau global du budget. Enfin, dans le cadre du par. 17 du document qui nous a été présenté nous sommes favorables à ce que la prochaine Conférence de l'Organisation à l'automne 1985 adopte une résolution confirmant les résultats de la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches. Ce sera d'ailleurs l'occasion pour le Directeur général de nous donner alors plus d'informations sur les mesures adoptées pour la mise en oeuvre des recommandations et des résultats déjà obtenus.

Enfin, comme le disait tout à l'heure notre collègue de l'Inde, je crois que le plus important est la mise en oeuvre des programmes: des résolutions, par exemple, sur "la promotion du rôle du poisson dans la lutte contre la sous-alimentation; le financement des projets d'investissement dans le secteur des pêches; la protection des ressources halieutiques"... plutôt que de créer une année ou une journée du pêcheur, la pratique est beaucoup plus importante que les grands discours. J'ajoute, et vous n'en serez pas surpris, que ma délégation appuie totalement les déclarations du Représentant de la Commission de la CEE, que vous avez entendu tout à l'heure.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation welcomes the discussion of Item 6 and the extremely useful document CL 86/14 introduced by the Assistant Director-General along with important supplementary information this afternoon.

The universal recognition of the unique significance of the First World Conference on Fisheries and the singular unanimity and speed with which the Conference agreed on its outcome makes our task an easy one. Obviously, the role of FAO in following up on the Conference is a paramount one, and we would like to congratulate the Director-General and the members of his staff on the momentum they have already generated.

Bangladesh, of course, endorses the strategy for fisheries management approved by the Conference and the five Programmes of Action to assist developing countries to increase fish production and improve their individual and collective self-reliance in fisheries.

We also endorse the Resolution adopted by the Conference on the follow-up measures to ensure implementation of the strategy and Programmes of Action and urge that this implementation take place as soon as possible. We fully support that the FAO Conference at its Twenty-third Session adopt a resolution endorsing the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference.

We are happy to note the follow-up actions already taken or initiated and those reported to us today by the Regional Director-General, and we expect that these will lead to fruitful results on the overall fisheries management and development in the world, especially for the developing countries.

We have also noted with interest and support the further follow-up actions envisaged by the Director-General, particularly his intention to submit the first report on measures undertaken in pursuit of the strategy to the FAO Committee on Fisheries in April 1985; secondly, the measures being envisaged to adjust FAO's activities in fisheries through both regular and field programmes in pursuit of implementing the programmes of action; thirdly, the consultations initiated with donor countries, financing institutions and governments for mobilizing extra-budgetary funds and the fact that these are being undertaken on the basis of detailed project proposals for the various components of each action programme. We are particularly happy, as the Director-General mentioned, that already two-thirds of the funds for 1985 have been earmarked.

In recognition of the vital contribution of the fisheries sector to our economy and nutritional and food needs, Bangladesh has already initiated a comprehensive fisheries programme to be incorporated into our third Five-Year Plan 1986-90 envisaging substantial increase in fishery products. This embraces fresh water fish culture, saline and fresh water shrimp farming and concentration on basic research and training. Steps are being taken to polarize scientific and intensive fish culture practices through extension networks. Schemes are under way for aquaculture development in both sweet and brackish water habitats.

In order to facilitate optimum exploitation of marine fisheries, both off-shore and on-shore facilities will be strengthened and expanded for the establishment of landing centres, preservation and marketing facilities, motorization of fishing boats and improvement of fishing gear.

In order to ensure the quality of fish and shrimps for export, a scheme for fish inspection and quality control have been taken up. In line with Resolution 5 adopted by the Conference, it is our hope that necessary arrangements may be made in helping us finance the investment projects in the fisheries sector during our third Five-Year Plan.

An important concern for us relates to the protection of fishery resources of developing countries from pollution. We believe it is of the most urgent necessity to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution and that action be initiated in this regard.

We also support the proposal for proclaiming an International Year of the Fisherman and urge the Director-General to actively pursue this proposal in accordance with the procedure laid down by the UN General Assembly for early realization.

We also support the proposal for proclaiming a World Fisheries Day to be observed each June 27th and the adoption of the theme “Fishermen and Fishing Communities” for World Food Day in 1986, which we are happy to note is under the active consideration of the Director-General.

In conclusion, Bangladesh supports endeavours initiated to increase assistance provided by FAO to landlocked countries, as also efforts by the Director-General to promote economic cooperation and technical cooperation among developing countries in the fisheries sector.

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'AUMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/7

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEPTIMA SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1984)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
S. Baharsjah, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence
de S. Baharsjah, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia
de S. Baharsjah, 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)

- 6. Follow-up on World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development: for discussion and/or decision (continued)
- 6. Suivi de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches (suite)
- 6. Actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros (continuación)

M. GONZALEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia considera que la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros constituye la más notable e importante reunión en el campo de la pesca, después de firmada la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar.

Dentro de este contexto, quisiéramos llamar la atención sobre la aprobación de la estrategia para la ordenación y desarrollo de la pesca y de los Cinco Programas de Acción para ayudar a los países en desarrollo a incrementar la producción de pescado y aumentar su autosuficiencia individual y colectiva en este sector.

Si bien como lo afirma el párrafo 8 del documento deben considerarse sus directrices de una manera flexible a fin de adecuarlas a las situaciones y necesidades de los países y en concordancia con la Convención sobre el Derecho del Mar, consideramos de gran importancia la ejecución de tal estrategia para los países en desarrollo y el papel que desempeña la FAO por su especialidad y capacidad para aplicar, coordinar y estimular la ejecución de dicha estrategia y de los programas de acción. Ello incluye desde luego todas sus medidas complementarias.

En especial, apoyamos las recomendaciones I, II, III y IV del párrafo 13 que contienen puntos importantes en cuanto a la estrecha cooperación entre la FAO y otros Organismos de las Naciones Unidas y también con otras Organizaciones Internacionales.

Creemos que el Director General de la FAO es la persona más apta para coordinar este tipo de acciones conjuntas y seguir rindiendo informes a los órganos correspondientes. Consideramos conveniente para tal efecto, un reajuste de las actividades de la FAO en materia de pesca en los Programas Ordinario y de Campo. Apoyamos las medidas que se han empezado a tomar de acuerdo con el párrafo 20; pero como dice el párrafo 21: "la ejecución de los Programas de acción dependerá fundamentalmente de la disponibilidad de fondos extrapresupuestarios y de otras formas de apoyo procedentes de organismos donantes bilaterales y multilaterales y de instituciones de financiación". Por lo tanto, pensamos que las consultas para este efecto deberán continuar intensificándose e instamos a los donantes a actuar con su mejor buena voluntad para que sus ayudas sean verdaderamente eficaces.

Dada la gran importancia nutricional del pescado y su incidencia en la alimentación de grupos sociales muy pobres en los países en desarrollo vemos con agrado, y apoyamos, las medidas de cooperación entre la FAO y el PMA tendientes a aumentar la cantidad de productos pesqueros en los Programas de Emergencia, alimentos por trabajo y ayuda alimentaria y en la identificación de fuentes pesqueras en los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia considera que este Consejo debe dar su más pleno apoyo a los Programas de Acción aprobados por la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros, pues ellos no sólo constituyen un instrumento de gran importancia para los países en el fortalecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, sino también en la incidencia que el sector de la pesca tiene sobre muchas de sus economías como fuente de desarrollo.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia desea reconocer que el buen éxito de esa Conferencia se debió en buena parte a la manera inteligente y eficaz como dirigió esa importante reunión el Presidente, Secretario de Pesca en México, Licenciado Ojeda Paullada.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale): La délégation du Liban regrette de ne pas avoir participé à la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches qui a eu lieu à Rome du 27 juin au 6 juillet 1984, sur une initiative du Directeur général de la FAO, M. Edouard Saouma.

Nous n'avons pas pu y participer à cause des conditions critiques que le Liban traverse et que tout le monde connaît. Nous n'avons pas pu participer à cette Conférence malgré l'importance qu'elle revêt pour notre pays. Donc, nous ne pouvons que remercier et féliciter le Dr. Saouma pour les efforts qu'il n'a cessé de déployer, ainsi que ses collaborateurs, pour développer et aménager les pêches dans le monde. Nos remerciements s'adressent à M. Carroz, sous-directeur des pêches pour

l'excellent exposé qu'il nous a soundé hier. Le rôle de la FAO et ses efforts déployés vers l'augmentation de la production des ressources afin d'aboutir à l'autosuffisance et à la sécurité alimentaire (j'ai dit le rôle de la FAO) est extrêmement important et permettra donc de pallier la malnutrition découlant de la sécheresse qui s'est abattue sur certains pays d'Afrique.

Le programme mis sur pied pour aider les pays du Sahel dans le domaine de l'aménagement et du développement des pêches a également eu des effets positifs et nous permettra d'atteindre nos objectifs. En fait, ce programme qui coûte 15 millions de dollars pour cinq ans et qui commencera en 1985 est, bien sûr, bien en-deçà des efforts combien importants que ce genre de programme peut réaliser, à savoir, surtout, à mettre fin à la malnutrition dans le monde.

Donc la délégation du Liban reconferme son appui pour les différentes recommandations prises par la Conférence générale pour la mise en oeuvre du programme d'action et de la stratégie des pêches et nous sommes en faveur également de la Journée mondiale des pêches.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): My delegation attaches great importance to the recommendations of the FAO Fisheries Conference. The economic and social life of many developing countries depends on the management of these resources, and we are conscious of the importance of fishery resources for our country because this is a sort of income for a large part of the population and is also a resource as far as foreign currencies are concerned. It also makes it possible for us to carry out our Five-Year Plan for the next period.

With regard to the follow-up of the recommendations of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, we are fully satisfied with the measures taken by the Director-General in order to implement these recommendations. We feel that these are measures which are fully efficient and that they represent a new step towards the implementation of the objectives of this Conference. One of the main recommendations of the Conference is to encourage the bilateral and multilateral cooperating organizations to give their support to these Programmes of Action.

We would like to pay tribute to those countries which have already indicated their generous participation in this type of activity, and we hope that such efforts are going to be continued in the future.

In view, therefore, of the importance of the recommendations of the World Conference on the life of the populations of many developing countries and in view of the measures already taken under the follow-up of this Conference, and in view also of the numerous future activities which have to be carried out both by FAO and by Member Countries, my delegation would like the next FAO Conference to reaffirm the recommendations adopted by the preceding Conference.

SRA. E. HERAZO DE VITI (Panamá): En virtud de que la delegación de Panamá considera los resultados y las recomendaciones aprobadas por la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros, celebrada en esta Sede a finales de junio y principios de julio del presente año, y a la cual asistimos y en la cual escuchamos con mucho detenimiento todas las intervenciones, y de manera particular las relacionadas con las medidas complementarias para asegurar la ejecución de la estrategia y los Programas de Acción como la primera medida concreta de carácter internacional destinada a sugerir el ordenamiento de las realidades prácticas relativas a la pesca y al necesario reajuste del nuevo régimen jurídico de los océanos, desea en primer lugar manifestar su complacencia no solo por la positiva repercusión del que, a nuestro juicio, puede considerarse como uno de los principales eventos del sector alimentario durante el año 1984, sino también porque los países han comenzado a ejecutar las medidas complementarias derivadas del mismo y en particular las que se refieren a los párrafos 13, 18 al 21 y 28 al 36 del documento CL 86/14.

Sugerimos que este seguimiento sea similar en efectividad al que se le ha dado a las medidas complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Es un hecho real y concreto que la ampliación a 200 millas marinas de la jurisdicción nacional para la pesca asumida por un gran número de países costeros, entre los primeros el nuestro, Panamá, y la adopción por parte de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar del concepto de Zona Económica Exclusiva crea mejores oportunidades para el desarrollo pesquero en el mundo, especialmente entre las naciones en vías de desarrollo.

Asimismo, y tal como expresamos durante la Conferencia de la FAO para la Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros, la delegación de Panamá considera que los recursos ícticos de cualquier proveniencia representan un componente fundamental en los logros de las metas económicas, sociales y nutricionales de los países, y que la pesca desempeña, sin lugar a dudas, un rol de importancia básica en la oferta mundial de alimentos, lo que hace de ellos una activa corriente que bien orientada puede en gran medida ayudar a mitigar el hambre y la subnutrición, contribuyendo eficazmente a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, sobre todo en el mundo en desarrollo en el cual el elevado valor protei-

co del pescado, su digeribilidad, su contenido en aminoácidos esenciales, en particular de licinas, lo hacen el complemento ideal para el tipo de alimentos ricos en hidratos de carbono y pobres en proteínas, de los que carecen nuestros pueblos.

En suma, consideramos esta actividad un importante elemento que, insertado en los programas de desarrollo de los países del Tercer Mundo, puede ofrecer un aporte fundamental para alcanzar el fin último de todo proceso de desarrollo: el bienestar de los pueblos.

Es dentro del contexto de cuanto aquí hemos expresado, y al ratificar que a nuestro juicio las conclusiones y resultados de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca recogen las directrices y principios necesarios para planificar y ejecutar la ordenación y desarrollo pesquero, que manifestamos nuestra intención de apoyar y empeñar nuestra disposición para que la Conferencia de la FAO en su 23º periodo de sesiones apruebe una Resolución en la que se reiteren y se ratifiquen las conclusiones de la citada Conferencia Mundial de Pesca.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, la delegación de Panama desea manifestar que para el logro efectivo de los objetivos señalados por la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca es siempre necesario la buena voluntad de todas las partes interesadas, recordando que cualquier decisión que concierna a la vida económica debe ser considerada esencialmente en relación a los efectos que la misma tendrá sobre los seres humanos y que para encontrar soluciones reales y duraderas a los problemas de los pobres es necesario revisar las políticas actuales prescindiendo de aquellas partidistas o ideológicas; es por este motivo que instamos a los países en capacidad de otorgar ayuda tecnológica, económica, financiera o de otra índole a reforzar los programas de la FAO, o que poseen las estructuras y la experiencia necesaria para la ejecución de programas eficaces, garantizando además una justa y adecuada ayuda a quien realmente la necesita, fuera de cualquier consideración de carácter político.

H. ZANNETIS (Cyprus): The timing of convening the first World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development was most appropriate, and we would like to congratulate the Director-General and the FAO staff for the excellent organization during the proceedings. The need for good management of fisheries resources hardly needs to be emphasized. This is particularly essential for the Mediterranean, which is a sea of limited resources and in many cases over-exploited. The resources of the Mediterranean have for many years been heavily exploited and are often obviously heavily over-fished. Clearly national management measures are needed. Mismanagement of one's own resources can and does have repercussions, direct or indirect, on the resources position of other nations. We ourselves have tried to apply measures that are in line with this kind of thinking.

Perhaps you would allow me to cite our own recent national experience from the introduction of such measures.

In 1982 we implemented a set of measures aimed at protecting primarily juvenile fish, which is fish before it reaches commercial size. From observation, it became obvious that this fish was decimated by trawling at the beginning of the season in October. The prohibition of trawling in October of 1982 yielded spectacular results which confirmed the validity of the concept. An established trend has been reversed. Production from the trawling fleet has since 1978 been falling at the rate of 17 percent per year. This downward trend was not only reversed but an 83 percent increase in the trawl fishery landings has been achieved by 1983 in comparison with the production of 1981. Not only that, even the in-shore fisheries, which to a large degree also exploit the same resources, benefited so that in 1983 its landing had increased by over 40 percent compared to 1982. It is expected that the results of these management measures already taken will continue and higher production is expected for 1984. We believe that such measures and such results can be taken and be achieved in other areas of the Mediterranean. We are in agreement and we support the strategy for fisheries management and development and its implementation. We also support the proposed five plans of action, as they cover all aspects of fisheries management and development and cover all regions of the world.

My delegation strongly believes in the contribution of marine farming to future growth of the sector, and the Government of Cyprus is actively supporting through incentives and other measures the establishment of such commercial enterprises in the island. The steps proposed or taken by the Director-General in response to the recommendations contained in Resolution 4 to 9 adopted by the Conference, as described in paragraphs 28 to 36 of document CL 86/14, deserve our full support. We hope that the required extra-budgetary funds for the execution of such action programmes will be secured. In this respect we would like to express our appreciation for the interest already indicated by some donor countries to assist in the implementation of these programmes, and they appear in paragraphs 23 and 24 of the document under review, and as we were informed by Mr Carroz in his introduction. We hope that other donors will follow this example.

Finally, we would like to join previous speakers in supporting the suggestion in paragraph 17 for the submission of a report on the measures already taken to implement these strategies and the Programmes of Action to the next session of the Committee on Fisheries and for the FAO Conference to consider at its Twenty-third session a resolution endorsing the outcome of the World Conference on Fisheries.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): On the Agenda item before us I can be very brief because the Federal Republic of Germany welcomed the holding of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, it participated in its preparation and in the Conference itself, and it shares the consensus of its deliberations. My delegation notes with satisfaction the additional information on the follow-up to that conference given us by Mr Carroz yesterday. We expect on a medium-term and a long-term basis effective, positive incentives from that conference, and in particular to fisheries development in the developing countries.

My Government will also in the future attach great importance to fisheries development in developing countries and attentively observe the effectiveness of current measures. Within the framework of international bodies, in particular FAO, and also within the European Community, it will continue to contribute towards the achievement of the objective commonly recognized to be right.

The interest of the Federal Government in fisheries development in the developing countries is reflected in particular by the fact that within the framework of our bilateral cooperation alone, support is presently being given to 53 projects in developing countries with a financial volume of 422 million DM.

To achieve the aims of the international community in the field of fisheries management and development it seems to be important, in view of the limited funds available, that, inter alia, these funds should be used in an optimum way and with the greatest possible effect under current monitoring of success; the coordination of international aid should be improved significantly and oriented towards the economic and technological conditions of the recipients; in suitable cases the governments of the countries concerned should give adequate priority to fisheries and development within the framework of their national policies; use should be made of the manifold possibilities of partnership cooperation above all by including the sector of private economy.

Mr Chairman, we consider it, however, a little unrealistic to expect from the World Fisheries Conference and its follow-up, an immediate positive development of fisheries and of the food situation in developing countries. Account in this context has also to be taken of the following factors: (a) a rapid and large increase in catches will be possible in a few developing countries only; an increased use of fish species for consumption, which have so far not been used for human consumption, is possible to a limited extent only; (c) the cost of fisheries development, be it aquaculture or deep sea fishery are substantial, likewise know-how requirements; (d) the fishery sector, like other sectors of the economy, cannot be separated from general infrastructural problems.

Mr Chairman, the difficulties mentioned should, however, not discourage the community of nations to actively develop further the fisheries sector and to support it with effective measures. As so far, the Federal Government will continue to contribute to overcoming the problems in the field of fisheries development and the best possible management of the living marine resources.

J. MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): The World Conference on Fisheries held this year in FAO, and its report now before us, are events of outstanding significance. They have awakened the world to the fact that from 1982, with the adoption of the Convention on the Laws of the Seas, with the Exclusive Economic Zones and the new legal regime of the oceans, mankind has, in its fishing activities, entered a new era - a new order of things. The door has been opened to new "grand" opportunities as well as new formidable challenges. These key words, opportunities and challenges will, thanks to this report, be forever imprinted upon our memories.

The report before us has, within the compass of a brief document, highlighted a range of issues and offered a set of guidelines pertaining to all the major aspects of world fisheries. It is now for each country to sit down, look inwards towards its own house, take stock of its own situation, and determine what portion of the report, which of its recommendations and guidelines, are of value or significance to its own future policies and programmes.

We would like, briefly, to recount such aspects of the situation of Pakistan in the field of fisheries in the belief that some other countries may find in it, echoes of some of their own problems and dilemmas. From such recounting may also flow thoughts and ideas on policies and programmes which may have wider application and relevance. One may add straightaway, however, that there is nothing specially startling or revealing about the particular situation and experience of Pakistan in this field. Pakistan in fact is, and has been, a rather small and unimportant country - as far as fisheries is concerned. But it is a point in itself that even small and insignificant countries in this field have now, with the new regime of the seas, an opportunity to become large and significant ones. And the very commonness of the problems of these hitherto small fishing countries make them worth taking note of.

The first feature of the situation in Pakistan is that, as far as the fish potential is concerned, we have a considerable, even perhaps a tremendous potential for fish - both marine and inland. On our wide continental shelf, and beyond on the high seas, we have rich stocks of both pelagic and artisanal fish. Our inland waters are extensive. We have the great Indus River system, with

its five big rivers. We have an extensive network of canals, barrages, dams and reservoirs - one of the largest in the world, the natural abode and breeding ground of the carp and other species. We have thousands of small village ponds - in Punjab Province alone, there are some 50 000 of such ponds. In addition to all these bodies of fresh inland waters, we have bodies of brackish water - in waterlogged areas and in the deltaic region where the Indus falls into the sea.

The point in stressing and describing this vast basic water resource, and the tremendous potential it implies, is to contrast it with the fact that average per capita consumption of fish today is only around 1 kg. per annum, that is every person can get only 2 or 3 good meals of fish in a year.

Thus, in terms of actual realization, this vast potential has lain dormant since decades and centuries. The investment resources required for proper development have simply been too vast and have not been forthcoming. In terms of the potential possible, there has been a state of gross underutilization. Yet, along with this overall underutilization and under-investment, there has been, overutilization and over-investment in some of the directions in which investment has taken place, Financial and other incentives have led to uncontrolled growth in the most lucrative parts of the business, namely the catching of shrimps for export and fishing in nearer waters, resulting in rapid depletion of fish of these species and in these zones. In addition to such over-exploitation, there has been the wasteful practice of shrimping vessels to throw overboard other caught fish as "trash" or by-catch.

Some of the lessons that can be drawn from this situation are that unbridled free enterprise can sometimes lead to disaster. The government must step in with a planned effort and far-seeing policies aimed at obtaining optimum yields on a sustainable basis. And whenever, due to past neglect, imbalances of the nature referred to above have been allowed to develop, corrective policies of "rationalization" have to be initiated. And finally, truly huge investments will be required to utilize the full potential accompanied by technical assistance to remove the key constraints of trained manpower, etc.

Investment and technical assistance would be required in fields such as scientific assessment of existing stocks of marine fish; infrastructure such as boats, gear, landing jetties, cold storage and storage facilities, hatcheries for producing fresh water fish seed and special transport equipment for transferring the seed to inland bodies of water that are to be stocked; adoption of known simple wastage-avoiding techniques such as insulation of the fish holds on board the fishing boats and use of more ice so as to reduce spoilage; establishment of demonstration fish farms to popularize commercial fish farming inland; control of the growth of obnoxious weeds in lakes and ponds; quality control of fish products for export; training of extension workers and fishermen in a range of techniques and the opening of training schools and research institutes.

This is but a random and incomplete list of the range of requirements for investment and technical assistance. The point is merely to raise the big question of whether, how and where from such large-scale investments will be forthcoming. Domestic resources are unlikely to suffice and if adequate external resources are not made available, the entire strategy and programmes of action may simply not take off. In this respect it is quite obvious, as pointed out already by others, that the indicative estimates of the resource requirements for the programmes of action contained in the report appear to be gross understatements.

It is heartening to read therefore in the documents before us that FAO has already undertaken the initiative of mobilizing such resources through contacts with international lending agencies and donor countries, and we would surely be looking forward to progress reports in this respect to be tabled during the sessions of the Committee on Fisheries and the FAO Conference. For the present, however, we have to state, with some degree of consternation, that this remains a mere wish and hope.

The same can be said, but perhaps to a lesser degree, about technical assistance. Here we have the further prospect of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC). It is heartening to note in paragraph 22 of the document CL 86/14 that some developing countries have already offered their services in this respect.

I would like to observe about the list of countries in paragraph 22, that in this list, there is only one country - China - which is in the category of Asian countries with tropical waters. Since technical assistance through TCDC would best be between countries with similar ecological conditions, and since there is a large number of other tropical fishing countries in the Asian Region also, such similarly placed countries (in addition to China) will have to share their expertise with each other. In this connection I would like to mention that the World Bank has some time back indicated to Pakistan that two countries, namely Thailand and Philippines, would be in a position to provide technical assistance to Pakistan - certain known and established techniques for fish culture in fresh and brackish waters. I would therefore wish to see Thailand and Philippines also in this list of countries at paragraph 22 of document CL 86/14. Certainly, if they have shared this secret with the World Bank, they should also share it with the FAO and get their name included.'

In addition to the fundamental problem of investment resources and technical assistance, we would like to point to three other important factors or aspects: i) Para 14 (XVII) of the text of the strategy (at page 20 of the report) states that: 'where access is granted to foreign fish vessels, the flag States themselves should take measures to ensure compliance with the terms of access agreements and with coastal State fisheries laws and regulations.' We would strongly agree that indeed it should be a moral commitment and obligation on the part of the country whose flag is flying on a vessel to make sure that the vessel does not infringe the new law of the seas and avoid practices that go by the ugly name of "poaching". It is well known that many countries continue to be victims of such depredations. ii) The other point that needs to be emphasized is that we have to keep in mind the needs and problems of the small fisherman - the artisanal fisherman - to whom Dr Saumahas paid a justly deserved tribute in his speech before the Fisheries Conference in the glowing words reproduced as Appendix D to this report.

In this respect I would like to point to a little anomaly in the drafting of the Fisheries Report. On pages 20 and 38 of the report it is pointed out very explicitly that there can be a conflict and competition between the small-scale and the industrial fisherman. The relevant sentences read as follows: on page 20 it says: "Another problem is to reconcile the activities of small-scale and industrial fishermen exploiting the same resources in the same area; this has important social, economic and political implications." This is a quotation from paragraph 15 on page 20. Page 38, paragraph 9 also says - this is in the middle of it - "Additional investment on the catching side has to be undertaken very selectively and carefully, especially where a new industrial fishery may compete with existing small-scale fisheries." This is I think Mr Chairman a very important point for future policy. The World Bank's World Development Report (I think for 1982) had also made this very point with much force.

Therefore, in the texts of the Strategy and Programmes of Action it should be explicitly stated that there is a possible conflict and a policy option is there. However, looking at the text of the strategy on page 21, paragraph 16 sub-paragraph (ii), we find that this does not give explicit mention in the Principles and Guidelines enunciated therein.

Therefore we might suggest perhaps that we should not be squeamish or too cautious about raising this issue explicitly and perhaps add in this paragraph 16 sub-paragraph (ii) on page 21 one sentence in the middle saying explicitly something like this - this is only a suggestion - "In this respect the problem of and the need to reconcile the activities of small-scale industrial fishermen exploiting the same resources in the same areas needs to be recognized". Of course, Mr Chairman, we are not a drafting committee but being the Council, we have perhaps the jurisdiction to make or to suggest an amendment to the strategy and the programme.

I would further like to point to another part of the report on pages 41-43 of the Programmes of Action regarding the second programme of action which is for the development of small-scale fisheries which is on pages 41-43. It is stated in paragraph 17 on page 41 - "In most cases, activities under this Programme will be carried out through regional and sub-regional small-scale fisheries development groups." On page 43 of the list of the regional groups we find that while most of the Indian Ocean is covered, the Arabian Sea seems to be missing - unless it is included in the "Gulfs" at number 8, which seems doubtful since the Gulfs (with a plural) probably refers to the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman only. A glance at any map would show that the Arabian Sea and its northern coast is thereby excluded. Therefore we would request the Secretariat to perhaps clarify this omission of this part of the Indian Ocean from any programme and also clarify the difference between what is called an "FAO Regional Fishery Body" - referred to in paragraph 6 on page 37 - and a "Fishery Development Group" referred to at paragraph 17 on page 41.

Finally, we would like to refer to the very timely and genuine concern in the report about the destruction of fishery resources due to pollution and other reasons. We also are deeply concerned with this matter and I am sure that many other countries would also be.

Our river fisheries have been virtually decimated in large areas over the past decade or so by unchecked pollution from industrial effluents and wanton killing of fish by some local people through explosives. Therefore an important part of the Strategy and Programmes of Action will also have to be proper legislation and administrative and punitive actions to stop this callous annihilation of a precious resource.

It would be befitting to end our statement by reading an extremely insightful remark made by Dr Swaminathan, our Council Chairman, in the previous session, in the context of crop agriculture, which seems to possess similar application here in the case of fisheries, namely that we in the long-term future are entering a phase of intensive exploitation of crops and that to prevent a disastrous mining of the soils (also the exhaustion of the fish resources) the cooperative effort of groups of people and governments vis-à-vis groups of people will have to be devised. This will be a task for social engineering and for the social scientists. Some system of incentives and institutional mechanisms will have to be devised so as to involve the people in the rural areas and motivate them so that they stop decimating fish through polluting the rivers, stop callously killing fish for food or sport through dynamite and explosives, and through unbridled laissez-faire exhausting all the fisheries for quick profit or impoverishing the small fisherman through unequal competition.

With these observations and remarks we would wholeheartedly support the contents of the Strategy and the Programmes of Action as contained in the documents before us and wish FAO and the world community well in seeing the Strategy and the Programme coming to rapid fruition.

L.E.WILLIAMS (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation listened with keen interest to the introductory statement by the Assistant Director General on this item. As you are aware, Mr Chairman, my delegation actively participated in the recently concluded Fisheries Conference which successfully agreed upon a Strategy and Programmes of Action for the management and development of fisheries. On that occasion, as we are about to do today, we lent our full support to the several measures of far-reaching importance which were outlined in the Strategy and Programme of Action.

Document CL 86/14 before us, together with the related report of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, is a source of great satisfaction and encouragement to Trinidad and Tobago. The significant value of the world's fisheries resources in contributing to the alleviation of the world's food problem is clearly reflected therein, and the fact that the Conference brought together an unusually large number of high-level delegates and observers is, we believe, valid testimony of the universal recognition of the critical importance of this resource.

Trinidad and Tobago wishes to restate its support for the Conference objectives and the Strategy for fisheries management and development, but feels convinced that achievement of the desirable objective of self-reliance of developing countries in the management and development of fisheries is for the foreseeable future inexplicably linked to an appropriate level of international cooperation between developed and developing countries.

In this context we fully appreciate the unparalleled role of FAO in promoting the goal of self-reliance in fisheries of developing countries as well as that of world-wide fisheries development. We were concerned that in the light of the extensive requirement for aid amongst the developing countries for the maintenance or upgrading of the respective food production effort the necessary level of financial and technical support required for the effective management and development of the fisheries resources may not have been readily available. However, we are pleased to note the indication in the Assistant Director-General's statement that two-thirds of the required funds for 1985 have already been secured. Again Trinidad and Tobago welcomes FAO's continuing and important role in this area.

Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the goal of self-reliance in its food and agriculture policies. In recognition of the importance of fisheries development and the achievement of this goal we have been taking steps in recent years to ensure the rapid and adequate development of our fisheries resources and industry.

We think it opportune at this point to express our gratitude to the FAO for the invaluable assistance it has provided in a variety of areas related to this endeavour. Again we wish to commend FAO for the assistance it is rendering to the Caribbean region and to the Third World in general. We welcome the intensification of the promotion of fish, an important source of dietary protein in the campaign against malnutrition. We are confident that with proper technology and management the oceans and seas around our respective countries will yield rich nutritional rewards. In addition we welcome as being timely the attention being directed to inland fisheries, including aquaculture, as a supplementary source of fish protein and wholeheartedly support the approach.

We wish to indicate our general support to the resolutions emanating from the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. We associate ourselves also with the sentiments expressed by the delegate of India with respect to Resolution No.7 on the proclamation of world days and international years.

Trinidad and Tobago reiterates its interest and commitment to the Strategy for Fisheries, particularly in the context of the declaration in 1983 of our country as an archipelagic state. This declaration not only increased the marine acreage under our jurisdiction but also increased our responsibility with respect to the assessment and management of the resources therein. We wish therefore to contribute maximally to the forthcoming session of the Western Central Atlantic Commission.

Finally, Trinidad and Tobago highly commends the tireless efforts of the Director-General of FAO in support of the development of the fisheries resource of developing countries and his evident commitment to the promotion of international collaboration in this area, an area which we are confident will contribute decisively to the alleviation of the world food problem.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : C'est avec beaucoup d'intérêt que ma délégation a suivi hier l'excellente introduction de ce document faite par M. Carroz, sous-directeur général. L'initiative qu'avait prise le Directeur général de la FAO de convoquer une conférence sur l'aménagement et la mise en valeur des pêches avait, en son temps, été saluée par toute la communauté Internationale. Qu'il

nous soit permis de renouveler ici, au sein de cette instance de direction de la FAO, nos félicitations au Directeur général et au Secrétaire général de la Conférence pour la minutie et la compétence avec lesquelles elle a été préparée.

Le fait que tous les gouvernements aient été mis à contribution lors de sa préparation à travers les conférences régionales de la FAO et les consultations intergouvernementales d'experts en garantissaient le succès.

Le gouvernement de mon pays qui a activement pris part à toutes les phases préparatoires et à la Conférence elle-même ne peut que s'estimer satisfait des résultats auxquels les travaux de la Conférence avaient abouti, et qui se trouvent parfaitement reflétés dans le rapport qui nous est soumis.

En effet, nombre de gouvernements des pays en voie de développement qui avaient perçu dans l'adoption, en 1982, de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer un pas décisif vers la justice internationale commençaient à désespérer. Il fallait se rendre à l'évidence et reconnaître que les problèmes n'étaient pas résolus avec cette adoption mais au contraire avec cette convention et le concept que la zone économique exclusive pour être profitable devait faire l'objet d'un aménagement et d'une exploitation équilibrée. Nous nous félicitons de ce que ce soit la FAO qui ait permis à chaque pays de prendre conscience des obligations qui découlent de cette nouvelle législation ainsi que de ces avantages. Tout est à l'honneur de cette conférence et de la FAO d'avoir su mettre en lumière tous les avantages que les uns et les autres pouvaient tirer d'un aménagement et d'un développement des pêches dans les eaux intérieures. Le rôle du poisson dans l'alimentation et la sécurité alimentaire nationale et collective a été reconnu. Au moment où la faim se manifeste dans toute son ampleur dans certaines régions de notre planète, il était tout indiqué que les ressources halieutiques mondiales puissent suffisamment et rationnellement être exploitées pour qu'elles puissent jouer correctement leur rôle.

Le moment était donc opportun pour nous de donner une nouvelle dynamique à l'activité de la pêche. Il est symptomatique que dans ce domaine un bon nombre de pays développés et en développement possèdent une expérience basée sur une tradition suffisamment longue et disposent de puissantes infrastructures pendant que d'autres, malgré la richesse en poissons de leurs eaux intérieures, manquent plutôt de compétences et de ressources financières à investir dans ce domaine au point qu'ils assistent impuissants au pillage de leurs eaux. La coopération entre les premiers et les seconds sur des bases justes a été heureusement encouragée lors de la Conférence mais il convient de relever ici que le rôle moteur, catalyseur de cette coopération a été réaffirmé. Nous espérons que la FAO ne négligera rien pour aider à son développement.

Il est encourageant que les aspects de transfert de technologies aient retenu toute l'attention de la Conférence. Il convient de noter avec satisfaction que la coopération dans le domaine de la pêche elle-même a été examinée sous tous ses angles et que la FAO a été invitée à oeuvrer pour que les ressources halieutiques des zones économiques exclusives des pays en développement soient inventoriées. Ceci permettra de précieuses connaissances mises à la disposition des pays en développement avec pour corollaire l'encouragement à une coopération plus équitable. Et cela sur des bases saines et rationnelles.

Les recommandations relatives à la conservation des ressources halieutiques rencontrent pleinement l'adhésion de mon gouvernement qui se préoccupe par ailleurs d'accroître sa capacité d'exploitation et de recherche des ressources halieutiques tant marines que continentales.

Le gouvernement de mon pays a pleinement approuvé la stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches et exhorte les gouvernements et les organisations Internationales à oeuvrer pour que les lignes d'orientation et les principes qui les sous-tendent soient pris en considération dans les diverses activités.

Nous sommes également d'accord qu'il s'agit là d'une stratégie d'une valeur inestimable qui aidera les gouvernements ainsi que les organisations Internationales à unir leurs efforts pour promouvoir l'autosuffisance des pays dans le domaine des pêches et accroître ainsi la contribution du poisson aux disponibilités et à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Les cinq programmes d'action visant à aider les pays en développement à accroître leur production de poissons me paraissent réalistes et appropriés. Il reste que leur mise en oeuvre par la FAO nécessite des moyens dont l'insuffisance, une fois de plus, risque de compromettre la réalisation dans les délais.

Nous nous réjouissons de l'intention exprimée par le Directeur général de tenir compte des initiatives découlant de la Conférence lorsqu'il formulera ses propositions de programme de travail et budget 1986-1987.

Au regard de ce qui précède ma délégation souhaite indiquer qu'elle est favorable à ce qu'on propose que la Conférence adopte une résolution approuvant les résultats de l'importante Conférence mondiale sur les pêches. De même, nous invitons le Directeur général à tout mettre en oeuvre dans les limites de ses moyens afin que les résolutions prises lors de la Conférence soient traduites dans

les faits autant que possible. C'est ainsi, pensons-nous, que le petit pêcheur pauvre pourra espérer voir ses revenus se renforcer et sa condition de vie améliorée car n'oublions pas que le petit pêcheur est le plus pauvre des ruraux et c'est pourquoi je pense qu'il convient d'inviter la FAO à continuer à réfléchir sur une Journée mondiale des pêches et nous donnons tout notre appui à la résolution No 7.

MA GENGOU (China) (original language Chinese): The Chinese delegation would like to avail itself of this opportunity to repeat its support of the resolutions approved by the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. In the view of the Chinese delegation the Strategy, the Programme of Action and the Resolutions of the Conference have provided the various countries with guidelines for the following fields: the strengthening of fishery management, a rational utilization of fishery resources, the acceleration of aquaculture, the strengthening of economic and technical cooperation on an international basis, with full respect for national sovereignty and equality, and the assistance to developing countries in order to strengthen their self-reliance in the management and development of fisheries. The Strategy, the Programmes of Action and the Resolutions adopted by the Conference and therefore of great importance for the development of fisheries and for world food security.

The Chinese delegation appreciates and gives its support to the measures which FAO has already undertaken and those which are envisaged in order to implement the objectives in this field. China will do all it can to apply these Resolutions and Programmes of Action as well as the Strategy. We would like to offer to developing countries technical assistance in aquaculture in inland waters, to exchange experience and to develop economic and technical training with the other countries in the field of aquaculture in brackish water and the processing of aquatic resources.

In view of that the extra-budgetary funds are very important for the carrying out of the programmes of action. The Chinese delegation feels that a rational adjustment of the Programme of Work of the FAO for the present biennium on the basis of the Resolutions of the Conference is very necessary. We agree that the report on the results and on progress in the implementation of the Resolutions of the World Fisheries Conference should be submitted to the forthcoming session of the FAO Conference.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): At the outset, my delegation wishes to thank the Assistant Director-General for his excellent presentation of this important Agenda item, Follow-up on World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The strategy which was adopted at the World Conference contained various guidelines which will be useful for planning fishery development in the developing countries. My delegation is very pleased that we were able to participate fully in the discussion on that strategy, and express our views at the World Conference with regard to the technical base of the Conference and expert consultation. Therefore, we have no intention of reiterating the comments already made at the Conference. However, we would like just to remind the Council of our position on paragraph 14 of the Strategy, which was clearly mentioned in the report of the Conference.

The Action Programmes which identified the broader field activities for both FAO programmes and bilateral programmes are also very useful and important for the further promotion of self-reliance for the developing countries in the sphere of fisheries. My country has a vast amount of experience of fishery development and attaches great importance to fisheries. Japan has been extending fairly large-scale assistance in fisheries to developing countries, either bilaterally or multi-laterally. My country would like to continue to assist the development of fisheries in the developing countries. With reference to bilateral assistance, we give full consideration to the priority activities in the Action Programmes, and we are also considering a way of supporting the FAO field projects proposed in the Action Programmes.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): As a nation with a long, and to us important, tradition of fisheries we welcome the concept of the World Fisheries Conference. I would like to pay tribute to the Fisheries Department of FAO for its well-planned and well-executed Conference; and to the series of Committee negotiations and consultation groups which worked out Action Programmes and a Strategy that, in the main, we were able to support at the Conference itself. I repeat that support now.

This Conference accomplished first and foremost the placing of the question of fisheries firmly on the global agenda for international development cooperation. We have always believed that these very valuable renewable and traditionally important resources, have up to now been undervalued to a certain extent. We hope with the Resolution of the Conference that this will be taken fully into account in the future and look forward to further direct consultations with the Fisheries Department of FAO concerning particular points.

We see the guidelines of the Strategy as matters on which we can help ourselves when we follow up both bilaterally and multilaterally different development programmes. At this point, we can say only that the report is a fair reflection of what took place at the Conference. We thank the FAO for that report and for its support.

L. ASSEFA YILALA (Ethiopia): My delegation would like to join other members of the Council who have spoken in congratulating you, Mr Baharsjah, on your election as Vice-Chairman of the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council. We are also pleased with the presentation of the document of the World Conference on Fisheries by the Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries Department, and would like to indicate our due regard and recognition.

May I point out also our recognition of the momentum created by the Director-General with his special programme of assistance for the development of fisheries. Ethiopia was represented at the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. Support was also indicated by us at that Conference because of its importance to the development of our country. Yesterday and the day before, Council was discussing the State of Food and Agriculture and the Food Situation in Africa. In these discussions the difficult economic conditions with which African countries are faced, and the critical food situation in Africa, were adequately dealt with. The Director-General clearly indicated the extremely critical food situation in Africa, with special reference to the countries most affected. All members of the Council expressed their concern about the food situation in Africa, and indicated their support for food aid as a means for immediate relief, helping Africans towards self-sufficiency in food production in line with the Harare Declaration, in response to the moving call by the Director-General.

Fisheries management and development is one of the areas where self-sufficiency and self-reliance can be achieved, particularly when it comes to the protein requirements. Africa, with its network of rivers, inland lakes, water and coastal areas, offers a tremendous opportunity for the development of this sector.

The integrated package of five programmes of action to assist developing countries to increase this production and improve their individual and collective self-reliance in fisheries which cover aspects of planning, management, development of fisheries, small-scale fishery development, and aquaculture development, will all get due support.

I would like to make reference to the Ethiopian situation in the hope that this will support my preceding statement. Ethiopia is endowed with tremendous fishery and other water resources yet to be exploited in the Red Sea coastal area and major inland lakes and rivers. Because of limitations in resources and know-how most of it has not yet contributed to either the economic development or the food requirement of our country; and, of course, it is not contributing towards the well-being of the people as much as it should. Yet the fisheries resources are there, but they are very little used.

To my way of thinking, this is an area where resources could be utilized more easily if some basic investment could be spared in terms of training, financial resources and technical assistance. If this happens, the sector will definitely contribute towards self-reliance - something which all delegations have advocated during this session.

A. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation associates itself with those other delegations who applauded the introduction of this item and wishes to record that we are glad to see the distinguished delegate of Indonesia chairing our present Session.

My delegation, which participated in the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, has been concerned with the follow-up of this Conference, and has noted the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Conference which go hand in hand with the policy followed by my country. We have set up a body concerned with the development of fishery resources on technical and scientific bases, which tries to collect the necessary financial and technical resources in this sphere. This body also endeavours to develop these resources in the best manner possible.

This operation was carried out thanks to the assistance of FAO, WFP, the World Bank and certain friendly countries. Nevertheless, Egypt expects wider and more fruitful cooperation in this sphere.

I wish to pay tribute to the work done in this respect in the Red Sea area. Having studied document CL 86/14 my delegation is very glad to note the content of paragraphs 18 to 21 and 28 to 36. We hope these efforts will be crowned with success, especially with regard to ECDC and TCDC

S. HUSEN (Indonesia): Allow me, first of all, to congratulate the Secretariat for producing such a concise, yet comprehensive report on the conclusions of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and its follow-up.

As an archipelago state, with abundant marine and inland fisheries potentials, my country has continuously participated in regional and international undertakings which aim at improved and more productive management and development of these fisheries resources. Therefore, we appreciated the initiative taken by the Director-General of FAO in convening the World Fisheries Conference, and we actively participated in the Conference through a strong delegation headed by our Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development.

Concerning the Strategy on Fisheries Management adopted by the Conference, my delegation would like to repeat the statement of our Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development, namely, that as long as the application of these principles and guidelines is flexible, non-binding and always has respect for the sovereignty of the countries concerned, Indonesia will endorse it.

With regard to the Programmes of Action, my delegation appreciates the steps taken by FAO to make available extra budgetary funds and other forms of support from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies such as are mentioned in paragraphs 22 to 26.

In this connection, allow me again to repeat what had been stated by the Indonesian delegation to the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, namely, that one solution might be the stimulation and reinforcement of regional and sub-regional cooperation supported by assistance from FAO.

With these observations, Mr Chairman, my delegation supports the proposition to offer the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference for endorsement by the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): In speaking this morning, we wish to emphasize the value that the South Pacific members place on the help which FAO has given in the past. In this context, we found the World Conference timely, and are very pleased to see the initiatives arising from that Conference.

The importance of the sea as a traditional source of food for our many island states is perfectly self-evident. We are also a major source of food for the developed nations which fish our waters. In our lengthy discussions in the last couple of days on the world food situation and the crisis facing Africa, much emphasis has been placed on the importance of a stable source of foreign exchange and the opportunity to earn that foreign exchange through trade.

The introduction of exclusive economic fishing zones has been a very positive step in opening up trading opportunities, at least for our island states. Not only has it given us some security from an important traditional source of food, but it has given us a real opportunity to earn foreign exchange from our own resources. Of course, the real challenge now is to develop management systems which allow the fish stocks to be exploited at the maximum but sustainable level, and which confer maximum foreign exchange benefits on our island neighbours. All of us in the South Pacific have stepped up our efforts to increase food production from the sea. Much has been achieved, but we still have a long way to go to get a stable and productive fisheries in our region; we need management systems which avoid over fishing, we need technical training, we need cooperation in marketing and management of our EEZs and so on.

Against this background, we generally support the resolution and action arising from the World Fisheries Conference. In particular we support paragraph 17 and the recommendations of paragraphs 18 to 21. We note that the World Conference emphasized that strategies and action plans are not binding on governments, nor do they involve the commitment of governments, but with this proviso we fully support the recommendations for the Director-General's actions.

Finally, and bearing in mind the importance of fishing and disparity of our South Pacific nations, we should like to refer to paragraph 5 of document CL 86/14, which concludes with a reference to FAO's work in collaboration with regional organizations. This reference deserves, we believe, further expansion, as it embraces the work of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agencies. This is the major inter-governmental fisheries agency in the South Pacific, and it includes seven members of FAO, soon, as we heard early in the week, to become eight, together with a number of other small island states who are not yet members of this Organization. The cooperation between the Agency and FAO is highly valued by countries in the region, and the amount FAO puts in achieves results considerably beyond what might be expected.

With this in mind, we want to ensure that the reference in paragraph 25 to bilateral executions of programmes does in fact provide for continuing and indeed, strengthening of this very valuable work carried out in conjunction with the various South Pacific agencies.

M. ABDELHADI (Tunisie) : Ma délégation voudrait saisir cette occasion pour renouveler l'expression de ses sentiments de satisfaction à l'égard des résultats auxquels a abouti la Conférence mondiale des pêches, et voudrait dire au Directeur général combien la Tunisie, pays côtier dont la pêche constitue l'une des composantes essentielles de son économie nationale, apprécie à juste titre, à sa juste valeur, ses initiatives, ses propositions concrètes ainsi que les efforts déjà déployés dans le cadre du suivi pour mettre en oeuvre la stratégie et les programmes d'action de la Conférence.

A cet égard, nous sommes convaincus que la FAO a un rôle déterminant dans le domaine du développement mondial des pêches et notamment dans les pays en développement. C'est pourquoi nous considérons que la FAO a dans le domaine du suivi de la Conférence un rôle important à jouer. Il s'agit là d'une lourde responsabilité dévolue au Directeur général, responsabilité qui serait toutefois aisée à exercer dans la mesure où la coopération des pays membres, et notamment des pays avancés dans la technologie halieutique, serait active. Déjà plusieurs pays, ont manifesté leur volonté d'apporter leur aide et de collaborer à la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'action et d'autres initiatives visant à assurer l'autosuffisance des pays en voie de développement dans le domaine des pêches.

Le document qui nous est soumis et dont nous louons la qualité ainsi que la présentation excellente qu'en a faite M. Carroz, résume d'une façon claire les pas déjà faits, malgré le peu de temps qui nous sépare de la Conférence et de ses objectifs. Ma délégation tient à exprimer sa satisfaction et sa reconnaissance au Directeur général de la FAO pour les résultats obtenus, et voudrait notamment encourager et appuyer les actions qu'il se propose de prendre, et notamment celles mentionnées au par. 20 du document CL 86/14 où il est dit en fin du paragraphe que je cite "Le Directeur général a l'intention d'examiner avec une attention particulière le soutien à apporter aux initiatives découlant de la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches lorsqu'il formulera ses propositions de Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87 dans le cadre des prévisions budgétaires qu'il soumettra à la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO."

Par ailleurs, ma délégation souscrit à l'estimation du Secrétariat quant à la nécessité de mobilisation de fonds extra-budgétaires pour le financement des programmes d'action.

A cet égard le rôle des institutions de financement des organismes donateurs bilatéraux et multi-latéraux nous paraît revêtir une importance vitale.

Ma délégation prend également bonne note concernant les consultations au sujet des soutiens financiers et autres formes d'aide qui sont actuellement engagés sur la base des propositions de projets détaillés par les divers éléments de chaque programme d'action.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, the Philippines participated in the deliberations of the Conference and all the preparations for the said Conference. We therefore fully approve and endorse the report of the Conference, particularly the Strategy and the associated Programmes of Action. I should like to congratulate Dr Carroz and his staff for the work well done in carrying the Conference to a successful conclusion as well as for the follow-up action after the Conference.

I should like to merely recall some of the main concerns expressed by the Group of 77 during the Conference in order that fish may indeed fulfil the objectives which developing countries have, particularly fish as a source of protein and as a source of income. Many of my colleagues will recall that some of the main concerns expressed by the Group of 77 was the importance of the development of manpower, technology, infrastructure and research capabilities of developing countries in order to plan, manage and exploit rationally their fisheries resources. This would refer to small-scale fisheries, aquaculture and the fishery resources in the EEZ.

In connection with this primary concern of the developing countries, the importance of ECDC and TCDC was stressed and the role of FAO in promoting and giving impetus to this action in ECDC and TCDC. We are glad that action in this field has started but we believe that more has to be done in this regard. Likewise, the Group of 77 during the Conference stressed the importance of access and conditions of access of fish products of developing countries into the world market. This was also very important, because whatever fish the developing countries were able to export especially those that are of high quality and are required in the world market are not able to bring the remunerative returns unless the conditions are favourable.

Aside from these points, the Group of 77 was in full agreement with all the Strategies and Programmes of Action, of course laying stress on the primary objectives of the Group. We hope that the resources will be available to follow-up and implement the Programme of Action. We would like to congratulate those countries that have up to now indicated their intention to provide resources.

H. DA SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): First of all, may I congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for your chairing of this Eighty-sixth Session of the FAO Council as well as the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

Very briefly, my delegation would like to join previous speakers in reiterating our support for the recommendations put forward by the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. My delegation is well aware of the fact that it is too early to make an evaluation of follow-up measures to ensure the implementation of the strategy and the five Programmes of Action. Nevertheless, Brazil wishes to stress the importance of coordinating action between donor countries and FAO as well as other interested international agencies as regards to obtaining prompt financial support to the implementations of the priority activities of the Programmes of Action.

F. RIBADENEIRA (Ecuador): Mi delegación se vale de la oportunidad para recordar la importancia que reviste para el Ecuador y los demás países del Pacífico Sur el tema de la pesca y la ordenación de sus recursos marítimos. El año de 1952, mediante la Declaración de Santiago, la visionaria actitud de los tres países signatarios permitió la proclamación de la tesis de las 200 millas que fue considerada, en aquel entonces, una posición irrealista. El paso de los años ha permitido que vaya obteniendo consenso, hasta que en los actuales momentos goza de amplio apoyo universal.

La Delegación del Ecuador apoya plenamente la aplicación de los resultados de la Conferencia Mundial sobre la Pesca, consistentes en la Estrategia y los Programas de Acción, a la vez que felicita al Profesor Carroz, Secretario general de la misma, por su valiosa contribución al éxito de aquella reunión. Del mismo modo, anticipamos nuestro apoyo a los pasos de la FAO para la ordenación y aprovechamiento de los recursos pesqueros, que deben realizarse con pleno respeto a la jurisdicción y soberanía nacionales.

Para mi país el tema de la pesca es de gran interés socio-económico. Ocupa el segundo lugar como actividad generadora de comercio exterior. En el ámbito latinoamericano existen varios organismos regionales y subregionales, por lo que exhortamos a que la FAO fortalezca la cooperación con ellos, como son la Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur, el Comité de Acción del SELA en la materia y la Organización Latinoamericana de Pesca.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación cubana participo activamente en la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca, así como en su fase preparatoria. En la misma, dimos nuestro apoyo a los cinco Programas de Acción analizados en la Conferencia, lo cual ratificamos en este momento.

La pesca en nuestro país juega un papel fundamental. En estos momentos, consideramos que el verdadero éxito de esta Conferencia estará dado por sus Programas de Seguimiento, o sea, aquellas acciones que garanticen que todos los excelentes acuerdos, resoluciones y recomendaciones adoptados por la misma, no se conviertan en letra muerta. En esos Programas de Seguimiento, deben tenerse en cuenta temas prioritarios tales como conservación y ordenación de los recursos pesqueros, desarrollo de la pesca continental y la acuicultura, desarrollo de las pequeñas pesquerías, planificación, ordenación y desarrollo de la pesca, reducción de las pérdidas posteriores a la cosecha, comercialización del pescado y productos derivados de éstos.

Estamos seguros de que la FAO seguirá desplegando sus valiosas acciones en pro del logro de los principales objetivos aprobados en la Conferencia. En tal sentido, mi delegación reafirma su apoyo al Informe de la Conferencia, y apoya los aspectos nuevos que nos presenta actualmente la Secretaría, así como cualquier otra acción o resolución que nos ayude a cumplimentar los acuerdos de la Conferencia. Especialmente damos nuestro apoyo a los Programas que se anuncian en el marco de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom was happy to participate in the World Fisheries Conference and in its preparation. We welcomed its success especially in designing a strategy for development to govern FAO's activities in fisheries over the next decade and in obtaining commitments from bilateral and multilateral donors to accept similar strategies in fisheries development.

We were particularly glad that the Conference saw identity of view on the importance of the development of domestic fishing capacity by coastal countries, and there was agreement, too, that there was a need to concentrate greater effort on utilizing under-exploited unconventional resources and to reduce waste and post-harvest losses from current catches.

The five Action Programmes in our view represent the basic minimum of action. It is of course now for FAO to secure funding from within existing resources within its own programmes or from close coordinations of work by other donors. My delegation welcomes the information covered in paragraphs 22 to 26 of document CL 86/14 and the additional information given yesterday on the resources from multilateral sources which have been identified. My delegation trusts that the Secretariat will continue regularly to provide information on the progress of securing funds for the implementation of the Action Programmes and also related information about other projects which would coordinate with FAO's activities.

My delegation, too, will be interested in the answers to the questions raised yesterday by France on the financial aspects.

As regards the potential contribution of my Government, I reaffirm the information given in CL 86/14, and the United Kingdom will continue to collaborate with FAO through its bilateral programmes and through those multilateral agencies with which we are associated. Our own aid programme is not designed sectorally, and the extent of our commitment to fisheries development depends on the view of priorities taken in our discussions with the countries concerned. However, I can say that the Overseas Development Administration will continue to assist small-scale development by an integrated programme in catching, processing and marketing of wild stock and culture fisheries and their management. We expect to be able to continue to provide infrastructure where this is economically indicated and to support applied research into all aspects of fisheries development.

In FAO's fisheries programme more generally, my Government places great importance on an FAO system of data recording, analysis and dissemination. The various systems managed by FAO are vital and should receive priority in the allocation of funds. Member countries should be forward in providing data to FAO for this purpose.

I also wish to commend the work of the Regional Commission and the wisdom of delegation of much work to them.

Finally, my delegation would support the suggestion that the FAO Conference at its Twenty-third session be invited to adopt a resolution endorsing the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference.

E.D. MUYANGA (Observer for Zambia): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving my delegation an opportunity to contribute to this very important item on the Agenda.

There is no doubt that the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development was a great success, as can be seen from the unanimity of delegations which attended the Conference in approving the Strategies and Actions Programmes for fisheries management and development. The Conference passed very important Resolutions which we feel should be implemented.

My delegation appreciates the speedy manner in which the Director-General is taking forward action. The Action Programmes that were approved by the World Conference on Fisheries, if implemented, will go a long way in assisting developing countries in developing their fisheries resources and, where possible in achieving self-sufficiency in their national fish requirements.

The development of fisheries plays an important role in the provision of the much needed animal protein and as a source of employment to thousands of men and women engaged in various activities. In my country, we have about 30 thousand full-time fishermen. Since Zambia is a landlocked country which depends entirely on its lakes and rivers, we have worked out a fisheries development programme which gives a lot of emphasis on the development of agriculture, since our fish resources in lakes and rivers is limited. In our national fisheries we are giving priority to fish stock assessment and conservation of stock in various water bodies.

As for aquaculture, our approach is that of developing integrated fish farming systems which have already been proved to be viable and popular among both small scale fish farmers and commercial fish farmers. But in order for us to succeed in these development programmes, we need some assistance from FAO and other donor agencies.

Mr Chairman, my delegation is very grateful to FAO for the assistance it has been giving to my country in the development of fisheries. Although FAO and other donor agencies have been giving assistance to developing countries my delegation feels that the assistance being given should be coordinated so that there is no duplication of effort. The success of action programmes in developing countries will not only depend on the commitment of developing countries but will also depend on the goodwill of donor agencies in providing training, technical and financial assistance.

I would like now to comment on TCDC programmes. In Africa we do not seem to have TCDC programmes and I would like to urge FAO to use its catalytic role and make it possible for TCDC programmes to be initiated and strengthened in Africa.

My delegation supports the proposal that a resolution endorsing the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference be adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference. Finally, the role of the fisherman has not been fully understood and appreciated by society. The fisherman works under very difficult and dangerous conditions. It is in this context that we support the resolution which requests the Director-General to adopt fishermen and fishing communities as the theme for the World Food Day in 1986.

J.E. CARROZ (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): First of all on behalf of the Director-General -I would like to thank all delegations for their kind words regarding the

preparations for the World Conference on Fisheries and its organization. The success of the Conference is of course entirely yours, and is to the credit of all states which took part in the Conference.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to express our gratitude to those delegations which confirmed their intention to assist with the implementation of the Programmes of Action, or which offered technical assistance in this regard either on a multilateral or on a bilateral basis, and I would in particular like to thank the delegations of India, Spain, China, Japan and Norway.

Mr Chairman, if I may I would now like to try to answer the questions raised by the distinguished delegates of France and the United Kingdom. The distinguished delegates are interested in the ways in which we are reorientating and adjusting our field programmes and regular programmes already during this biennium, and also in what we envisage for the next biennium to take into account the recommendations and the Resolutions of the World Fisheries Conference. First, as regard this biennium, I would like to say that we are already adjusting our Regular Programme within the limits of the resources allocated to the Fisheries Department. In other words, it is an internal adjustment, and the main sectors in which we are doing this of course reflect the priority areas identified by the World Fisheries Conference. I could mention the question of fishery development planning: we intend to organize training courses in 1985, in the South China Sea area, in Latin America, and in Africa for inland fisheries. Other sectors are the improvement of small scale fisheries, the development of aquaculture, and the increased attention we are paying to the nutritional aspects of fisheries and to the use of fish in food aid, as well as the supply of underutilized fish products to combat malnutrition. In this respect, we work in very close cooperation with the Food Policy and Nutrition Division of FAO and also of course with the World Food Programme.

Another sector which may be of particular interest to the distinguished delegate of France is the problem of trade and especially international trade in fish and fish products. As a result of a recommendation, first of the technical phase of the Conference and later at the Conference itself, the Director-General will convene in late January 1985 a technical meeting of experts on trade matters. The main object of that meeting will be to advise the Director-General on the establishment of a multilateral framework for consultations on trade in fish and fish products. The matter will then be placed on the agenda of the Committee on Fisheries in April next year.

As regards our field programmes, we are adjusting them in two ways - I am still speaking about this biennium, - first of all in close consultation with the FAO regional fishery commissions which had their meetings in the past few months - and this has been done already for West Africa and the Bay of Bengal. We also take into account of course the recommendations of the World Fisheries Conference during our consultations with donor agencies. We have already had some consultations in recent weeks with the Netherlands, Denmark and Italy, and we are soon to have consultations with Sweden and Norway.

Mr Chairman, I think I can say that the distinguished delegate of France was not really expecting an answer from me as regards the next biennium. What I can say is that the Director-General will pay particular attention to the recommendations of the Conference when formulating his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87. We in the Department are preparing suggestions for his consideration, so it would be premature to discuss the matter at this stage.

Mr Chairman, the distinguished delegate of Pakistan raised a number of important points. First we noted carefully what he said about the question of relationship between industrial fisheries and small-scale fisheries, and we will do our best to reflect what he said in the draft report which we will be submitting to the Council.

The distinguished delegate of Pakistan was quite right in assuming that the Gulf area does not include the Arabian Sea. The geographical areas covered in the Action Programmes were included at the request of the countries concerned, and as far as I can remember no such request was made for the Arabian Sea. Having said that, I would like to emphasize two points. One is that the Action Programmes do not include national projects. There could be national projects for that part of the world. Secondly, the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, which was established by FAO, will hold its next meeting in Goa at the kind invitation of the Government of India in late May 1985, and on that occasion we will in fact discuss the question of the implementation of Action Programmes within the Indian Ocean, and this of course will include the Arabian Sea. Pakistan is a member of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission.

Thirdly, the distinguished delegate of Pakistan asked what is the difference between regional fishery bodies and fishery development groups. The regional fishery bodies are the intergovernmental commissions and committees established by FAO to deal with fisheries in specific sea areas like the one I have just mentioned, the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission. They are standing bodies which meet regularly. The fisheries development groups are normally subsidiary bodies of those regional fishery commissions. They advise on the implementation of the regional projects within the area covered by a particular commission and are established only for the duration of

the project. For example, we have a committee responsible for fisheries development in the Bay of Bengal, and since we have a regional project in that area, we have established an advisory group for the duration of the project which reports to the intergovernmental body.

Mr Chairman, in conclusion I would like to say that we took note of the numerous interventions regarding what is expected of the next session of the Committee on Fisheries, which will be held in late April next year, and which will consider in more detail the implementation of both the Strategy and the Action Programmes.

We have also noted that most delegations, if not all, supported the suggestion that a progress report should be submitted to the next session of the FAO Conference, and that the Conference should, if it so wishes, adopt a special resolution on the World Fisheries Conference.

Lastly, we have listened carefully to what the delegations have said regarding the implementation of the special resolutions adopted by the World Fisheries Conference, particularly the one on the role of fishermen. We have noted the support given to the suggestion that the Director-General might wish to choose the question of fishermen and fishing communities as a main theme for the World Food Day in 1986.

CHAIRMAN: I will not attempt to make a resume of what we have discussed this morning and yesterday apart from saying that there seems to be general support from all the delegates to the resolutions of the World Fisheries Conference, and certainly all the points that have been raised in the interventions will be taken into proper account by the Drafting Committee as well as by the Fisheries Department.

In conclusion I would like to thank you very much for the cooperation extended, and with this I conclude the session on the deliberation on the Follow-up on World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

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.

CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank Dr Baharsjah, the Vice-Chairman, for chairing so well the discussion on item 6.

- 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 Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security - Rome, 11-18 April 1984
- 5. Rapport de la neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Rome, 11-18 avril 1984
- 5. Informe del noveno período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial - Roma, 11-18 de abril de 1984

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and observers, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security which was held in Rome in April 1984. The report is presented in document CL 86/10.

The Council will note from page 2 of the report that its attention is drawn in particular to three main issues: first, the Committee's assessment of the world food security situation, particularly its concern about the critical food situation in many African countries; second, the Committee's conclusions on the Director-General's proposals for action to implement the revised concept of world food security; and third, the Committee's review of constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries in Africa.

The main issues relating to the food security situation in the world as a whole, as well as in Africa, have already been examined by the Council under the previous items of the Agenda. I would, however, like to refer to one important aspect which was particularly stressed by the Committee, namely, the contribution which non-cereal staples could make to total food consumption and to the stability of food supplies. In accordance with the Committee's request, the Secretariat plans to give greater attention to this question in its future reviews of the world food security situation. Moreover, we intend to hold a workshop in 1985 on the role of and constraints on production and marketing of roots, tubers and plantains in Africa so as to be in a better position to assess the contribution of these staples to food security in countries where they are important.

The Committee also considered the progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security. It noted with satisfaction that a large number of countries had adopted stock policies or practices in accordance with the Plan of Action but expressed concern that many low-income food-deficit countries in particular continued to face serious difficulties in implementing these policies or practices.

The Committee welcomed the increasing regional and sub-regional cooperative initiatives to foster collective self-reliance in food security among developing countries. It appreciated the assistance provided by FAO to several regional and sub-regional schemes. The Committee, however, expressed concern that the International Monetary Fund food financing facility had been availed of so far by a few countries only.

The Committee devoted considerable attention to the examination of the Director-General's report on "World Food Security: Selected Issues and Approaches", which had been prepared as a follow-up to his earlier report on world food security to the Eighth Session of the Committee on Food Security. In his latest report, the Director-General put forward a number of specific proposals on which he hoped consensus would be feasible. These proposals covered all three main elements of the revised concept of world food security, namely, production, stability of supplies and access to food.

The Committee reiterated that action at the national level was the indispensable basis for achieving food security and stressed the need for the low-income food-deficit countries to assign priority to domestic food production.

It emphasized in this connection the importance of an appropriate pricing policy, removing physical constraints, developing suitable technologies and providing necessary inputs. It also recognized, inter alia, the important contribution of traditional foodcrops as well as of livestock, fisheries and fruit-bearing trees augmenting food supplies.

The Committee agreed that a national food reserve could play a useful role in stabilizing supplies at the country level; some delegates referred to the need for carefully examining their cost effectiveness on a case-by-case basis. The Committee agreed that developing countries might need financial assistance to set up storage facilities, food aid to build reserves and technical assistance for training in the management and handling of reserves.

The Committee also invited the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to review the actual working of the arrangement for the lending of occasional food surpluses by developing countries to the World Food Programme, which was approved by that Committee at its Fifth Session.

The need for improving access to food through employment generation, income transfer, reduction of poverty and better distribution of food was stressed although it was recognized that such programmes would impose heavy demands on a country's financing and administrative resources.

The proposal for an FAO Food Security Action Programme (FSAP) put forward by the Director-General received the general support of the Committee. The Director-General was encouraged to proceed to make the necessary organizational arrangements to establish the FSAP and to define in more detail its modus operandi.

The Committee also stressed the need for strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation among developing countries, as a complement to national efforts. In order to facilitate the exchange of information and development of cooperative links among regional and sub-regional schemes, the Committee welcomed the proposal of FAO to organize a workshop with the participation of regional and sub-regional economic groupings.

The Committee considered a number of specific proposals for action at global level. There was general support for an interim system of national food reserves under which developed countries and others in a position to do so, would, within the context of their national systems and legislation, earmark grain or funds for meeting the urgent requirements of low-income food-deficit countries in the event of food supply shortfall. It called on all countries which had not already done so but were in a position to do so, to consider the adoption of similar arrangements.

The Committee examined the suggestion put forward by the Director-General for preparing a world food security compact, which would consolidate what had already been agreed upon in various fora on different aspects of food security. While divergent views were expressed about the proposed compact, the Director-General was requested to begin work on a draft text of a world food security compact for the consideration of the Committee.

It will be recalled that the Council and the Conference had generally supported a strengthening of the Committee within its existing mandate. Accordingly, the Director-General outlined at the Ninth Session of the Committee a number of initiatives he proposed to take in order to improve further the analytical basis for the Committee's work. These included a study on the production and marketing constraints on traditional food crops, a review of the medium-term outlook for world food supplies and requirements, and an assessment of the contribution which food aid might make to world food security in the late eighties and nineties. The Committee welcomed these initiatives.

I now turn to the Committee's discussion on problems on food production in Africa.

The Committee reviewed the constraints faced by low-income food-deficit countries in Africa in creating effective delivery systems to serve small-scale farmers. This was one of the four priority areas for future action identified by the Committee at its Eighth Session, the other three being training, research and institutional development.

In considering the crucial role played by an effective delivery system in increasing food production, the Committee stressed the importance of a number of operations as well as their cost effectiveness. It suggested that under many conditions it might be necessary to make a comprehensive and integrated approach in reviewing the overall coordination of delivery systems as well as the effectiveness of their components.

The Committee identified a number of areas for action by FAO in cooperation with others concerned. It recognized that activities in these areas were already pursued in FAO's programme and that the Director-General had given particular priority to Africa. The Committee requested the Director-General to take these proposals together with the recommendations of the Regional Conference for Africa on training, research and technology gaps, and institutional development into consideration when formulating his proposals for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87. Finally, the Director-General was requested to continue to keep the food security situation in Africa under close review and to provide a regular flow of information thereon to the African countries and interested donor governments, agencies and organizations of the U.N. system, and to pursue his efforts to mobilize international assistance for the African countries.

Finally, the Committee carried out its fourth biennial review of the activities of the Food Security Assistance Scheme. The Committee regretted that the level of resources of the Scheme during the last biennium 1982-83 had declined sharply. In considering the future orientation in this Scheme, the Committee stressed in particular the use of establishing or reinforcing a national early warning system, and of training and technical assistance.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Professor Islam. The floor is now open for discussion.

T.D. DA COSTA (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): La délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe voudrait tout d'abord vous féliciter pour votre élection à la Présidence de ce Conseil, ainsi que celle des trois vice-présidents.

Nous sommes certains que sous votre habituelle et sage orientation les travaux prévus seront bien conduits à leur terme.

Nous vous remercions ainsi que les autres membres du Conseil de nous permettre d'aborder à nouveau aujourd'hui, dans le cadre de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, la situation alimentaire en Afrique, analysée et discutée hier au sein de ce Conseil. L'éloquente intervention de Monsieur le Directeur général le Dr. Edouard Saouma, principalement, ainsi que celles des orateurs qui se sont prononcés sur le même sujet, nous ont montré avec beaucoup de clarté combien la situation alimentaire en Afrique était grave et combien il est nécessaire de trouver une solution urgente capable de nous permettre de nous en sortir à court, moyen et long terme.

La FAO nous a maintes fois fourni l'occasion de réfléchir à ce problème et, aujourd'hui, étant donné la situation dramatique que rencontre notre continent, nous n'avons aucune autre solution que de nous efforcer à trouver des réponses pratiques aboutissant à de nouveaux efforts et à des actions dont les efforts seront capables de neutraliser et éliminer ces fléaux constants de nombreuses victimes sur notre continent. Nous pouvons conclure de nos analyses et réflexions que le problème alimentaire en Afrique est dû à notre incapacité à en contrôler les causes; il faut insister sur le non-fonctionnement de nos structures, sur une formation déficiente de nos cadres, un manque d'équipement et des facteurs naturels, qui freinent ainsi le développement agricole et l'élevage. Toutefois il ne faut pas négliger les facteurs économiques essentiels qui constituent les éléments de base du problème alimentaire en Afrique.

Ainsi, sommes-nous amenés à nous demander pour quelle raison nous faisons presque tous partie des pays pauvres alors que nous possédons une grande partie des ressources naturelles du globe. De plus, nous sommes confrontés à la crise économique mondiale au même titre que les pays industrialisés dont les effets se font ressentir de façon plus cruelle dans nos pays étant donné la précarité de nos structures agricoles. C'est ce qui nous amène à dire que la situation alimentaire en Afrique doit constituer une préoccupation constante, non seulement pour notre peuple et nos gouvernements respectifs, mais aussi pour la communauté Internationale.

Ceci signifie que nos actions et celles de la communauté internationale doivent nous conduire à l'instauration d'un nouvel ordre économique international, à une nouvelle politique de travail dans le monde, à de nouvelles techniques et technologies, à un changement dans la politique des prix de nos produits de base, à un développement accéléré de nos centres d'investigation nationaux et sous-régionaux, à la formation et à la spécialisation de nos cadres, au financement de projets agronomiques et d'élevage prioritaire dans le cadre des grandes stratégies, pour l'autosuffisance alimentaire allant de pair avec un remboursement à plus long terme des intérêts plus bas.

La situation alimentaire en Afrique, notamment en Ethiopie et au Mozambique, est extrêmement dramatique et c'est avec une grande attention que nous avons suivi l'intervention du Directeur général de la FAO à ce sujet. La façon dont il a traité les problèmes montre bien combien la situation est difficile et je suis certain que les mesures qu'il préconise trouveront une issue heureuse.

La visite prévue par le Dr. Edouard Saouma en Ethiopie, afin de mettre en place avec les autorités éthiopiennes les opérations d'appui et d'aide alimentaire aux populations les plus touchées, révèle une fois encore l'esprit de sacrifice et de dévouement avec lequel ce dirigeant voit le problème alimentaire en Afrique et sa prédisposition à comprendre davantage nos problèmes alimentaires et nous aider à les combattre de la façon la plus efficace possible. Au-delà de tout ceci, et dans le moment historique que traversent nos peuples sous-développés, l'attitude du Dr. Edouard Saouma, liée à d'autres efforts prévus des pays donateurs en décembre prochain, est encourageante et exemplaire et doit compter avec la participation active de toute la communauté internationale qui semble avoir véritablement pris conscience des problèmes des pays africains.

En ce qui nous concerne, nous Africains, nous devons continuer avant tout à lutter de plus en plus pour connaître avec plus de clarté et de profondeur les causes inhérentes à notre situation pour, qu'avec optimisme et esprit de sacrifice, nous tirions les meilleurs bénéfices de l'effort consenti par la communauté internationale.

Ceci veut dire que nous devons rassembler nos efforts pour mettre en pratique les idées de la Déclaration de Harare que nous avons acceptée unanimement comme document guide, orientateur, de nos actions en vue du développement de notre agriculture et de notre élevage à la lumière de compromis assumés par nos chefs d'Etat à Lagos. L'espace général du développement de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et des pêches à Sao Tomé-et-Principe a changé qualitativement par rapport à l'année passée, année caractérisée par la plus grande sécheresse jamais enregistrée depuis des dizaines d'années, et, dirai-je, depuis les cinq dernières années.

Cette année 1984 au contraire s'est caractérisée par des pluies excessives depuis le mois de Janvier entraînant de graves effets dans le contrôle phytosanitaire des plantations cacaoyères, notamment, et provoquant une perte d'un tiers de la production prévue. La production horticole a également été désastreuse, celle-ci n'atteignant même pas 50 pour cent de la quantité prévue. En outre, les pluies excessives provoquent des glissements de terrain, posant ainsi le problème de la conservation des sols, des routes et des ponts. L'élevage connaît une légère amélioration et avec l'aide déjà amorcée de la FAO, du PNUD et du FENU, de bonnes perspectives s'offrent à nous principalement dans le développement de cheptels, porcins et bovins. Il est évident, cependant, que tout ceci rend difficile notre développement de l'agriculture et de l'élevage. Entre-temps et indépendamment des aides auxquelles je viens de me référer, nous sommes en train de créer des bases importantes pour les succès escomptés.

Espérons que les initiatives en cours pour la mise en oeuvre de projets de réhabilitation et de rénovation de cacaoyers, de caféiers et de palmiers financés par la Banque mondiale, la BAD, la Caisse centrale française, la CEE, et soutenus par le PAM et autres organisations des Nations Unies, pourront être complémentaires de l'effort national, et feront amorcer ainsi une nouvelle étape dans le développement de l'agro-élevage du pays.

Pour terminer, la délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe réitère son entière adhésion à l'esprit du système d'alerte rapide de la FAO, et aux initiatives du Directeur général pour la réhabilitation agricole des pays de notre continent qui traversent des situations de famine grave (l'Ethiopie en particulier) en vue de créer des plans de prévention pour que de telles situations soient évitées et qu'il y ait au moins des effets moins néfastes dans un bref avenir.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. May I say how much we appreciate your presence, Mr Da Costa; we are grateful for your most valuable intervention.

H. FONTES DA ROCHA VIANNA (Brazil): I would like to thank Professor Nurul Islam for his introduction to this subject. My delegation, which participated in the last session of the Committee on World Food Security in an observer capacity, takes this opportunity to offer a few comments on the report contained in the document before us.

First of all, I would like to inform the Council that Brazil shares the concern of the Committee regarding the reduction in the food security level in many low-income food-deficit countries,

particularly Africa. In this connection, we join with members of the CFS in commending the Director-General for the efforts made to draw the attention of the international community to the emergency situation in that continent, as well as to mobilize international assistance for the most affected countries.

With respect to the measures suggested by the Director-General in his report during the Eighth session of the CFS, my delegation would like to reiterate its full support for the proposal that at national level the highest priority should be assigned to increasing food production in developing countries, particularly in the low-income food-deficit countries.

In this context, Brazil recognizes the present relevant role of food aid in strengthening food security through improved nutrition, contributing to the development of servicing supplies and response to emergencies. As far as the regional and sub-regional levels are concerned, my delegation stresses the idea that regional and sub-regional action to establish food security should complement and not substitute the national efforts and should be consistent with each region's needs.

In this way, my Government considers meaningful the following measures aimed at ensuring food security at regional and sub-regional levels; to promote and increase food production and productivity to stimulate inter-regional trade, to include wider price conditions for agricultural products in developing countries, to strengthen national storage, transport and information facilities, to aid research and technological development, to establish a certain degree of coordination of sub-regional, regional and global measures aimed at ensuring food security.

With respect to the measures at global level, my delegation supports the view that trade is one of the main components of food security as well as access between international and national resources. Accordingly, Brazil shares with CFS the idea that the flow of these resources into the low-income countries should be strengthened and efforts should be made in favour of the replenishment of IFAD resources.

Along the same lines of global measures, we think a major role belongs to FAO in the common effort towards world food security. My delegation feels that effective coordination of action should be taken by the existing national organization, and believes that such coordinated efforts will be a highly productive enterprise which will proceed peacefully towards food security.

In accordance with the Brazilian position within the scope of the Latin American Economic Conference held last January, we fully support what is stated by the CFS in paragraph 69 of document CL 86/10:

“... all international organizations concerned with food issues to cooperate closely and to coordinate their activities, taking into account their respective mandates, in order to avoid overlap and wastage of resources and to expedite progress towards world food security.”

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Lebanon): I would like to thank Professor Nurul Islam for his brilliant exposé.

The Lebanese delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Committee on World Food Security for its commendable work. The Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee has addressed itself to important issues which are at the heart of FAO's mandate to provide leadership within the UN system for safeguarding world food security. My delegation endorses the Report in its entirety, including the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

The Committee comments that it was paradoxical and unfortunate that despite adequate supplies at the global level, food security in many low income countries, particularly in Africa, had deteriorated to a lower level today than it was in April 1984. The major task on the food security agenda is to correct this unfortunate and unacceptable situation. It is in this light that Section IV of the Report, which discusses measures at national, regional and international levels to implement the revised concept of world food security, should be considered and given special attention.

While action at national level is an indispensable basis for achieving food security, developing countries would need adequate technical and financial assistance in their endeavours to formulate and implement national food security programmes. In this connection, the Food Security Action Programme to coordinate FAO support for formulating and executing national food security programmes, and for mobilizing external assistance to such programmes, would be of particular help.

As regards action at regional and sub-regional level, my delegation agrees that encouraging the exchange of information for developing cooperative links among regional and sub-regional schemes is useful. Such exchanges would help regional and sub-regional organizations to learn from each others' experiences in cooperative schemes in food security. Thus FAO should proceed, as recommended by the Committee, to organise a workshop with the participation of representatives of regional and sub-regional economic groupings. My delegation appreciates the offer of the Government of Australia to provide financial support for the workshop.

The Committee's decision to strengthen the analytical basis of its work is also welcome. In this connection, I support the studies outlined in paragraph 67 including a study on the production and marketing constraints on traditional foodcrops; a review of the medium-term outlook for world food supplies and requirements; and an assessment of the contribution which food aid might make to world food security in the late eighties and nineties.

I also commend the Committee for the study that it has undertaken on constraints on food production in low income food deficit countries in Africa. I fully support the Committee's conclusion that increased international and financial assistance is required to help African countries, and I call on all donor countries and international financing agencies to meet this challenge.

The paradoxical situation in the world - starvation and hunger - can only be resolved by appropriate action at the international level and the readiness of the international community to help low-income developing countries in their efforts to raise production, stabilize supplies and improve access to food. It is for this reason that I would like to call upon members of the Council to give unequivocal support for the Committee's recommended measures at the global level.

In particular, the Lebanese delegation welcomes the Committee's request to the Director-General to prepare a draft text of a World Food Security Compact for the Committee's consideration. My delegation believes that the Compact will activate the political and moral support of the international community for world food security.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): We extend our full support to the World Food Security Compact as pronounced by the Director-General, and now elaborated upon by Professor Nurul Islam in his very well presented statement.

We consider that the World Food Security Compact deserves the assurance of all our support. It is an omnibus scheme, meant for assistance to all the afflicted areas in the world at a time when different parts of the world are affected seriously by a series of crises, in particular and so poignantly, in Africa, about which we have heard so much from many distinguished delegates speaking about the crises when that item of the Agenda was under discussion. Now is not too soon to give the Council the enthusiastic support which the Director-General deserves for putting forward this Compact which I consider is a consolidation of what has already been agreed upon by the Committee; it is now only a matter of ensuring that it is properly implemented.

To my mind, this Compact will make a very great global impact, and if it is carried out and implemented in full measure, as FAO has the reputation of doing, it will serve the people of these affected areas by the comprehensive variety of its schemes. The Compact is very necessary in the present state of food conditions in the world, particularly in Africa, as I have said. I would say that the Compact will be the salvation of such unfortunate countries. I hope it will give ideas to those in a more fortunate position as to how they can give, assistance to the more unfortunate countries.

As has been mentioned by Professor Islam, world food security is a responsibility for all of us. There can be no difference of opinion in the matter of safeguarding food security, which is in such jeopardy at present. Yesterday, Mrs Fenwick poignantly described what she saw in Africa, and the conditions pertaining there. Our hearts go out to them. The question of world food security becomes all the more vital at this particular stage in the history of world food development.

A war against want, as Mrs Gandhi was always saying, is necessary rather than any other sort, of war going on in various parts of the world. If the Council, through FAO, undertakes this war against want in full totality, it will have a great effect on the future. Its eventual purpose is to make sure beyond the shadow of a doubt that all people all over the world are well fed, that they have the capacity to produce, more and to be able to secure at least the basic things they need so that they have a well balanced diet, in the near future, and so that in the years to come there will be no undernutrition or malnutrition, and the growing generation will not suffer as the present generation is suffering.

Mr Chairman, from the vast area of your experience, you will be the first to agree that hunger brooks no delay. Speedy solutions must be found as soon as possible by the expert organization of FAO supported by the distinguished delegates who are here today. Therefore, perhaps I may describe it as an edifice of food resources which we must ensure is erected as soon as possible. It must be erected on a firm foundation to ensure it does not collapse at any time in the future, because temporary remedies, however urgent and necessary for the moment, may not stand the test of time and we cannot afford a worsening situation in the future, or to take risks with the future.

Therefore, increase of production, its reliability and duration, and our ability to rush food-stocks to the rescue of those in dire distress, should engage the instant attention of the Council of FAO, which is already doing so much. No political strings should be attached to those aims and objectives.

The only consideration permissible should be the chain solely of human and humanitarian consideration and just no other. The concentration should be on more production than dependence mostly on imports, though at particularly critical times that many be unavoidable. As the Secretary-General of the UN has said, agricultural techniques are needed to vitalize agricultural production, to maximize the extent by a greater utilization of arable land, the intensification of production on land already under cultivation and to show the farmers the ways of double and triple cropping and to mix crops on their soil, on some of the soils. The population in the world which is still going on unabated is the penalty we have to pay and to provide for. Although we in India have, as you are aware, the world's biggest family planning programmes and we have been able to control the population to some extent, we are still growing at the rate of one in Australia, namely 13 million, and this is only one example in many of the developing countries.

I have already detailed in earlier interventions the incentives provided in our country for the farmers, particularly for the small and marginal farmers with holding up to between 2.5 to 5 hectares, and this may be and is the condition obtaining in other countries as well and for which more and more incentives require to be provided through loans from national banks, incentives of types to increase and encourage their further production, provision of inputs and research facilities to which I will presently come, to meet the devastation caused by the invasion of elementary calamity including floods and droughts, but not only those, there are the various areas of landslides and avalanches. It is most imperative to develop and refine the Early Warning System by a properly organized methodology of forecasts as far as possible, because of course we cannot always be quite accurate in the forecasts of nature, but as far as possible, whatever possible should be undertaken to warn the helpless and hapless people of the danger they might be facing and therefore to provide for getting reserve stock on the ready, also the transport by road and rail and ship to save these helpless people from disaster. The importance of transport cannot be over emphasized. It has been mentioned by me and other delegates in earlier interventions because the generosity of all the donations which we have been receiving would be lost in its purpose if it does not reach the people for whom it is so urgently required.

In this connection, to ensure world food security over a long-term programme, it may also be required to be mentioned that we must target the period of time for which the food aid which is provided is available to the people. How long is it going to be available? For example, in Ethiopia, the devastation may last for another year or so, one can never be sure; it may be longer. Have we got the capacity? With the present stocks that we have (and donations which have been forthcoming and which will be forthcoming thanks to the realization of responsibilities and generosity of the donor countries) to what period of time will they be able to provide it? I am sure FAO will take adequate notice of this.

In this connection, the food habits of the people have also to be watched. I remember our experience in a rice-eating area in India during a rice shortage in a particular area some years ago, the people were saying that they were starving though we had rushed them ample stocks of wheat and other food grains, because their habit was only to eat rice, so food habits are not easy to change and food security will have to take into account and into their care and consideration that matter as well.

The increasing purchasing power of the economically weaker sections is another factor which will have to be made sure of, the purchasing power of economically weaker sections is very fragile, and so improvements in the purchasing power through the efforts of various countries on their own and through assistance is of great necessity.

The World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, I recall, has drawn pointed attention to this matter. It is very important for us in the Third World, the developing countries, to work in complete coordination and unity of purpose to give food security the full assurance that it deserves and needs. There must be no difference of opinion within ourselves to coordinate our efforts and to unify them to the maximum extent possible by a continuity of consultations. This will include proper distribution of inputs, hybrid seeds, fertilizers, and exchange of information and the Early Warning Systems to which I have referred. In all these the FAO would be of value and indispensable assistance. It is, however, not only the inter-country endeavours of the developing countries which matters but also the expectation of cooperation from developed countries to ensure that world food security is achieved, so together the coordination within the developing countries themselves and the cooperation from the developed countries through agencies like FAO - the apex agencies I call it of food security in the world - the apex agencies could be achieved or expected to be achieved as far as possible.

Targets for production and caution on prices are both required to be done. A target of production will have to be fixed if they fail to be reached, reasons will have to be found why they are not reached and unless and until we have safeguards against these elemental calamities and Early Warning Systems and reserve stocks and buffer stocks, it may not always be possible to achieve our goals. Caution on prices is a very vital factor because prices very often run out of hand and the poor people cannot afford them. So the caution on upswing of prices must be checked especially at such critical times. Developed countries, I am sure, will endeavour to ensure more effective ways of helping the poor food-shortage affected countries and make their export prices come within the range of the limits of the importing countries.

The stock sent should be of good quality, efficient and quick in delivery. Payment could be on deferred terms of payment to make it easy for the poor countries to be able to get these stocks. Not only that, the shipping facilities should be provided quickly and they should not suffer from the ships carrying such food-stuffs lying upstream on the sea and not being able to find berths.

For this purpose, even roll-on/roll-off facilities are necessary, in which FAO can intervene to ensure, that roll-on, roll-off ships could be utilized to make sure that the stocks are sent from the contributing countries to rush to the aid or that imports arrive as quickly as possible.

Not only governments but also non-governmental organizations, voluntary organizations and individuals can make efforts in these all-out endeavours which we are committed to make and dedicated to make.

I would refer to one very important point, and that is avoidance of malpractices, which occur galore at times of food crisis, so the elimination of these malpractices, by which I mean the middlemen, who damage the interest both of the farmer and the consumer at such particularly critical times in order to profiteer to the maximum extent they can and the hoarding which happens also during shortages, efforts should be made to save them, and I am quite sure that FAO will draw attention to that fact, that the role of the middlemen should be eliminated in order to assure world food security and to see that the poor man is not his victim.

Political exploitation at times of crisis at the cost of the people should be avoided at all costs, and I am quite sure that all the national governments are fully aware of the fact. World food security is often jeopardized by anxieties of such activities. What is needed to my mind is to ensure longer-term authority of world food security. I use the word authority of world food security. In addition to the assurance, the authority would mean that it could also be quite sure of what it will achieve with the authority of FAO, on which all the days that I have been hearing the delegates speak, there is so much expression of confidence and trust. In this connection, I would only mention a few points; the setting up of agricultural research service through specially constituted agricultural boards of scientists. You are one of the most internationally-renowned scientists, Mr Chairman, and I am sure you will be able to throw more light on how agricultural research services work by setting up agricultural scientists boards in various countries, both at the provincial, national and international levels would be able to contribute the world's food security. It will facilitate maximum utilization of available manpower as well. It will enable desired mobility of scientists from one position to another as required in the interests of agricultural research and of education.

Education in the programme of world food security is another vital factor to which attention will be required to be paid. Coordination projects of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, dryland agriculture on land and marine fisheries have to be undertaken. At present they are being undertaken but separately and not coordinately, and that is why I am stressing the great importance of these coordinated projects of rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, dryland agriculture and inland and marine fisheries.

The development of suitable agriculture implements for farmers; sometimes we try to apply the too high technology which the world has applied to simple farmers also. It is not effective for them, and so what requires to be done for the simple farmers is the development of medium technology suitable and appropriate to them, for efficient use of water, water requirements, of crop reclamation and of saline areas to which I referred earlier.

The research on veterinary and animal husbandry; we discussed animal food and husbandry in the CFA at some length, but we have not referred to the extent we should have here because they too go hand in hand, and research on veterinary and animal husbandry or provision of facilities by veterinary clinics and hospitals to allow greater extent in order to save the animal welfare, and animal health which assists in food security programmes, can be provided. Vaccines for the control of various diseases are very important. They have been developed and could be provided to a greater extent, which I am sure FAO will endeavour to do in its package.

Better input management; sometimes the inputs provided by the management are not as efficient as they could be and that requires therefore a vital consideration to be undertaken, given attention and study.

The development and release of high-yielding varieties of crops can play a greater role and increase its food production and so put us on the right road to world food security. The Green Revolution and the White Revolution, which we have had in India, are excellent examples of what can be achieved.

These are a few thoughts which occurred to me, while endorsing wholeheartedly the Committee's recommendations as elaborated by the Director-General and by the Assistant Director-General and the full support which I said earlier the Compact deserves, as it will create greater political and moral support to continue the struggle to fight hunger and other difficulties arising from it.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

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'AUMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/8

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

EIGHT PLENARY MEETING HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE OCTAVA SESION PLENARIA

(22 November 1984)

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

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

Se abre la séptima 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 Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security - Rome, 11-18 April 1984
(continued)
- 5. Rapport de la neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale - Rome, 11-18 avril 1984
(suite)
- 5. Informe del noveno período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial - Roma, 11-18 de abril de 1984 (continuación)

R. MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia quiere destacar que no obstante algunos signos que creían indicar una disminución de la recesión mundial, la recuperación económica sigue siendo incierta para el mundo industrializado e hipotética para los países en desarrollo.

Por las cifras suministradas en el informe, el consumo de alimentos fundamentales por habitante es probable que disminuya en mas de la mitad en algunos países de bajos ingresos con déficit de alimentos en 1983/84 y en la gran mayoría de ellos se reduzca a un nivel inferior al de 1969/71.

Queremos relevar que sobre los países del Tercer Mundo siguen gravitando los graves problemas de balanza de pagos, limitación de los mercados de exportación, aumento del endeudamiento exterior y servicio de la deuda, depreciación de sus monedas frente al dólar estadounidense, factores que hacen difícil que los países de bajos ingresos con deficit de alimentos puedan aprovechar en determinados momentos la baja de precio de determinados alimentos para cubrir sus necesidades vitales.

La delegación de Colombia considera que la acción a nivel nacional constituye la base indispensable para conseguir la seguridad alimentaria y son los mismos países, en función de su soberanía, quienes tienen que determinar la orientación de los programas. Apoya la solicitud para que el Comité del GATT, Comercio en el Sector Agrícola, concluya los estudios que viene realizando para mejorar el acceso de los productos agrícolas a los mercados, y que aquéllos sean pragmáticos y positivos y conduzcan al incremento del comercio en este sector, y mejoren los ingresos de exportación, especialmente, de los países en desarrollo.

La delegación de mi país constata que solo unos pocos países han podido utilizar, hasta hoy, el Servicio de Financiación de Alimentos del Fondo Monetario Internacional y quiere reiterar que se liberalicen las condiciones de uso de este servicio, y que su radio de acción incluya también alimentos no cerealeros e insumos agrícolas.

Medidas a nivel mundial. La delegación de Colombia apoya las siguientes propuestas específicas. Hay que destacar la contribución que un nuevo Acuerdo Internacional sobre los Cereales, con disposiciones sobre precios y existencias, puede aportar a la seguridad alimentaria mundial la estabilidad del mercado. La función de la RAIE deberá atender a necesidades urgentes elevando su nivel actual de 500 000 toneladas a 2 000 000 de toneladas al año. Un comercio de exportación libre y creciente es fundamental para la seguridad alimentaria. La capacidad de los países para financiar importaciones depende básicamente del aumento de sus ingresos en divisas. Hoy tienen que recurrir a sus cada día deterioradas divisas para servir su deuda exterior, y financiar otras importaciones para la promoción urgente de su desarrollo agrícola y económico. Un estudio sobre la estructura actual del comercio agrícola podría elevar la actual coyuntura que es, a todas luces, inequitativa.

Pactos sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial. En esencia, consistiría en copilar acuerdos existentes; suscitar un apoyo internacional a los objetivos y medidas de rehabilitación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Crear una conciencia mayor y un apoyo moral en el público a favor de la seguridad alimentaria para continuar luchando contra el hambre en su contexto revisado. El examen de un texto concreto sería una herramienta eficaz para pronunciarse sobre su eficacia y utilidad.

Reforzamiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria. Dentro de su mandato actual, se ha expresado un apoyo general al Comité, tanto en el Consejo como en la Conferencia. Su encargo es suficientemente amplio para cumplir sus responsabilidades. Ha acogido una serie de iniciativas del Director General para reforzar la base analítica del Comité. Es fundamental la evaluación del aporte que la ayuda alimentaria puede contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria mundial en los años 80 y 90 La delegación de Colombia considera que, dentro de las esferas prioritarias para la asistencia internacional en orden a dar plena vigencia a los enunciados anteriores, la asistencia exterior, en consulta con los países receptores, debe orientarse al mejoramiento de las instituciones existentes. Y la delegación de mi país, quiere dejar expresa constancia de los esfuerzos realizados por el Director General, y los elogia, en orden a crear una conciencia internacional para la rehabilitación de Africa, obtener asistencia adicional, interesar a los gobiernos donantes, a los organismos y organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas para movi-lizar una asistencia internacional para las graves emergencias y necesidades urgentes de los países africanos.

R. STEINER (Austria): The report before us on the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and the introduction by the Assistant Director-General, Professor Islam, provide a good survey of the progress so far achieved and the tasks still ahead of the Committee.

My delegation welcomes the fact that during the CFS meeting the requirements on a national, regional and global level were dealt with and that production, supply security and the access to food were particularly considered.

In the course of the debate on previous subjects we underlined the great importance of increasing food production in the African region. Our endeavours should be concentrated on all appropriate measures in order to phase the emergency operations over into the restoration with the aim of reducing emergency assistance from outside at the earliest feasible time.

With reference to paragraph 16 of the present document, the Austrian delegation wants to reiterate the great importance of the Early Warning System of FAO and also wants to refer to the successful efforts of the FAO/WFP Task Force.

The Austrian delegation supports the proposal of the Director-General concerning the Food Security Programme and endorses the statements contained in paragraph 43 and subsequent paragraphs that each of the existing special action programmes, that is the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Fertilizer Programme, the Seed Improvement and Development Programme, and the Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses, will retain its own identity, while responding operationally in a coherent, concerted and interdisciplinary approach to demands.

These project identifications, formulations and implementations should not be restricted to the four above-mentioned special action programmes but should involve, and I am sure they will, other FAO services as and when required • My delegation wants to stress the importance of the Investment Centre in this context.

We advocate the regional and sub-regional cooperation in food security among developing countries and endorse the respective statements of paragraph 47 accordingly. Likewise the focusing of efforts on most seriously affected countries is an approach fully endorsed by the Austrian delegation.

The support of the regional and sub-regional cooperation and the recommended first step towards the organization of the workshop mentioned in paragraphs 50 and 51 should be prepared most carefully in order to achieve and meet the objectives.

As regards Item (e), strengthening the CFS, in paragraph 65 it should be mentioned that the FAO/WFP Task Force established by the Director-General should assist in strengthening CFA's activities.

Concerning the orientation of the activities of the Food Security Assistance Scheme we would stress the need to have also future projects fully taken into account, the targets and objectives defined by the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference. Moreover, when planning and implementing projects the principle of "he who helps fast helps twice" should be followed.

It appears to us most sensible to attach particular attention to the training aspects. Training projects should, when and wherever feasible, be organized in the developing countries themselves since an increasing number of them meet the prerequisites for such programmes.

With the knowledge we all have about the state of food supply in the world, and in particular in a number of countries affected by natural calamities, we have to admit that hunger and malnutrition will overshadow the work of FAO, the Conference and the Council, for some time to come. The work of the Committee on World Food Security should therefore attract our fullest attention. Let me therefore express the hope that also through the work of the Committee on World Food Security hunger will in future become an exception.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá desea formular los siguientes comentarios sobre el tema 5 de este Consejo, relativo al informe del 9º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Con referencia a la evaluación de la situación de la seguridad alimentaria mundial y la insuficiencia de existencias alimentarias, nos pronunciamos en el sentido de que se insista en continuar en los próximos exámenes, prestando la debida atención que para la seguridad alimentaria tiene el considerar otros alimentos fundamentales diferentes a los cereales, especialmente alimentos producidos localmente.

Cabe señalar que esto lo hemos discutido y llegado a acuerdo en distintos Comités que asesoran este Consejo así como en diversos Grupos Intergubernamentales, dada la dramática situación por la que atraviesan los hermanos países africanos, y sobre la cual nos ha informado detalladamente el

Director General de esta Organización en su discurso inaugural, y posteriormente al exponer el tema cuatro, punto 1.

La delegación de Panamá le reitera su respaldo por las efectivas y oportunas gestiones para hacer frente a esta crisis en África. Y sobre este aspecto, nos sumamos a los que han instado a la comunidad internacional; e igualmente, reconocimos el mérito de aquella parte de la misma que así lo ha hecho al proporcionar la ayuda necesaria para resolver esta situación de carácter coyuntural.

Asimismo consideramos que una forma efectiva de afrontar estas situaciones coyunturales, entre otras cosas, es darle bases más seguras y estables a la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia, la RAIE. De aquí que tenga sentido y justificación la propuesta de elevar el nivel anual mínimo de esta Reserva a dos millones de toneladas de cereales, porque vemos en esta propuesta la forma de liberar y poder disponer así del resto de la ayuda alimentaria de que se disponga para proyectos de desarrollo, que realmente contribuyan a la solución de problemas estructurales.

Sobre las medidas que se han tomado con respecto al informe del Director General acerca de la seguridad alimentaria, punto 4 del documento CL 86/10, señalamos y destacamos que las medidas a nivel nacional deben estar dirigidas y orientadas no sólo a tomar en cuenta los intereses de los pequeños agricultores y campesinos sin tierra sino a buscar su plena participación en forma organizada, acorde con las políticas de precios adecuados, de tecnologías y desarrollo oportuno de infraestructuras, de comercialización, crédito y pago oportuno al productor agropecuario por aquello que produce y vende.

Sobre el importante aspecto que tiene que ver con la constitución de reservas nacionales, y sobre todo tomando en cuenta el problema de sus elevados costos de mantenimiento, creemos que el éxito puede estar en examinar caso por caso, así como que se piense en reservas modestas que, inicialmente, puedan satisfacer, al menos, necesidades inmediatas durante situaciones de urgencia hasta poder conseguir importaciones necesarias.

Esta, creemos, bien puede ser una recomendación que surja de este período de sesiones. Con relación a las misiones de identificación del Programa de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria, PROASA, consideramos que la participación de los donantes en dichas misiones no debe constituir una condición previa para que las mismas se realicen. De ocurrir, creemos, sería realmente subordinar la asistencia multilateral a la bilateral, por la experiencia inicial ya acumulada. En materia de cooperación sobre seguridad alimentaria, a nivel regional, creemos conveniente los ocho señalamientos que sobre consultas nos hace el párrafo 47 en sus últimas cuatro líneas. Y sobre este particular, por ejemplo, podemos informar que nuestro país Panamá, con asistencia del Comité sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Regional, CASAR, del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano, SELA, adelanta su plan alimentario nacional. Pero, señor Presidente, para esta delegación, hablar de seguridad alimentaria a una década de realizada la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, equivale a tener que recordar que la deuda total de lo que se ha dado en llamar Tercer Mundo, es inferior a lo que se gasta anualmente en armamentos; así como que el solo pago de los intereses de esta deuda viene a equivaler a más de un cuarto del valor de todos los bienes y servicios exportados por los países que no son exportadores de petróleo; y que, paralelamente a esta situación, los países ricos hacen muy poco para suavizar al menos sus medidas proteccionistas contra las exportaciones de los países en vías de desarrollo, a fin de aliviar, en parte, sus problemas de balanzas de pagos.

Es por todo esto que, con relación al aspecto que plantea el párrafo 67 sobre un reforzamiento de la base analítica del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, se deba analizar más a fondo los aspectos de producción nacional, consumo, comercio, políticas de existencias en relación con los objetivos de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Y decimos esto, señor Presidente, porque en el reciente pasado período de sesiones del Grupo Intergubernamental sobre Cereales, al discutir lo relativo a las políticas de cereales nacionales de los principales productores y exportadores en los suministros y precios de los cereales, no se logró el objetivo inicial del examen en cuanto a la relación de todos estos aspectos y la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

G. MACKO (Czechoslovakia): The Director-General's report on the food crisis and the critical situation in Africa has clearly shown the importance of a system of world food security. There are many aspects of world food security which have not yet been fully established, despite the resolutions passed by the World Food Conference in 1974 and numerous other international meetings and negotiations since then.

I would like only to emphasize two points:

Firstly, the indisputable significance of the FAO Early Warning System as for any multilateral-bilateral action, fast and accurate information is needed. Secondly, coming back to the Director-General's report on Africa, rehabilitation programmes are extremely important in this context. The approval of five million dollars from savings for this purpose seems to me to be minimal, and certainly could be increased.

Direct food aid to the suffering countries is only a temporary solution and does not eradicate the basic causes of hunger and malnutrition. We strongly believe that food security, not only in Africa but also in other developing countries, means resolving a number of basic economic problems in these countries and the progressive building-up of a structure of agricultural and food production aimed at self-reliance.

When speaking about world food security, one cannot repeat too often that food security is closely related to the problem of international tensions and the need to stop the feverish accumulation of arms.

As I could not intervene on the Director-General's report on Africa, may I only mention, in connection with the point being debated now, that Czechoslovakia is helping the countries of the African region in building their independent agro-industrial structure and also offers non-reimbursable economic, financial and technical assistance. Up to the present, Czechoslovakia has given assistance to Ethiopia to the value of 77 million Czechoslovak crowns and the President of the Republic has sent by air a gift of medicines to the value of 67 thousand US dollars: to Mozambique six million crowns and similar assistance to Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, the Republic of Guinea, Mali, Angola, Ghana, Benin and Mauritania. This aid includes several million crowns' worth of economic assistance and emergency food aid.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Report before us shows that the CFS possesses a mandate which allows it to perform its important functions of dealing with the situation of world food security and the implementation of the plan of action on world food security.

The Federal Republic of Germany supports the statements of the report as regards measures at national level as well as with regard to strengthening regional and sub-regional cooperation. In this connection, on the basis of a balance of service transactions, my delegation pointed out the central importance it attaches to the improvement of food security, in particular in Africa. This priority is being maintained.

The preparation of a study by the FAO Secretariat on the importance of food aid in the nineties will be useful so long as we can count on that study and that we can draw on the expertise of all the international fora, in particular the World Food Programme.

We have no objection to the introduction of better coordination of the existing four relevant special programmes into a Food Security Action Programme. However, we cannot yet form a definite opinion because in our view, some questions have not yet been adequately clarified - questions such as cost effectiveness, the additional mobilization of funds and the possible overlapping of money with WFP. These questions mainly refer to paragraphs 43 and 46 of the report before us. However, we await with interest a more clear definition at the next CFS Session.

With regard to the preparation of a World Food Security Compact reaction differed widely in the CFS, ranging from approval through indifference to rejection. We did not oppose in the CFS the wish of the Director-General to prepare a draft text of such a Compact. Nevertheless our attitude towards the eventual impact of that project continues to be sceptical. However, we are prepared to study in an objective and unbiased, way the draft of such a Compact of existing food security measures.

My delegation supports the request addressed to the Director-General to continue to keep under close review the food situation in Africa, to keep the international community informed about developments in Africa, and to continue his efforts to mobilize further assistance to solve the food problems of Africa. The Director-General has already given evidence of his actions in this regard and after our constructive discussion on Agenda item 4.1 - The Food Situation in Africa - we will encourage him to continue his actions in the future.

Finally, we welcome the announcement of Professor Islam that the Secretariat will work on the role of production and marketing of roots and tubers as staple food. This would be in line with the envisaged African study by the Secretariat on major domestic crops, which we await with great interest.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Like many others in this room, my delegation participated fully in the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and while we endorse its contents fully, there are a few issues we wish to emphasize here.

With respect to the measures discussed by the Committee, my delegation fully supports the proposal that at the national level the highest priority should be accorded to increasing food production in developing countries, particularly in the low income food deficit countries. We agree with the Committee's recognition of the important contribution made to food security by traditional food crops. Therefore, we request that more research efforts be directed towards these traditional crops.

We note in Section III that there will be a food security action programme to integrate FAO assistance with the existing FAO special action programmes, namely, the Food Security Assistance Scheme, the Fertilizer Programme, the Seed Improvement and Development Programme, and the Programme for the Prevention of Food Losses.

We note further that each of the existing action programmes will retain its own identity, and that the Food Security Assistance Programme will not require additional funds under the regular programme for its operation. For this reason, my delegation supports the establishment of the Food Security Action Programme.

As regards the international emergency food reserves, we would like to endorse the suggestion of the Committee that the target of IEFER should be increased from the present level of 500 thousand tons of cereals to 2 million tons annually.

My delegation supports the outline of action designed to relieve the most severe constraints on food production in low income food deficit countries in Africa, as outlined in paragraph 70 of the document. We agree that the areas of training, research, delivery systems and institutional strengthening hold the key to increased food production. The Regional Conference for Africa held in Harare in July this year also came to similar conclusions. Therefore, we request the Council to endorse paragraph 85 in its entirety.

Before concluding, may I draw the attention of the Council to paragraph 101 of the document. My delegation fully concurs with the sentiments laid down in that paragraph. May I once again express our appreciation to FAO for its commendable efforts to try to solve the problem of world food security, and to Professor Islam for his clear introduction of this paper.

A. WAHEED (Pakistan): To begin with, we would like to express our appreciation of the very clear, lucid and succinct presentation of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security made by Professor Islam.

While making our statement on Item 4 of the Agenda, my delegation has already endorsed its support of the Director-General's revised concept of world food security to achieve the ultimate objective of ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the food they need. The concept which also ensures production of adequate food supplies and maximises stability in the flow of supplies was endorsed by the FAO Council and Conference as well as the World Food Council at its Ninth Ministerial Session and the ECOSOC at its second regular session in 1983.

While discussing the state of world food and the situation in Africa during the past three days, we are confronted with the tragic reality that the world still does not have a mechanism by which, in times of dire need, the most seriously affected regions of the world may have access to food supplies which are in abundance elsewhere.

Our approach at the national level in Pakistan is already in line with the broadened concept. We have given incentives to farmers by improving the infrastructure for irrigation, transport and storage, better farm management, a stronger support service for research, extensions, input delivery credit and marketing. Efforts are also being directed to maximizing the productivity of the farmers and to providing employment in rural areas for the landless. A systematic set of measures has been introduced for meeting the shortfalls in cereal crops, building up food reserves and to improve the income of consumers so they may be able to purchase their required food grains.

We in Pakistan have not only augmented our food production for domestic consumption, but have also built sizeable reserves for national food security. It may be of interest perhaps that through the Islamic laws of Zakat and Ushr we have further improved the accessibility of the needy and poor to the basic food they need.

We also endorse regional and sub-regional cooperation to promote and give an impetus to global food security. This cooperation will also foster support for national efforts. We not only strongly supported the creation of the Regional Commission on Food Security for Asia and the Pacific Region. My delegation is of the view that we should strive to strengthen the establishment of a food security system not only at regional and sub-regional level, but also within the framework of the organization of the Islamic Conference Member Countries. Besides, due emphasis also needs to be placed on the diversification and expansion of intra-regional trade, collaboration in the production and distribution of inputs and the sharing of research facilities, joint water management, and cooperation in training and expansion.

The usefulness of the Early Warning System of FAO has proved its worth and value over the period of time. We feel that the system is capable of further improvements and we fully endorse the Director-General's initiative to strengthen and improve it. We also appreciate the work done by the FAO-WFP Task Force and hope that it will continue to monitor the food situation in Africa. We also fully support the idea that the target for the IEFER should be set at two million tons which would enhance the food security prospects of famine stricken regions of the world.

We also look forward to the draft of the World Food Security Compact to be submitted by the Director-General at the next meeting of the CFS, which will not contain any new or binding commitments for anyone but may provide a useful guideline for action by governments, international organisations and others concerned. The proposed Compact is aimed at consolidating the existing text to various statements and will strengthen World Food Security. Therefore it would be not only useful but perhaps imperative to put all of this together for the sake of simplicity and for the sake of ensuring rapid implementation. We are confident that it will bring clarity to the guidelines to be followed by all concerned in the area of world food security.

Before concluding, we would like to reiterate an issue which we consider of importance but which so far has not been given a place in our discussions - that of proper water management. Most of the food shortages and the cereal crisis with which we are confronted today are caused by drought and lack of rainfall, so it would be appropriate to devote attention to this element.

SRA. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): El análisis que hemos hecho en este 86º período de sesiones del Consejo sobre el estado actual de la alimentación mundial, nos demuestra nuevamente que la situación no es nada alentadora y muy especialmente en muchos países del continente africano. En este tema expresamos nuestros puntos de vista sobre la situación alimentaria en África, sus causas y orígenes, así como nuestra solidaridad y apoyo a los países africanos. En ese sentido los aspectos de la seguridad alimentaria mundial toman mayor importancia.

La delegación de Cuba valora altamente los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial de la FAO, y reafirmamos nuestro apoyo al Informe de este Comité en su noveno período de sesiones.

Quisiéramos referirnos específicamente a algunos aspectos contenidos en el mismo.

En lo referente a la RAIE todos conocemos que la actual meta tiene diez años de concebida y casi nueve de creada, por consiguiente, es totalmente insuficiente. En ese sentido estaríamos de acuerdo en que se eleve el objetivo mínimo planteado, y consideramos que la sugerencia de 2 millones de toneladas de cereales como objetivo anual mínimo contenido en el párrafo 17 es un marco adecuado.

Todos convenimos en que la actual situación en África ha demostrado la insuficiencia del objetivo actual. La mayoría de los países subdesarrollados tienen poca capacidad de importar alimentos para ayudar a garantizar su seguridad alimentaria. Entre otros aspectos adversos se encuentran las repercusiones de las medidas proteccionistas en el comercio internacional. Es necesario mejorar el acceso de los productos de los países en desarrollo a los mercados, lo cual forma parte del establecimiento de un nuevo orden económico internacional que garantizaría el progreso hacia la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Asimismo quisiéramos referirnos una vez más al efecto adverso que juegan las empresas transnacionales en la garantía de la seguridad alimentaria de los países en desarrollo. Las acciones de estas empresas, de una parte, y de otras medidas de carácter político como lo son el bloqueo económico y el uso de los alimentos como arma de presión política, son elementos que conspiran peligrosamente contra la seguridad alimentaria de muchos países.

Mi delegación apoya las medidas tomadas por la FAO, y en especial por el Director General, para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Las medidas, tanto a nivel nacional, regional como mundial, nos parecen realistas y prácticas; por tal motivo reafirmamos nuestro convencimiento en la necesidad de reforzar el Comité dentro de su mandato actual.

Consideramos muy importante la autoridad de nuestro Comité para recomendar las medidas a corto y largo plazo que puedan considerarse necesarias para remediar cualquier dificultad prevista en la garantía de la existencia de cereales suficientes para una seguridad alimentaria mundial mínima.

Asimismo reafirmamos nuestro apoyo a las iniciativas del Director General encaminadas a reforzar la base analítica para la labor del Comité.

Consideramos que un estudio completo sobre las limitaciones a la producción y comercialización de cultivos alimentarios tradicionales, un estudio de las perspectivas a plazo medio de las disponibilidades y necesidades mundiales de alimentos y una evaluación de la contribución que la ayuda alimentaria puede aportar a la seguridad alimentaria hasta el año 2000 serían de una utilidad extraordinaria.

Con relación al pacto sobre seguridad alimentaria mundial, lo entendemos como ha sido concebido, o sea como un elemento que conduzca a suscitar una mayor conciencia en el público y en las instancias políticas y a crear un apoyo moral para la seguridad alimentaria revitalizando el entusiasmo de la Comunidad Internacional, incluidas las organizaciones no gubernamentales, para continuar luchando contra el hambre en el contexto del concepto revisado.

Finalmente, la delegación de Cuba apoya el establecimiento de sistemas eficaces de prestación de servicios especialmente concebidos para enfrentar los obstáculos a la producción alimentaria en los países africanos de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos planteado en el punto 5 del documento CL 86/10.

Nos parece que todos estos elementos son valederos para todos los países subdesarrollados que aun-que no tengan una situación tan precaria como muchos países del Continente Africano tienen serios problemas para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria.

El tema de la seguridad alimentaria por su carácter humanitario alienta a pronunciar palabras solidarias con los países más gravemente afectados. Desafortunadamente con palabras no podemos alimentar a los más necesitados; pensamos que existen análisis concretos y propuestas efectivas en las cuales la FAO está jugando un papel fundamental. Necesitamos que esas ideas y propuestas se lleven a la práctica con la colaboración de todos, de los que pueden ayudar más por tener mayores recursos y de los que podemos ayudar menos. Solamente con los esfuerzos nacionales y la ayuda de toda la comunidad internacional y los organismos financieros internacionales podremos garantizar una verdadera seguridad alimentaria.

A. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic) : In the name of Allah the Merciful and the Compassionate.

Allow me to express our thanks to Dr Islam for his brilliant presentation of Document 86/10 regarding the Report of the Committee on World Food Security. My delegation participated in the meetings of the Committee held through April 1984. We expressed our stances regarding the number of issues discussed in that Committee and they are the following:

First we support the efforts exerted by FAO under the leadership of the Director-General regarding the presentation and the utilization of the revised and broadened concept of food security.

Secondly, we agreed with the Director-General's proposal aiming at setting up a Food Security Action Programme aiming at mobilizing external assistance to FAO's special action programmes namely Food Security System Scheme, the Fertilizer Programme Seed Improvement and Development and the programme for the prevention of food losses.

Thirdly, we would like to express our concern regarding the decrease in the resources of the Food Security Assistance Scheme, because we think that in fact this programme can help some developing countries in fields of storage, building of stocks, reserves, training, planification and the follow-up of food security activities. Hence, we would like to thank the donor countries which responded to the initiative of renewing or replenishing the resources of this programme, and we hope other countries will follow suit.

Fourthly, the delegation of my country would like to highlight the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation in the field of achieving food security and we are most ready to provide our assistance in this field.

Fifthly, we accept and welcome the idea of a World Food Security Compact and we would like to discuss its terms and text.

Sixthly, my country would like to support the World Committee on Food Security as mentioned in paragraphs 65 to 69.

Seventhly, we endorse the proposal contained in paragraph 101 calling for the sacrifice of one meal and contributing the equivalent cash to the cause of world food security.

JIN XIANGYUN (China) (original language Chinese): We endorse the content of the report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, with only a few additional comments to make.

Firstly, while the world food output in 1984 is expected to recover and increase, following the reduction of 1983's production, the agricultural and food situation in many low-income, food-deficit countries, particularly in Africa, is still severe. Therefore, the improvement of the world food security situation should not be overestimated. We appreciate the Director-General's unremitting efforts and the achievements in mobilizing the international food assistance and in helping the African countries to tide over the difficulties. The food situation in Africa deserves continuous concern of the Council.

Secondly, we hold that it is absolutely necessary for the international community to provide short-term food assistance to the low-income, food-deficit countries, but more important, from the long-term point of view, is to spare no efforts in helping these countries to rehabilitate and develop food and agricultural production. There are many factors affecting the improvement

of the world food security, international and national. However, it is of great importance to enhance food production in low-income, food-deficit countries. We support the idea in paragraph 18 of the report, "an increased flow of resources is needed to support the production efforts of low-income countries." It also specially states in the same paragraph, "The Committee urged the timely and adequate replenishment of the resources of the international financing institutions, especially IFAD". We think this should also be reflected in the Council's Report.

Thirdly, we appreciate the FAO Food Security Action Programme (FSAP), which will coordinate with various Special Action Programmes or Schemes, such as Food Security, Prevention of Food Losses, Fertilizer, Seed, etc., and will integrate with the emergency relief and long-term development assistance. We believe, by doing so, FAO's role in strengthening the world food security will be brought into full play.

Lastly, we would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General for his sustained efforts made and constructive proposals put forward in strengthening world food security. This appreciation also goes to FAO for the work accomplished in the world food security.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): At the conclusion of the Ninth World Food Council, Canada indicated that it would raise at this Council meeting some of our concerns that we articulated during the CFS Meeting. First of all, let me emphasize that Canada welcomes the revised definition of food security. In Canada's view, the CFS for far too long was overly preoccupied with global grain stocks, and insufficient attention was paid to the complex of factors which constitute a realistic definition of world food security. The revised definition obviously has to take into account food aid, and from this perspective, Canada on reflection can accept the FAO Secretariat's proposal that they carry out a review of ways in which food security in the 1990s can be strengthened through food aid. I say on balance because Canada and some other delegations expressed at the CFS Meeting our concern over the possible duplication of efforts in the CFA and the CFS. However, our assessment now is that it is in the interest of both the CFS and the CFA if the analytical and practical knowledge of the respective secretariats are both fully utilized. In summary, we welcome the FAO Secretariat's intention to carry out an assessment of the long-term food aid, food security linkages, and we are confident that they will make full and productive use of the WFP's Secretariat expertise before submitting the report to the CFA.

I would now like to take the opportunity to refer to the question of the Secretariat's proposal regarding an interim system of national food reserves. Canada still has problems with this proposal, and if you allow me, let me try and explain why. From a domestic agricultural policy viewpoint, the Canadian Government does not want to get back into the business of acquiring and holding grain stocks. It took us 30 years to repeal the so-called Temporary Wheat Reserve Act of 1947. In contrast to the United States and many European countries, there is no intervention agency in Canada. The Canadian Wheat Board, which is a marketing agency, only buys from Canadian farmers what it can sell. Stock surplus due to current requirements are held by the grain producers themselves at their own cost. This system has served Canada well, and we do not intend for domestic agricultural reasons to change.

Having said this, I would point out that the Canadian single desk selling agency system for western grains does enable Canada to make a full contribution to world food security. Because there is a single desk selling agency, there is never any question of a so-called "great grain robbery" occurring in Canada.

From a food aid perspective, I should first explain that our aid agencies buy grain from the Wheat Board in exactly the same way as any commercial buyer. From the Wheat Board's perspective, CIDA is a valued and traditional customer. As a practical matter, the Board knows in advance that CIDA purchases in any one year will never fall below 600 000 tons, Canada's contractual commitment - and I underline the word "contractual" - under the food aid convention.

In addition, each year CIDA sets aside funds to meet unanticipated emergency food aid requests, for example, \$23 million in the fiscal year 1984/85. This is of course in addition to our pledges to the World Food Programme, the IEFER and our regular bilateral food aid programmes, which in total amount to over \$350 million in the year.

In concluding my comments on this item, let me stress that the Canadian Wheat Board only sells on a commercial basis. There are no concessional sales. In contrast, our aid agency buys at the prevailing world price and then donates the grain to recipients. From an aid policy perspective, CIDA prefers to spend its scarce food aid dollars on buying and immediately shipping grain rather than paying storage charges in Canada.

Turning to the food security compact, let me say that the Canadian delegation is still not convinced of the utility of "consolidating the existing consensus scattered over the variety of text into one authoritative charter". Like many delegations, we would prefer more action and less rhetoric, and in the words of the Cuban delegation, "People cannot eat words"; In this regard,

I am pleased to inform the Council that the Canadian Government has just announced a \$50 million fund for Africa. Part of this new and additional special fund will be used to match funds raised by private voluntary groups in Canada. Let me emphasize that although many of the details will still have to be announced, this special \$50 million fund is specifically designed to help meet the emergency food situation in Africa. Part of this fund will be allocated to food aid, the balance will be allocated to non-food aid. It now appears clear that instead of shipping the \$135 million I mentioned a few days ago of food aid this fiscal year, Canada's total food aid to Africa will now exceed well over \$150 million. This compares, as I indicated yesterday, to the \$92 million that we shipped last year.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): La delegación de México otorga pleno apoyo al Informe que se nos ha presentado, derivado del 9º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria.

El nuevo concepto de Seguridad Alimentaria es ya universalmente aceptado e inspira estrategias a nivel internacional, regional y nacional. Sin embargo, hacemos notar que, siendo todo perfectible, dicho concepto debería incluir no sólo a los productos agrícolas y alimentarios, sino a los insumos necesarios para la producción de alimentos tales como semillas, fertilizantes, pesticidas, agroquímicos, crédito, maquinaria y tecnología agrícola entre otros.

La crisis por la que pasan los países en desarrollo atestigua que buena parte de su seguridad alimentaria depende del acceso a dichos insumos.

Por tanto, al afirmar que no deben usarse los alimentos como instrumentos de presión política, estamos entendiendo, y lo subrayamos, que ello incluye también a los insumos agrícolas y alimentarios.

Elogiaríamos que a las voces de los líderes de nuestros países en desarrollo, se unan las de países avanzados, como recientemente ocurrió con el importante mensaje del Sr. Presidente Sandro Pertini. El expreso repudio a quienes dispendian recursos en armas en lugar de producir alimentos y bienestar.

Confirmamos además, como se expresa en el párrafo 41 del Informe, que la ayuda alimentaria no debe utilizarse con fines políticos, o bajo consideraciones y condicionamientos de tipo ideológico, sino que debe ajustarse a los planes de desarrollo económico, de crecimiento de la producción agrícola y de la seguridad alimentaria de cada país o región.

Ante esas circunstancias, México apoya en todo lo que vale la propuesta del Director General de la FAO de establecer un Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria que sea el código moral para la orientación de las acciones de los gobiernos, de las organizaciones multilaterales y de los particulares hacia un mismo propósito de seguridad alimentaria.

No queremos comer palabras ciertamente, pero sí queremos comer lo que nos interesa comer. Por eso alzamos nuestra voz para que se nos escuche y se nos respete. De la misma manera, apoyamos en toda su extensión la puesta en marcha del Plan de Acción de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial descrito en la parte III del Informe del Comité, y destacamos en particular los párrafos 23, 24, 27 y 29. Hacemos notar los esfuerzos que la región latinoamericana realiza a través del SELA, y en forma especial del CASAR, cuyo programa de trabajo bienal incluye las etapas necesarias para ir estableciendo un sistema de seguridad alimentaria regional que conlleve al abastecimiento y a la autosuficiencia alimentaria.

Subrayamos la necesidad de coordinar el apoyo de la FAO y de la asistencia exterior, en general, a los programas nacionales de seguridad alimentaria, por lo que reiteramos nuestro interés en que el Director General tome todas las providencias para que se pueda establecer el Programa de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria, su modo de funcionar y el incentivo para asignar fondos al mismo.

Insistimos en el reforzamiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para que examine las medidas adoptadas por los gobiernos para aplicar el Compromiso Internacional y el Plan de Acción de Seguridad Alimentaria, e igualmente, para evaluar e indicar los criterios que deberán orientar al CPA para que los programas de ayuda alimentaria que, hasta ahora, desgraciadamente, se siguen manejando a nivel de proyecto y básicamente como acciones de emergencia, se integren de lleno a una estrategia alimentaria de largo plazo, inserta en el proceso de desarrollo de los países receptores,

Reiteramos que la política de ayuda alimentaria debe concebirse y ejecutarse como un instrumento de la estrategia de seguridad alimentaria, y no como una política autónoma de los imperativos del desarrollo y de los intereses de los pueblos de los países receptores.

En cuanto a las medidas a nivel nacional, destacamos que, si bien el aumento de la oferta interna de alimentos es un aspecto central de la consecución de mayor seguridad alimentaria, consideramos estratégico el perfeccionamiento de los sistemas nacionales de acopio, transporte y distribución de alimentos. No solo por las enormes pérdidas que se producen en esas fases de la cadena alimentaria debido a insuficiencias de los sistemas de distribución, sino por las pérdidas de disponibilidad de alimentos, consecuencia de la ausencia de canales para extraer excedentes en las zonas de pequeños productores.

México ha puesto en marcha el programa para la estructuración, operación y desarrollo del Sistema Nacional de Abasto, que ponemos a disposición de la Secretaría de la FAO, y de todos los estados miembros a través de ella.

Las estrategias alimentarias nacionales deben promover que la investigación, la capacitación, la extensión, los mecanismos de comercialización y de crédito, las políticas de garantía, de precios y tarifas de los productos del sector público, así como otros mecanismos de apoyo, se reorienten hacia los pequeños productores del sector tradicional.

Desde el punto de vista alimentario, es en ese tramo de productores en donde los esfuerzos de apoyo gubernamental, pueden tener un efecto ampliado en la producción, mejorando además el nivel de ingresos y bienestar de ese grupo poblacional.

Cuestionamos, en este sentido, la pretensión de que los avances tecnológicos y de investigación disponibles en los países en desarrollo sean del todo pertinentes a ese tramo de productores, y de que el problema se reduzca a encontrar y desarrollar los mecanismos de transferencia más adecuados.

En efecto, los paquetes tecnológicos desarrollados para los productores comerciales, al ser transferidos hacia los productores tradicionales que operan con recursos, con cultura productiva y con formas de acceso a los mercados de insumos, productos y financiamiento totalmente diferentes, generan problemas de adopción y provocan la destrucción de hábitos de consumo, de tecnologías y de materiales genéticos que han sido desarrollados por siglos, y que dadas las circunstancias, hoy por hoy, resultan más pertinentes.

El respeto y el perfeccionamiento de esos sistemas tradicionales, y en particular de cultivo y consumo de los alimentos tradicionales, es condición para extender la seguridad alimentaria a las grandes mayorías rurales. Recordamos aquí, por tanto, el contenido de los párrafos 35 y 36 del Informe, y que el concepto de seguridad alimentaria y su estrategia enfatiza la importancia de los cultivos y de los alimentos no cerealeros.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, destacamos que en las difíciles circunstancias por las que atraviesa la economía y las condiciones de alimentación de nuestros pueblos, y debido a los limitados márgenes de maniobra, muy buena parte de nuestras soluciones están, desgraciadamente, a manos de los países industrializados y en su voluntad política.

Recordamos los párrafos 18, 19 y 20, así como los 54, 56, 57 y 59 del Informe, en lo tocante al empeoramiento de las relaciones de intercambio, la grave carga de la deuda, los altos tipos de interés, el mantenimiento o aun aumento de las restricciones comerciales, el impedimento sistemático de parte de ciertos países para alcanzar el Acuerdo Internacional de Cereales, el Nuevo Convenio Internacional del Trigo, los relativos a productos básicos tales como el del banano, y en general al hecho de que la aparente recuperación económica en ciertos países desarrollados, no ha significado mejoría económica alguna en los países en desarrollo.

Por otra parte, a pesar de las difíciles circunstancias, los países en desarrollo tenemos y podemos promover formulas de cooperación técnica y de codesarrollo entre nuestros países, buscando la ayuda, la complementariedad productiva y una estrategia, lo más equitativa posible, de comercialización de nuestros productos.

Apoyamos por tanto, desde ahora, los esfuerzos que pueda realizar la FAO, y en especial el interés del Director General por promover la cooperación internacional en general, y en especial aquella Sur/Sur, mediante exhortaciones a la comunidad mundial y programas de información útil y oportuna sobre necesidades y ofertas alimentarias, así como a través de reuniones específicas para evaluar la situación de dicha cooperación y emprender acciones concretas.

A.E. GUROFF (United States of America): I hope you will permit me a slight digression following just after the Mexican delegate. I could not help but reflect on some matters that I have been involved in in my current capacities in the Department of Agriculture in Washington which involved bilateral relations with Mexico. We are, just for the information of the Council, involved in a number of activities relating to germplasm exchange, scientific and technical exchange, technical assistance and animal health of a very, I think, encouraging and forthcoming nature. In fact just last Friday, the new Secretary of Agriculture of Mexico visited with Secretary of Agriculture Block in Washington, who is the current Chairman of the Conference, and they signed memoranda of understanding on matters relating to irrigation work and forestry in Mexico. I just could not help reflecting that it seems that understanding travels very well across rivers but perhaps not so well across oceans.

I appreciate your allowing me that digression, Mr. Chairman.

I only have a few brief comments to make on the Agenda item. This should, of course, in no way be interpreted as any lack of interest on the part of the United States on this very important subject. The Director-General stated in his opening remarks that he is preparing a draft food security compact for consideration at the next committee on food security. As the United States delegation to the Ninth Committee on Food Security indicated, my country has serious concern as to the usefulness of the compact. We are concerned that such a compact would be counterproductive to the extent that it directs attention away from national food security measures and builds expectations that such documents somehow can solve world problems. We are concerned that achievement of agreement on such a compact will necessitate the commitment of substantial time and attention when what is so desperately needed, as others have already mentioned here, are concerted tangible actions, not words.

Having stated my country's concern, let me hasten to assure the Council that the United States will nevertheless carefully consider the Director-General's draft proposal. I am encouraged by his opening comment on this matter that the draft "will not contain any new or binding commitments for anyone". That approach will greatly facilitate a fruitful dialogue.

Many have referred to the proposal to increase the international emergency food reserve target. The United States has consistently taken the view that the issue is once again concerted actions, not higher targets. Our 4 million ton emergency wheat reserve is tangible evidence of that attitude. We continue, to encourage others in a position to do so, to establish their own reserves.

I will not attempt to address many of the other very important elements of the Committee on Food Security Report. It is a carefully balanced and well considered document. We support the Council's endorsement of the report as adopted by the Committee on Food Security.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Para una moción de orden. No me atreví a interrumpir al distinguido colega de Estados Unidos cuando podría haberlo hecho porque no quise malinterpretar sus palabras. Espero que no haya querido decir lo que aparentó.

Simplemente subrayo que si bien las relaciones entre México y Estados Unidos son difíciles y son respetuosas, y hemos llegado a diversos acuerdos por la vía bilateral, éstos no conciernen a foros multilaterales como éste. La posición de México en los foros multilaterales ha sido expresada ya, y espero que el señor delegado de Estados Unidos la respete, así como nosotros respetamos igualmente su posición.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): With regard to the report of the Committee on World Food Security my delegation would like to point out very briefly some aspects of this report that we consider to be of special interest.

The Committee on Food Security is one of the most important committees of FAO. Japan, as a member of this committee, does not intend to bring up again the issues specifically raised at the last session of the CFS. However, we would like to recall some of the points which the Japanese delegation touched upon at the last meeting.

First of all my delegation appreciates the actions that have been taken by FAO and other countries which follow along the lines of the plan of action for Food Security. This plan of action calls all member countries to adopt the Stock Hold Policy and Regional and Subregional Food Reserve arrangements.

In this connection we also note with appreciation that almost 90 countries have already adopted their stock policy.

Now we would like to touch upon the "Follow-up to the Director-General's Report on World Food Security."

The Director-General has put forward a number of specific proposals and we appreciate very much his moderate and realistic approach to these proposals. The draft of the World Security Compact will be submitted at the next session of the CFS as the Director General had mentioned in his opening statement of this Council. Beyond that we are still not totally convinced that this compact is necessary. We are of the opinion that further careful examination should be made at the next Committee on Food Security session.

J.M. TRAVERS (France) : La delegation française a trouvé dans le rapport de la neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale de nombreux motifs de satisfaction. A cet égard, je noterai tout d'abord l'approfondissement du concept de sécurité alimentaire. Nous souscrivons à

la stratégie proposée et qui vise à renforcer l'autonomie alimentaire de chaque pays. Cette autonomie passe tout d'abord par la recherche d'un taux maximal d'autosuffisance; c'est à juste titre que le Secrétariat et le Comité ont mis l'accent sur la nécessité de favoriser en toute priorité l'augmentation de la production nationale dans les pays à déficit alimentaire.

Certes, dans un certain nombre de cas cette politique aura bien sûr des limites tenant à des contraintes essentiellement de caractère physique; et, dans ces cas, il est vrai qu'il est indispensable d'assurer une plus grande sécurité des fournitures extérieures soit par le biais des importations, soit par le biais de l'aide alimentaire; mais il nous apparaît important de rappeler que cet objectif est simplement complémentaire du premier.

Quels sont les moyens qui doivent être mis en oeuvre pour atteindre ces deux objectifs ? Au niveau national, le Secrétariat nous propose deux types de mesures auxquelles nous souscrivons pleinement :

- d'une part des mesures de caractère technique; meilleure prise en compte des productions alimentaires traditionnelles, autres que céréales notamment; et meilleure prise en compte des technologies les plus adaptées à la situation de chaque pays ainsi que cela a été souligné dans la partie 5 du rapport consacré aux facteurs limitant la production en Afrique.

Ces deux démarches nous paraissent excellentes de même que nous paraît excellente la démarche préconisant des mesures de caractère économique, en particulier l'établissement de politiques de prix appropriés.

Il nous paraît toutefois que cette voie devrait être élargie de façon que ces politiques de prix s'inscrivent dans le cadre de véritables politiques globales d'organisation de marché incluant tous les mécanismes nécessaires, qu'il s'agisse d'une gestion dynamique de stocks ou des mesures à la frontière permettant aux pays les plus vulnérables de protéger le développement de leur production naissante.

Au niveau international, l'accent est mis tout d'abord sur le renforcement de la coopération régionale. Notre expérience de vingt ans de politique agricole commune au sein de la Communauté européenne nous a appris qu'il y avait là un levier puissant pour développer et aussi contrôler la production agricole. Et cela nous paraît une voie intéressante pour de nombreux pays en développement.

Au niveau mondial, la mise en oeuvre d'accords de produits, en particulier dans le domaine des céréales, assortis de clauses économiques, notamment en matière de stockage nous paraît, comme le souligné à juste titre le rapport dans son paragraphe 54, un facteur d'une importance majeure pour favoriser la stabilité des marchés.

De tels accords auraient deux conséquences : a) d'une part attirer une meilleure sécurité pour les pays importateurs assurés de trouver les quantités suffisantes à des prix qui ne soient pas trop élevés; b) d'autre part, présenter une meilleure sécurité pour les producteurs des pays en développement dont les efforts ne seraient plus ruinés par les fluctuations erratiques que nous connaissons depuis quelques années.

Dans ces conditions la délégation française accueille avec faveur les mesures proposées par le Directeur général de l'OAA : je voudrais citer tout d'abord la création du programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale dont le but est de mieux coordonner l'activité de l'Organisation visant à renforcer l'autonomie alimentaire des pays en développement et à assurer une meilleure concertation avec les autres organismes bi- et multilatéraux concernés par le développement agricole alimentaire.

Je voudrais citer encore l'engagement sur un certain nombre d'études, sur les produits alimentaires additionnels, sur les perspectives alimentaires en matière de disponibilités alimentaires, et enfin sur l'évaluation de la constitution possible de l'aide alimentaire la sécurité alimentaire.

Il est bien entendu que cette étude sera faite, nous le notons, avec l'appui des organismes concernés, notamment du PAM, et nous pensons qu'elle sera exhaustive c'est-à-dire qu'elle comprendra à la fois la nécessité de l'aide alimentaire et les avantages qu'elle apporte mais aussi le risque qu'elle peut faire courir dans certains cas au développement des productions nationales.

Enfin nous attendons avec intérêt les résultats du travail entrepris par le Directeur général et le Secrétariat en vue d'un Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire. Celui-ci pourrait en effet utilement contribuer à mobiliser l'opinion publique sur le thème de la sécurité alimentaire élargie tel qu'il ressort des travaux de la neuvième session.

M. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): First and foremost, I would like to thank the Secretariat for this very important document, a document which gives us a very clear outline of the world food security situation and the difficulties of achieving food security in developing countries, especially in the food deficit countries.

We notice in this document that 24 countries registered a very serious food deficit. Therefore, we should like to thank the Director-General for his efforts in devoting full attention to the emergency situation in Africa, and we hope that his efforts will go ahead along the same lines..

We would also like to express our thanks, to the WFP/FAO task-force which will be drawing up an account of the food situation in those countries. We would also like the Council to make a formal appeal to all parties concerned for them to renew the resources of financial agencies, especially IFAD, in order to enable these institutions to forge ahead in the work they are doing to achieve the objectives for which they were set up. This should enable IFAD to respond to the requirements of the developing countries by supporting the efforts for agricultural development. The developing countries have no other choice than to continue with this work of trying to solve the problem of food in order to maintain their independence and their dignity by means of food security.

In Saudi Arabia we have taken up this challenge. We were told at the outset that our country was a desert only, an oil-producing country only. However, our Government has begun to implement an important plan in order to secure the necessary infrastructure for agriculture, as irrigation projects, dwellings, construction of rural roads, silos, laboratories and pilot farms, seed selection programmes and marketing. We have also made efforts to implement training and research projects. Within the framework of this very ambitious scheme which is aimed at using modern technology geared to our present requirements and needs we have succeeded, thanks to God, in increasing the total amount of cultivated land from 150 000 hectares in 1975 to 2 million hectares at the beginning of 1984. The production of wheat has increased from 3 000 tons to 1 300 000 tons. This wheat production has been multiplied 433 times in eight years. This is a tremendous achievement in a desert country whatever criteria are applied.

Thanks to this production we have managed to obtain self-reliance as regards this strategic crop. We have also increased date production from 200 000 tons to 500 000 tons, an annual increase rate of 10 percent. This has enabled us likewise to export surplus and present 16 000 tons of dates to the WFP in the form of food aid. Furthermore, other achievements have been registered within the framework of animal production. We are drawing near to self-reliance as regards dairy production, because our production has increased by 60 percent as compared with 1975.

As regards the proposals made by the Director-General concerning the application of a new concept of food security, we support all his proposals whole-heartedly and we think that here there is complementarity that exists between measures that have to be taken at a national, regional and international level.

With regard to the measures to be taken at a national level, we think that these measures are essential ones if we are to achieve food security and we endorse the conclusions reached by the Committee as they appear in this document. We particularly support paragraph 33 in this context.

Regarding measures at the regional level, we whole-heartedly agree to the need to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation between developing countries because we consider that this cooperation will complete the efforts being made at a national level, but it cannot replace the national efforts.

Turning to the Near East efforts, we have a technical cooperation programme there between the countries of the Near Eastern group. This programme was sponsored by FAO and indeed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Governments of the Near East countries are financing this programme. We hope that the projects included in that programme will satisfy the objectives for which the programme was launched.

In regard to the international or global, level measures, we have already given our view on that aspect when we were discussing Item 4 on our Agenda, but we would like once again to reiterate our belief that it is necessary to liberalize international trade because international trade is of great importance if we are to achieve food security. It is also necessary that protectionist measures be re-examined, reviewed and corrected by the developed countries which have adopted such measures. That is why we support the terms of paragraphs 56 to 61. But allow me to say once again that there is this complementarity between the measures taken at national, regional and interregional levels.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): We would at the outset like to thank Professor Nurul Islam for his introduction of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee, on World Food Security. We consider this to be a comprehensive and balanced report which is an important contribution in our continuing efforts to monitor the critically important issue of world food security.

In taking cognizance of the report we are aware of the fact that the Ninth Session took place some time ago and some new developments have entered into the picture which have a crucial bearing on the deliberations of this issue at our Tenth Session.

In turning to the main areas before us now for discussion and decision we would like to take up some of the points of particular interest to us.

On the sections dealing with the assessment of the world food security situation we feel that its major conclusions will remain valid. We would like to stress in particular that, despite encouraging signs of continuing recovery and easing of world recession, the pace, scope and duration of the recovery has not been commensurate in many developing countries, with its inherent repercussions on the world economy.

A point we have consistently stressed is that food security depends not only on increased domestic production but also on the expanded capacity to import, and in this regard to note the key constrictions that continue to adversely affect the developing countries.

The bottom line of the assessment of the world food security situation remains valid. This was that the basic problem of reconciling aims of national production, consumption, trade and stock policies, with the objectives of world food security, including greater stability of supplies and prices in world markets, remains unsolved. We agree with the Director-General when he stated that we must steel our resolve to persist in efforts in this field.

Turning now to some of the important initiatives of the Director-General, we note that the Committee has welcomed his moderate and realistic approach and has endorsed the acceptance of the three main components of the revised concept of world food security and the need for concerted actions at the national, regional and global levels. Obviously the indispensable basis for achieving food security still remains at the national level. The highest priority continues to remain with increasing domestic food production in the face of continuing constraints, structural resources, and the complex need for a blend of policies.

We are happy that the focus is on the small farmers and landless peasants. At the same time we also recognize the key distributional and social equity needs improved access of food through employment generation, income transfer and better distribution of food.

We welcome the proposal of the Director-General stressing the importance of appropriate policy orientation and in the presentation of his report on price policies, incentives and inputs. We are particularly happy that the Committee has underscored the importance of the present role of food aid in strengthening food security through its four-fold role: improving nutrition, contributing to development, stabilizing supplies and responding to emergencies.

We look forward to the study that is in preparation by the Director-General in consultations with the other international organizations concerned, particularly the World Food Programme.

We also strongly support the proposal for the Food Security Action Programme which fulfils the important purpose of providing assistance intermediary to emergency relief and long term development assistance.

We have noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Director-General to make the necessary organizational arrangements to establish FSAP and note that these will not require any additional funds under its regular programme for its management and operation.

At the global level, my delegation supports the proposals for an interim system for national food reserves under which developed countries and others who are in a position to do so would earmark grains for the immediate import requirements in the event of food supply shortfalls in food deficit countries. This is already incorporated in the undertaking on world food security and is in line with the policies of giving aid to those countries.

We support the proposals of the Director-General for preparing a World Food Security Compact. We believe it will serve a useful purpose as the Compact is mainly intended to consolidate what has already been agreed in various fora on different aspects of world food security. We also believe that it involves no new or binding commitments, as the Director-General himself said. The main import of this Compact would be to create greater public awareness and to give a moral boost to sustain the crusade against hunger and malnutrition.

My delegation reiterates its support for the strengthening of the Committee on World Food Security within its existing mandate, and the important initiatives taken by the Director-General in this regard. We look forward to the study which will be presented to us in this connection.

My delegation also supports the valuable activities carried out by FAO under the scheme for strengthening the food security assistance scheme, especially for the low income food deficit countries. The establishment or reinforcement of national early warning systems, training and technical assistance are some of the areas encompassed by this, scheme. We would urge all those who are in a position to do so to strongly support the scheme, particularly as we note that some of the resources are declining.

We endorse the conclusions of the Committee on the constraints on food production in low income food deficit countries in Africa. We agree that some of the problems to be tackled are to ensure effective delivery systems to serve small farmers, and other important areas of priority are training, research, technology and institutional development, particularly of the price and credit systems. These are a few points that the Bangladesh delegation would like to mention.

G.E. GONZALES (Argentina): Atendiendo a su solicitud voy a ser breve en vista de la hora y de que muchos de los puntos de vista de mi delegación han sido ya debidamente expuestos por otras delegaciones, entre las que particularmente me permito mencionar a Colombia, Panamá y México.

El informe del 9º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria contiene temas sumamente importantes y pone de manifiesto la preocupación general de toda la comunidad para alcanzar niveles nutricionales adecuados para sus habitantes, y particularmente para aquellos que viven en regiones o países en desarrollo con déficits crónicos.

Mi delegación coincide plenamente con sus recomendaciones y sólo desea destacar algunos aspectos de especial significación:

Primero, África cuenta con nuestra solidaridad; ratificamos nuestra firme decisión de apoyar medidas concretas y realistas para contribuir a paliar la actual emergencia en África y coadyuvar en la solución de los problemas estructurales que afectan a esa región.

Segundo, apoyamos las propuestas para aumentar la ayuda alimentaria a niveles realistas y que permitan atender las necesidades que se presenten y que lamentablemente, como hemos escuchado en esta sala, aumentarán en 1985.

La RAIE cumple un papel importante en el creciente número de emergencias y, por lo tanto, también será imprescindible aumentar las contribuciones a través de este canal, como se destaca en el párrafo 17 del informe del Comité.

Coincidimos plenamente en la conveniencia de que se preste mayor atención a la importancia que los alimentos fundamentales no cerealeros tienen en las dietas nacionales y su contribución en la estabilidad de los suministros alimentarios. En este sentido creemos que se debería ampliar la canasta de alimentos en la que generalmente se realiza la ayuda alimentaria, adecuándola fundamentalmente a los hábitos alimentarios de los países receptores y a las posibilidades reales de esas poblaciones para producir dichos alimentos.

En consonancia con el plan de acción sobre ayuda alimentaria, apoyamos la acción que a nivel regional y subregional están llevando a cabo distintos Comités para fomentar la autosuficiencia colectiva alimentaria entre los países en desarrollo. Destaco particularmente, como lo hicieron otras delegaciones, al CASAR, al Comité de Acción de Seguridad Alimentaria Regional, dentro del marco del sistema económico latinoamericano.

La delegación Argentina reitera su coincidencia con lo señalado en los párrafos 56 al 59 del Informe del Comité. Así lo reconoció el Comité y creemos sinceramente que nadie puede dudar que el establecimiento y mantenimiento de la seguridad alimentaria mundial requiere necesariamente de un comercio de exportación agrícola libre y creciente.

Consideramos prioritario que el Director General incluya en su próximo Informe al Comité un estudio sobre el comercio agrícola desde el punto de vista estructural, teniendo en cuenta las recomendaciones de la Resolución 2/83 de la Conferencia de la FAO.

En lo que hace a la preparación y presentación de un pacto de seguridad alimentaria tal como se nos presenta y se nos concibe en los párrafos 60 y 61 del Informe del Comité, dicha idea merece nuestro apoyo.

Confiamos en que el Director General podrá presentarnos un proyecto en un futuro cercano para ser debidamente analizado en el Comité.

Un compromiso moral internacional destinado a contribuir al menos a la erradicación del hambre y la desnutrición es coincidente con los lineamientos de política exterior de mi país que se basa en la búsqueda del bien supremo como ideal de la humanidad.

Seguramente merecerá también el apoyo de toda la comunidad internacional en la medida en que tal pacto o compromiso constituya un instrumento útil para el logro de ese objetivo y no quede en un mero decálogo de buenas intenciones.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Nous voudrions à notre tour remercier le Professeur Islam qui a bien voulu nous présenter ce rapport de la 9ème session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale que ma délégation appuie d'une manière générale.

Nous nous félicitons de ce rapport qui s'inscrit dans la perspective de la mise en oeuvre d'un nouveau concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. D'emblée nous souscrivons à la proposition contenue au paragraphe 10 qui demande à ce que l'examen du Secrétariat sur les produits alimentaires insiste davantage à l'avenir sur la place des produits non céréaliers dans la consommation étant donné leur contribution à la stabilité des approvisionnements alimentaires. En effet, nul n'ignore que pour certains peuples les céréales ne constituent qu'un appoint dans le régime alimentaire, l'essentiel de la production vivrière étant constitué de plantes à racines, de plantin, de légumineuses, etc. Cela est d'autant plus important que tout le monde est d'accord pour reconnaître que la meilleure sécurité alimentaire est celle basée avant tout sur la production locale. A l'instar d'autres délégués, nous sommes préoccupés par la persistance de la situation paradoxale où l'on note une situation d'abandon au niveau mondial alors que la sécurité alimentaire s'est dégradée dans beaucoup de pays à faibles revenus et déficitaires en produits vivriers. Les causes nous les connaissons puisqu'il s'agit d'insuffisances de la production vivrière dans certains de nos pays auxquelles il convient d'adjoindre leur incapacité à s'approvisionner sur le marché mondial à des prix relativement élevés et au regard de la dépréciation des monnaies locales par rapport au dollar. La situation que connaît l'Afrique, et que nous avons examinée hier, en constitue l'exemple le plus frappant. Nous nous félicitons de ce que le Comité ait confirmé la nécessité de suivre la situation en Afrique grâce aux rapports détaillés de l'Equipe spéciale FAO/PAM dont la tâche est également facilitée par notre système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO, système dont l'efficacité est largement reconnue. La délégation de mon pays appuie les efforts faits par certains pays pour créer des réserves spéciales afin d'assurer la continuité de l'aide alimentaire indispensable à leur sécurité alimentaire et nous nous associons à l'appel lancé en direction des autres pays vulnérables. Nous appuyons le relèvement de l'objectif annuel minimum de la RAIU à 2 millions de tonnes de céréales pour répondre aux nécessités du moment. Nous partageons ce qui est écrit au paragraphe 18 qui constitue la base essentielle des mesures à prendre au niveau de la communauté internationale pour enrayer la persistance actuelle des pénuries alimentaires dans de nombreux pays à faibles revenus et à déficit vivrier. Malheureusement on peut craindre que les perspectives ne soient guère réjouissantes en raison du manque de progrès évident dans les négociations pour la seconde reconstitution des ressources du FIDA.

Au regard de la situation qui prévaut en Afrique et dans certains pays d'autres régions, il importe de signaler que les événements actuels semblent indiquer que nous serions plutôt d'accord pour reconnaître que la relance de l'activité économique constatée depuis l'an dernier, et qui se développe à présent dans les pays industrialisés, n'a pas entraîné une reprise sensible dans les pays en développement. Il est triste que l'évolution des disponibilités soit encore soumise à une succession d'excédents et de déficits et notre délégation regrette le manque de progrès réalisés en vue d'un accord international sur les céréales compte tenu des dispositions de caractère économique. Nous espérons que le Conseil international du blé intensifiera ses efforts pour une reprise des négociations.

La délégation de mon pays se félicite de cette initiative de coopération régionale et sous-régionale visant à renforcer l'autonomie collective des pays en développement en matière de sécurité alimentaire. Elle apprécie les nombreuses références faites dans ce document à la réunion de Bucarest qui a consacré la CEPD dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Mon gouvernement déplore sincèrement qu'aucune amélioration n'ait été apportée aux mécanismes d'aide financière du FMI aux importations agricoles, et s'étonne de ce qu'au paragraphe 29 certains délégués se déclarent satisfaits d'un tel mécanisme. Rien d'étonnant, car il s'agit de ceux-là même qui utilisent les mécanismes du FMI pour encourager le régime d'Afrique du Sud à renforcer sa puissance militaire pour continuer à aggraver les points de la ligne de front, confrontés aux graves problèmes de la sécurité alimentaire. La délégation de mon pays appuie la recommandation visant à intensifier les recherches dans les cultures vivrières en vue de créer des variétés à haut rendement qui résistent aux maladies, tout en pensant à améliorer leur entreposage, leur transformation, ainsi que leur commercialisation.

Ma délégation partage l'avis de ceux qui pensent que les pays en développement, et même les pays donateurs ont tout à gagner à ce que l'on crée à la FAO un programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire pour coordonner l'appui de la FAO à l'élaboration et à l'exécution du programme national de sécurité alimentaire et à la mobilisation d'une assistance extérieure pour ses programmes, surtout si le PAPSA intègre l'assistance fournie par la FAO au titre de ces programmes déjà existants, et que ceux-ci n'exigent pas de crédits propres du budget ordinaire. De même, nous souscrivons entièrement à l'idée future de sécurité alimentaire à caractère volontaire et nous encourageons le Directeur général à travailler à son projet pour le soumettre, dès que possible, au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Pour ce qui concerne le chapitre V, "Facteurs limitant la production alimentaire dans les pays d'Afrique", ma délégation tient à féliciter le Comité pour cette analyse et espère que tous les protagonistes dans la mise en oeuvre des recommandations faites ici sauront se montrer à la hauteur de la communauté internationale pour inverser la tendance actuelle. Nous terminerons notre exposé en exhortant tous les pays donateurs à contribuer au PASA pour le renforcer, et nous voudrions nous associer aux félicitations adressées à tous les pays donateurs qui ont permis à ce programme de mener à bien les travaux de programmation et de préparation des projets dans divers pays en développement.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): First of all, my delegation wishes to thank Professor Islam for his clear and precise introduction of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which we fully support. We consider that the Report of the Committee is a step forward in the direction of improving the world food security situation.

During the Ninth Session of the Committee, many interesting issues were discussed, namely, the assessment of the world food security situation and the adequacy of stocks, the implementation of the plan of action for world food security, the follow-up to the Director-General's report, and so on. The State of Food and Agriculture was discussed during the session under Item 4 of the Agenda. I will refrain from referring to this situation again, given the time constraint and the fact that we are already behind schedule. I will confine my comments to the part of the Report concerning discussions on the follow-up of the Report of the Director-General, since the other parts of the Report are covered by other Agenda items.

On page 9 of the Report, paragraph 64, we note:

"The Director-General was requested to begin work on a draft text of a World Food Security Compact for consideration by the Committee." We note that this will consolidate what was already agreed in various fora on different aspects of world food security, and that it would be voluntary in nature and would not involve any financial or legally binding obligation. In this respect, we welcome the confirmation by Dr Saouma during his statement at the present Session that he will be submitting the said draft to the next Session of the CFS which is set for April 1985.

We also note with satisfaction the content of paragraph 46 of the Report encouraging the Director-General to proceed to make the necessary organizational arrangements to establish the Food Security Action Programme. My delegation believes that the establishment of this programme as a mechanism for coordinating FAO's support and mobilizing external assistance for national food security programmes is indeed vital.

There was general agreement during the discussion in the CFA of the importance of the measures that would be taken at the national level for achieving food security. We believe that appropriate policies should be adopted by individual governments providing remunerative prices to agricultural producers, avoiding at the same time undue hardship to the urban and rural poor.

With reference to measures at the global level, we note with satisfaction that there was general support for an interim system of national food reserves under which, as paragraph 53 states, developed countries and others in a position to do so would, within the context of their national system and legislation earmark grain or funds for meeting the urgent impact of requirements of low-income food-deficit countries in the event of food supply-surplus. We are sure that if this system is followed the international community will be in a better position to assist people in countries affected by natural or manmade disasters.

Finally, we fully support the contents of paragraph 69, as we consider it of paramount importance that precious energy should not be wasted instead of being concentrated to expedite programmes towards world food security. On this point I would also stress that efforts should be made for the second replacement of the resources of IFAD.

T. KITLELI (Lesotho): My delegation expressed its procedural remarks yesterday when it took the floor for the first time at this august council of the Eighty-sixth Session of the FAO Council. However, let me also compliment the Director-General of FAO and the United Nations for having spearheaded this Council and the Secretariat that prepared this document which is before us.

Coming to the Agenda item in CL 86/10, my delegation would like to make the following observations. First of all, this occurs in paragraph 11 of this document: "The food security situation in many low-income, food-deficit countries, particularly in Africa, has deteriorated further."

Numerous factors and reasons yesterday were mentioned that contributed towards this unfortunate state of affairs. What one would like to focus on is what is the next step to take. It would probably be fitting to look at paragraph 11 which calls for political will. My delegation could not agree more with this except that political will alone is isolated. This idea needs to be married with the social and economic situation of any country in order to yield positive results. The Early Warning System revealed that in southern Africa, drought will continue and the outcome of crops is expected to decline for the next three years in succession. This is clearly illustrated in paragraph 15. Not only will this prediction serve the purpose of good records but my delegation feels that it reinforces the expression that says "Make hay while the sun shines". This will also assist our donor country friends to prepare their help systematically, that is to be in the picture of how many tons of fertilizer are needed, the quantity of pesticides, the necessary trained manpower to carry out the programme efficiently and effectively, what type of delivery systems to employ, the necessary and appropriate technology to be applied. This is just to mention a few of the necessary prerequisites.

Food security does not depend on domestic production exclusively, but it also needs a provision for the expansion and capacity to import. If this is not observed, a couple of problems might arise. For instance, trade terms and conditions can be adversely affected, high interest rates can escalate, a heavy debt burden can exist and protectionism in its widest form can prevail.

My delegation would like to support the idea of IMF, as is reflected in paragraph 29 of this document. It is extremely difficult for these low-income food-deficit countries to embark on any programme without any financial support. These countries need help most, but if conditions and terms for the loans are not commensurate, the help becomes self-defeating.

Without necessarily dramatising this issue, may these conditions and terms be reviewed closely? Also, it is with great humility that IFAD and other international agencies should receive if necessary additional contributions in order to help those needy countries.

It is worth mentioning that the initiative of the FAO Director-General to prepare and plan to visit our continent in Africa and to see for himself what problems exist and also have dialogues with our heads of governments is a good and commendable move.

Reference to paragraph 90 of this document CL 86/10 calls for a well-thought out package programme that can salvage some of the drought-stricken areas. My delegation wishes that it should be on record that it fully supports this proposal. Again my delegation is fully aware of the financial constraints that are involved in getting this proposal off the ground but if those needy countries can be given a hearing by those capable and loving countries, my delegation is confident that where there is a will there is a way.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to subscribe to the idea that God helps those that help themselves. Those low-income food-deficit countries have to set their own priorities, they have not put themselves in this predicament. They also need to do something about this situation. What they have to do is to set their priorities in order. For example, this includes marketing infrastructures, storage facilities, credit and timely payments to the farmers etc. This is clearly reflected in paragraphs 34, 35 and 37.

We have all the ammunition before us that is the document with full information. What we need is action.

Once again my delegation appreciates the opportunities given to us and thanks you for your patience.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I shall confine myself to only one point, since the other issues have been covered sufficiently by other delegations. I am referring to the Food Security Compact dealt with by the Council document CL 86/10 entitled "Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on Food Security" in paragraphs 60 to 64. Paragraph 60 describes what the Food Security Compact is, that it shall consolidate what has already been agreed upon in the different fora and different issues on food security, that it would be voluntary in nature but it would not involve any financial or legally binding obligations.

Paragraph 61 gives us the view of the majority, that is the Group of 77 plus a few other delegations, as we heard the delegation of France this afternoon, and four arguments are given here, in favour of a compact, first, that it would be an important symbol of the international support for the objectives and the actions for strengthening food security; second, it would not require too much resources to bring this together; third, such Compact would lead to greater public awareness and political and moral support for food security and reinvigorate the enthusiasm including nongovernmental organizations, to continue to fight against hunger in the context of the revised concept; and fourth, one cannot really judge the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of the Compact without examining the text of the Compact. These are the reasons that have been given in favour of the Compact and have been repeated this afternoon.

Paragraph 62 gives a view of a few delegations who oppose the Compact, saying that they have doubts about its usefulness and effectiveness, since it would be a repetition of only other agreements and commitments and paragraph 63 gives the view of other delegations, saying that it will take considerable time.

The debate on this issue this afternoon reflects exactly what is described in these three paragraphs. Since in a debate on this issue there has been no new idea, no new element, no new argument, I believe that there can be no other conclusion except what was reached by the Committee on Food Security as indicated in paragraph 64.

P.H. GRUE (Norway): My delegation has a few remarks concerning the document we are discussing. On this item, I am also speaking on behalf of the other Nordic countries which are participating here as observers.

Generally speaking, my delegation is glad to note that we in FAO have succeeded in formulating a document which is accepted by all members of the Committee as a useful basis for action.

We also note with appreciation that the document formulates a description of the underlying problems and possible strategies in improving food security. My delegation recognizes these facts as a demonstration of FAO's analytical capacity.

While recognizing FAO's capacity and capability in the field of food security we also have to accept that other agencies have their responsibilities complementary to those of FAO.

Concerning the question of preparing a World Food Security Compact, my delegation still has some doubts concerning the usefulness or effectiveness of a Compact, it would only repeat the existing agreements and commitments.

We also have a few specific remarks about the document. First my delegation especially welcomes the framework of comprehensive national food security programmes or strategies. Food strategies cannot be seen as goals in themselves, but my delegation feels that the implementation of strategies may be a very useful step towards improved food security. The implementation of food strategies requires cooperation between various UN agencies according to their respective capabilities in this field. We hope that everyone, including the UN system, will accept this view.

In connection with the framework of food strategies my delegation will stress that the overall aim of food security has to be adequate nutrition of the populations involved. It is well known that though food production in a country increases, there may well be as many undernourished people as there were before. This fact leads me to the conclusion that unless nutritional guidelines are integrated in agricultural and rural development programmes, we have no assurances that they will have positive effects on the real target groups.

Another element of a well-conceived food and agricultural policy is an appropriate pricing system and development of agricultural markets which provide remunerative prices to producers in order to stimulate production. However, this is a difficult task, because we at the same time must ensure through this policy that undue hardship is not created for either the urban or the rural poor.

In this context my delegation looks forward with interest to the forthcoming FAO study on pricing policy. We think that with the follow-up of this study and other work done by FAO it will be very important to assist the developing countries in improving their infrastructure, in improving their internal pricing and agricultural policy systems and improving their acting in the international markets for agriculture products.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je serai très bref à cette heure tardive tout simplement pour dire que je voudrais appuyer la déclaration de l'ambassadeur du Congo et demander à la FAO et à son Directeur général de continuer à oeuvrer dans le sens de concrétiser la proposition à notre avis très importante du paragraphe 60, concernant le pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire de caractère volontaire. Nous pensons que c'est un acte concret important.

Nous appuyons également le chapitre 5 concernant le facteur limitant la production alimentaire dans les pays d'Afrique à faible revenu, ainsi que le renforcement de la coopération régionale et sous-régionale tel qu'il figure au paragraphe 47.

Par ailleurs nous saisissons cette occasion pour insister sur l'importance du paragraphe 24 notamment en ce qui concerne les plans régionaux de sécurité alimentaire surtout dans les pays membres du CILSS.

H.M.MBALE (Malawi): The Malawi Delegation fully supports the Committee on World Food Security that more attention be paid to non-cereal staples in future reviews as stated in paragraph 9 of the document CL 86/10. We would like also to see the contribution of plantains, bananas, sweet potatoes, cassava and other tubers which contribute to food in the areas of poor rainfall. Various useful fruits and vegetables should also be looked into. In this connection, attention should be paid to vegetables which can substantially contribute to food security in rural areas. These could include pumpkins, cabbages, and green leaves of various kinds. Such vegetables could be grown in wet areas or irrigation schemes alternating with rice. Mr Chairman, such an approach could bring cash as well as food security benefits for the small holder farmer.

The Malawi delegation shares the concern by the Committee about the precarious situation of cereal stocks in the developing countries except China and India which have been singled out by the Committee as noted in paragraph 13 of the Report. This has resulted in an insecure food situation in many countries in Africa.

My delegation would like to express satisfaction at the performance of FAO's Global Early Warning System, the FAO/WFP Task Force and the Director-General's efforts in mobilizing international community attention to the serious plight of millions of human beings and their livestock in Africa. Therefore, unstinting donor support for IFAD and other international financial institutions cannot be overemphasized. The Council's attention is drawn to the problem in favour of achieving an international grains agreement. I wish to urge that the GATT Committee on Trade and Agriculture should continue to maintain sustained efforts in improving trade conditions for agricultural products from developing countries.

My delegation endorses the proposal that the international emergency food reserves be increased from 500 000 to 2 million tons since the demands on this facility are so great.

On the implementation of the Plan of Action on World Food Security I wish to make the following comments. Malawi has adopted stock policies. We have now the capacity to store stocks of grain and grasses, not to mention the Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation, or ADMARC, and the food storage depots. The Malawi Delegation fully endorses the concern expressed by the Committee in paragraph 28 that 9 million tons of food aid are totally inadequate to meet the needs for emergencies which are estimated at 20 million tons by 1985. The Council's attention is therefore drawn to this problem. The Director-General of FAO, with the WFP, is therefore urged to continue his efforts in asking the donor countries to increase food aid above the present levels which appear totally inadequate.

The Committee expressed concern in paragraph 29 that the IMF facility was not fully used. The Director-General should pursue this matter further in order to determine why the facility is not fully utilized. There must be reasons which hamper full utilization of the facility.

On the follow-up to the Director General's report on World Food Security I wish to make the following comments. My delegation fully endorses the recommended measures to be adopted at the national level in paragraphs 32 to 42, Food Security Action Programme - paragraphs 43 to 46, Strengthening Regional and Subregional Cooperation, and fully endorses the proposal for an FAO Workshop on the subject as well as the proposed measures in paragraph 64.

On constraints on food production in low-income food-deficit countries in Africa I wish to make the following comments. The Council should fully support the proposed action by the Director-General of FAO to take action on training at all levels, training farmer organizations, bridging gaps between research and extension, prevent losses at farm level storage, training of managers of grain storage vaults, expand seed improvement and development.

While my delegation agrees with the Committee that attention be given to the strengthening of existing institutions rather than the creation of new ones in paragraph 80, we should not lose sight of the fact that existing institutions may not be adequate in numbers. In such cases I would propose that new facilities be created where necessary.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): I will be very brief. On behalf of the Indonesian delegation, first of all I would like to congratulate and thank Professor Islam for his excellent introduction on the item under discussion this morning. I would like to congratulate the Committee on World Food Security for its work so far, especially for its Report that we are discussing now, and also to congratulate the Secretariat for producing it for us.

My delegation, in agreement with the Committee's assessment on the World Food Security situation and the depreciation of the stocks, expresses its concern about the critical food situation in many African countries.

My delegation believes that the strengthening regional and subregional cooperation as mentioned in the Report, paragraphs 47 to 51, will be met only if all countries concerned in such a region and subregion participate fully and actively in the cooperations.

In closing, my delegation supports the measures at the global level for World Food Security as mentioned in the Report, paragraphs 52 to 64. Finally, my delegation endorses the Report.

Mme L. OUEDRAOGO-GUIGMA (Burkina Faso): Le document objet de notre examen est si important que la délégation de mon pays tient à joindre sa voix à celles qui l'ont précédée pour appuyer les résultats de la neuvième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous appuyons particulièrement les propositions du Directeur général pour la création d'un programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire qui coordonnera l'élaboration et l'exécution des programmes nationaux et mobilisera toutes les ressources financières.

Nous approuvons également le principe de la création d'un système des réserves alimentaires ainsi que le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire, conformément à la déclaration des ministres de l'agriculture lors de la dernière conférence à Harare.

Nous encourageons également le Directeur général pour toutes ses initiatives allant dans le sens de la recherche de la formation, particulièrement en Afrique.

J.B. MUTELO (Observer for Zambia): I wish to thank FAO for the elaborate report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Zambia would like to share with you the concern over the deteriorating African food situation, especially in the light of the desertification in the Sahel region and the serious drought in the Southern African region.

Zambia supports the Director-General's strategy for World Food Security. Zambia believes that the struggle against hunger and its known offshoots such as poverty, ignorance, disease and exploitation of man by man cannot be fought single handed. International or regional cooperation is required.

Like any other developing country, Zambia's resources are limited and the task to be self-sufficient in food is not an easy one. Organizations such as FAO, with the expertise at their disposal, can go a long way to ensure not only that food is produced abundantly but that adequate strategic and accessible food reserves are available where they are critically needed.

L. FAABORG-ANDERSEN (Observer for Denmark): On behalf of the Danish delegation I am happy to announce that my Government, in view of the critical food situation in an increasing number of African countries, has just decided to make an additional cash contribution of 5 million Danish Kroner, approximately 500 000 US Dollars to the International Emergency Food Reserve, making our total contribution for 1984, 25 million Danish Kroner or approximately 2.5 million US Dollars in cash.

P.M. AMUKOA (Observer for Kenya): May I join the Council in endorsing the Report of the Ninth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. Regarding increasing food production, the corner-stone of food security, particularly in Africa, I wish to endorse the measures that have been approved in the document and most of which we have discussed in the debate on the State of Food and Agriculture and on the persistent African food problem, particularly the proposed Action Programme for Africa.

However, allow me very briefly to touch on just two points on reaching the rural poor, training - two brief points, and some emphasis on the FAO fertilizer scheme. The Council has discussed many strategies in reaching the rural poor. My delegation would like to underline the principle of 'participatory mechanism' in the management of projects by its intended project beneficiaries, their participation in the decision-making process regarding their development efforts, and sharing equally in the benefits of development. In Kenya we have developed and are implementing a district forecast strategy in which each district plans and implements its own development. The experience coming out of this strategy seems to bring out even more clearly an understanding of the dimensions of the rural environment, and we are convinced that this will help us even more in our efforts to plan and execute rural development programmes in our efforts to reach the rural poor.

Let us also underline the role of channeling resources through the small farmer groups. This point may not have come out very well in the Council, but I am talking about small informal farmer groups who are an ideal contact point for agricultural service agencies as well as for health services. Informal grassroot farmer group movements, many of which in fact have women membership, allow farmers to collectively undertake a diversity of activities. These groups represent a large section of families who are receptive to advice on development and extension information, and effectively and rapidly disseminate among members the relatively few visits by extension staff. There is a spirit of dynamism which has an impact on members welfare and community development. I am making this point because most development projects ignore even the existence of such informal groups.

Training. The Council again put a lot of emphasis on manpower development. In just one area of project training I wish to emphasize that this kind of training should not only focus on project design and formulation as is often the case. There are public and administrative policies and procedures that inhibit project management performance and training efforts in this area have been very limited, and the capacity of many countries, especially in Africa, to deal with the small holder development adequately has been impaired. So this aspect should also be emphasized.

My last point on training is that manpower is costly and time consuming to develop. There should therefore be intensified regional and subregional cooperation in the development and sharing of trained manpower including the exchange of professional personnel.

Lastly FAO's international fertilizer supply scheme has been running short of resources in the past few years, and yet we know this scheme is extremely important in food security. We wish to appeal for an increase in the resources of this scheme.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I will be very brief and I will confine myself to a few clarifications arising from the debate. Regarding FAO's work on roots, tubers and traditional food crops, as I have already mentioned we are planning a workshop on roots, tubers and plantains in September/October 1985. It is intended that over 20 African countries shall be invited covering all the countries of the region where those commodities are the major staple food. This workshop, hopefully, will forecast some way of removing production and marketing constraints regarding these crops. This will cover such aspects as marketing and pricing policies, review of past trends in production and consumption of these crops, including the role of women in production and marketing as well as their impact on nutrition.

This workshop is expected to build on the results of the previous workshop on processing aspects of roots and tubers which was held in the Ivory Coast last December. The participants from various countries are expected to present their own problems and policies regarding these crops. There will of course be supplementary documentation by the FAO Secretariat. The objective of this workshop will be to promote the formulation of national strategies for these crops, providing a basis for national and/or subregional programmes and projects, promoting technical cooperation among participating countries including research and development activities. The findings of this workshop together with the papers prepared for this workshop, will ensure that the document to be prepared for the future session of this Committee on the traditional food staples should be based on a good understanding and analysis of the problems regarding these crops.

I would also like to inform the committee that in the next meeting of the Committee on Agriculture, early 1985, there will be a paper on the role of minor crops in nutrition and food security. This will cover such aspects as seasonal food shortages and the role of minor crops, and include discussions on such crops as millet, sorghum, cassava planting, as well as oilseeds, legumes, fruits and vegetables.

As regards the food security action programme to which some reference was made regarding various aspects on which questions were raised, I would like to stress that we intend to approach this programme progressively. We plan to select one or two pilot countries for this purpose. In other countries individual action programmes will continue to operate as they do now. We shall certainly take, in these pilot countries, an overall view of the food security problems and practical remedial measures and projects needed. It may not necessarily be in all cases limited to these four action programmes.

We have noted the points made concerning the possible role of the investment centre which in our view could take up some projects, as appropriate, which may be identified by the Food Security Action Programme for subsequent follow up and further development. Reference was made to the difficulties some members may have in agreeing to the interim system of national reserves as they do not at present hold national stocks, I should, however, clarify, as was stated in the relevant paragraph of the document, that the system does not confine itself only to the earmarking of grains. It specifically provides for earmarking of funds, especially for those countries which do not hold grain stocks to the extent that members have explained that their countries do earmark funds for meeting urgent input needs of developing low-income countries. They should not in our view have any difficulties in participating in the interim system, as explained in paragraph 53 of the Report.

With reference to the comments on regional cooperation on food security, I would like to stress that regional schemes assisted by FAO are built upon strengthening or establishing efficient food security efforts. For example, our project for the Southern African Development Cooperation Conference to establish an original early warning system is based upon the establishment, or where necessary strengthening, of national early warning systems and extending or encouraging exchanging information and on cooperation among the national early warning systems. The national early warning systems are not only transmitted to the national authorities, early warnings regarding their crop conditions, market situations and stock positions, but also will be transmitted to the regional office for dissemination among Member Countries. This will enable each Member Country to base its policies not only in the full knowledge of their own national situation but also with a view to what is happening in neighbouring countries.

Lastly, on the relationship between food security and trade, to which reference was made by a number of delegates, I would like to report that at the next meeting of the Committee on Commodity Problems in 1985 a paper on trade and food security will be submitted by the Secretariat. The report of the Committee on Commodity Problems, incorporating their deliberations and conclusions, will then be submitted to the following session of the Committee on Food Security.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Dr Islam, for that very clear clarification of some of the points raised by delegates. As we should start our discussion on forestry soon, I will not take up time, except to underline one point made both by Professor Islam and the delegate of Norway in particular, namely the need for adding a nutritional dimension to the concept of food security at the national level. Para. 32 of the document points out that national governments should formulate their own policies. Again and again I have seen that in many parts of the developing world a fundamental requirement like safe drinking water, clean drinking water, makes all the difference. Often rural children eat a lot. There is no calorie shortage in one sense. But the rate of intestinal infection is so high that everything is lost. So the concept of a Nutritional Security programme at the local level is what is meaningful to the people of that area. It may be drinking water in some cases, it may be vitamin A deficiency in others, protein deficiency in others and so on. So if one adds the concept of nutrition into the planning of the national food security scheme, then we will really achieve the purpose for which we want food security, namely a good healthy person. That is all I would like to say. I want to thank all the delegates who have participated in this very important item.

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

- 7. Forestry Situation
- 7. Forêts
- 7. Situación forestal

- 7.1 Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Forestry - Rome, 7-11 May 1984
- 7.1 Rapport de la septième session du Comité des forêts - Rome, 7-11 mai 1984
- 7.1 Informe del séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Montes - Roma, 7-11 de mayo de 1984

- 7.2 Proposal that 1985 be proclaimed the International Year of the Forest
- 7.2 Proposition de proclamer 1985 Année Internationale de la forêt
- 7.2 Propuesta de que 1985 sea declarado Año Internacional del Bosque

CHAIRMAN: We will now proceed to the consideration of the next item on our Agenda, Item 7. We will take 7.1 and 7.2 together.

May I also make one additional request for your consideration. This item on forestry is very important. As regards Item 7.2, the proposal that 1985 be proclaimed the International Year of the Forest is very clear. It would be helpful if the delegates said they support it or do not support it. I do not think detailed additional justification is needed. So would you please just convey your most important ideas in as few words as possible.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): El Comité de Montes celebró su séptima reunión aquí en Roma del 7 al 11 de mayo de este año. Su informe ha sido distribuido como documento CL 86/8 del Consejo.

Creo que esa reunión del Comité fue particularmente productiva y útil porque el Comité concentró su atención en la discusión de problemas y aspectos de política de desarrollo más bien que en cuestiones técnicas. Este hecho se debió a diversos factores:

Primero: Asistieron a la reunión delegados de 87 países miembros de la FAO, así como representantes y observadores de organizaciones internacionales y otras. Sin embargo, en comparación con reuniones anteriores hubo en esa reunión una apropiada proporción entre delegados y representantes permanentes, lo que creó un adecuado equilibrio entre los aspectos puramente técnicos y aquellos aspectos políticos durante las discusiones de los varios temas del programa.

Segundo: Los debates de los temas fueron más puntuales y los temas mismos más relevantes, ya que estaban orientados principalmente hacia aspectos de política de desarrollo.

Tercero: El Comité se reunió en un momento de creciente preocupación internacional por el dramático ritmo en que los recursos forestales se están degradando o desapareciendo por completo. Esto dio al debate un sentido de urgencia y de presencia activa y pragmática ante los problemas del desarrollo rural.

El más importante tema discutido por el Comité fue "La actividad forestal más allá del 2000 - potencialidad, problemas y perspectivas, con especial énfasis en la política forestal para las regiones templadas, las tropicales y las áridas y a nivel global".

El Comité identificó entre los problemas principales la degradación y el agotamiento de los bosques en los trópicos húmedos, el fuego y la desertificación en las zonas áridas, y la lluvia ácida y la contaminación ambiental en las zonas de clima templado.

El Comité reiteró su preocupación por la situación insatisfactoria y de negligencia continua que confrontan los recursos forestales y recomendó que todos los países hicieran mayores esfuerzos por llamar la atención de los niveles políticos sobre la necesidad de proteger y manejar racionalmente los recursos forestales con fines de desarrollo.

El Comité puso énfasis especial en la importancia fundamental que tiene el recurso forestal en la seguridad alimentaria, en el papel que juega en la nutrición humana, en la conservación de los suelos y las aguas, en el mantenimiento de la fertilidad de los suelos y en el mejoramiento microclimático, contribuyendo de esta manera a una mayor productividad agrícola y pecuaria.

En este contexto, el Comité recomendó que la FAO preparara un estudio sobre las interrelaciones entre actividades forestales y la seguridad alimentaria para la consideración del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, el Comité de Agricultura y de otros órganos pertinentes en la FAO.

A este respecto, al Consejo le puede interesar saber que el Director General ha dado las instrucciones para que este estudio sea preparado y presentado en la próxima reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria cuando se reúna aquí, en Roma, en abril de 1985.

En relación con el programa forestal de la FAO, el Comité expresó claramente sus inquietudes y recomendó que se diera alta prioridad: i) al aumento de las contribuciones de la actividad forestal a objetivos de desarrollo, particularmente en las áreas rurales; ii) al mantenimiento y expansión del apoyo que la actividad forestal puede dar a la producción agrícola y a la seguridad alimentaria; iii) a la conservación de los recursos forestales y en particular del acervo genético global; y iv) a la mayor participación de la población local en los beneficios que proporciona la actividad forestal, especialmente a través de industrias forestales apropiadas y de mayores oportunidades de empleo e inversión.

El Comité opinó que al seleccionar las acciones que convendría tomar para alcanzar estos objetivos es necesario acordar alta prioridad a aquellas para las cuales la FAO está particularmente calificada, tales como la valorización mayor de los recursos forestales, los estudios de perspectiva y las acciones a nivel de país en la integración de la población rural en la toma de decisiones que la conduzcan a un desarrollo integral acelerado.

El Comité destacó cuatro áreas de importancia fundamental para el sector forestal y con potencial de contribución al desarrollo. Estas áreas son: (a) el fortalecimiento institucional, especialmente en lo que concierne a la enseñanza y capacitación y al desarrollo de los medios de comunicación; (b) la investigación para el desarrollo en general, y el mejoramiento genético y de la calidad y abastecimiento de las semillas, en particular; (c) la eficiencia en la producción y utilización de los recursos y en la reducción de las pérdidas en las labores de aprovechamiento y postaprovechamiento; (d) el mejoramiento de la capacidad de las administraciones forestales nacionales para planificar, formular y justificar la aprobación y ejecución de programas y proyectos forestales para el desarrollo.

Desde el principio, el Comité mostró gran interés en sus debates por el programa forestal de la FAO, opinando que deberían hacerse mayores esfuerzos para alertar a la comunidad mundial sobre las implicaciones que pueden derivar de la continua destrucción de los recursos forestales mundiales, especialmente si esta destrucción ocasiona daños a otros sectores de la actividad humana, tales como los agrícolas, la calidad de los alimentos y del agua y a la estabilidad del medio ambiente en general.

El Comité consideró otros varios aspectos llegando a su conocimiento a través de las Comisiones Forestales Regionales y otros órganos estatutarios de la FAO en el Sector Forestal. Expresó también su satisfacción por el apoyo recibido del Consejo al informe de su reunión anterior.

Además, el Comité notó con satisfacción que la 22ª Conferencia de la FAO había expresado su esperanza de que se destinarían mayores recursos a los programas forestales y que había invitado a los países donantes a aumentar su apoyo a las actividades forestales, ya sea a través de ayudas bilaterales o a través de programas multilaterales como los de la FAO.

El Comité de Montes acogió con agrado la propuesta de Austria de que el año 1985 fuese declarado el Año Internacional del Bosque; el Consejo lo ha incluido bajo un subtema en su orden del día. Los antecedentes de esta propuesta están descritos en los suplementos 1 y 2 del documento 86/8.

No hay ninguna región en el mundo donde los bosques no estén siendo destruidos o degradados o amenazados de destrucción. El problema de la deforestación y degradación de los bosques en los países tropicales ha sido ya documentado por la FAO, y sus desfavorables consecuencias para el medio ambiente humano y para la productividad agrícola son plenamente reconocidas. Los países de clima templado están también enfrentando serios problemas en sus bosques debido a la contaminación atmosférica, al fuego sin control, y, probablemente como una consecuencia a las plagas y a las enfermedades.

La FAO ya ha estado tratando estos problemas a nivel nacional a través de sus programas de campo, y a los niveles regionales e interregional a través de su programa regular. Sin embargo, el Director General respondió a la preocupación por la conservación y protección de los bosques, expresada por diversos países miembros, y ha tomado, o se propone tomar, sujeto al acuerdo de ustedes, diversas medidas específicas, las cuales están señaladas en los suplementos 1 y 2 del documento CL 86/8.

Además de las acciones que tomara la FAO y de otras medidas que los gobiernos decidan tomar a nivel nacional, la importancia de la conservación de los bosques será destacada en el Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial y durante la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación en 1985.

Adicionalmente a las varias otras reuniones forestales, tales como las reuniones de las Comisiones Forestales Regionales y otros órganos estatutarios de la FAO en el sector forestal, otras conferencias forestales organizadas por los países directamente, ya sea a nivel regional o subregional, podrían también ser usadas para reforzar la concienciación pública de la necesidad de conservar y proteger los bosques.

En apoyo de las acciones y medidas propuestas por el Director General, el Consejo podría a su vez invitar a todas las Naciones Miembros de la FAO a dar un reconocimiento especial al "bosque" como una preocupación global durante el año 1985, adoptando el borrador de Resolución adjunto al documento mencionado, suplemento 2.

Se han propuesto para su consideración dos versiones de esta Resolución: Una, que se limita a solicitar a los países a dar un reconocimiento especial al "bosque" como una preocupación global en 1985; y una segunda que se agrega a la primera, repito una agregada a la primera, la declaración de que 1985 sea el "Año Internacional del Bosque" para la FAO.

Creo que el Comité de Montes ha elaborado esta vez un informe sucinto pero lleno de recomendaciones importantes para el Consejo, para el Director General y para los Estados Miembros. Pienso también que el informe que ustedes están ahora examinando es preciso y comprensivo; no obstante mis colegas y yo mismo estamos a su disposición para proporcionar información ulterior o cualquier clarificación que ustedes puedan necesitar.

CHAIRMAN: We thank Mr. Flores Rodas for that introduction.

The meeting was suspended from 17.45 hours to 18.00 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 45 à 18 heures.

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.45 a las 18.00 horas.

E. PLATTNER (Austria): Austria attributes particular importance to FAO's activities in the field of forestry, at both regional and global levels. Austria has therefore also actively cooperated in the work of this Committee for years. As will be recalled, during the Seventh Session Austria submitted special proposals for the conservation of world forestry resources. In this connection I refer to paragraphs 56 and 57. We have noted with satisfaction that the Committee fully supported the Austrian proposals.

During the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference in November 1983 Austria suggested that in view of the decrease of forest areas in the developing countries because of the conversion of forest land into agricultural use, the degradation of forest land in industrialized areas by air pollution, the year 1985 should be proclaimed as the Year of the Forest - also at the international level. Forestry activities however, cannot be considered in isolation. Therefore, we fully support the recommendations made by the Committee on Forestry to prepare a study on the relationship between forestry and food security. This study will be submitted to the Committee on World Food Security, to the Committee on Agriculture and to other FAO bodies for consultation. We look forward to this study with great interest.

Within the framework of her possibilities, Austria will support all FAO activities in the field of forestry in the future - be it by organizing training programmes or by providing experts. We are also looking forward with great interest to the deliberations of the Ninth World Forestry Congress which will be held in México City in 1985. We believe that FAO, as a world leader in agriculture and forestry, should take this opportunity to seek for a solution for improved conservation of forestry resources.

I would like to express the hope that the relevant FAO initiatives find as broad a consensus as possible. My delegation studied with great interest document CL 86/8-Sup.1, and we thank the Secretariat for this. My delegation would like to present to the Council the following ideas and suggestions.

All over the world forests are decreasing at an accelerating rate. According to FAO estimates we have to expect an annual decrease of forest areas of more than 110 000 square kilometers. This is almost twice the area of Austria. In Europe, air pollution harmful to forests has become the central damaging factor and in many parts of Europe forests are threatened today. The acceptable limits of air pollution threatening forests obviously has exceeded tolerable limits for decades. The damage caused by acid rain and other pollution is constantly increasing.

This development urged Austria to present at the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe a Resolution which recommends the strengthening of the cooperation between FAO and ECE in all fields pertaining to the conservation and protection of forests. It further recommends that the Director-General of FAO examine the possibilities of giving recognition to "The Forest" as a global concern during the year 1985 and that the Ninth World Forestry Congress deal in an integrated way with the problems of pollution and other threats to the conservation of forestry resources, the environment, and the quality of life.

As a matter of fact, the reasons for the destruction of the forests in most areas of the world are very different. It is quite obvious that primarily this is not only a forestry problem. Therefore, we have to consider energy problems, the stabilization of agricultural production, questions of soil conservation and erosion control, forest fires, desertification in arid zones and finally, air pollution in temperate zones.

My delegation welcomes the initiative brought forward in the course of the Fourteenth Regional Conference for Europe. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General and the Assistant Director-General for their initiatives in this very important field. Furthermore, I would like to assure this meeting that Austria will support all activities in this respect. These activities should not only be realized on a national scale, but also at a regional and a world-wide level. Preparations for "The Year of the Forest" in Austria are almost complete. In the course of the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the European Forestry Commission in December of this year, my delegation will present its proposals in detail. Finally, I ask you to give full support to this initiative.

L.E. WILLIAMS (Trinidad and Tobago): First of all, I would like to express our thanks to the Assistant Director-General, Dr Flores Rodas, for the lucid introduction he gave to this item.

In the document CL 86/8 before us, my delegation notes with satisfaction the various recommendations made to governments in recognizing the need for sound forest policies as a means to control the further and/or continued depletion of forest resources.

Trinidad and Tobago can identify with the problems of forest loss in the promotion of other infra-structural developments which are also so vital to the economic and social progress of our country.

Indeed, the premium on forest land in our country, with its limited availability of land in general, does not only derive from the need for its use for food and other agricultural crops but also from further demands for housing, intensified efforts to improve communication links within the country and the enhanced distribution of water and power. These developmental imperatives have all contributed to the depletion of our forest resources.

As governments have constantly to address their attention to that delicate balance and competition between food and forests, the realities of meeting the ever-growing food import bill frequently result in the balance being tilted against forestry - an area, it bears repeating, whose manifold responsibilities cover productive forests, protective forests, watershed management, national parks, mangrove swamps and wildlife conservation.

Further recognition of the adverse effects alluded to above leads my delegation to fully associate itself with the emphasis laid in paragraph 17 of the Report.

While recognizing the need, desperate in some regions, for sound forest policies, Trinidad and Tobago nevertheless advises that a broader perspective based on appropriate national planning with respect to proper land use will play a significant role here.

In striving to achieve the best results in our national plans for land use we are cognizant of the requirement for multi-disciplinary inputs in the development of forestry programmes. We recognize the need to support existing institutional structures within our own national boundaries, such as the University of the West Indies and the Division of Forestry where productive research in tropical agriculture and forestry has been ongoing for several decades. In this context we believe that FAO and other international agencies in the field should direct urgent attention to these and similar institutions before branching out into new ventures.

Our delegation wishes at this time to endorse the various contributions made on the world perspective as embodied within paragraphs 23 to 34 of the Report. We use this opportunity to emphasize once more, however, the fuller role which FAO could undertake, again in collaboration with other well-respected agencies, to accelerate effective tree-breeding and conservation practices. In respect of the latter, we choose to bring to the fore the concept of germ-plasm resource protection. Trinidad and Tobago wishes to emphasize the significance of the "Progress Report on Follow-Up to the Recommendations of the Sixth Session of the Committee", CL 86/8 paragraphs 37 to 38.

My delegation wishes to urge the financial agencies to quicken their pace in working towards the removal of the financial constraints which present difficulties in the implementation of twinning arrangements aimed at strengthening forest research in developing countries. We endorse the concerns implied with respect to the closely related aspects of the strengthening of (a) institutional capacity in developing countries, and (b) the appropriate training and retraining of forest workers.

We commend the Committee's advised stressing of the informational arena as it relates to tropical forestry and anxiously await positive moves directed towards the creation of regional data banks.

We seize this opportunity to re-emphasize our support for the concept and evolving strategy of Forestry for Development. We applaud the shift in emphasis reflected in the increased allocation of resources, financial and human, to activities related to the strategy. Council will, we are certain, ensure a richer harvest as a result since by increased support for training activities the institutional weaknesses which now bedevil developing countries will be alleviated.

Trinidad and Tobago is aware of the importance of education and training in the forestry sector and it supports all efforts for closer cooperation between FAO and ILO on forest worker training. We also endorse in principle the statement in paragraph 47 of the Report. In this regard, the forestry sector in Trinidad and Tobago has sought continually to increase the awareness of the population to the contributions forestry can make to rural development and to the significant role it can play in agricultural production and food security. We have entered into programmes aimed at educating our people in, among other things, the undoubted advantages of agroforestry in those situations or conditions where it is desirable or necessary. The value of a tree-planting programme to the long-term development of the country, whether as an economic, protective or aesthetic exercise, is also being increasingly highlighted.

In concluding, my Government extends its fullest support and its best wishes for every success for the two important forestry Conferences, the Ninth World Forestry Congress and the Twelfth Commonwealth Forestry Conference which take place in México and Canada, respectively, in 1985.

It is with deep interest that we note the proposal for and the significance of 1985 being proclaimed the International Year of the Forest. We recognize that it may be timely in view of the two Conferences referred to above.

However, my delegation also notes with some concern that 1985 has already been designated the International Year of the Youth.

While on the one hand we think that 1985 could accommodate the two proclamations - and indeed the raising of awareness of forestry could be promoted in programmes designed for the International Year of the Youth - there are some cautious doubts that perhaps the forestry message may lose some of its independent impact on the very audience it should be designed to attract.

Furthermore, there is limited time for extensive and meaningful preparation, particularly in the developing countries, several of which suffer the consequences of deforestation and would necessarily have a deep interest in the significant promotion at a national level of the International Year.

We can foresee that problems of varying intensities will arise with respect to the functional modes of planning and organization, and more particularly speaking for my country we know that there will be budgetary problems which will adversely affect the mobilizing of funds necessary for the effective celebration of the International Year of the Forest in 1985.

As far as we are aware, there has always been the proclamation of only one significant event in any one particular year. This has taken on the aura of tradition within the United Nations and one may think for valid and broadly accepted reasons.

Against this background we wish to exhort Council to reappraise the proposal that 1985 be proclaimed as the International Year of the Forest.

We recognize that on the issue of the importance of the International Year of the Forest, the developed and developing countries are at one.

We further recognize and indeed appreciate the immediate concerns of the industrialized countries with the question of atmospheric pollution and in particular, the problem of acid rain, hence the desire to take advantage of the World Forestry Congress in México to alert world attention to these problems.

My delegation, however, views the problem in a broader perspective. We are concerned about the indiscriminate destruction of forests; the lack of the citizens' awareness of the forestry sector in the agricultural efforts; the pollution of swamps, the destruction of wildlife in addition of the need for effective education programmes with respect to the value of forests. These factors, we believe, are more immediately relevant to the Third World scenario. Consequently, my delegation is of the view that the proclamation of an International Year of the Forest should allow for a sufficient period of mobilization of financial, human and material resources to ensure effective organization.

I thank you again for the opportunity afforded to my delegation to address the Council and express our deepest support for FAO's continued efforts to serve increased financial support for its activities.

Mrs MARASEE SURAKUL (Thailand): My delegation has carefully studied the Austrian proposal on measures for the Conservation of the Forests 1985 International Year of the Forest which Austria proposed to the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference in Rome, November 1983. My delegation would like to give its full support to the aforementioned proposal. This is due mainly to the fact that the proposal calls for international cooperation to campaign for the realization and public awareness of the importance of forest resources. Furthermore, the proposal was also urging international cooperation to solve various problems on forest destruction which is one of the most pressing problems of most developing countries.

Thailand, like all developing countries, is losing its forest area rapidly. The main cause of forest destruction is the encroachment of forest land for cash crops and subsistence agriculture.

The present activities in the forestry development scheme of Thailand is restricted to the watershed area. In addition, community forest and forest village programming are also implemented to overcome the socio-economic aspect of forest destruction.

Since the Austrian proposal is realistic and to the point of the problems of forest destruction which Thailand also experienced, it is, therefore, highly appropriate to the present global forestry situation. My delegation, therefore, would like to express its full endorsement and at the same time would like to call for full support from this committee to proclaim 1985 as the International Year of the Forest.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Extendemos nuestra felicitación al Dr. Flores Rodas, Subdirector General del Departamento de Montes, por su excelente presentación. Nuestra delegación se pronuncia favorablemente por la aprobación del documento CL 86/8. El Informe final del séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Montes refleja el avance hacia la adopción del nuevo enfoque global sobre los recursos forestales, párrafos 23 y 24, en especial, y asocia aspectos del desarrollo forestal con los problemas socioeconómicos de los países en desarrollo.

Sobre el particular destacamos nuevamente nuestra preocupación por la disminución de los proyectos en América Latina, en particular al orientarse los recursos del PNUD hacia los países de menores ingresos, sin contemplar la importancia y la situación forestal específica de los diversos países de América Latina y las condiciones en que vive en general la población rural ligada al bosque. Al llamar la atención sobre los párrafos 40 y 54, hacemos notar en especial la importancia del desarrollo rural y del desarrollo socioeconómico en general, de las comunidades rurales ligadas al bosque para lograr no solo mejorar su situación alimentaria, sino controlar el aspecto del deterioro ecológico de los bosques derivados de su mal explotación o simple depredación.

Nos unimos igualmente al llamado de alarma por el deterioro forestal general en todo el mundo y reiteramos la voluntad del Gobierno de México de poner todo lo que está de nuestra parte para resolver esta situación.

Por otro lado, queremos informar que los trabajos preparatorios para la celebración del noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial en México van conforme a lo programado.

Para satisfacer las posibles peticiones de información o cuestiones respecto de la organización y el avance de los preparativos recordamos que el segundo comunicado relativo a estas cuestiones se presentará y se distribuirá en la primera o segunda semana de diciembre.

Finalmente, la delegación de México respalda íntegramente las propuestas del Comité de Montes a efectos de que 1985 sea declarado "Año Internacional del Bosque" y que se autorice al Director General de la FAO para efectuar la proclamación correspondiente. Apoyamos, en consecuencia, la resolución respectiva.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Notre attention est attirée dans le rapport du Comité des forêts et par M. Flores Rodas, le Sous-Directeur général des forêts, sur trois points. Le premier concerne le potentiel, les problèmes et perspectives de la foresterie au-delà de l'an 2000, les inquiétudes devant le déboisement excessif et la nécessité d'une prise de conscience politique de l'importance cruciale pour l'avenir, d'accorder une attention soutenue aux problèmes des forêts. Le second vise à la mise en route d'une étude sur les rapports entre la foresterie et la sécurité alimentaire. Le troisième est une étude spéciale par le Congrès forestier mondial, qui doit se tenir prochainement à México, sur la question de la conservation des forêts et, d'autre part, la proclamation de l'année 1985 comme Année mondiale internationale de la forêt.

Je voudrais brièvement vous dire aussi que nous approuvons les conclusions et suggestions du Comité des forêts sur les trois points que je viens de citer. Et s'agissant en particulier des recommandations concernant le premier point, je signalerai que le Gouvernement français a particulièrement pris conscience des problèmes qui existent dans le domaine forestier c'est-à-dire le déboisement et ses différentes causes. Comme le disait récemment M. François Mitterrand, Président de la République française, lors de la séance d'ouverture de la réunion des Gouverneurs du Fonds international de développement agricole (FIDA), la déforestation d'aujourd'hui, c'est la sécheresse de demain et la famine d'après-demain. C'est d'ailleurs dans l'esprit du paragraphe 29 du rapport 86/8 qui déplore l'absence d'une prise de conscience au niveau politique des conséquences auxquelles on s'expose si un déploiement excessif se produit, que le Président de la République française a proposé qu'après le Congrès forestier mondial de México une rencontre ait lieu au plus haut niveau, groupant les responsables politiques des pays concernés par la déforestation.

Je voudrais simplement, vous, dire à ce sujet que le Gouvernement a chargé un petit groupe de hauts fonctionnaires français d'examiner les suites qui pourront être apportées sur un plan pratique à cette proposition.

Maintenant, et s'agissant de la proclamation, en 1985, de l'Année mondiale de la forêt, je dois tout d'abord remercier l'Autriche pour la proposition qu'elle a formulée déjà depuis quelque temps, et nous avons déjà appuyé pleinement cette initiative lors de la Conférence régionale de l'Europe à Reykjavik. Cependant, depuis lors, des éléments nouveaux sont intervenus, si j'ose dire, et qui nécessitent probablement que le Secrétariat fournisse des précisions un peu plus détaillées sur les possibilités et les modalités de mise en oeuvre de cette initiative, compte tenu justement des éléments qui figurent dans le document 86/8 Suppl.2, et tout particulièrement, nous voyons déjà que les Nations Unies ont décidé de proclamer 1985 comme l'Année de la Jeunesse, 1986 comme Année de la Paix, 1987 comme Année du logement et des sans abris. Il y a donc déjà un premier problème.

Deuxièmement, évidemment la FAO peut, de son propre chef, comme elle l'a fait par le passé pour d'autres produits, proclamer, donc, une Année internationale des forêts. Je n'écarte pas cette possibilité mais j'aimerais demander au Secrétariat s'il est bien possible et bien souhaitable d'avoir une même année pour deux produits différents ou deux activités différentes: l'une proclamée par les Nations Unies, et l'autre par notre Organisation. C'est un point sur lequel je m'interroge.

Quoi qu'il en soit, il nous semble que le projet de résolution qui nous est présenté ici vise sur un plan général à définir ce qui pourrait être une Année internationale de la forêt. Sur ce point nous sommes entièrement d'accord. Reste la question (et là je ne peux pas me prononcer), j'aimerais que le Secrétariat, quand il nous répondra à la fin des débats, nous dise si nous devons nous contenter d'avoir ce thème général "Année internationale de la forêt", et de se servir de celui-ci en 1985, dans l'organisation, pour, en fait, orienter, insister sur les actions à faire dans le domaine des forêts, ou si, comme le souhaite un certain nombre de délégations et particulièrement l'Autriche, que l'on précise si véritablement 1985 c'est l'Année de la forêt. Dans l'immédiat je ne peux pas me prononcer définitivement.

CHAIRMAN: Well Mr. Flores Rodas will be preparing his answer to this question but I would request him, as soon as he is ready, to give this information because many other delegations may have such doubt that they are reserving to the very end this very specific issue of the two years International Year of the Youth and International Year of the Forest which the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago also raised, and France raised.

F.J. FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España): La delegación española, después de examinar con detenimiento el documento CL 86/8 y oír la excelente exposición del Director General de Montes, Dr. Flores Rodas, quiere prestar su apoyo total a los tres puntos que se someten a la atención de este Consejo.

Refiriéndome al primer punto diremos que el Gobierno y la opinión pública en España están enormemente sensibilizados ante las pérdidas continuadas de masas forestales dentro y fuera de nuestras fronteras, tanto por sus efectos sobre el medio ambiente y los sistemas ecológicos como por la pérdida de materias primas tan necesarias para el sistema de vida actual y que para algunos países son la principal fuente de materias primas y por lo tanto de divisas.

Sobre el segundo punto sabemos que la importancia de los bosques es decisiva en la protección y mejora de los suelos, cultivos y aguas. Por ello apoyamos la preparación del estudio de la FAO sobre la relación entre la silvicultura y la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Al mismo tiempo España apoyará, como ya lo venía haciendo, las actividades forestales en zonas áridas y tropicales en los campos de la enseñanza forestal, intercambio de resultados de experiencias e investigaciones, elaboración de proyectos de instalaciones, explotaciones o protección de los montes, etc.

Dentro de este punto quisiéramos llamar la atención sobre los apartados 21, 22 y 30 de este documento que consideramos fundamentales para el desarrollo de los programas forestales en zonas de difícil operación, como son las zonas áridas de África dañadas por la sequía continuada, y a ellos, a estos problemas, prestaremos nuestra experiencia y medios que disponemos.

En el tercer punto apoyamos la propuesta de Austria sobre la conservación de recursos, con la redacción final acordada en la Conferencia Regional para Europa de Helsinki en la que a propuesta de Portugal y con el apoyo de los países mediterráneos se incluyó el tema de los incendios forestales que tanto preocupa en España, conjuntamente con los daños causados por agentes patógenos, bióticos y abióticos.

Por último, queremos desear al Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial que se celebrará en México en 1985 todo el éxito y brillantez que ese gran país y el tema forestal se merecen.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Para aclarar la pregunta del distinguido representante de Francia y algunas dudas también expresadas por el representante de Trinidad y Tabago.

El objeto de las resoluciones presentadas ante la decisión de ustedes, son dos recomendaciones, es precisamente para guiar al Director General en el camino a seguir. Una de ellas habla, siguiendo más o menos la expresión del distinguido representante de Austria, de hacer énfasis en el bosque tal como también lo apoyó la Conferencia Regional de la FAO en Europa. La segunda agrega un tercer párrafo, que está entre paréntesis, que declara el Año Internacional del Bosque. El objetivo es exactamente igual; la diferencia es que uno declara el Año Internacional del Bosque y el otro hace énfasis de los asuntos forestales, en las actividades forestales, que ambos han sido apoyados por COFO y por la Conferencia Regional Europea.

El Año Internacional se refiere nada más a nivel de FAO, no se refiere a nivel de las Naciones Unidas, porque debido a la premura del tiempo y considerar 1985 un año importante desde el punto de vista forestal tenemos que actuar inmediatamente con todas las presiones y conocimientos del poco tiempo que tenemos. Es por eso que el Director General somete ante ustedes dos alternativas sobre una misma resolución prácticamente; una de ellas menciona la declaración del Año Internacional y la otra sin mencionar el Año Internacional, hace énfasis en las actividades forestales, en pro del desarrollo. No sé si con esto he dado respuesta a la inquietud del distinguido representante de Francia.

Sra. R.A. SUAREZ MELO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia agradece al Dr. Flores Roda la presentación de este documento en forma tan clara y sucinta brindándonos una visión total de la situación a este respecto.

El tema que ahora nos ocupa, montes, es para nuestra delegación de gran importancia. Como lo dijera ya el Director General, creemos que el Congreso Forestal Mundial por desarrollarse marcará pautas y derroteros básicos en el futuro.

Consideramos muy valioso el trabajo realizado por el séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Montes, en virtud de lo cual apoyamos las recomendaciones de ese Comité sobre la necesidad de evaluar los problemas y las posibilidades de la silvicultura en su contribución al desarrollo.

Nos preocupa, asimismo, el que una deforestación continua y el descuido de los recursos forestales mundiales puedan causar graves daños a los medios que se deben preservar. Nuestra delegación reitera su apoyo al Departamento de Montes de la FAO bajo la dirección del Dr. Flores Rodas. Asimismo creemos que los programas forestales de la FAO y sus objetivos y prioridades a plazo medio merecen el apoyo de este Consejo. Igualmente pensamos que tendrá gran importancia la preparación de un estudio sobre las relaciones mutuas entre la silvicultura y la seguridad alimentaria, áreas que en nuestra opinión se complementan una y otra. Este documento lo estudiaremos con atención en las reuniones de los Comités de Seguridad Alimentaria, de Agricultura y de otros órganos pertinentes en el próximo año 1985.

La delegación de Colombia desea enfatizar el llamado que ha hecho el Comité de Montes a los países donantes para que aumenten su asistencia a las actividades forestales en las zonas tropicales y áridas.

Aclaradas ya las alternativas por parte del Dr. Flores Rodas, apoyamos la propuesta de Austria para que se preste especial atención a la conservación de los recursos y se proclame 1985 como Año Internacional de los Bosques.

Estamos seguros de que las actividades forestales van a recibir gran impulso a raíz del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial que se celebrará en México, país hermano de la América Latina y el Caribe, al cual Colombia está unido por sincero vínculo de amistad y simpatía. Confiamos en que el Gobierno y el pueblo de México, con su hospitalidad y generosa hermandad característica, ofrecerán todas las facilidades para que este Congreso Mundial resulte totalmente satisfactorio.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panamá): Agradecemos al Sr. Flores Rodas por lo preciso y conciso de su exposición sobre el argumento que estamos debatiendo aquí. Antes que todo, deseamos unimos a las otras delegaciones que han apoyado la propuesta de Austria sobre el Año Internacional del Bosque.

Abordar en los actuales momentos, con probabilidades de impactar el problema de la deforestación continua y excesiva a que son sometidos los recursos forestales en gran parte del mundo, en especial en las zonas tropicales húmedas, de los efectos de tal deforestación en el proceso de desertificación y de las interrelaciones de ésta con la seguridad alimentaria, debería ser cosa fácil. Bastaría, en efecto, remitirnos a la documentación visual que nos suministran diariamente la prensa y la televisión, para presentar la imagen de una situación debida, en gran parte al problema que nos interesa en su forma más dramática.

La delegación de Panamá conceptúa, sin embargo, que ello no es suficiente pues para afrontar el problema en forma seria y eficaz. No basta sensibilizar a la opinión pública internacional con aspectos de orden emotivo, que aunque importantes, son destinados a movilizar, y en algunos casos hasta justificar, una momentánea cuanto paliativa ayuda en víveres y artículos de primera necesidad.

Para nuestra delegación, el problema que amenaza, como está indicado en el párrafo 14 del documento CL 86/8, el alarmante agotamiento de los recursos forestales a un ritmo estimado en 11 millones de hectáreas al año en regiones tropicales húmedas, debe ser encarado a partir de sus causas primarias concientizando a la opinión mundial de manera de encontrar soluciones válidas que permitan encontrar soluciones que impidan el repetirse de situaciones que representan un escándalo moral y social en nuestra condición de hombres civilizados.

A tal respecto, la delegación panameña considera que, en parte, las principales causas de tan preocupante deforestación se encuentran dentro del contexto de una serie de problemas y/o situaciones de orden social, económico y político que no son exclusivas de la silvicultura, sino íntimamente relacionadas con la compleja problemática del proceso de desarrollo.

En efecto, a nuestro juicio, y sólo por citar algunas, entre las principales causas se encuentran el desequilibrio socioeconómico entre la zona urbana y rural que caracteriza nuestros países en desarrollo, lo que hace que el sector rural marginado pobre y altamente desocupado, ejerce una presión desordenada e irracional, muchas veces trashumante, sobre la selva a fin de procurarse alimentos u otras fuentes de ingresos. Asimismo, el creciente aumento de la población unido a los deficientes procedimientos de productividad agropecuaria típicos de gran parte de nuestros países, hacen que se utilice el bosque indiscriminadamente para la expansión de la frontera agrícola.

Por otra parte, la ordenación impropia de la tierra, su explotación irracional con el lucro como único objetivo, la acción de grandes empresas comerciales agrícolas y profesionales, nacionales o internacionales, que no tienen en cuenta o descuidan los problemas ecológicos al momento de ejecutar sus operaciones, la falta de legislación apropiada, de eficaces programas de divulgación y de técnicos especialistas, hacen urgente una ordenación de la actividad forestal si no queremos correr el riesgo de acabar con el patrimonio forestal de nuestros países.

Es dentro de este contexto, y por lo antes expuesto, que esta delegación manifiesta su identificación, en forma general, con los lineamientos y las conclusiones emanadas del Informe del Séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Montes, y en forma específica con la evaluación de él, potenciando los problemas y las perspectivas de la silvicultura después del año 2000, con especial énfasis en su función para el desarrollo, párrafos 8 al 34 del documento CL 86/8.

Deseamos además respaldar plenamente, y lo destacamos, la recomendación de que la FAO prepare un estudio sobre las relaciones entre la silvicultura y la seguridad alimentaria a fin de que el mismo sea presentado en las reuniones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, que se celebrarán durante el año 1985.

De la misma manera, consideramos la necesidad de reforzar la función directiva de la FAO en la esfera forestal, párrafos 46 a 54 del antes citado documento, y expresamos nuestro decidido apoyo a las prioridades y programas que esta Organización ejecuta al respecto, ya que reconocemos, entre otras cosas, como hemos manifestado en repetidas ocasiones, su capacidad de garantizar la ayuda multilateral.

Para terminar, deseamos señalar que nuestra delegación considera oportuna la proclamación del año 1985 como Año Internacional del Bosque, porque este tipo de acciones permite reflexionar sobre el problema, y a nuestro juicio, este es un problema que necesita reflexión.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Forestry. It particularly shares the view that great attention has to be given (a) to the improvement of the forest resources of temperate regions with regard to their diverse functions, (b) to the conservation of forests of humid tropics with regard to their serious hazards, and (c) to a greater integration of agriculture and forestry in arid and Mediterranean zones to avoid desertification.

The Federal Government stresses the need for developing strategies for the global conservation and development of forest resources which are geared to social and regional conditions and requirements. This applies in particular to development aid programmes which have to take the special situation of the rural population into account to a greater extent than so far.

The Federal Government has noted with special satisfaction the Austrian proposal that 1985 should be proclaimed the International Year of the Forest. It has already supported the proposal in the Committee on Forestry and at the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Reykjavik. As regards the realization of this proposal, unfortunately we all find ourselves now in a rather uncomfortable situation described in document 86/8 Supp. 2 before us. At the highest international level, that of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the year 1985 is already designated as the Year of the Youth. At the FAO level we have heard that the central theme for the World Food Day in 1985 so far is envisaged to be fishermen and fishermen's communities. At the national level most probably in most countries, not many provisions have been made so far. In this context I think we have to bear in mind what was expressed by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, that probably insufficient resources could be made available because of other deployments.

To find a solution to this seems to be rather difficult. Without trying to add other difficulties I should like to ask the Secretariat if it would be prepared to give sufficient support in the sense that Member States could duly recognize the forest in 1985 as a global concern. This is a very important point. It would have to include the sending out of special leaflets and documentation very early in 1985 to Member Countries. Most Members would not like to try to do this all by themselves and some would probably find it difficult to do so. I hope that fellow delegates will understand that at this juncture of our discussion I find it difficult to give our final view on the draft proposal of the resolution before us, with which we generally agree completely. Apparently in paragraph 3, to declare 1985 as the International Year of the Forest, seems to be impossible, at least at the United Nations level.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): After listening to Mr Grabisch, the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, I want to remind the Council of a couple of things. First, the two project resolutions that we have there, there are two alternatives, making equal emphasis on the objective as proposed by COFO and by the Regional Conference for Europe in Reykjavik. There is a difference of name there, which is the International Year of the Forest.

I want also to remind the Council that the Council is a sovereign body of independent countries. It is a governing body for FAO and certainly for the Forestry Department in FAO. Even though there is a guideline from ECOSOC, the Council is an absolute and independent body to declare at the level of FAO the International Year of the Forest. There is no superior body but the Conference of FAO within FAO and within the United Nations system that controls this Council or the Conference of FAO. So you are a sovereign body to decide.

The Secretariat has prepared two alternatives in support of COFO from the expressions during the last Conference of FAO, then the European Regional Conference. So I see the case as rather clear-cut for you to decide. Whatever your decision is whether we would go for the emphasis on the forest, as suggested by the Regional Conference for Europe, or whether we go with a name International Year of the Forest, the action is exactly the same. FAO is bound by your instructions and by the sovereign decision of your Member Countries to go ahead and do the work. We admit that time is limited, but we will simply have to work faster and harder.

Just thinking aloud, there is a series of already-set meetings in forestry throughout the world next year. Just to mention one, the most important is the World Forestry Congress in July. There is the celebration at the national level of forestry days all over the world on different dates and the World Forestry Day which is 28 March. Then we have the Commonwealth Forestry Conference, as mentioned by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago. We have the Committee on Forest Education meeting in México before the Congress. We have the Experts Meeting on Appropriate Forest Industries in Indonesia later during next year, the Experts' Consultation on the Role of Forestry to Combat Desertification, the Silva Mediterranea, a meeting on forest fires in Portugal plus the regional commissions. So there is already a framework of meetings which gives us a forum to discuss this specific problem.

The point in contention really is, and I want to be very clear on this point, the Council is a sovereign body from the United Nations General Assembly. You are the governing body for this Organization formed by sovereign countries. So it is up to you to decide. Even though there are these guidelines from ECOSOC, we are not legally bound. FAO is a completely autonomous organization within the United Nations system. I want to make that very clear.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Just to come in again, I am very happy with the explanation we have just had from Dr Flores Rodas. We would go along and strongly support what is being proposed and what we have been proposing for quite some time, on the understanding that the Secretariat is prepared to lend sufficient support to Member States to give due and proper attention to the proposal, and of course within the existing budgetary resources, because this is something which is very important.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Frankly, I am surprised by the question. We are at the disposal of the Member Countries. We must be prepared. This is your decision to make. We will go ahead with support within our limits, economic, physical and mental. Certainly we will do our best, if you want to put it that way.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I think I would like just to make one suggestion for you to think about on the International Year of the Youth. As far as Dr Flores Rodas has said, FAO had in the past also declared the Year of Rice, and so on, but since 1981 the General Assembly, had mentioned somewhere this resolution, if you decide finally to accept this draft resolution in Supp.2, being aware of the fact that the United Nations has decided to commemorate 1985 the Year of the Youth, in the preamble, and when it comes to the recommendation you could say: "Governments may make special efforts to promote school forestry and a wide variety of youth programmes". I think it would be useful to take cognizance of the fact in the preamble portion of the resolution that 1985 has been declared by the United Nations as the Year of the Youth, and in the operative portion to make a special mention of the fact that a wide range of programmes in terms of school forestry, youth for development, etc. But you could be thinking about it.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban): Je voudrais pour commencer remercier le Dr Flores Rodas pour l'expose qu'il vient de nous présenter et pour les explications qu'il nous a fournies. La délégation libanaise a lu avec intérêt le rapport de la septième session du Comité des forêts (CL 86/8 et CL/8 sup. 1 et 2) concernant la proclamation de l'Année internationale de la forêt. Ma délégation souhaite d'abord exprimer sa satisfaction quant à l'opportunité des recommandations contenues dans le rapport et plus particulièrement celles qui se rapportent aux questions politiques qui ont été débattues dans le cadre du Comité. Nous souscrivons entièrement à l'option qui consiste à prendre pour objectif principal l'exploitation des ressources forestières, la meilleure contribution possible au bien-être des populations, et à celle du monde rural qui constitue la majorité de la population mondiale. C'est sur cette base que nous assurons de notre soutien le plus chaleureux l'expansion des activités relatives au programme forestier pour le développement des collectivités locales.

Il est incontestable que les forêts des diverses régions et zones climatiques dans le monde sont menacées par des maux de toutes sortes: les feux, les infestations, les maladies, les pluies acides dans les régions relativement industrialisées, la désertification des zones arides, le déboisement et la disparition des forêts tropicales.

C'est en tous cas la communauté tout entière ainsi que les générations à venir qui en subiront en définitive les conséquences; c'est pourquoi nous partageons l'option selon laquelle la profession forestière, les institutions et tous les individus concernés doivent veiller à intégrer les nécessités de la production et de la protection forestière dans leur contexte social, et à fournir tous les efforts nécessaires au développement et à la diffusion de l'information en vue d'une meilleure compréhension de la richesse et du rôle des forêts pour l'humanité tout entière.

A cet égard, toutes les personnes concernées devraient être reconnaissantes et redevables au Gouvernement autrichien qui a pris l'initiative de proposer que le prochain Congrès forestier mondial accorde une attention spéciale aux problèmes de la conservation des forêts et que l'année 1985 soit proclamée Année internationale de la forêt.

Ma délégation n'ignore pas qu'il appartient normalement à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies de déclarer les années et les anniversaires dans le système des Nations Unies. Nous reconnaissons bien sûr le mérite d'unifier les procédures de telles déclarations, ne serait-ce que pour maintenir un certain ordre. Toutefois, en raison d'une coïncidence inhabituelle, l'année 1985 sera particulièrement importante pour les forêts. On sait déjà que le neuvième Congrès forestier mondial se tiendra à Mexico du 1er au 12 juillet 1985 et qu'il adoptera pour thèmes: les ressources forestières dans le développement intégré de la société.

Bien que cette Conférence ne soit pas destinée à traiter tous les aspects de la question et se propose de réunir des forestiers éminents, des membres d'institutions forestières et des chercheurs de tous les coins du monde, et compte tenu que ces deux réunions importantes sont prévues l'une et l'autre l'année prochaine, il serait extrêmement opportun que la FAO déclare l'année 1985 l'Année de la forêt.

Nous sommes conscients des contraintes et limites de temps que cela impose pour les préparatifs mais il serait regrettable de ne pas saisir l'opportunité offerte par ces deux Conférences pour alerter l'opinion publique et pour attirer au niveau politique l'attention sur l'importance et la situation critique des forêts en 1985. Nous avons noté que l'Assemblée générale a déjà déclaré l'année 1985 Année de la jeunesse. Nous considérons que ces deux initiatives sont en parfaite harmonie et pourraient se compléter si l'on prévoyait, à l'intention des jeunes notamment, des activités et des programmes qui seraient susceptibles de les intéresser et de les sensibiliser à la valeur des forêts. Ne serait-ce pas là une voie idéale pour promouvoir une première compréhension des problèmes de forêt par les générations futures? Aussi la délégation libanaise apporte son soutien au projet de résolution du document CL 86/8, supp. 2 qui préconise de déclarer l'année 1985 Année internationale de la forêt et suggère la suppression des parenthèses du paragraphe 3 qui s'y réfère, dans le projet de résolution.

B. KOVATCHEF (Bulgaria): I will be brief. My delegation has studied with care the Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Forestry. I should like to associate myself with the previous speakers who stated that the members of the Committee on Forestry at its Seventh Session have discussed questions of extreme importance. In this respect we are of the opinion that the Committee succeeded in outlining its aims and in determining the priorities.

We support the recommendations of the Committee. In this context my country is well aware of the important role of FAO in coordinating the efforts of the Member Countries of the United Nations for investigating the forestry problems and specifying ways and means for their settlement, together with the problems of food, agriculture and environment, and increasing the importance of the forestry contribution to the development of agriculture.

Commending some of the recommendations, I should like to inform the distinguished members of the Council that in my country, when a policy in the sphere of forestry is being selected, the programme is submitted for public discussion through the mass media. This helps us to adopt the most effective approach, for the applied procedure is in conformity with the decision of the Committee.

The Bulgarian *délégation* shares the view expressed by the Committee to the effect that in forestry practice urgent attention has to be given to the proper choice of tree species and their efficient improvement. We consider it necessary that the concepts for training of forestry specialists should be improved.

My country adopts the main theme "Forestry for Development" of the Ninth World Forestry Congress, which the Government of México has kindly agreed to host in July next year, and we support the idea of declaring the year 1985 the International Year of the Forest. It is our belief that this will contribute to further mobilizing the efforts of the institutions in the sphere of forestry all over the world in achieving efficiency in the use of forests and to secure renewal of forest resources.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): At the outset I would like to state my appreciation of your admirable suggestion that the Year of the Forest and the Year of Youth should be celebrated in the same period. They are certainly akin to each other, because youth can play a very important and vital role in both the preservation and the restoration of afforestation programmes of what is such a vital source of wealth for the world.

Much of the economic development of the world depends on forestry, we must not neglect it, as has been the tendency until recently - and without the consciousness which FAO has recently created I am sure matters would have been made worse in what I describe as the three D's, destruction, denuding and degradation of forests round the world. So there must be minimum destruction of forests by way of cutting down trees. There can be development without destruction, as Prime Minister Gandhi always used to say.

The net area of forest in the world is decreasing by several million hectares per annum due to the destruction and degradation to which I have referred, chiefly brought about by shifting cultivation in South America, Africa and certain parts of Asia. The world population is expected to rise to 6 000 million by the year 2 000; the annual increase in world consumption of wood will rise still further by about two percent.

Forests fulfil a wide variety of functions. I am sure that the FAO Programme is paying and will pay the necessary attention to protecting these functions - protecting the soil to counter erosion, floods and landslides; the forests' shelter which can protect agriculture and local climatic extremes; they ensure clean water supplies, they prevent pollution, they provide habitat for a vast array of flora and fauna, they are essential components of attractive landscapes, and they even provide recreational facilities for young and old. Forests are home to many species of wild animals and birds, to which reference has been made. They are vast storehouses of plants. Nearly half of all medicines contain a drug from natural origins. Here, I put a specific question to FAO. Has sufficient attention been paid to this aspect? I will repeat it - namely, nearly half of all medicines contain a drug of natural origin which has originated in a forest, yet only five percent of the plants have been studied for their medicinal value, which would be of great utility in the preservation of the health and well-being of human beings.

The cutting down of trees and forests has made areas susceptible to flood damage to such an extent that in the last decade, such damage has doubled, from 20 million hectares in 1970 to 40 million hectares in 1980. I would like to know what active steps FAO is proposing to take to check this kind of damage.

Such destruction removes many habitats which depend on tree cover. It lowers fertility levels in many regions; it increases the number of slip areas, or landslide areas by the frequency of their occurrence; it sweeps away many villages, washes away the topsoil which has been created by falling leaves for hundreds of years; it makes wildlife disappear; it results in the extinction of plant

species. Therefore, I feel that in addition to the many efforts FAO is making, there needs to be created a consciousness of all this in the mind of the general public all over the world.

As you are all too well aware, at one time India ranked high with her forest areas. We had the largest variety of tropical forests, but now we have lost much of it. As a result we have only a small percentage of productive forest left. This is why Prime Minister Gandhi was most particular about the creation of consciousness to preserve those forests, and now we have undertaken a vigorous programme of reafforestation. Malpractices by unscrupulous forest contractors and others have been greatly responsible for profit and loss accounts - huge profits for themselves, and losses for the forest by their chopping and for the poor people whom they exploit. I hope that sufficient attention is being paid to the elimination, or at least the minimizing, of such malpractices.

Large areas once afforested have been replaced by grassland, scrub, swamp, desert, agricultural land. Thanks to the initiative of our Prime Minister, a law has been passed in India to prohibit the clearance of forests for various purposes except with the permission of the Federal, or in our case the Union, Government.

The importance of foresters training institutes cannot be over-emphasized. We have a number of them, as there are in other countries. They must bring understanding to bear on these tasks, so that the odium of unwanted light in this context by the ruthless cutting down of forests can be arrested and the gracious darkness can cover and not be decimated.

In our Himalayan region, with which I am quite familiar, there are at present 60 million cubic metres of forest, but if the present rate of degradation goes on, that figure will decline to only 1.77 million cubic metres by the year 2000, by which time the population of the region will have risen four times. Therefore, urgent attention must be paid to this, because the waters of the Himalayas are responsible for many of our hydro-electric projects, and so on. It will be the case with soils as well. The stocking of forest areas has gone down and must go up again round the world. The stock of growing trees in the world is estimated - and I stand to be corrected - to cover an area of 350 000 million cubic metres, two-thirds being hard wood and one-third soft wood. At the same time, the total annual removal rate is of the order of 2 500 million cubic metres per annum. What efforts are being made by the international community to arrest this? It cancelled out the efforts made towards actual reforestation. Therefore, reforestation cannot be over-stressed, particularly because forests are not only a source of revenue, but are a source of long-term investment for the survival of humanity. Therefore, the international community has a duty and a commitment to recognize this most vital fact.

Hundreds of millions of hectares of newly-created forest land will be doubled by the turn of the century as a result of the efforts of FAO and of other international organizations, and also at national levels. Clearly, afforestation must be regarded as the pioneer stage of the restoration of the forest ecosystem, which may take half to one century to establish - well over a hundred years. There are not short-term programmes. The planting of trees in millions can only be achieved through socio-technical organization and a sufficiency of funds, to which I am sure FAO gives maximum attention.

The forester has also to involve educational institutions, students, school children, youth, teachers, village workers, university students, professors of botany, who all can work together in a massive cause for tree preserving and planting activities. I am sure that FAO will try to create universal and global opinion in favour of this. Tree planting is one of the most powerful instruments for teaching ecology to our growing generation. If we take the example of our children, and each child grows one tree and looks after it - if we take the age groups of six to eighteen, 120 million trees could be planted in addition to 12 million trees planted by children up to the age of six years. When the seed has grown up into a tree of, say, two, metres high, the forestry institutions should take them back from the schools and transplant them. Tribes in the hill areas in developing countries and the armed forces by voluntary cooperation can also play their role since the tropical forests are more favourable to life than any other type, and are the oldest surviving species on earth.

However, FAO can inspire foresters to concentrate on the preservation of trees. Once trees are cut down, they cannot be replaced. Scientists like you are fully aware of the damage caused by this destruction. Millions of hectares are exposed to environmental hazards like soil erosion, water-logging, and salinating. Large tracts of pasture land are misused as an exercise ground for village cattle in many developing countries. A proper balance has to be struck between safeguarding the environment and production. More light must be thrown by FAO on this matter for the safeguarding of the environment. There should not be indiscriminate exploitation resulting in ecological damage. Well-planned programmes to restore the ecological balance which has been so badly disturbed must be organized. Efforts should be made for the scientific development of some improved cultivated products of these regions for the economic development of the local poor people in agriculture and forest products.

There is also the aspect of the thousands of rural landless people who can be provided with help through forestry and through agriculture by the employment-guaranteed programme, which we have done so eminently in India. There is the aspect of social forestry. I do not know if this has been taken into consideration by FAO - I may have overlooked it. To my mind, the aspect of social forestry is very important. It is the effort to improve-village welfare and improve pressures on the forest lands by developing various wood-fuel-fodder-forage-food production on land untenanted by forests. However, the results of social forestry take considerable time to mature and so at times there are certain socio-economic issues as well. Our Prime Minister always used to say that social forestry would succeed only when the forest officers came out of their self-imposed boundaries and gave new insight and dynamism to the world's forest policy.

The lack of good management and over-grazing caused great devastation in the pastures. Special emphasis could be laid on maintenance of an inventory of plants, collection of suitable seeds for afforestation, seed germination, seeds in laboratories, distribution of fertilizers and large-scale sowing of seeds and saplings. Today, according to my study, 1500 million live in rural areas of the world and depend on wood for most of their energy to cook their daily food and heat their homes. Forests, therefore, comprise the most vital resource on which the lives of such people depend.

Foresters can also help to identify and demarcate land suitable for agriculture -- this may not be their direct responsibility, but a way could be found by which they could assist in identifying and demarcating land suitable for agriculture, horticulture, floriculture and introducing integrated forest farming.

We must canalize community action for reafforestation, scientific agriculture and horticulture, improved post-harvest technology and for combating scourges. It must be realized that forestry and land use inalienably linked and whether FAO has thought in terms of blending the two, land use and forestry development, and functions of the one cannot be divorced from those of the other. Economic access to food through discussions we have held earlier on different items of the agenda can also be supplemented through forestry, and the various plans of action which have been indicated and which have been discussed in the course of this expression of views on the very important subject can also include an integrated production-oriented and balanced sequential land use, renovating overgrowth and denuded grasslands, floral development alternating of grass and crops in strips, bench terracing, that is crops sown or planted on terraces along the length of terraces which can be used for grasses, counter-strip cropping, integrated nutrient supply, slow release manures and fertilizers are more suitable than quick-acting manures, and finally increased stress on animal husbandry, which will make farmyard people available for orchards, potatoes, maize near animal sheds around forest areas. Research is most vital for forestry, and we will have to fix in terms of futurology that is 2000 A.D. which is approaching so fast, and I am sure that the efforts which shall be made the FAO's Year of Forestry combined with that of Youth will be of great assistance in this area.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): My comments will be on some of the matters in the Document CL 86/8 requiring the attention of the Council.

With regard to forestry beyond 2000, we agree with the views and recommendations made by the Committee on Forestry. In much of the temperate forests, management made it possible to get a continuous expanding flow of wood from a relatively stabilized forest area. On the other hand, the tropical forests have been under attack, in particular because of increasing population pressure, and agricultural activities such as shifting cultivation etc.

The destruction of tropical forest is becoming a serious problem. The maintenance and management of these forests is of utmost importance from the viewpoint of resource utilization and environmental protection. Reafforestation leads not only to the loss of timber resources for fuel and industrialized use but also to the devastation of the natural environment, with serious repercussions for agricultural production and the life of rural peoples.

My Government is fully aware of the serious situation of the tropical forest in developing countries and has provided technical assistance in order to create and rehabilitate the forest in the countries concerned.

Now I would like to refer to the proclamation of the International Year of the Forest. According to the excellent report prepared jointly by FAO/UNEP, 11.3 million hectares of tropical forest disappear every year, and a report by the UNEP estimates that 6 million hectares of land is lost annually through desertification. Furthermore, damages on temperate forests believed to be caused by acid rain are growing.

In view of the seriousness of the problems, which in the long run are likely to adversely affect not only timber production but also food production and the environment as a whole, it is very meaningful that the International Year of the Forest be proclaimed so that every country and organization make efforts towards a possible solution of these problems through coordinated activities. I therefore strongly support the proposal of the proclamation of the Year of the Forest.

With regard to the specific proposal for the proclamation of 1985 as an International Year of the Forest, we are somewhat concerned about the shortage of time needed for the preparation of the activities of the year. Therefore, we rather feel that it might be more desirable to have an International Year of the Forest in about four or five years time under the auspices of the United Nations in order to allow all governments and UN agencies sufficient time for the preparations of that year.

If the Council wishes to launch an FAO International Year of the Forest in 1985 due to the early nature of forest problems, then my delegation is only too glad to support this proposal. Even in that case my délégation feels that the possibility of having another International Year of the Forest under UN auspices need not necessarily be precluded.

In this connection, my delegation would like to suggest that the Council add the following sentence to be included in the draft resolution in CL 86/8 Sup.2.:

“Requests the Director-General, to consider the feasibility of proclaiming in the near future an International Year of the Forest at the General Assembly of the United Nations.”

M. ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Je tiens tout d'abord à remercier M. Flores Rodas pour l'excellente présentation qu'il a faite des documents qui nous sont soumis. Ma délégation voudrait appuyer les propositions et les recommandations contenues dans le rapport de la septième Session du Comité des forêts qui nous est soumis pour examen et décision. Compte tenu de l'importance cruciale de la foresterie pour la vie de l'humanité il importe au plus haut qu'un programme d'action visant à freiner le déboisement et la désertification d'ici l'an 2000 soit conçu, que ces objectifs soient clairement définis et que les moyens pour les réaliser soient mobilisés. Nous partageons en effet l'inquiétude du Comité quant au déboisement excessif, à l'abandon dont les forêts continuent à souffrir et à la désertification dans des zones étendues, notamment en Afrique. Nous souscrivons à la recommandation visant à sensibiliser les consciences politiques sur l'importance cruciale de la foresterie pour l'avenir de l'humanité. A cet égard, ma délégation voudrait signaler l'importance de la foresterie dans les zones arides et les régions méditerranéennes et souscrit à toutes les recommandations du Comité dans ce sens.

A cet égard, je voudrais insister sur le fait que la FAO devrait mettre davantage l'accent sur ses programmes de terrain, sur les problèmes forestiers dans les zones arides avec tout ce que cela implique comme projets régionaux de développement forestiers et de lutte contre la désertification.

Le phénomène de désertification a été souvent évoqué lors des débats sur le problème de la situation alimentaire en Afrique. C'est dire l'importance primordiale que la FAO devrait attacher à ce problème afin de soutenir les pays touchés par le phénomène, et notamment les pays du Maghreb. D'ailleurs, l'une des recommandations du Comité des forêts s'inscrit directement dans ce sens en invitant les pays donateurs à fournir une assistance accrue à la foresterie dans les zones arides et tropicales au moyen d'arrangements multilatéraux et bilatéraux et à ce que le rôle de chef de file de la FAO dans le secteur forestier soit encore renforcé.

En conclusion, ma délégation approuve les nombreuses recommandations du Comité contenues dans son rapport, j'en ai compté 27, et tendant à préciser toutes les dispositions prises par le Secrétariat pour assurer un suivi régulier de ces recommandations.

Ma délégation appuie enfin le projet de résolution établi sur une proposition essentiellement autrichienne annexée au document qui nous est soumis, proclamant l'année 1985 comme Année Internationale de la forêt.

Je voudrais enfin saisir cette occasion pour souhaiter le plein succès au Congrès mondial des forêts qui aura lieu au Mexique, à qui nous exprimons nos vifs remerciements.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Uganda at the outset would like to endorse the conclusions of the Committee on Forestry. I wish only to highlight a few things. We believe that protection and productive management of tropical forests set vitality to the availability of water, to the prevention of soil erosion, to the supply of energy for most of the people in developing countries and to the survival of millions of plant genetic species, as well as providing a suitable environment for agricultural development.

Therefore, our goal should be to bring tropical deforestation and its attendant ills under control and guarantee a supply of fuel wood to meet the needs of future generations which will depend on it and also ensure continued agricultural production.

Secondly, the Uganda déléation endorses -the importance of training foresters at all levels and especially research workers. We welcome the Committee's recommendation that FAO prepares a study on the inter-relationship between forestry and food security.

Finally, we welcome the Committee's proposals, as embodied in the resolution presented by Austria, to proclaim 1985 as the FAO International Year of the Forest, and we also support the decision of the Director-General to make the theme of 1985 FAO World Food Day Conservation and sound utilization of forest reserves.

G.M. AHMED (Sudan) (original language Arabic): We would like to thank Mr Flores Rodas, Assistant Director-General, for his complete and excellent introduction to the document related to the Seventh session of the Committee on Forestry, which contains a review of all the issues concerning forestry development, as well as many recommendations that we wholeheartedly support.

Furthermore, my déléation hopes that these recommendations will be followed-up with all donors and interested agencies, in order that the world community be able to safeguard its environment and benefit from these valuable resources.

Deforestation, occurring for different reasons, as energy, agriculture or habitat, has led unfortunately to rapid and severe desertification as well as drought in the regions bordering deserts, it has even reached the savannah, critically reducing the arable and grassland areas.

The developing countries can find no way nor issue out of this deplorable situation, since they lack the technical means, and are totally unable to operate horizontal expansion in the field of agriculture, habitat, or energy, which would provide other areas than those occupied by forests. Therefore, my déléation would suggest to intensify aid given to investments in agriculture as well as in forestry, and multiply programmes for stopping desertification through international cooperation.

We also think that issues concerning forestry planification are deeply related to food security, and we would like in this context to express our gratitude to the Director-General for the instructions he gave to carry out a study on this problem. We are looking forward to the findings, given the great importance of African countries, in the sub-Saharan region.

There will not be real awareness of all forestry issues until we bring the world attention to the destruction going on in our environment. Our déléation therefore commends the Austrian suggestion of proclaiming 1985 an International Year for Forestry.

J. MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): I would like to make only one point. The Committee on Forestry in its Report while identifying the problems of forestry beyond 2000 and suggested action programmes, has apparently, if our interpretation of the text of the document is correct, seemingly ignored one particular problem of quite major proportions and we want to point to this apparent omission. The Report has emphasized the problem of desertification in places like the Sahel and depletion of humid forests in places such as the Amazon. We welcome all these concerns because these desertifications and depletions cause a threat to the environment: of stability and the food production systems and to the likelihood and well-being of people. But no mention is made in the Report of another form of desertification, which is the desertification of the mountains in semi-tropic areas.

I refer specifically to the Himalayan region: Nepal, India and Pakistan. It doesn't seem that these areas fall into the three categories which are listed in this Report, namely temperate, humid and arid Mediterranean. If that interpretation is correct, then it means that the operative paragraph of this Report, paragraph 34, which I read and which says "that the Committee recommended that FAO take particular note of the areas of emphasis recorded above in formulating and implementing its programme for the forestry sector".

This would therefore mean the semi-tropic mountain areas will not be a part of the work programme of the FAO in future. This we consider quite unfortunate, since it is as much a grave problem, just as desertification is a creeping problem, the denudation of the Himalayan Forest is as much a creeping and advancing problem which affects our région to a very large extent and has the same great implications in terms of environment and stability for the food production stability and the livelihood and wellbeing of peoples in our country. Therefore we would like to emphasize the importance of this issue for our countries and highlight it. People have ignored that the Himalayas provide the catchment to our Indus irrigation system which has such a potential for food production that it has been described by some people as the Indus food machine. This Indus food machine, because of the desertification of the Himalayas, is likely to be almost extinct and a threat to the very existence of the Indus irrigation civilization through silting to floods and so on.

Once the topsoil is lost it becomes irreversible. Water can be created, underground water, salinization; we can even make rain, but creation and transportation of topsoil and soil is probably a far more difficult engineering problem than the creation and transportation of water. Therefore I want to emphasize this. The fundamental underlying cause perhaps is the biotic pressure which everyone knows is pressure of people on the forests and the destruction that they cause to it. Hence perhaps the fundamental solution and the need is what Dr Swaminathan very rightly pointed out in the case of crops in a previous session. Some sort of social engineering is necessary, ecological agriculture and ecological forestry where people get organized into groups, and the government organizes the people and some sort of incentive system is created, some sort of mechanism to create incentives and to remove disincentives, etc. Something similar to this sort of idea is in fact mentioned in paragraph 32 of this Report where they talk of removing disincentives, but we have not come out with solutions to this problem of biotic pressure. We have to admit that the traditional methods have failed. We have the forestry departments, and it is the forestry department and the people situation; somehow to create a mechanism where people start getting a stake in the forestry. We just do not have the mechanisms, as Dr Swaminathan has said; it is a problem for the social sciences.

Other prescriptions, technology, suitable species like a domestic plant for an arid zone, etc. alternatives to fuelwood as a source of energy when the distinguished Ambassador of India probably suggested pipe gas, but I do not think that is very practical in all the areas; programmes and projects of various types as in the FAO programmes, which are listed or mentioned in this document from which, hopefully, India will not be excluded. But particularly usefulness is what I think is suggested in paragraphs 13, 16 and 17, or rather the recommendations in 16 and 17, in which the report talks of the need to carry out comparative analysis of successful developments to give publicity to success stories and to disseminate the lessons on successful projects. I think this itself would be extremely helpful for countries like ours.

With these brief observations, I would like to say that we support this report except for the proviso that the explicit cognizance, the desertification of the mountains, should be taken cognizance of in the report. Secondly, as regards the International Year of the Forest, I think I personally would prefer this other alternative of having an international year because somehow it sounded more dramatic than the other alternative, and the idea perhaps is mainly propaganda value, so I would support the idea of the international year.

P.H. GRUE (Norway): My delegation is also on this Agenda item speaking on behalf of the three other Nordic countries which are represented here by observer delegations. The Nordic delegations are alarmed by the rapid depletion of tropical forests. Half of mankind is dependent on energy from wood in order to cook their food. The forests represent a great part of the world's genetic resources and the forests are a source of raw materials for a range of industries and products.

My delegation agrees with what is stated in document CL 86/8 that the potential contribution of forests to human welfare and food security has never been greater.

I think there is no need here to repeat further the discussion that took place in COFO on this subject as it is well documented in the report.

We do however want to underline with reference to paragraph 31 of the COFO report the need for an action programme aimed at reducing tropical deforestation and control of desertification before the year 2000.

We also give our full support to paragraph 32 on the reorientation of forestry programmes in the direction of rural development and the integration of social goals with productive and protective objectives.

We are glad to note that paragraph 47 underlines further emphasis within the programme on greater participation of the local population in the benefits of forestry. In some fields our delegations would like to see a closer cooperation between agriculturists and forest resources managers and the enhancement of agro-forestry projects. One example or possible useful cooperation is what is mentioned in paragraph 21, namely research concerning anti-desertification methods and identification of drought resistant tree species.

For the first time in its history the Regional Conference for Europe devoted a full day to discussion on the alarming situation facing European forests. In north and middle parts of Europe the most dangerous threat to the forests is the acid rain and the pollution across boundaries. In southern Europe the forests are threatened by forest fires. Protection of the forest resource was a common theme of the Conference that also adopted a number of recommendations for the attention of governments and of FAO. Inter alia the Conference recommended that international cooperation be increased, especially through existing bodies and mechanisms such as the European Forestry Commission and its working groups, and the Economic Commission for Europe, particularly its Timber Committee. We trust that the already ongoing cooperations between FAO and the ECE will be further strengthened.

My delegation also recognized that the Committee urges FAO to strengthen its efforts in conservation of gene pools or native species in their dry zones. The Committee further stressed the need of expanding field activities and research on tree species suitable for arid zone forestry. My delegation welcomes these initiatives from the Committee.

At the last FAO Conference a number of ministers and heads of delegations, among them ministers from the Nordic countries, strongly favoured an increase in the budget devoted to forestry activities. At this stage when the FAO is preparing its Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, 1986-87, my délégation would like to reiterate its strong appeal.

In document 86/8, Sup. 1 and 2, the Director-General has proposed several actions to give special recognition to the forest as a global concern. The first proposal is to pay attention to the process of disappearance and degradation of forests during the year 1985. The Ninth World Forestry Congress in México will be a fundamental basis for a strong marking of the problems which have our deep concern. My délégation supports this proposal of giving special recognition to the forestry problems in 1985. The second proposal from the Director-General is that the Council may wish to declare 1985 the International Year of the Forest. In this connection I have some remarks which I feel are important. In the Nordic countries we already have some experience of forest years. For example in Finland and Sweden, 1983 was a year of the forest. As to gaining some positive concrete results they had to prepare this year of forestry very actively one to two years beforehand.

We think that if a year were declared for a very good purpose we should succeed in the goals of the year. Success provides that the year should be organized and prepared properly. Otherwise we may have negative effects instead of positive ones. Owing to our experience in the Nordic countries it is very hard to succeed in organizing a year of forest if you have less than one to two years time for preparation, although you have ready channels and organization for it.

We would also like to note that the General Assembly already has decided that 1985 will be the Year of Youth. Further it is decided that 1986 will be the Year of Peace, and 1987 the Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

I think that they are experienced with years of forest in our countries, and the last international years (both proclaimed and proposed) prove that it would be sensible to postpone the declaration of the International Year of Forest.

J.D.L.RICHARDS (New Zealand): As, Council representative for the Southwest Pacific Region my délégation would like to place on record the value we attach to the work of the Committee on Forestry and the work of the Forestry Department, but because, it is so late at night I shall be very brief in the points that I want to make.

First, we strongly support the effort to reverse the deterioration in the world's forests reserves which the Report so clearly highlights. We attach particular importance to recommendations 16 and 52 dealing with the inter-relationship of the forestry and food problems and the resulting need for an integrated approach to the issue. We support the recommendation in paragraph 53 on the need for efficiency with the projects at both the country and agency level. We believe care should be taken to ensure that new FAO initiatives are integrated with those of other agencies.

We fully support the recommendation in paragraph 16 which calls for what might be described as forest conservation success stories to be highlighted.

Finally, we share other delegations' views that it is desirable to draw attention to and dramatize the importance of forestry and the problems that it is facing by taking particular action. We like the idea of giving special recognition to forestry in 1985, partly because of the pressing nature of action required and because of the World Forestry Congress to be held in México. As to declaring 1985 the International Year of the Forest we see pros and cons but would be ready to go along with a consensus view.

H.J.H.TALEYARKHAN (India): I just wanted one expression of certainty about the celebration and observation of the Year 1985. While we entirely go along with it, there should be some assurance that the work which will be done in that particular year will have a link of continuity in the future. It should not end with the year 1985; there should be no slackness or slackening about it. That is what I wanted to mention.

The meeting rose at 20.15 hours

La seance est levee à 20 h 15

Se levanta la sesion a las 20.15 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/9

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1984)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 09.40 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)

- 7. Forestry Situation (continued)
- 7. Forêts (suite)
- 7. Situación forestal (continuación)

- 7.1 Report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Forestry Rome, 7-11 May 1984 (continued)
- 7.1 Rapport de la septième session du Comité des forêts Rome, 7-11 mai 1984 (suite)
- 7.1 Informe del séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Montes Roma, 7-11 de mayo de 1984 (continuación)

- 7.2 Proposal that 1985 be proclaimed the International Year of the Forest (continued)
- 7.2 Proposition de proclamer 1985 année internationale de la forêt (suite)
- 7.2 Propuesta de que 1985 sea declarado Año Internacional del Bosque (continuación)

A. PAPASOLOMONTOS (Cyprus): My delegation fully supports the contents of paragraphs 8 to 34 of document CL 86/8 dealing with the potentialities and problems of forestry beyond the year 2000. We are concerned with the excessive deforestation and the neglect of the world's forests.

In the second instance, we fully support the FAO's programme of forestry and endorse the medium-term objectives and priorities. The Committee on Forestry's recommendations for a study on the inter-relationship between forestry and food security is a positive step and one we fully endorse. This, as the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department said yesterday, reveals a discussion by the Committee of real policy issues rather than that of the usual issues.

We would also hope that forests and tropical, arid and semi-arid zones, will receive increased attention and inputs from both national and international programmes. Furthermore, we strongly support the further strengthening of measures to protect forests from fires, particularly in the arid and semi-arid zones.

Finally, we have noted the contents of paragraph 9 of document CL 86/8-Sup.2, regarding the declaration of 1985 as the International Year of the Forest and the reasons that have necessitated that declaration. Such a declaration in itself will no doubt bring home to all of us the significance of the forest and the dangers that it faces today, dangers which have not been as intensive in the past. Indeed, we wish to congratulate the Austrian Government for the initiative they have shown in bringing this subject forward. However, we believe that 1985 should not be - and I wish to repeat it should not be - the culmination of our concern about forest conservation but rather the beginning of a concerted and sustained effort at all levels, national and international, to ensure not only the halting but rather the reverse of forestry resource degradation. In this respect, we propose that the Council request its technical committee on Forestry to keep the topic of forest conservation under constant view by including an appropriate item on the agendas of future sessions during the remaining part of the present decade.

With these remarks, my délégation supports adoption of the draft resolution with the proviso suggested; namely that 1985, the Year of the Forest, will mark the beginning of continuing measures to be initiated and sustained for the conservation of the world's forest resources.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): My délégation welcomes this opportunity to debate the report of the Seventh session of the Committee on Forestry. It gives an occasion in a body not solely concerned with forestry nor dominated by single-minded enthusiasts to recognize and reconfirm the importance of forestry in the development process and in particular in support of agricultural production and its security. This recognition is all the more significant against the backdrop of this Council to which the Director-General referred so eloquently at the opening on Monday.

in conveying my delegation's agreement with the content of the Report, I only wish to draw attention to one paragraph, this is paragraph 54, which echoes and implicitly supports the concern of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics about the decrease in their resources made available to forestry in the budget of FAO at a time when the forestry sector is experiencing a uniquely serious situation. It is understandable that it has not been possible to increase the resources in the programme available to forestry, but there remains a need to respond to the call of the Committee to increase attention in FAO's forestry programmes to fuelwood, fodder and support for agriculture. There is a need for reordering of priorities in budget allocation to take account of this agreed advice, and I infer from the Assistant Director-General's remarks yesterday that

this reordering and planning is already taking place. In reordering its priorities within the forestry programme, it is the view of my délégation that FAO should give highest priorities to those activities which it is particularly well qualified to conduct, the assembly and analysis of information, the assessment of forest resource and outlook studies, all of which are of real benefit to governments and to international agencies.

Now turning to the related question of commemoration, my delegation recognizes the need for heightened political awareness of the importance of forestry. For this reason we support in principle the Austrian proposal to proclaim a year as the International Year of the Forest, and we are interested in the alternative suggestion that in a year, all nations should give special recognition to the forests.

We have the sole proposition in front of us, the suggestion has been that 1985 be designated the International Year of the Forest. My Government's view would be that there is insufficient time for the really effective action to heighten public awareness in the way in which we would prefer. We would have preferred, ignoring for the moment the complications over other international years, that an international year be identified at a later date and perhaps 1986 following the World Forestry Congress and the Commonwealth Forestry Congress.

The same point really to our mind applies to the suggestion that we should instead have a year as described in paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, since the objectives of heightened public awareness are the same, and to some extent the work involved would be the same, so this really is actually a difficult matter. Our general position is that we actually prefer the idea of an International Year of the Forest rather than the different and rather modest proposal in paragraph 2. We also think whatever the constitutional position, we prefer to retain the convention of recent years not to have international years decided by this Council in competition and parallel with the agreed, international years and would not like to see an International Year of the Forest in competition with the agreed years of Youth, Peace and Shelter, that is the next two years, and in any event we would prefer, whatever the form of commemorative years identified, for it to be sufficiently far ahead to allow us to do justice to it.

WYDAJAT EDDYPRANOTO (Indonesia): First of all I would like to express congratulations and highest appreciation to Dr Flores Rodas for his excellent explanations on the report of the Seventh session of COFO. Forestry development should be intensified and synchronized to achieve a great success of the forest resources management of the developing countries through the programme of "Forest for People". Recognizing that millions of people depend on forest for wood, food, fodder, medicine, fishery and energy, therefore the management of forests should be modified for the successful action by multiple uses of the forest land.

The forest in Indonesia has three main functions: its protective function, economic function and social function. Forestry source utilization and development are aimed at the following targets: i) Effort of getting the optimum benefit for the community's welfare; ii) providing employment opportunities for as many as possible; iii) sustaining the usefulness of the forest.

The modification of the management could absorb more job seekers to have livelihood, so that the forest should contribute to solve the problem of unemployment. Promotion to the capability of the forest industries would be of benefit for the developing countries which are in possession of forest resources. Cooperation among several sectors should be simultaneously strengthened in the effort to avoid the continuing depletion of the forest and to maintain conservation of the forest resources.

Concerning the report of the Seventh session of the Committee on Forestry, I would like to express that my délégation supports and agrees to recommend it into decision. Finally, regarding the proposal that 1985 should be proclaimed as the International Year of the Forest, my délégation strongly agree and recommend to adopt it into decision.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Avant toute chose permettez à notre délégation d'exprimer ses vifs remerciements à M. Flores Rodas du département des forêts de la FAO pour son expose fort concis d'hier après-midi.

Après l'examen du point 4 de notre ordre du jour, consacré à la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et à la situation alimentaire de l'Afrique, point qui a montré, à vrai dire, qu'il était l'un des points le "plus important" de l'ordre du jour, pour ne pas dire le plus important, nous aimerions, en abordant ce point 7 de l'ordre du jour traitant de la situation des forêts, nous limiter strictement à l'essentiel de ce qui a retenu l'attention de notre délégation. Ce faisant, permettez-nous tout d'abord de rappeler rapidement à notre auguste assemblée, les principes acquis auprès de notre Organisation. A sa session de 1951 la Conférence générale de la FAO a adopté la Résolution 33 visant la célébration, tous les ans, de la Fête mondiale des arbres. En 1971, la 23ème Assemblée générale, de la Confédération européenne de l'agriculture qui a eu lieu en Espagne

a approuvé l'instauration d'une Journée mondiale de la forêt, idée qui fut entérinée par la Conférence générale de la FAO au cours de sa dernière session tenue en 1971. Enfin, réunissant sa 5ème session en mai 1980, le Comité des forêts a adopté la Stratégie du développement des forêts, stratégie dont les grandes lignes restent encore d'actualité dans leur majorité malgré le temps écoulé. C'est vous dire qu'en sa qualité d'Etat Membre de la FAO et du COFO, notre pays a eu en son temps l'occasion de prendre pleinement part aux grands débats organisés sur les grandes idées d'antan. Après les grands orages suscités nous avons adhéré aux conclusions finales auxquelles ont abouti les travaux du Directeur de notre Organisation.

Nous réaffirmons notre attachement à ses conclusions ainsi qu'au contenu du rapport de la 7ème session du COFO dont est saisi notre Conférence par le document CL 86/8 et en même temps, en ce qui concerne les questions de politique forestière, traitées aux paragraphes 8 à 34, et pour ce qui concerne l'examen du programme de travail de la FAO dans le secteur forestier, traité dans ledit rapport, aux paragraphes 42 à 54.

Pour notre part, il ne nous revient plus d'ouvrir ici les débats sur des questions déjà réglées mais de veiller plutôt à l'exécution des tâches et aux obligations découlant de la stratégie adoptée. Dans ce cadre, nous attendons avec vif intérêt la sortie de l'étude demandée à la FAO par la dernière session du COFO sur les rapports entre la foresterie et la sécurité alimentaire à l'intention des prochaines sessions de 1985 des organes directeurs de notre Organisation et nous saisissons cette occasion pour renouveler notre appel aux pays donateurs pour qu'ils continuent d'accroître leur assistance à la foresterie des zones tropicales arides.

De même, nous apportons notre plein appui à l'idée visant à faire que la communauté internationale accorde une attention spéciale à la question de la destruction des forêts et de la pollution atmosphérique au cours du Congrès forestier mondial qui aura lieu en juillet prochain au Mexique.

Nous souhaitons que la FAO continue à nous tenir au courant, au cours des prochaines sessions de ses organes directeurs des progrès déjà accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des stratégies sur le développement des forêts.

Enfin, en vertu du Préambule de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO qui dispose que l'Organisation peut, indépendamment de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, agir à la suite des décisions prises par ses organes directeurs dans des circonstances particulièrement justifiées, nous accordons notre plein appui à l'idée consistant à déclarer l'année 1985 Année internationale de la forêt, compte tenu de la gravité majeure actuelle de la situation des forêts et nous invitons les autres membres du Conseil à en faire autant pour que le Directeur général de la FAO prenne les mesures pratiques utiles à la concrétisation de cette idée.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Quisiera en primer lugar agradecer al Dr. Flores Rodas por la presentación de este tema y por las atinadas aclaraciones que nos hizo posteriormente. Cuba le da extrema importancia a las labores forestales y la colaboración de FAO con nuestro país ha tenido excelentes resultados en los proyectos de esta materia.

Nuestra delegación apoya totalmente el informe presentado por el Comité de Montes y en especial la recomendación de que la FAO prepare un estudio sobre las relaciones mutuas entre la silvicultura y la seguridad alimentaria para que sea analizado por nuestros órganos rectores en 1985.

Con relación al examen de los Programas de campo forestales, apoyamos las prioridades establecidas por la FAO, estando de acuerdo con que esta Organización siga concediendo una asistencia plena y continua a los Estados Miembros en la formulación y ejecución de los Programas de campo forestales, especialmente en el marco de la estrategia de desarrollo forestal. Como hemos expresado en otras ocasiones nos preocupa el escaso financiamiento para el sector de los montes.

Asimismo, quisiéramos resaltar nuestra satisfacción por la vigilancia, evaluación y control de los proyectos forestales de campo que efectúa actualmente la FAO. Reafirmamos, por consiguiente, la recomendación de que prosigan esos esfuerzos y continúe la práctica de dar publicidad a los casos más satisfactorios.

Quisiéramos referirnos especialmente, por su importancia, a la labor que está desplegando la FAO en la utilización plena de las especies y materiales, así como los manglares, la flora y la fauna. Mi delegación apoya el concepto de los bosques para el desarrollo en toda su plenitud.

Finalmente, quisiera plantear que se analice la posibilidad de concebir proyectos de desarrollo forestal que puedan asimilar mayor cantidad de mano de obra femenina.

Con relación a las propuestas sujetas a nuestra consideración, nuestro país apoyó durante la reunión del COFO la celebración en 1985 del Año Internacional del Bosque, lo cual a nuestro entender no tiene contradicción con la celebración por las Naciones Unidas del Año Internacional de la Juventud si este Año Internacional del Bosque se celebra en el marco de la FAO, y tal vez pudieran combinarse

ambas actividades solicitando de las Naciones Unidas que entre otras acciones del Año Internacional de la Juventud se exhorte a que en todos los países cada joven plante al menos un árbol en lugares apropiados. lo cual ayudaría a aliviar el actual deterioro forestal en todo el mundo. Ratificamos, por consiguiente, nuestro apoyo a la propuesta de Austria. Para terminar, quisiéramos expresar que estamos seguros del éxito del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial que se celebrará en México en julio de 1985.

R. C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar queríamos agradecer al Dr. Flores Rodas por su presentación y darle todo nuestro apoyo a la gestión que él desempeña.

Para nosotros esta cuestión es muy importante ya que la presión demográfica y económica sobre las tierras con bosques naturales hace que éstos sean desaprensivamente eliminados de modo directo y total, o por lo menos se vean degradados paulatinamente por una explotación irracional hasta tomarlos improductivos.

En la Argentina este tipo de procedimientos socialmente irresponsables se han llevado a cabo en el pasado, y aún continúan pese a que existan leyes que los prohíban. A consecuencia de ello la masa boscosa natural se ha reducido sensiblemente. La situación se ve aun mas agravada en mi país por ser la Argentina uno de los recipientarios finales de la cuenca del Plata, en la cual los bosques están siendo devastados catastróficamente en varios de los países que la integran. Ello ocasiona además de inundaciones de gravedad des acostumbrada, con las consecuentes destrucciones de infraestructura y redes de servicio, entre otros daños, que significan enormes gastos para el erario público, modificación de carácter permanente de la geografía e inclusive posibles contaminaciones.

Todo lo anteriormente dicho tiene como principal causa la falta de concienciación sobre la gravedad de las consecuencias que provocan el tratamiento irracional de los bosques, motivo por el cual la Argentina apoya enfáticamente las conclusiones y recomendaciones contenidas en el informe del Séptimo período de sesiones del Comité de Montes y valoramos particularmente la labor que realiza la FAO en este campo. Estamos seguros que dichas recomendaciones constituirán un aporte importante para el análisis de la situación forestal que se llevará a cabo en el Noveno Congreso Mundial a realizarse en el año entrante en México.

Por último, permítame, señor Presidente, reiterar nuestro respaldo a la propuesta contenida en el documento CL 06/8 Sup.1 de que la FAO proclame 1985 como Año Internacional del Bosque. Para nosotros esta cuestión es muy importante ya que entendemos que la trascendencia del tema hace conveniente que se adopten a la mayor brevedad posible las medidas adecuadas para que la Comunidad Internacional tome plena conciencia del valor insustituible de los recursos forestales para el hombre y la necesidad de proceder en forma racional en su utilización. En este sentido apoyamos con mucho entusiasmo el proyecto de declaración que figuran en el suplemento 1, y en el mismo sentido apoyamos la propuesta de resolución del documento CL 86/8, Sup.2.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation has studied the report and listened to its introduction by Dr Flores Rodas, the Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department. At the outset, let me record my appreciation to the committee for such a valuable and important report, and to Dr Flores Rodas for his excellent presentation. My delegation endorses the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Forestry. My delegation also agrees with the Committee's assessment of the potential problems and prospects of forestry beyond the year 2000, and its findings and recommendations.

We also share the concern of the Committee at the continued excessive deforestation at the dramatic rate of about 11 million hectares in the tropics, and the desertification in the arid regions and forest destruction through atmospheric pollution, fires, etc. in other parts of Europe and North America. If this deforestation continues at this alarming rate then it will inevitably have serious consequences on the human activities such as food and agriculture, quality of food and water, conservation of wildlife, and fish production. In other words, not only world food security but the security of human life as a whole will be at serious stake. In view of the seriousness of the situation, all possible measures should be taken urgently at the national and international level to create public opinion and heighten political awareness of the importance of forestry for the future of mankind. For this purpose, my delegation whole-heartedly agrees and supports the proposal and the draft resolution for proclaiming 1985 as FAO's International Year of the Forest.

My delegation supports that 1985 be declared by FAO the Year of the Forest for two reasons. One is that we cannot wait until 1989 or 1990; this should be done as quickly as possible. Secondly, the FAO, to my mind, will be able to mobilize and take effective steps. Otherwise if we go to the United Nations then it will take a longer time, entirely because this is the year when we are having the Ninth World Conference on Forestry. So, I wholeheartedly support 1985 to be declared as being the Year of the Forest and FAO should be requested to take the necessary steps in this regard. I also support all the programmes of work proposed for the FAO in the field of forestry.

MA GENGOU (China) (Original Language Chinese): The Chinese delegation endorses and supports the views and recommendations contained in the matters requiring attention by the Council, highlighted by the Secretariat.

We would like to express our appreciation of the work accomplished by the Seventh Session, of the Committee on Forestry. World-wide forestry is facing three major challenges. Those are acid rain in temperate regions, destructive lumbering of forests in the tropics, and desertification in the arid zones.

The rapid growth of global population and the development of the national economy has placed an ever-increasing demand on forestry. It is therefore a strategic policy for the world-wide forestry development to effectively conserve and rationally utilize the existing forest resources and to positively carry out reafforestation. The integration of forestry with rural development, as well as that of forestry planning with the comprehensive utilization of land, are the correct approaches. To raise the awareness of the international community of the importance of forestry, and to make appeal to all nations to coordinate with each other in conserving and developing forestry are matters of immediate urgency.

The Chinese delegation wishes to take this opportunity to express our Government's support to the proposal that 1985 be proclaimed the International Year of the Forest, and endorses that the Ninth World Forestry Congress be held in México. The departments concerned in our country are making the necessary arrangements for these two activities.

MOHD YASIN SALLEH (Malaysia): I wish to congratulate Dr Flores Rodas on his lucid and comprehensive introduction to the item under discussion. My délégalion wishes to commend the Committee on Forestry on its assessment of forestry beyond 2000 and its wide-ranging recommendations. We fully support these recommendations.

Malaysia is actively and positively involved in collaboration in forestry between nations,, especially among members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, ASEAN, which adopted the Jakarta Consensus on ASEAN tropical forestry. We participate in cooperative projects, such as the ASEAN/New Zealand afforestation programme, the ASEAN/Canada forestry programme, the ASEAN/United States watershed project, the ASEAN/Canada Institute of Forest Management, and the ASEAN/EEC Timber Technology Centre.

My delegation would like to offer a few comments on the COFO recommendations. We feel that the recommendation that the FAO Committee on Forestry Development in the tropics and the UNCTAD-sponsored International Tropical Timber Organization, should ensure close collaboration and avoid overlap in their respective activities is both timely and pertinent. We feel such collaboration should be extended also to cover similar activities of other UN agencies, such as United Nations Environmental Programme, UNEP, and the ESCAP as well as non-governmental organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund.(WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) on which we wish to congratulate you as the current Chairman.

We also feel that FAO should devote more resources and expertise to assist member countries in improving sectoral policy analysis and the formulation of pragmatic and sound strategies and programmes for long-term development of resources rather than on planning and implementation of short-term resource-based development projects. Long-term prospective planning would ensure a sustained yield of socio-economic benefits, whereas short-term developments tend to generate mainly inequitable benefits as well as a host of undesirable effects, such as resource depletion and environmental degradation in the longer term.

FAO should also devote more resources and expertise to assist member countries to develop appropriate technologies, especially for quantification and monitoring of the resource base, optimization of resource utilization, management and renewal, environmental management and natural resources conservation, rather than merely collecting, collating and disseminating data and information.

Finally, with regard to the recommendation to proclaim 1985 the International Year of the Forest, while we support it we feel that careful consideration ought to be given to tangible commitments for appropriate action programmes, projects and activities.

A. RODRIGUES FIRES (Cap-Vert): Nous remercions M. Flores Rodas, pour la presentation excellente du document, ainsi que le personnel du Département forestier de la FAO pour ce document CL 86/8 que nous appuyons pleinement, en particulier le paragraphe 19 concernant les zones arides qui nous intéressent, nous, Cap-Vert, ainsi que les recommandations pertinentes d'une integration la plus étroite possible à une utilisation agricole et pastorale des terres grace à une participation active des populations, surtout en ce qui concerne les programmes de lutte contre la desertification et la preservation des forêts; en effet, nous croyons que la participation populaire est la pierre angulaire de tout le programme.

Nous remercions également le Gouvernement autrichien pour son initiative si heureuse et importante pour que l'année 1985 soit l'année internationale de la forêt. Nous appuyons le document CL 86/8-sup.I. Nous appuyons également la résolution concernant la même année, donc l'année internationale de la forêt.

Ma délégation pense que pour mener à bien les actions préconisées au paragraphe 19, surtout dans les pays du Sahel (membres du CILSS) éprouvés par la sécheresse et la désertification continue, ma délégation pense qu'une aide et une assistance technique et économique sont fondamentales. Les projets doivent tenir compte surtout et avant tout des situations socio-écologiques des pays et non pas seulement de l'aspect purement économique.

Pour terminer, nous appuyons le contenu du paragraphe 20, surtout concernant la question de la formation. Car nous pensons que la formation est la base, et surtout la formation à tous les niveaux du personnel forestier.

Nous prenons bonne note que le Comité, au paragraphe 21, a souligné l'importance de la coopération régionale et internationale, ainsi que des échanges d'information concernant les méthodes de la lutte contre la désertification, et le développement des recherches en vue de trouver des variétés résistant à la sécheresse.

Mrs M.FENWICK (United States of America): I would like to join with the Ambassador from India in the importance of afforestation and reafforestation. I think it is essential, as when he spoke of involving even the school children and getting that kind of community acceptance and enthusiasm. I would particularly like to stress the excellent work of FAO's Forestry Department in this regard. In the Programme Committee we were given a clear outline of what is intended and what must be done. You cannot do reforestation where people are living without intimate involvement of these people in the projects. You cannot take some of the land that they think they might be able to plough and believe that the minute the trees are saleable the state will take it away from them and they will not benefit. There must be some security, some understanding and respect, for the people who live where trees are going to be planted, not only to involve their enthusiasm but to make them realize how much benefit it will be to their agriculture. We should develop, as discussed in the Programme Committee, the kind of tree that goes deep down, so that we can put it between fields and it does not spread out and take all the nutrient from the crops, and study which kind of tree does what, for what kind of climate and use, and how it can be melded into an agricultural situation. I do hope that this report will contain some reference to those plans for a community involvement.

Y.A. HAMDI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): My delegation would like to thank Dr Flores Rodas, the Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department for his efforts in presenting this report. In fact, my delegation has participated in the deliberations of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Forestry and we welcome the proposals and recommendations adopted during that session.

My delegation believes that forests can play a vital role in the field of rural development and environmental protection. We think also that forests can play an important role as far as food security is concerned. Hence, we would like to welcome the idea of carrying out a study on the relationship between forests and food security.

In conclusion, the delegation of my country welcomes the draft resolution aiming at declaring 1985 the International Year of the Forest. We think that this declaration will have very positive results as far as increasing the awareness of the international community regarding the importance of forests and the links that exist between forests, man and animals.

ASSEFA YILALA (Ethiopia): I wish to congratulate the Assistant Director-General on the presentation of the report on forestry and the proclamation of 1985 as the International Year of the Forest.

At this point I would like to indicate the support of the Ethiopian delegation for the Ninth World Forestry Congress being held in Mexico and the proclamation of 1985 as the International Year of the Forest. Ethiopia, which was once covered 40 percent by forest is denuded to the present level of only 4 percent in less than 100 years. The alarming rate at which the forest is denuded has caused climatic changes and the cost of firewood, which is still a major source of energy, has gone up, thus increasing the problem of food availability for consumption purposes.

The development of the forest resources as a solution to the associated socio-economic trade is fully realized by the Government and people of Ethiopia. The effect of this was the TCP Unilateral Trust Fund and food obtained from WFP and other bilateral sources was used extensively in forestry development and conservation programmes. The development of community forests mainly for heat and energy for overcoming the problems associated with climatic changes and industrial purposes is gaining a very high momentum. A national campaign which will involve the whole peasant organization in the development of forestry is being planned. Ventures towards the development of forestry will get major support, as this is being considered as a priority area in most of the regions in our country.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Our main point of interest in this item is of course the request by the Austrian delegation at COFO to declare 1985 the International Year of the Forest. In view of the upcoming World Forestry Congress in Mexico the Committee did generally support the idea. Several delegations at that COFO meeting, including Canada, suggested that 1985 was perhaps too soon a date to allow for appropriate preparations. Of course a decision by the FAO Council and the UN General Assembly based on the Director-General's recommendations to declare 1985 the International Year of the Forest will be required.

In this connection my delegation would like to suggest to the Council, in line with what has been suggested by the Japanese delegation already, that we add to the documents before us that we request the Director-General to consider the feasibility of proclaiming in the near future an International Year of the Forest at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

As you know, the question of international years is a difficult and often a delicate one and the correct time should be found for such an important year, and my delegation fully supports the intent and the importance of an International Year of the Forest, but we would be concerned about whether or not we could all make adequate preparations.

J.D. SANDY (Sierra Leone): I wish to congratulate Dr Flores Rodas for the document he has produced. The document was presented in a clear, pellucid, comprehensive and constructive manner. This paper is of great importance to my delegation as most of the areas touched upon do affect our forest reserves.

I endorse the recommendation of the Committee as contained in paragraphs 14 to 18, namely; conservation of forest resources the use and renewal of existing forestry resources, afforestation, reafforestation, etc.

In paragraph 28 of the document, it is true that about half of mankind depends on energy from wood in order to cook food. This has been the problem of my country, particularly in urban areas where the demand for fuelwood is so great and we have experienced a wanton disruption of our forest reserves in this area.

I would like at this juncture to appeal to FAO and other nations that a study which was carried out many years ago for the establishment of fuelwood and the village woodlot be implemented without further delay. This is causing us great concern. Apart from the erratic rains we have had this year, our source of water supply in the Greater Freetown area, the level of the reservoir was lower, than we expected, simply because of the indiscriminate chopping down of trees in catchment areas.

My delegation also supports the resolutions contained in document CL 86/8-Sup.2. We also wish to support the World Forestry Congress which is to be held in Mexico in 1985. We will also lend support to the proclamation of 1985 as the Year of the Forest. This will bring to the attention of our people the importance of forestry, and the fact that it is not advisable for them just to go about chopping trees. We welcome this very much. Finally, I wish to thank the Assistant Director-General and the Director-General for having presented such a comprehensive paper.

T.D. DA COSTA (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): La délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe voudrait, premièrement féliciter M. Flores Rodas pour la présentation et précise qu'il a faite du sujet dont notre Conseil se préoccupe en ce moment. Le Gouvernement de Sao Tomé-et-Principe approuve et appuie le document CL 86/8 ainsi que les propositions faites par le Comité des forêts et la proclamation de l'année 1985 comme Année internationale des forêts. La clairvoyance et l'analyse qui nous sont présentées par ce document et les objectifs qui sont proposés montrent bien la préoccupation et la sensibilité de notre Organisation aux problèmes économiques et sociaux de nos pays et d'une façon intégrée en tenant compte de l'importance du patrimoine forestier dans notre développement en général.

La délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe trouve extrêmement opportune la discussion de ce sujet puisqu'en l'analysant de façon profonde, comme le Conseil est en train de le faire, cela dénote une solidarité de tous avec les victimes de la désertification, des effets de brousse et autres fléaux, dans la recherche de solutions à tous ces problèmes qui, directement ou indirectement, affectent leur économie et compromettent l'avenir forestier. En appuyant la proposition selon laquelle l'année 1985 est déclarée l'Année internationale des forêts, nous le faisons de façon consciente et nous sommes convaincus que la réalisation de la neuvième Conférence mondiale sur les forêts au Mexique représentera un pas très important dans la solution des principaux problèmes forestiers dans le monde, un pilier à partir duquel tous les gouvernements seront appelés à se référer. Ainsi nous tous, ici présents dans ce Conseil, nous devons être prêts à consentir tous les efforts nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre et à la réalisation de nos projets forestiers nationaux, sous-régionaux et régionaux créant simultanément pour le Mexique les bases fondamentales à une ample et profonde réflexion et à une analyse avec la ferme conviction du succès des résultats de nos travaux dont nos pays bénéficieront.

Par conséquent, la délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe réitère la volonté des politiques de son gouvernement en vue de la mise en oeuvre de toutes les décisions qui seront prises par ce Conseil.

Pour terminer la délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe s'associe aux propositions faites par les autres délégations qui m'ont précédé sur la nécessité d'intensifier les efforts pour la sensibilisation et la préoccupation Internationale aux problèmes qui nous amèneront à la réalisation de la Conférence du Mexique et à la mobilisation des ressources financières nécessaires à la FAO pour sa préparation et sa réalisation avec succès.

L. POZO MALO (Ecuador): Quisiera en primer término felicitar y agradecer al Dr. Flores Rodas por la clara y completa exposición que hizo sobre el tema que nos ocupa. Mi delegación comparte plenamente la preocupación expresada en los documentos de la FAO y en la reunión sobre montes de hace pocos meses, por la vertiginosa desaparición de bosques en el mundo; para mi país, cuyas zonas tropicales se enfrentan con estos problemas, resulta desde todo punto de vista importante que los órganos competentes entreguen su colaboración para detener la deforestación indiscriminada. Por otra parte, consideramos oportuno que los estudios y recomendaciones respecto de la acelerada desertificación de grandes zonas alrededor de todo el globo, y confiamos en que las medidas que adopten los países para contrarrestar estos fenómenos negativos tengan una inmediata solución. Queremos, finalmente apoyar decididamente la proclamación de que 1985 sea declarado Año Internacional del Bosque, según el documento CL 86/8, Sup. 1 y auspiciamos la celebración de la reunión en México.

G. DESEQUELLES (Observateur pour la Communauté économique européenne): La Communauté économique européenne a examiné avec intérêt le rapport de la septième session du Comité des forêts. Les orientations générales figurant dans le rapport n'appellent pas d'observations fondamentales de notre part. Nous appuyons tout particulièrement la recommandation du paragraphe 9, le programme permanent de collectes d'informations et d'évaluation des perspectives du secteur forestier. A cet égard, nous rappelons l'intérêt d'une concertation préalable avec les institutions internationales concernées et, dans ce contexte, avec la Commission des communautés européennes afin de rationaliser autant que possible la collecte des informations et de ne pas surcharger les administrations nationales par des questionnaires kaléidoscopiques.

Par ailleurs, nous sommes tout à fait favorables à la proclamation de l'Année internationale de la forêt comme il est préconisé au point 10.2. Nous sommes d'accord pour l'organisation d'une telle manifestation internationale qui mériterait d'être organisée à l'échelle mondiale vu que le problème de la forêt concerne toutes les parties du monde. Nous préconisons que l'Organisation et les premières démarches de cette manifestation fassent l'objet d'un examen approfondi dans le cadre du Congrès mondial qui se tiendra l'été prochain à Mexico.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): En general, el Consejo ha apoyado totalmente el programa y el informe presentado por el último Comité de Montes. Esto significa un apoyo total a la estrategia de lo forestal para el desarrollo presentada por el Director General hace dos o tres años.

En general, el Consejo se refirió a todos los puntos y a casi todos los párrafos del estudio en un apoyo total, y se ha hecho énfasis principalmente a la deforestación de las zonas tropicales, a la desertificación y a la participación de la población rural en la toma de decisiones para provocar su propio destino.

Especialmente el distinguido Embajador de la India, hizo ayer una exposición completa del pensamiento de la India sobre la participación del sector forestal en el desarrollo comunal de las aldeas. Prácticamente él en su exposición presentó una vez más la estrategia de las actividades forestales en pro del desarrollo, especialmente aquél que se refiere al desarrollo rural.

Es indiscutible que la participación popular en la toma de decisiones que afectan al sector forestal y a su propio destino es el pilar fundamental de tal decisión. Contestando así a la pregunta hecha por la distinguida Embajadora de los Estados Unidos.

El señor Embajador de la India pregunto ayer sobre cuál era el volumen aproximado de metros cúbicos mundiales. Se estima, y esto por supuesto, que es muy aproximado, en alrededor de unos 350 000 millones de metros cúbicos, presentes.

Siguiendo con las preguntas, el distinguido representante de Pakistán se refirió en el sentido de que creía que el Departamento de Montes y la FAO en general, se preocupaba muy poco de aquellas zonas áridas montañosas. Quiero decirle al señor representante del Pakistán que probablemente existe una diferencia de definición, una diferencia semántica; lo que él llama las montañas con desierto, nosotros lo llamamos la ordenación de cuencas hidrográficas de montaña. Esencialmente estamos muy enterados y tenemos grandes programas referentes a este tipo de cuencas hidrográficas en dos grandes Departamentos de la FAO, principalmente en el de Montes, en la Dirección de Recursos Forestales, y en el Departamento de Agricultura en la Dirección de Fomento de Tierras y Aguas.

En este momento para 1985, en coordinación con el Centro Internacional para el Desarrollo Integrado de las Areas Montañosas, se llevará a cabo un estudio que se refiere a la participación popular en esas áreas montañosas, particularmente en las areas del Himalaya a que él se refería. También se llevará a cabo un curso de entrenamiento sobre este tipo de ordenación de cuencas en Katmandú, Nepal, en el mes de marzo del próximo año, y se llevará a cabo también en Katmandú, en febrero del próximo año, una reunion de expertos para determinar estrategias, aproximaciones y sistemas de ordenación integrada de cuencas montañosas.

Por otra parte, también como les decía, la Dirección de Fomento de Tierras y Aguas del Departamento de Agricultura de la FAO, tiene la capacidad para estudios integrados que se refieren a erosión del suelo, hidrología, irrigación y producción agrícola en tales zonas.

Para terminar, y refiriéndose especialmente a la proposición hecha por el Director General sobre el Año Internacional del Bosque, entiendo que tenemos una clara definición del Consejo en apoyo de un tipo de declaración similar. Existen algunas dudas por parte de algunos miembros del Consejo referente al tiempo necesario para llevar a cabo tales proyectos; sin embargo, quisiera decir al Consejo que ya hemos iniciado algunos trabajos y que se refieren a grandes rasgos a los siguientes grupos: en primer lugar, acción integrada con otras organizaciones tanto del sistema de las Naciones Unidas como de sistemas no gubernamentales: la UNESCO, el PNUMA, con la que ya tenemos estrechos lazos, la UICN, el Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza, etc. y con grupos no gubernamentales interesados en este tipo de trabajo. Esto es un plan de trabajo, el otro plan se refiere a las actividades regionales y subregionales dentro de los programas ya en acción de FAO, a través de sus representantes, en las regiones y subregiones, haciendo énfasis en este tipo de trabajo.

A nivel nacional, intentamos trabajar más cerca todavía con los Servicios Forestales y con aquellos que tienen que ver con el desarrollo rural específicamente, haciendo hincapié más que nada en el impacto de la situación forestal en el desarrollo rural, su impacto sobre la seguridad alimentaria, no sólo en términos de erosión y protección puramente dicho, sino en aquellos términos que se refieren al empleo, a la producción de alimentos bajos del bosque, a la integración mayor del bosque dentro de la sociedad, y a provocar rentas que saquen al trabajador forestal del problema económico en que se encuentra.

Así, a grandes rasgos, es el plan de trabajo que intentamos y que como dije, ya hemos iniciado con una reorganización de nuestro propio presupuesto interno del Departamento de Montes, para apoyar las decisiones que ustedes han tomado. No sé si he contestado a las inquietudes del Consejo, pero por supuesto estoy a la disposición de sus miembros para cualquier pregunta ulterior.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): May I request the Assistant Director-General to make a few observations about the association of education institutions in the programme to which I referred.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Uno de los pilares fundamentales del programa forestal de la FAO tiene que ver con la formación, entrenamiento y educación a todos los niveles, no sólo educacionales referente al sector puramente forestal, sino que tambien participants en los últimos cuatro años en la educación de campesinos en coordinación con la Dirección de Recursos Humanos de la FAO y Reforma Agraria, y en todos los programas de entrenamiento general que tiene que ver la FAO para apoyo del desarrollo rural.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. If there are no other comments or questions, may I associate myself with the 37 distinguished delegates and observers who have spoken both yesterday and today. They were all unanimous in their praise, Mr Director-General, for the work of FAO in the forestry sector, and for the dedication and competence of Mr Flores Rodas and his colleagues. I would like to associate myself fully with these sentiments.

I would like to offer three brief comments on some of the points made. I share the view expressed by several delegations here that 1985, which will be the year of the Ninth International Forestry Congress, should mark the beginning of an expanded forestry movement designed to ensure in perpetuity the basic needs of rural people for work, water, food, fuel and fodder. We all know that youth and the poor are the only two really genuine majorities in most of the Third World countries.

1985 being the UN Year of Youth and 1986 being the UN Year of Peace, I feel there are unique opportunities for facilitating the involvement of both the youth and the poor in various conservation and afforestation programmes.

Secondly, several distinguished delegates have commented that forests are being chopped down. All of us in this room know that it is the forest dweller who knows the importance of forests even better than we do.

In my own country, the people who started the most significant movement in forest conservation are illiterate women. This is the famous movement called ChipKo Andlan or "Hug the trees". Under this movement, women hug the tree when the contractor goes to fell it. For them it is a matter of life and death and therefore we need not preach to them, "don't cut the forest". The more important thing to know is why they have to cut. It is almost cutting their own children to many of them when they cut the forest. Therefore, I think unless, as Dr Flores Rodas rightly said, there is an orientation to the forestry movement which will help to provide the people the basic needs of work and water, fuel, fodder and food, we will be fighting a losing battle.

In this context I go to my last point. I think some of the delegations and the distinguished Ambassador of India mentioned about the medicinal plants in forests canopies. Thus the destruction of forests is not only relevant in relation to losing the forest trees by themselves but the unique flora and fauna associated with forest canopies.

Here again we can go on talking about the conservation of forest genetic resources. We should take steps to establish biosphere reserves but experience shows us this is not going to be an easy task. In fact, every time I hear the statistics on forest losses, year after year, they are increasing, they are not diminishing. The delegate of Ethiopia has said, that forests have dwindled from 40 percent to 4 percent in the last hundred years in his Country and this year's drought will certainly aggravate the problem of forest denudation.

I therefore feel that while we should intensify by all possible means programmes for saving the forest and forest genetic resources, we should also not lose time in taking steps for preserving for posterity some of the unique forest germ plasm through the new tools which are available. For example, the construction of a DNA library; DNA is the chemical substance of heredity, and today, molecular biologists can preserve the genetic material in a DNA Library.

I would therefore like to suggest to Dr Flores Rodas that during the International Forestry Congress in México we may organize a small group discussion on matters of preserving for posterity some unique forest genetic material through the establishment of DNA Libraries. We should harness all possible methods, and while in situ conservation is exceedingly important for many reasons, it is also important to preserve some of the valuable genotypes which we are losing very fast.

As regards the specific proposal for declaring 1985 the International Year of the Forest, I have heard all delegations agree to the idea in principle. Everyone felt it is an excellent idea; several have expressed reservations on the timing and the method. Since the majority has fully supported the idea, while some have for a number of valid reasons raised some questions and expressed certain reservations, the Drafting Committee which will have the opinions expressed by all the delegations, could put up a revised version of the resolution.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think I would like to know whether the majority was in favour of the proposal because the Drafting Committee is only to reflect the views of the Council, not to start another debate and try to reach a consensus amongst themselves.

CHAIRMAN: The Director-General has rightly asked whether the majority supports the declaration of 1985 as the International Year of the Forest. May I summarize the position as follows. First, all members are in favour of the concept, secondly, the majority is in favour of declaring 1985 the International Year of the Forest, and thirdly, a few delegations have expressed reservations about the feasibility of making the necessary arrangements so soon. I have got the complete list here and I will be happy to give it: Austria, Thailand, México, Bulgaria, Spain, Colombia, Panama, Lebanon, India, Japan partially, Tunisia, Uganda, Pakistan, Cyprus, Indonesia, Congo, Cuba, Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Cape Verde, Sierre Leone, Sao Tome and Principe, Ecuador and Federal Republic of Germany have all supported the proposal. Some delegations have raised a few valid points. The Drafting Committee should take them into consideration and develop a final resolution for adoption at the concluding session.

Thank you very much for this very significant contribution on this important item. Thank you Dr Flores Rodas and all your colleagues.

8. World Food Programme

8. Programme alimentaire mondial

8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos

8.1 Ninth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programme of the UN/FAO World Food Programme

8.1 Neuvième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO

8.1 Noveno informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Simply to ask you, for a point of clarification.

My delegation, like others, has been reviewing our heavy timetable of the coming days and week and we have been concerned that some documents which we expected to be before us have not yet been circulated. In particular, next week we understand from the Agenda that we would be discussing the question of the World Food Programme accounts, and it would appear to us in order to do this fully and responsibly, that the Council will need to have, in addition to the document already circulated, which is the Report of the FAO Finance Committee, several other documents that are extremely relevant to the discussion of this item. In particular, I refer to the Report of the ACABQ Committee on the WFP accounts, the Report of the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Food Aid, the comments of the Executive Director on the WFP audited accounts, and lastly, the comments of the Director-General.

It seems to me that if we are to hopefully finish by next Friday, it would be useful if we could have some idea from the chair, when these documents, which we think are extremely relevant, will be circulated.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I want to speak on this item because I find it a little bit strange that at this point so many procedural matters are being raised and I want to be clarified what it is all about. I do not know what is the exact regulation involved in the presentation of documents related to items that are before the Council, and before I give an opinion regarding this, I wanted to know what is involved in here, because I think there are some rules that apply to the way of reporting, and I hope these matters are not being precipitated before the time comes.

I would like to clarify some questions in this regard, because the documentation that is before us is indicated in an INF document, and I do not know what are the rules if you have to issue new documents, because if you are going to issue now documents which have not been seen by our governments, we might have difficulty about making our comments on them because, Mr Chairman, as you know, we are only expressing the view of our government, and if you begin to circulate documents that have not been circulated to our own governments, I do not know whether that would be correct.

I am therefore asking clarification as to why all these documentations being requested and why are they now being asked to be circulated at this point.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Ya nuestro colega y amigo Carandang, de Filipinas, se refirió a uno de los aspectos que también preocupan a la delegación de Colombia en relación con la desafortunada intervención del delegado de Canadá. Fue inoportuna y queremos agregar que nos preocupa la prisa, el aceleramiento del colega del Canadá en este campo tan delicado.

Usted, y los miembros del Consejo saben que yo estoy haciendo un esfuerzo dirigido a evitar que se repitan en esta Sala Roja los debates intensos que ya tuvieron lugar en la Sala Verde; de manera que mi primer consejo al colega del Canadá es que tenga un poco de paciencia, que espere porque hay una secuencia que ellos conocen muy bien y por lo tanto actúan de mala fe, hay una secuencia -repito-que ellos conocen muy bien y actúan de mala fe. Nosotros creemos, que comentarios agresivos de cualquier jefe de una organización ciertamente no contribuyen a crear el clima de serenidad y concordia que debe reinar en un Consejo como éste.

Tendríamos muchas cosas que decir, preferiríamos que no se nos forzara a hacer una declaración más amplia, pero si intervenimos ahora es porque estamos preocupados por la salud, por la salud -repetimos- y por el porvenir de estos colegas que están como enloquecidos, están realmente excesivamente desahogados en este intento de provocar un debate irresponsable. Por eso intervenimos desde ahora para rogarles que estén tranquilos, quietos, que tengan paciencia.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): As a member of the Council and also as a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, my delegation wishes to state that according to the Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, at the last session the Committee had adopted the Report requesting that the representation in the Financial Report of 1982/83 be incorporated by the Executive Director and also the Report of the ACABQ and the External Auditor.

In this matter I think it would be well balanced if the Council were also to receive the document informing us of the comments by the Executive Director and the comments by the ACABQ.

M. MOHBOULI (Congo): Notre intervention a trait, évidemment, à la déclaration faite récemment par la délégation du Canada. Nous voudrions tout d'abord dire, ainsi que l'a déjà dit notre ami des Philippines, que nous, avant d'en venir aux instances dirigeantes ou aux gouvernements directeurs de notre Organisation, nous nous référons à nos gouvernements et, concernant précisément le Conseil qui se tient actuellement, nous avons reçu un ordre du jour, mais aussi une liste des documents sur lesquels doivent porter nos débats. Ce faisant, nous nous sommes rendu compte que les documents que réclame la délégation du Canada ne sont pas sur la liste de ceux qui nous servent pour débattre au cours de cette session et nous sommes très surpris que l'on réclame que ces documents soient distribués à cette occasion.

Nous sommes également membre du CPA (nous sortons d'un CPA suffisamment animé), et nous avons, je crois comprendre, pris des dispositions suffisamment équilibrées pour que nous n'agissions pas avec hâte. Nous devons prendre le temps nécessaire pour ces questions, et il nous apparaît inopportun que la délégation du Canada exige que ces documents soient distribués puisqu'ils ne figurent pas sur la liste de ceux dont nous devons débattre. Nous voudrions insister sur le fait qu'il ne faut pas prendre la mauvaise habitude d'appréhender les différents Membres du Conseil au dernier moment pour leur distribuer des documents sur lesquels ils ne sont pas préparés à se prononcer. En fait nous ne sommes pas disposés à regarder ces documents maintenant. Ces documents n'apparaissent pas sur la liste de ceux dont nous devons débattre.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I am somewhat disturbed by the trend this discussion is taking. I heard just a very reasonable request for some documents for information of the Council. I have not heard any intention so far of an acrimonious debate or otherwise. I believe it is perfectly natural and it is an accepted practice throughout the UN system when a member of a body, be that a Conference or a Council of an organization, that they find information they believe would be of interest to discussions ahead that a request that this document pertaining to the subject be placed before the members of the Committee. This is done now, I believe in reasonable advance of the discussions we are going to have. It is not raising a matter for decision, it is not raising any debate, it is just trying to see that this Council gets the fullest information possible before the point on our Agenda is discussed. I really cannot see that this should be contentious at all, and I fully support it.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): We too would like to support the circulation of these papers as suggested by Canada. We are a little surprised really that this has not been done officially since it involves matters that we have to discuss on the Agenda. We feel there is likely to be additional information in these papers which will be important to us in considering these accounts before us.

We are a member of the Council, and you will appreciate that we are members for the South Pacific, and we certainly need to fulfil our responsibilities in representing that area. In this respect, we have a relatively small representation here and have difficulties at times in keeping abreast of some of the proceedings.

Now, in this respect, we feel that these documents would be most useful to us in appreciating the issues involved, particularly since we are not members anyway of CFA.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Benín): Ma délégation voudrait s'associer au Groupe composé des délégations des Philippines, du Congo, et de la Colombie parce qu'en effet nous ne voyons pas comment on pourrait discuter ici d'un document dont nous n'avons pas été saisis auparavant. Je suggère même au Conseil que si une telle documentation existait, que l'on n'en discute pas au cours de cette session et que nous ayons le temps nécessaire pour l'étudier.

C'est pour cela que je voudrais suggérer, encore une fois, que les débats s'arrêtent à ce point et que nous puissions continuer nos travaux comme prévu.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Para asociarnos a lo que han expresado Filipinas, Colombia, Congo y Benin en el sentido de que nos sorprende que algunas delegaciones pretendan ahora introducir, en estos momentos de nuestros trabajos, la presentación de documentos que no han sido entregados previamente a nuestros Gobiernos. El 20 por ciento de los que estamos reunidos aquí, en este Consejo, y que somos miembros, nemos participado en el CPA; pero el 80 por ciento no lo ha hecho, y estamos seguros que sus Gobiernos no han podido siquiera tener una copia de los documentos' a que han hecho referencia, y por tanto, no podrían discutir.

En todo caso, nuestro Gobierno tampoco puede aceptar que, en esta ocasión, se traten cuestiones y temas que no han sido presentados y aprobados previamente en la agenda para esta reunion, por lo que consideramos inapropiado e ilegítimo que se maneje esa información. Además, señor Presidente, creemos que la actitud de algunos países es la de tratar a este Consejo y obligar a estas discusiones a empujones, contra lo que nos oponemos.

En la última reunión del CPA se llegó a un informe muy balanceado, muy equilibrado, muy difícil después de muy largas discusiones; y se dejaron las cosas, de tal manera que podíamos confiar que en una próxima ocasión, pudiéramos contar con mejores elementos para discutir los informes y los documentos a que han hecho referencia esas delegaciones.

De manera, que solicitamos igualmente, como lo ha hecho la delegación de Colombia, que tengan paciencia, que no saltemos etapas, que no nos traten a empujones y que no esperemos para una próxima ocasión.

En todo caso, advertimos desde ahora que, en el momento en que cualquier delegación intervenga sobre algún tema que no esté dentro de nuestro Orden del día, nosotros interrumpiremos y nos opondremos a ello.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): My delegation believes that you might as well stop right now this discussion. In fact, we are losing our time, losing the time of this Council discussing the matters which are not important at all to my mind. We know, and you personally might have heard or might have known, how we adopted the Report of the CFA. We have lost a great deal of time during the deliberations of the CFA, and we did not have enough time to discuss in detail the report adopted.

We do not want to see the Report of the Council during the present session, knowing the same fate as the report adopted by the CFA at its last session. We accept all official documents and matters presented to us provided that these matters are presented to us in good time beforehand.

If we accept these demands then we should also ask for the observations made by the Director-General commenting upon the observations made by the Executive Director regarding the final accounts.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Sí, es para apoyar lo que han dicho las delegaciones de Filipinas, Colombia, Congo, etc. Y esto por dos razones; la primera es que mi país al no ser miembro del CPA no tiene conocimiento de esos documentos. No ha tenido la suerte de poder participar en esas discusiones, y por tanto no está enterado de ello, y no estaría en condiciones de discutir estas importantes cuestiones que acá se plantean. Y la segunda cuestión es por una cuestión procedimental. Nosotros, en el lunes pasado, hemos aprobado una agenda con un Orden del Día en donde el tema 8 que se refiere al Programa Mundial de Alimentos se refiere al Noveno Informe Anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que trata unos períodos de sesiones anteriores a los del año 1984.

Por lo tanto, le solicitamos que este Consejo se atenga a lo aprobado el día lunes, al aprobar la agenda, y nos consignemos a discutir los temas ya aprobados en su oportunidad.

CHAIRMAN: I find we have many speakers on that now. I will give you the floor but after I have made my remarks. I am asking for your advice on handling this matter. The Basic Texts as far as the Agenda item and the documentation is concerned reads as follows: "The Director-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, and having regard to suggestions made by any Member Nation or Associate Member acting within the limits of its status, shall prepare a Provisional Agenda and despatch it to Member Nations and Associate Members by airmail, not less than 60 days in advance of the Session. Documentation shall be circulated with the Provisional Agenda or as soon as possible thereafter."

Now two viewpoints have been expressed. The Canadian delegate wanted some supplementary information, and some others, like the Chairman of the Group of 77, have stated that for anything circulated now they could not consult with their governments. So I thought I should read out the relevant rule here. "During the Session the Council may, by a vote concurred with by at least two-thirds of the membership of the Council, add to the Agenda any item proposed by a member of the Council", in which case it is obvious that the documentation of the agenda will have to be circulated also. Since there are so many delegations who want to speak, I want to know if two-thirds of the members want some additional information. According to the rules then it has to be provided. Otherwise, as I read it here, - I think the Legal Counsel could answer better - but as I read the Basic Texts it says the Agenda items and the documents must be circulated in advance, although anybody can ask from the floor any of the officers of the Council for additional information.

Now shall we go through the entire list of speakers or would any of you like to make a proposition because, as I think the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia said, we shall spend too much time. The delegate of Sudan, have you got a specific proposal on how to handle this matter?

A.A. KHALIL (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I have been working with this Organization for the last 14 years. I have attended all the sessions of the Council, the General Conference and the majority of various Member States in the Council, asked to stop the discussions on that particular item. The delegate of Benin asked to stop the discussions, a proposal which was seconded by the representative of Saudi Arabia and others. Hence, the proposal is very clear. Let us stop the discussion now and proceed with the remaining items on our Agenda according to their order.

i would like therefore to formally propose to stop discussing this issue in the light of the proposal made by Benin seconded by Saudi Arabia, Argentina and the various other delegations which took the same stance.

CHAIRMAN: The Legal Counsel will make a remark.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The rule on the motion, which is relevant to the motion which just has been proposed from the floor is that in Rule XII, paragraph 2k of the General Rules of the Organization. Rule XII, paragraph 24 reads as follows, and I will read it slowly: "The following motions shall have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting, except a point of order." The list is as follows: "a) to suspend the meeting; b) to adjourn the meeting; c) to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion; and d) for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion."

The motion, if I understood it correctly, which was made from the floor, is for the closure of the debate on the item under discussion.

Paragraph 25 of the same Rule provides that when a proposal has been adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered. Now the question is what you have to proceed to do now is to decide on the motion for the closure of the debate.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): I do apologize to other delegations that wanted to intervene on the subject but since it was Canada that precipitated the debate - rather unexpectedly I guess - a relative neophyte in the formulations of this Council. As some of you are aware, we have been in discussion with the Director-General, and it was on the advice of the Director-General that in order to discuss certain items you have to table some documents, that it was suggested we have to raise this issue formally. So following the guidance of the Director-General, we simply requested these documents. We did not expect it was going to precipitate a debate, quite frankly.

CHAIRMAN: I would also like to read out the procedure hereafter.

“Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be immediately put to the vote.”

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Usted le concedió la palabra al delegado de Canadá. Entonces yo creo que también pueda hablar el delegado de Colombia. Lo vamos a hacer muy brevemente, por cuestión de principio porque nos falta todavía una semana de la reunión del Consejo.

Queremos decirle al colega de Canadá, con toda franqueza y con toda claridad, que no deseamos que aquí en la Sala Roja los representantes de Canadá repitan las mismas actitudes agresivas e irresponsables que asumieron en la Sala Verde.

Señor Presidente, bien conocido es que los representantes del Canadá, y ellos mismos lo han aceptado, han llegado hasta la amenaza, hasta el chantaje, hasta a amedrentar a algunos países dignos y soberanos. Nosotros creemos que esa actitud de esta mañana va a prolongar esa posición en la Sala Verde.

CHAIRMAN: May I request the delegate of Colombia not to use words to which other delegations are objecting. Now is the majority in favour of the closure of this debate? Members of the Council in favour of closure, can you raise your hands? I think the majority are in favour of closure, that is the closure of the debate on the distribution of documentation. In other words there are two viewpoints. Therefore I now move that the majority desire that this discussion should be closed and so this item is now closed and we will move on.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La discusión, no el debate, ya ha terminado y estamos totalmente de acuerdo con él, pero consideramos que usted tiene la suficiente autoridad como Presidente, que se la hemos dado y que usted la tiene, para no permitir en lo adelante ningún debate que no esté en el Orden del Día se comience porque después no sabemos cómo vamos a terminarlo, y tenemos que utilizar tiempo útil que ya hemos perdido bastante. Creo que la autoridad, y se la ratificamos, para que usted no permita iniciar nada que esté fuera del programa.

CHAIRMAN: This matter is now closed. We have taken a majority decision to close this issue and the Legal Counsel has explained the position.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panamá): Es solamente para decir que después de la exposición del tema 8, Panamá desea intervenir sobre el tema 8.

J.C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: It is a pleasure for me to address this Council to present to it the Ninth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes for 1983. Since I last spoke to you somewhat more than a year ago the most dramatic development in the global food situation has been the worsening crisis in Africa. For that reason I would first like to say a few words on WFP's involvement in Africa before I touch upon the Programme's overall performance in 1983.

Because WFP is a multilateral food agency a special responsibility rests on it to do its best to alleviate the famine and refugee problems which beset sub-Saharan Africa. We have therefore joined ranks enthusiastically with others to wipe the tears of hunger of children and women and men, to quote you, Mr Chairman, from the opening remarks that you made to this Council.

I need hardly remind this body that of all the major regions of the developing world sub-Saharan Africa has had the slowest growth in food production and the fastest growth in population during the past 20 years. It is the main region where food production is losing the race with population growth.

As you have seen in the documents before this session of the Council, in 1983 aggregate cereal production of the 24 countries in Africa which are identified as facing exceptional food needs was 16.9 million tonnes, 9 percent below the food crop of the previous year and 15 percent less than the last normal crop in 1981.

In the face of this challenge WFP has stepped up its activities in Africa both for development and emergency food needs. In 1983 34 percent of emergency shipments from WFP's own resources were delivered to that region. Special measures were taken to increase the Programme's capacity to respond to the African food emergency. I joined with the Director-General of FAO in setting up the FAO/WFP Task Force in Africa in April 1983 to monitor the food and agriculture situation there. At the same time I also established a WFP operational task force in order to speed up the Programme's deliveries and provide essential information to facilitate the planning, procurement, shipment and distribution of food aid by all donors.

In 1984 we have already earmarked US \$186 million of emergency assistance and many more requests are under consideration. However, in spite of generous donor support in 1984 to the IEFER (International Emergency Food Reserve), in fact exceeding the target of 500 000 tonnes, as well as the availability of US \$45 million set aside from the Programme's regular resources, we do not now have enough food and money to enable an adequate response to the many urgent requests for assistance due to flooding. In this situation the CFA at its last session agreed at my request to transfer an additional US \$10 million from WFP's regular resources for emergency assistance in 1984. Following the Director-General's appeal for additional contributions to the IEFER, launched on my recommendation, additional contributions of 56 000 tonnes have so far been received. But more, much more, is still required.

Ethiopia has been the main focus of media attention in recent weeks but you should know that WFP had been concerned about the situation there and had been providing substantial aid well before the dimensions of the current tragedy became evident. So far the Programme has committed this year some US \$22 million worth of assistance to Ethiopia not only by providing food but also trucks and tarpaulins and by airlifting food and relief equipment on behalf of voluntary agencies. Food aid being the vital need in Ethiopia today, it is natural that WFP's input is the biggest within the United Nations family. As you know, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has appointed Mr Kurt Jansen as Assistant Secretary-General for emergency operations in Ethiopia. WFP strongly supported this decision and we are playing a central role to support his efforts to provide staff and supporting facilities.

As delegates will also know, a WFP technical mission recently identified bottle-necks and other logistical problems which must be overcome to speed the flow of aid to the needy. While the international community has responded generously to the Ethiopian crisis, there is a lot yet to do if lives are to be saved. At least half a million tonnes of food must be mobilized and supplied for the first half of next year. The new pledges of food so far amount to some 220 000 tonnes. In addition there have been cash contributions of about US \$20 million for internal transport and another US \$6 million for food purchases, and I may say that WFP itself will be supplying substantial additional amounts for delivery to Ethiopia early next year.

While the media has been invaluable in dramatizing the urgency of the situation in Ethiopia, we should not overlook the fact that there are other countries in Africa for which a special effort is necessary if lives are not to be lost. I referred to two of those countries at the recent CFA meeting, but there are others. I came back yesterday from New York, where I met with the Secretary-General and his senior officials, as well as officials of other UN agencies concerned with Africa's needs. While it would be premature to go into details here, I want to assure the Council that the UN family is indeed mobilizing its energies in a systematic and purposeful way and with a great sense of urgency to ensure that all critically affected countries in Africa get the necessary special attention.

Let me now briefly turn to the performance of the Programme in 1983 and so far in 1984. As you all know, 1983 witnessed the Twentieth Anniversary of WFP as well as the highest level ever of approved new development projects or new phases of ongoing ones, some US \$696 millions, representing over 1.4 million tonnes of food, and I might say that the equivalent figure for 1984 will be in excess of US \$900 million, an increase of 30 percent. In keeping with WFP's objectives, about 80 percent of these projects are concentrated on low-income food-deficit countries. Among them the least developed again received over one-third of the total development commitments for 1983. Development projects for Africa have been rising rapidly and WFP had in 1983 projects worth over US \$1 billion operational in that region.

As for the developmental objectives served by the 1983 projects the proportion devoted to agriculture and rural development was 68 percent and human resources development 32 percent. This corresponds exactly with the 12 years average 1972-1983. Moreover, Mr Chairman, I would draw your attention to the fact that in the Ninth Report before you we have for the first time analyzed WFP's development assistance and the beneficiaries on a new functional basis which was found illuminating by the CFA.

If WFP is to continue to expand its efforts, donors will need to provide more food aid on a multilateral basis. While pledges to WFP resources for the 1985/86 biennium have already reached the record mark of over US \$1 billion, it seems unlikely that we will reach the target of US \$1.3 billion set for the biennium. However, the fact that many pledges are expressed in national currencies means that at a time when the dollar is strong the dollar figure understates the available resources expressed in physical terms and more food aid is of course also being channelled through the IEFR, whose long-term successful operation is however dependent on the availability of adequate resources including especially cash for our regular developmental work.

Let me conclude by saying something about the recent session of the CFA. As you know, the CFA had before it a report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit on personnel problems of WFP. The Committee considered the Report at length and in the course of its deliberations acquired a very comprehensive understanding of administrative problems which had gone on for many years and which if left unresolved will impair this Programmed ability to deal successfully with the immense challenges ahead. I need not go into detail. Let me quote from the CFA's Report:

"The Committee recognized that relations between FAO and WFP had not been exempt from problems and that those problems required corrective action. It therefore welcomed the joint decision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO to examine areas in which problems had arisen. It was felt that the problems which have arisen should be addressed with goodwill to bring about a rapid solution".

As I said to the CFA, I welcome very much this positive initiative of the Secretary-General and the Director-General. I have also noted the very positive remark of the Director-General when he said in his opening statement to this Council, "I shall do my best to resolve the issues". Mr Chairman, let me also give you, and through you this distinguished Council, a similar assurance.

With these words I commend the Ninth Annual Report of the CFA contained in document CL 86/9 for your consideration.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Para hacer, señor Presidente, simplemente un punto de orden. Agradecemos la declaración que ha hecho el Director Ejecutivo, pero esperamos sin embargo, que ninguno de los miembros de este Consejo haga referencia a la última parte de su declaración, en tanto que no forma parte de la agenda de nuestros trabajos. En todo caso insistimos, como lo hizo la delegación de Cuba, en que Ud. detenga a todos los delegados que intervengan sobre ese tema, en particular cuyo conocimiento no es parte de las labores de este Consejo.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Qu'il me soit permis, au nom du Directeur général, de faire quelques remarques au moment où le Conseil est saisi du 9ème rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire.

Je suis évidemment conscient de ce qu'il s'agit d'un document portant sur l'année 1983 et que certains développements peuvent être intervenus depuis lors.

Néanmoins, me semble-t-il, une rapide analyse du rapport peut conduire à quelques réflexions de nature générale sur le rapport lui-même et, au-delà, sur le Programme.

L'intérêt de ce document est qu'il présente de manière factuelle, je dirais comptable, l'état du Programme. A ce titre, c'est donc une importante source d'informations.

Il n'est cependant pas conçu pour conduire à une analyse de politique générale et donc à une vue prospective sur le Programme.

Dans ces quelques mots d'introduction, qu'il me soit permis d'illustrer ce propos par quelques exemples, comme une contribution à la discussion que le Conseil souhaitera peut-être tenir sur cet important sujet.

Mais auparavant je voudrais dire qu'à la lecture du rapport, on est certes impressionné par l'ampleur des opérations du PAM: transporter quelque 1,5 million de tonnes par an.

La FAO apprécie le travail accompli par le PAM et tire d'ailleurs quelque fierté d'y contribuer par la fourniture de services de toute sorte, en tout premier lieu, pour la préparation technique des projets.

J'en viens maintenant au rapport proprement dit. Nous avons, tout d'abord, noté que la proportion entre les projets de développement agricole et rural, d'une part, et les projets de valorisation des ressources humaines, d'autre part, correspondait en 1983 à la moyenne des douze années 1972-1983: 68 pour cent contre 32 pour cent. Le Directeur exécutif vient de le rappeler. On peut cependant remarquer que cette proportion des projets de développement a fléchi durant les trois dernières années puisqu'elle est passée de 81 pour cent en 1981 à la moyenne de 68 pour cent en 1983. Il aurait peut-être été intéressant d'en analyser les raisons de manière à éviter à l'avenir un nouveau fléchissement, comme cela semble avoir été également le cas en 1984.

Certes, il peut y avoir des fluctuations d'une année sur l'autre mais il importe de rester vigilant, de s'assurer qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une tendance durable et que priorité continuera à être donnée aux projets de développement.

L'aide alimentaire doit rester, autant que possible, un investissement, un facteur de production à intégrer aussi étroitement que possible dans les plans de développement des pays bénéficiaires. Ceci nous paraît particulièrement important à un moment où on s'interroge de toutes parts sur le caractère dissuasif de l'aide alimentaire sur la production locale. Le paragraphe 12 du rapport s'y réfère.

Un des moyens d'assurer une telle intégration est de favoriser une véritable programmation par pays de l'aide alimentaire et de renforcer le cycle des projets, ce à quoi d'ailleurs le PAM et la FAO se sont attelés.

Nous avons également noté qu'en 1983 aucun projet de réserve alimentaire n'était prêt pour approbation. Ceci est peut-être dû aux circonstances, mais l'année 1984 n'a guère été plus propice puisque seul un projet de ce type, de très petite taille, a été approuvé.

Le panier alimentaire est aussi un sujet qui mérite quelque réflexion. Le rapport annuel du CPA ne mentionne au paragraphe 58 que les céréales et les produits laitiers il dépend, bien sûr, des produits qui sont mis à la disposition du Programme. Cependant, ne serait-il pas bon de s'interroger sur les moyens de diversifier les rations, tant du point de vue de l'intérêt nutritionnel que pour éviter une trop large dépendance de produits que les pays récipiendaires ne peuvent produire sur place et qui à long aller, peuvent modifier durablement les habitudes alimentaires?

Un des moyens d'y remédier serait pour le Programme d'accroître ses achats de denrées, en particulier, dans les pays en développement.

A cet égard, une analyse plus en détail aurait été utile de la politique des achats de produits, des types de produits qui ont été achetés, où ils l'ont été et pour quelle destination. On note dans le rapport qu'une part importante des achats a été réalisée dans le cadre de transactions triangulaires financées par les pays donateurs bilatéraux, mais il serait intéressant d'apprécier les achats effectués sur les ressources régulières du PAM: ce qu'elles ont représenté en 1983 en volume et en pourcentage de dépenses en espèces. Une telle analyse permettrait peut-être d'en tirer des conclusions de politique générale.

Evidemment, la capacité du Programme d'acheter des denrées dépend des contributions en espèces dont il dispose.

Le paragraphe 59 du rapport s'y réfère et fait allusion, sans toutefois donner une évaluation détaillée de la situation, des contributions en espèces face aux besoins et face aux objectifs fixés qui sont, comme on le sait, d'un tiers au moins en espèces et services pour les ressources régulières et de 30 pour cent pour la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence.

Le sujet mérite sans doute d'autant plus d'attention que, aux dires même du Directeur Exécutif lors de la 18ème session du CPA, le Programme est menacé par un problème de liquidités - et là je crois même qu'il a exprimé la chose en disant: "a looming cash problem".

Ma dernière remarque portera sur l'importante question des opérations d'urgence. Les paragraphes 40 à 44 du rapport donnent les statistiques essentielles pour en indiquer l'ampleur. Ils n'en soulignent cependant pas leur immense complexité, et il faut le reconnaître, les difficultés objectives auxquelles ont à faire face tous ceux qui opèrent dans le secteur des urgences.

Les débats ici même au Conseil ces jours derniers, en particulier sur l'Afrique, ont montré l'extrême importance de cette question, qu'il n'est pas possible de sous-estimer.

A la demande du Directeur Général, le CPA examinera, d'ailleurs à sa prochaine session, les mesures à prendre pour garantir la livraison rapide des aides alimentaires d'urgence aux populations les plus touchées. Il est en effet important d'étudier quelles sont les contraintes freinant la livraison des aides d'urgence et les moyens de les surmonter. Il aurait, par exemple, été intéressant pour le Conseil de connaître le laps de temps moyen s'écoulant entre la requête en

aide alimentaire d'urgence, d'une part, et, d'autre part, successivement la décision, la première distribution des aides, la fin des opérations d'urgence; ou d'être mis au courant des principaux goulots d'étranglement ralentissant les opérations, comme les transports et la distribution. Ceci aurait sans doute permis un échange de vues intéressant sur les solutions à mettre en oeuvre.

Je souhaite me borner à ces quelques remarques qui, je l'espère, aideront le Conseil dans ses délibérations sur cet intéressant rapport du CAP. Je vous remercie.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panamá): Ante todo deseamos agradecer al Sr. Ingram por la presentación del noveno Informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos; y asimismo deseamos manifestar cuánto apreciamos los términos precisos y detallados expuestos por el Sr. Regnier sobre el contenido del noveno Informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, la delegación de Panamá desea hacer las siguientes puntuaciones:

Como país que conoce de los beneficios del PMA nos congratulamos por las conclusiones positivas que se desprenden del capítulo I del documento CL 86/9, en particular de los párrafos 3 y 7.

Por otra parte, en el capítulo segundo sobre examen de las políticas y programas de ayuda alimentaria creemos conveniente subrayar lo acordado por el 15º período de sesiones del CPA en el sentido de que la ayuda alimentaria debe ser considerada como parte integrante de la asistencia para el desarrollo hasta tanto los países beneficiarios de esta asistencia alcancen capacidad y niveles tales que les permitan resolver sus problemas de autosuficiencia alimentaria. Lo mismo que la ayuda alimentaria debe contribuir al desarrollo nacional y, en ultimo término, a la autodependencia. Son dos conceptos que no deben perderse de vista cuando analizamos políticas y programas de ayuda alimentaria. Dentro del marco de estas consideraciones llega a estar plenamente justificada la propuesta de elevar el objetivo de la ayuda alimentaria durante 1985 por encima de los 10 millones de toneladas.

Por la importancia que reviste en la ejecución del proyecto del PMA el aspecto de la coordinación a nivel nacional y conociendo por experiencia el cuello de botella que la falta de coordinación ocasiona, debe recomendarse que los funcionarios de campo del PMA estén desempeñados al máximo en el logro de una adecuada coordinación con los gobiernos solicitantes.

Sobre el importante aspecto de ayuda alimentaria y capacitación destacamos lo señalado en las últimas líneas del párrafo 23 sobre la urgencia de dar más importancia a la necesidad de capacitación de los sectores más humildes, y en particular a las mujeres, de cara a lograr mejora en la calidad de vida de las familias rurales. Es por esto que destacamos lo expuesto en el párrafo 24 sobre medidas que se están tomando tendientes a destacar cada vez mas la función y participación de las mujeres.

Finalmente, cuando analizamos lo referente a los proyectos de desarrollo del PMA y dada la crítica situación por la que atraviesa Africa, registramos como una opción un tanto positiva lo expuesto en el párrafo 30 en el sentido de que con el transcurso de los años se han ido incrementando los proyectos de desarrollo en ésta región, tendencia ésta que debe continuar conforme a lo que ya hemos expresado al referirnos al tema de la grave crisis por la que atraviesan los pueblos hermanos africanos.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise voudrait exprimer son admiration pour ce rapport succinct soumis au Conseil. Nous nous plaignons d'habitude du volume et de la longueur des rapports, mais étant donné le volume de l'aide présentée par le PAM, ce rapport succinct qui nous est soumis attire notre attention et notre admiration. Notre délégation voudrait tout d'abord commenter certains points généraux.

Le rapport constitue en fait un exposé des faits et nous donne un grand nombre de chiffres, mais à notre point de vue il est incomplet car il ne développe pas et ne se concentre pas sur n'importe quelle question concernant les politiques qui auraient dû être soumises au Conseil pour y être étudiées. On nous a dit que le PAM se développe rapidement et qu'il est nécessaire d'envisager certains ajustements. Nous ne doutons pas que ces ajustements se rapportent aux politiques. La délégation libanaise voudrait connaître le point de vue du Secrétariat sur les moyens à suivre pour que ces rapports se concentrent à l'avenir, d'une manière plus ample, sur les politiques surtout que ce Comité est appelé "le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire". De nombreuses voix s'élèvent, surtout au sein des pays donateurs, pour dire que les aides alimentaires ont des aspects négatifs sur la production nationale et le Rapport, dans son Préambule, souligne l'intérêt de relier plus étroitement l'aide alimentaire et le développement national. Toutefois, ce rapport n'aborde pas ce problème fondamental et ne souligne pas comment le PAM évitera ces aspects négatifs. La délégation de mon pays voudrait connaître le point de vue du programme au sujet du moyen de relier l'aide alimentaire et la production nationale d'une façon générale et entre l'aide alimentaire et le développement de la production alimentaire plus particulièrement. Dans ce rapport il n'existe

aucune tentative pour évaluer les résultats des projets terminés en 1983. Ce projet cite le volume des denrées alimentaires transportées; mais est-ce à dire que tous ces projets, et surtout les projets de développement ont atteint les objectifs fixés dans le plan de travail? Y a-t-il des sujets ou des points de faiblesse ou bien quels ont été les goulots d'étranglement? Quelles ont été les mesures envisagées par le Programme pour surmonter ces difficultés à l'avenir? Permettez-moi actuellement de discuter de certains points de détail. Au paragraphe 33, le rapport souligne que la proportion entre les projets de développement agricole et rural d'une part et les projets de valorisation des ressources humaines d'autre part correspond exactement à la moyenne des douze années 1972-1983: 68 pour cent contre 32 pour cent. Toutefois, nous constatons dans le tableau C que les projets de développement ont été réduits de 83 pour cent en 1981, à 76 pour cent en 1982 et à 68 pour cent en 1983. Il aurait été utile que le rapport souligne une analyse des raisons de cette réduction et les mesures prises pour remédier à la situation. Dans le même paragraphe, nous constatons qu'il n'y a pas eu de projets de réserves alimentaires en 1983, parce qu'aucun projet n'était prêt à être approuvé durant cette même année. Étant donné que le Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire a affirmé à plus d'une occasion l'importance de ces projets, la délégation de mon pays ne comprend pas pourquoi nous en sommes arrivés à ce point.

Nous aimerions savoir quels sont les problèmes qui ont empêché la préparation de ces projets et comment le Programme compte remédier à cette situation.

Le rapport ne comporte aucune évaluation précise des liquidités financières du Programme, soit en ce qui concerne les besoins ou en ce qui concerne les objectifs et cela est d'autant plus étonnant que le Directeur exécutif des Programmes avait lancé un avertissement au cours de la 18^{ème} session du PAM dans lequel il avait annoncé qu'il se heurtera à l'avenir à une difficulté de liquidités. Enfin, M. le Président, le rapport est tout à fait vague en ce qui concerne l'achat des denrées, il ne comporte aucune analyse des denrées qui ont été achetées, leur provenance et quels sont les pays qui en ont bénéficié. On a fait simplement mention des opérations triangulaires financées par les pays donateurs. Mais quels ont été les achats financés par le Budget ordinaire du PAM? Quel a été le volume de ces opérations en 1983? Quelles ont été les dépenses encourues au comptant pour les achats? Quelle a été la nature des services fournis par le Programme pour les pays donateurs bilatéraux tel que cela a été mentionné au paragraphe 63 de ce projet? Y a-t-il d'autres procédés de distribution à part les 4 mentionnés dans le rapport? Il existe un nouveau tableau de droits perçus par le Programme en contrepartie des services bilatéraux; est-il encore nécessaire de recueillir pareil montant "subsidize the expenses" dans le cadre du nouveau programme? Dans l'affirmative, quelles sont les dépenses dues? Dans le paragraphe 64 il a été dit que le PAM veille à ce que les services qu'il fournit à des opérations bilatérales ne nuisent en rien à ses propres activités. Pourrait-on savoir comment cela pourra être exécuté? La délégation libanaise espère que le Secrétariat fournira les réponses et les éclaircissements concernant toutes ces questions.

R. STEINER (Austria): As Austria is not a member of the CFA, my delegation studied the document before us with particular interest. Let me be brief, yet still make a few basic remarks concerning the work of the WFP.

Austria has supported the activities of the World Food Programme since it was founded in 1963. We believe that the existing general regulation arrangements and procedures for the establishment and operation of the UN/FAO World Food Programme augurs well for the future cooperation of FAO and WFP. My delegation does not see any need for any amendment of the statutes. Austria has always advocated the optimum use of the resources allocated to the individual organizations. Therefore, we feel that cooperation between WFP and FAO should be conducted in a manner and spirit which takes into account the principles of efficiency and economy.

The establishment of new bodies which might only lead to duplication could not be supported by Austria. We would rather believe that we should seek ways of making even better use of existing instruments and arrangements. This applies both to emergency aid as well as to project planning and implementation. Food aid will also be needed in the future, and it is particularly needed to help speedily in cases of emergency. In these efforts, consumption habits, farm prices and the farm income situation in the recipient countries has to be taken into account. We should therefore strengthen our assistance to those who are on the way to a stronger self-reliance. We therefore advocate the triangular transactions of the World Food Programme, as explained in paragraph 15.

At times when, for instance, certain African countries were in dire need of food assistance, other countries in the region had commercially available stocks, for instance, of sorghum and millet. Although they did not always exist in volumes corresponding to the needs, food aid could in such a manner become more instrumental in enhancing regional food marketing structures and enhance the price level and price structures of the commodities accordingly.

With this idea in mind, Austria has placed at the disposal of Burkina Faso this year sorghum to the tune of four thousand pounds.

I am fully aware that locally regionally available stocks are inadequate to cope with emergency needs and that an overwhelming part of the food emergency existence in future will still have to be brought in by supplies from grain exporting countries.

We welcome that the WFP mainly concentrates on countries with low income and food deficits. As regards the statements in paragraph 30, it may be remarked that Austria noted with regret a decline of the activities in Africa south of the Sahara from 40 to 24 percent of the commitment. We have taken note of the increased shipments in and under the title of emergencies. Especially in view of the most recent appeals for the support of the needy African countries, activities of the World Food Programme are increasingly required in that region.

My delegation noted with satisfaction that for the second time since the establishment of the IEF, the target of 500 thousand tons of grain was reached in 1983. I hope it will also be reached in the years to come and I may assure you, Mr Chairman, that Austria, within its possibilities, will contribute substantially. Austria furthermore pledged to provide 20 thousand tons of grain annually under FAO. In the last two years, the Austrian contribution to FAO was shipped by the World Food Programme.

Let me conclude by saying that my country has in the past positively commented on the cooperation between the World Food Programme and FAO. That cooperation has proved to be necessary, and my *délégation* is hopeful it will continue to be efficient on the basis of the existing regulations and arrangements covering the cooperation between FAO and the World Food Programme.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): In response to your recommendation, my *délégation* has already trimmed down my statement.

My delegation has studied document CL 86/9 with interest. We consider that this Report is a well-prepared document highlighting the Programme activities in 1983. My *délégation* is pleased to note that the year 1983 was the Twentieth Anniversary of the Programme and was marked by the highest level of development commitment in its history. The Programme activity amounted to US\$ 696 million representing over 1.4 million metric tons of food. My delegation commends the pragmatism adopted by the Programme in directing a high proportion of this commitment to low-income food-deficit countries. However, its continuous support in emergency operations is not so commendable. My delegation is of the opinion that while emphasis had been made on the development assistance, the Programme should not lose sight of the emergency assistance, and the emergency situation is prevailing and sometimes deteriorating in some areas even in this very day.

My delegation fully supports paragraphs 45 to 47 and is grateful to all concerned in that operation. My delegation fully supports the importance of the FAO/World Food Programme Task Force in their work to help alleviate famine and food shortage in Africa. This Joint Task Force is commendable and my delegation looks forward to seeing their continued assistance to the needy people in the African continent.

My delegation will not go at length into the comprehensive Report under discussion with the introductory statement by the Executive Director, which receives the support of my delegation.

In conclusion, my delegation supports the statement made by Dr Regnier and to the contents of paragraph 15 that the World Food Programme can promote the practices of triangular transactions in buying food from developing countries in their operation.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): At the outset, I was impressed by the fact of the expression of the cordiality of relations and complementarity of action or inter-action between the two organizations of FAO and WFP. They cannot afford to have differences, to my mind, because that will be detrimental to the interests of suffering humanity in Africa and other places, because they are the main instruments for the organization of the supply and assistance to the affected areas in Africa and other parts of the world.

The Report, as we have seen from document CL 86/9, is certainly impressive of the work done by WFP in consultation and in coordination with FAO. The two organizations historically and contemporarily today have been playing an outstanding role in bringing about an area of assistance which has been deeply appreciated and blessed by those people who have been suffering in different parts of the world. I pleaded during the time of the CFA meeting that there should be a durability of understanding and a maturity of approach between the two organizations, and I am sure that with their experience, their desire, with their intention, genuine no doubt of both organizations, it will be possible for that ideal to be achieved, and there would be no differences among members of the Council whose anxiety is also to see that the people who are suffering today get the benefit, obtain it, and it is not bettered by any differences between the two most important organizations in the world for providing food assistance, so all our food for thought should be directed towards the actual supply of food by the coordinating which the two organizations will be able to achieve without any distinctions, without any acrimony between them.

I have no doubt that the continuity of effort to achieve this will ultimately result in the peaceful pursuit of constructive and creative efforts between them, I am sure that each and every member of the Council will be with me to support such a move.

From what I have gathered from the Report I see that there is a mutual appreciation of each organization's work by the other, and that means that there is a real power between both of them to try to see to the maximum extent possible that the victims get the assistance as soon as possible.

I would like to mention a few words arising from my study of the Report, which has been of great interest and has been done with great application of mind and of sincerity of purpose. The duration of the supply is one point I would like to mention. The duration of the supply lines - how long does it take to reach the victims, and does it actually reach them as quickly as possible and right to their doorstep. I know that WFP has been making these efforts and they have given me some figures which I have asked for during the CFA, but it appears that as against the average number of days of supply in 1983, which was 60 days, now it is in the semester of 1984, 77 days. There might certainly have been legitimate reasons for it, but in the particular critical situation through which these affected countries are passing, it would be advisable to find ways and means by which it could be reduced, even below those 60 days instead of the 77 days which it has been taking. Is it due to shipment difficulties? Is it due to other transport difficulties, by rail, road or ship? I would like to be enlightened why the period of time has been lengthened instead of being shortened in order to reach the victims as soon as possible.

Another thing I would like to be enlightened about is the assurance I would like to have for any avoidance of duplication of assistance of food in these areas. Does the food supply which has been provided reach the affected people without any duplication? Has an agency made sure about it? The last time the Executive Director was good enough to agree with my suggestion that there would be increase of manpower of the organization to ensure this and I am sure he must be on the way to having it done.

So far as emergency assistance is concerned it is restricted to a supply of basic commodities, and sometimes only to cereals, so in this connection the emergency assistance is the immediate remedy. The emergency assistance arrives as soon as possible, as the word itself connotes 'emergency', then it would serve the purpose. We have already discussed at quite some length about the long-term progress of schemes by agricultural production, research and so on which we are not entering into at this stage. There is the question of instant supply and that is what emergency assistance might be able to achieve as far as possible.

Then, for how long does the supply last for the people affected? For example, as I mentioned the other day, in Ethiopia the drought conditions might carry on for another 12 months or so. Is this emergency assistance only for a very short period of time so after it is over that particular period of time, does it mean that these affected areas will again revert to the same condition of suffering from which the comfort and the assurance given by the assistance rendered by WFP will cease? It will of course depend upon the extent of the donations given and so on, but I am sure there will be nothing wanting among the donors in every respect to try to ensure that it is provided for the time that the actual emergency condition of the severely affected areas in such catastrophic conditions and such calamitous conditions exist.

I would like to have the latest precise recipient status of African countries if it is possible to supply it, as that would be helpful for us to know which particular areas get the benefit to the extent that they require, and as I repeat again to what period of time it will be possible to have it.

May I also know whether the intelligence services require to be strengthened. I know the best is being done, but are there any areas which are omitted? Are there any pockets which are not reached, and does the intelligence service of WFP together with FAO in complementarity of purpose know the exact extent of the different types and nooks and corners which are required to be reached? It is quite possible that all the millions of people who are suffering may not possibly be reached by emergency assistance or even by food aid as of now, but we must try to reach the maximum that we can and efforts have been made through the various operations which have been undertaken in 1983 and 1984 which have now increased in their number and also those of the operations whose distribution began through the borrowing programme, they have also increased. It is a gratifying sign but it is in my mind that it is possible to increase it to a still greater extent. I appreciate the fact that there might be limitations by which it might not be possible to reach the extent that might be required, but there is certainly a genuine effort to do so, and I am sure that in future with more and more responsible appeals made by the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP it will be possible to do so.

It is very gratifying to find from what the Executive Director, quoting from the Secretary-General's observations of the United Nations that a complete area of effort is being made, a comprehensive, a consummate effort is going to be made at this level also to ensure that this complementarity of effort between FAO and WFP working in cohesion with each other and not in collision, and all of us in the Council should make our best effort to ensure it is avoided, not only now but for all times to come. It is not only during a particular emergency which exists that we should have a cessation of any difficulties, I am not using the word "hostilities", there are no hostilities between them but I do not think anyone should try to create the impression that there is any hostility between the organizations because there is none and because of the very sincerity of purpose, their dedication, their devotion, their commitment, there can be none. This is to my mind completely ruled out from the scheme of things. The only thing is there may be occasion as there is sometimes in human nature areas of misunderstandings which it is our duty to assist in overcoming.

By themselves also they are trying to do their best, but I think with the distinguished contribution of the Council it will be possible to do so further. So with the blessing of these poor people in Africa and other parts of the world where floods and famine and other conditions exist, misunderstandings could be overcome.

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'AUMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/10

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

TENTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE
NOVENA SESION PLENARIA

(23 November 1984)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.35 hours
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 35, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14.35 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 Ninth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme (Continued)
- 8.1 Neuvième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (suite)
- 8.1 Noveno informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (continuación)

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): En abordant l'examen du point 8 de l'ordre du jour consacré au neuvième rapport du CPA dont est saisi notre Conseil à travers le document CL 86/9, permettez-nous d'abord d'exprimer à M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, les vives félicitations de la délégation congolaise pour son brillant exposé liminaire. Par ailleurs, nous remercions M. Régnier pour les réflexions premières qu'il a bien voulu nous livrer sur le sujet, antérieurement, aux débats.

Ceci étant fait, venons-en au vif du sujet. Notre délégation a examiné avec toute l'attention qu'il méritait ce neuvième rapport du CPA au Conseil, comité dont notre pays est membre. D'emblée nous appuyons d'une manière générale ce rapport dont nous sommes du reste solidaires des autres membres du CPA. C'est d'ailleurs pourquoi à ce haut niveau des organes supérieurs du PAM nous tenions à vous faire part de ce qui suit: nous nous réjouissons de ce que 80 pour cent environ des engagements du PAM aient été affectés aux pays à faible revenu et, à déficit vivrier car nous considérons cette attitude du PAM comme étant conforme au mandat à lui confié par la communauté internationale.

Notre délégation estime pour sa part que le niveau, de plus de 1,5 million de tonnes des expéditions d'aide alimentaire aux projets de développement et des opérations d'urgence atteint par le PAM est encourageant mais, eu égard aux besoins de plus en plus élevés des pays touchés par la crise alimentaire, nous invitons les différents donateurs à se dépasser dans leurs efforts à l'aide alimentaire. Notre délégation sait gré au Secrétariat du PAM et à tout son personnel pour les efforts spéciaux et mesures spéciales consentis en 1983 par le PAM à la résolution de la situation de crise alimentaire de l'Afrique subsaharienne.

Dans ce même ordre d'idées nous exprimons notre satisfaction au PAM pour avoir réagi avec vigueur aux besoins d'aide d'urgence aux réfugiés de par le monde. Notre délégation saisit l'occasion que lui offrent les présentes assises de notre Conseil pour remercier solennellement les différents donateurs qui, dans un élan de solidarité spontanée, ont annoncé des contributions de leurs gouvernements aux ressources du PAM lors de la Conférence des contributions qui s'est tenue le 6 mars 1983 à New York.

Notre délégation nourrit l'espoir que grâce aux contributions de tous les donateurs potentiels l'objectif de 1,35 milliard nécessaire pour les activités du PAM pour son exercice 1985-86 sera atteint.

Notre délégation a apprécié vivement l'initiative, heureuse du gouvernement des Pays-Bas qui a abouti à l'organisation avec le PAM en octobre 1983 à La Haye du séminaire sur l'expérience du PAM et sur les principes de l'aide alimentaire. C'est un bon exemple de coopération entre le PAM et les gouvernements de ces pays membres, exemple qui mérite d'être suivi par d'autres gouvernements membres de notre programme. Que l'aide alimentaire soit une partie intégrante de l'assistance au développement tant que les pays bénéficiaires n'auront pas atteint l'autosuffisance alimentaire, voilà la signification véritable que nous souhaitons de tout cœur que le PAM donne à l'aide qu'il apporte à ceux qui en ont besoin. L'aide doit s'intégrer au plan de développement national des pays bénéficiaires dans le cadre de stratégies visant la sécurité alimentaire. Le PAM doit promouvoir davantage les projets de développement plus que tout autre projet pour prévenir les crises alimentaires cycliques enregistrées dans les pays en développement. Nous engageons le PAM à présenter, dans un programme à venir, le résultat de sa réflexion sur la notion de droit à la nourriture pour tout être humain ainsi que les applications que lui inspire le fruit de cette réflexion.

La fonction de coordination de l'aide issue de sources diverses, voilà aussi une préoccupation non des moindres tant des gouvernements donateurs que de ceux bénéficiaires. Ce faisant, nous continuons à croire que pour être suivie d'effets bénéfiques cette fonction doit relever de la compétence des gouvernements bénéficiaires auprès desquels les fonctionnaires du PAM doivent prêter un concours utile.

De même, dans ses transactions d'achat d'aliments destinés à l'aide nous continuons à insister pour que le PAM veille autant que faire se peut, à ce que ses préférences se portent vers les opérations triangulaires tout en respectant les habitudes alimentaires locales.

Nous aimerions disposer de données chiffrées précises à ce sujet au cours des prochaines sessions: formation du personnel de terrain et du personnel correspondant du gouvernement bénéficiaire, voilà aussi un volet qui doit continuer à occuper une bonne place dans les préoccupations du PAM.

Notre délégation note non sans regret que certains pays continuent à s'opposer à l'idée visant le relèvement de l'objectif de l'aide alimentaire de 10 millions de tonnes à 20 millions de tonnes de céréales alors que le besoin alimentaire des pays touchés par la crise est de plus en plus important.

Nous espérons que les pays précités pourront réviser leur position et se montrer plus coopératifs à ce sujet. Nous insistons pour que le PAM continue à accorder de plus en plus d'attention au rôle des femmes dans ces programmes d'aide. Il est hautement regrettable que les situations d'urgence inhérentes aux catastrophes imputables à l'action de l'homme restent encore importantes. A l'opposé, il est heureux de constater qu'en 1983 la part de la sollicitation du concours du PAM pour les cas d'opérations d'urgence pour les sécheresses ait baissé que 89 pour cent de l'aide ait été acheminé par le canal multilatéral du PAM, voilà qui est encourageant pour les pays victimes de la faim. De même la participation de l'Argentine et de la Colombie, tous deux pays en développement, membres du Groupe des 77 à la RAIU, quand on sait qu'ils font eux-mêmes face à d'énormes difficultés, témoigne de leur esprit de haute solidarité avec les plus démunis.

Avant de terminer nous souhaitons obtenir quelques précisions suivantes du Secrétariat. Concernant les opérations de transport le Secrétariat du PAM nous donne au paragraphe 67 quelques indications sur l'usage des navires des pays en développement. Le Secrétariat peut-il nous assurer, à conditions similaires à celles offertes par les pays développés, si toutes les disponibilités des pays en développement ont été exploitées? Si oui, quelles sont les données qui seraient disponibles à ce sujet?

Toujours à propos des dépenses effectuées au sujet des opérations de transport, nous notons avec satisfaction que le coût total par tonne expédiée a encore diminué. Le Secrétariat peut-il nous donner davantage d'explications sur les facteurs ayant contribué à cet heureux résultat?

Enfin, ainsi que l'ont déjà souligné les autres déclarations qui nous ont précédé, pour les prochaines sessions il serait souhaitable que le Secrétariat du PAM nous donne quelques indications sur les efforts déployés par lui pour accélérer le rythme de ces livraisons aux victimes des crises alimentaires.

A. EL SARKI (Egypt) (Original Language Arabic): In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Allow me to start my statement by congratulating Mr Ingram, the Executive Director of the Programme, for his simplified but precise introduction to document CL 86/9. I would also like to thank Dr Saouma and Mr Ingram for the constructive and continuous efforts that they have undertaken to combat poverty and hunger in the various parts of the world. Especially I would like to thank them for the special interest they have shown for the problems prevailing in Ethiopia and a number of other African countries. I would also like to thank them for their continued efforts to draw the attention of international organizations in the United Nations system and of other fora to the help needed to save the lives of the citizens of these countries.

My country's delegation, after having reviewed paragraphs 3 to 9 and 54 to 56 about commitments to the Programme and its undertakings, wishes to express its satisfaction with the level of commitments. After having reviewed paragraph 15 of the document and paragraphs 60 and 61, on the Programme's purchases, we fully support the policy undertaken by the Programme to achieve triangular transactions, as this is beneficial to developing countries and helps the Programme to reduce handling and storage costs.

The success in achieving maximum efficiency from any programme depends on the training of the personnel in charge of such programmes. Thus we urge the programme to provide training facilities to its own staff or to national staff members in the framework of food aid projects. We welcome the training seminar to be held in Egypt which is to be attended by the trainees of the Programme and other trainees in implementation and follow-up of food aid projects and we will provide it with all facilities. Women in Egypt play a major role in the agricultural sector and in food security. The major role for the implementation of a number of agricultural activities falls on the woman's shoulders. She is also responsible for her fair share of social duties. Therefore we thank the Programme for its continuous efforts to support the role of women and urge it to provide further help.

At the end of my country's statement I wish this Programme full success. It is a Programme that has been active in Egypt since 1963. We also wish to express our appreciation for the food aid that was extended to Egypt as it has had a great effect on development in my country.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): First I would like to thank the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for his comprehensive presentation of the Ninth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes bearing on its Seventeenth session held in May/June 1984. I would also like to thank Mr Regnier for his very clear and succinct introduction of the subject.

We are one of the oldest members of the CFA. It is a matter of great satisfaction to us to see that the World Food Programme over the years has grown to be one of the largest sources of assistance, apart from the World Bank group, within the UN system.

We are happy to note that the World Food Programme continues to do an excellent job in alleviating hunger from various parts of the world. Eighty percent of the aid is going to the low-income food-deficit countries and the resources are presently reported by the document that we have, CL 86/9, at \$696 million and we are encouraged to note from the Executive Director's statement this morning that they will exceed \$1 billion this year. We express our confident hope that the administrative structure which has been approved in the 1984/85 budget will help to strengthen the Secretariat to be more effective in responding to the growing needs of the developing countries.

Pakistan is one of the important beneficiaries of the emergency assistance being funnelled by the UN/FAO World Food Programme and we deeply appreciate the food aid to a total of 2.2 million Afghan refugees in 1983, although their number has swelled to over 3 million now.

I would like to join the distinguished Ambassador of India in commenting on the timelag between the time that emergency assistance is sanctioned, and when it reaches the community. I understand that food aid should expeditiously reach the people who need it - that is the rationale behind emergency assistance. So may we know a little more about the steps being taken to improve upon this situation.

I would also like to refer to paragraph 43 of the report which shows that manmade disasters have declined from 69 percent in 1982 to 54 percent in 1983, although I believe there has been no decline in disasters, because the world has been lurching from one disaster to another. So how has this percentage gone down? Has the figure been taken off of other headings? I would like some explanation on that.

We would also like to express our appreciation of the triangular transactions being undertaken by the WFP, and hope that not only will these transactions be continued, but that they will be encouraged.

I would refer to paragraph 23 of the report regarding food aid and training, and emphasize briefly the importance and key role of training in national and community development, of course with special emphasis on the training of women.

Further, we would like to support the suggestion of the Secretariat on the diversification of supplies for increasing the nutritional value of food to the recipients. Lastly, we would like to lend our full support to the Director-General, and agree that the target for the IEFER should be increased from 500,000 tonnes to 2 million tonnes. We fully endorse the Ninth Annual Report of the CFA which has been presented to the Council.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original Language Arabic): This report now before us was submitted during the Seventeenth session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes in the form of a draft report. We all know full well that many of the points raised by a number of members of the CFA were first raised when the report was submitted to the Committee. Those points undoubtedly were important ones and were under consideration. The report now before us does not contain any changes as compared to the draft report submitted to the Committee. This either means that those points raised by the members of the Committee at the time were not taken into account, or that time was not sufficient for the Programme to prepare another document or another report that would take into account those points.

We have listened very carefully and attentively to those important points raised here in the Council about this report. These points were raised by those speakers who preceded me. As this report is always submitted to higher authorities and bodies for approval and adoption, I reiterate my request that these important points be taken into account by the Programme, and that the next report, that is to say, the Tenth report, be clearer and more precise than the present one.

In order not to waste the time of this Council, I will not raise many of the points mentioned by previous speakers. I would like to express my support, for example, for what was said by the distinguished delegate of Lebanon and the distinguished Ambassador of India. They both raised very important points which we should very carefully examine. In my opinion, these points should be fully taken into account by the Programme. I mean by this, for example, those points dealing with commodity purchases, or those dealing with development aid, the diversification of development projects and the drop in the share of these projects over the last three years. These points require

clarification from the Programme, clarification as to the reasons which have led to this. I would also like to know what are the policies or measures adopted by the Programme to correct or overcome obstacles and difficulties which have impeded its path. Such a general policy adopted by the Programme must be very clearly stated in the report. As I said earlier, this report is submitted to higher authorities apart from this distinguished Council for discussion.

If I may, I wish to add an important point to those raised by my other colleagues, a point dealing with transport and other related activities. Paragraph 67 states that the percentage of tonnage carried by developing country vessels amounts to 11 percent, while ships owned by developing countries represent 17 percent of the number of vessels used. Such a percentage is a very low one. We have drawn the attention of the Programme to the need to increase the percentage of use of vessels belonging to developing countries. There may be some reason for not using vessels flying the flags of developing countries, but in such an annual report the Programme ought to make those reasons clear to us.

We also need to know whether the Programme has made any attempt to increase this percentage of vessels belonging to developing countries. We believe, Sir, that it is logical that an explanation and reason for this be given in the next report, in addition to the other points raised. The reason is that this is a very important and vital subject. As I said earlier, the CFA has repeatedly requested the Programme to increase its use of vessels belonging to developing countries. The remaining 83 percent means that the vessels were owned by developed countries or which were flying the flag of developed countries, so I hope the Tenth report will clearly and comprehensively state the identity of those ships used, or which are currently being used, and the country of which the flag is flown or the authority or organization to which such a vessel belongs.

We would also like the next report to contain a reference to the amount of expenditure on transport of shipments by vessels flying the flag of developing countries, that is to say, the cost carried by the 17 percent of the ships used. We would like to know the amount of expenditure on the use of vessels belonging to non-developing countries.

The last point I wish to raise is in the form of a question addressed to the Programme. Does the transport of food shipments constitute the entire responsibility of the Programme, or does FAO have any share of this responsibility? This is a very important point. Is the Programme entitled to or does it have the liberty of concluding contracts for shipments, or does FAO have the right to intervene in this subject? Those are the comments I wish to make, and I thank you for your kind attention.

WU CHAOLIN (China) (Original Language Chinese): The Ninth Annual report submitted to the present session of the Council and the introduction made this morning by Mr Ingram, Executive Director of WFP, has shown the state of food aid in 1983, and has given a summary of the implementation of policies and programmes of food aid last year. This enables us to have information on WFP activities and contributes to the intensification of cooperation between WFP and beneficiary countries in order to improve food aid in the future.

During the last year, WFP has carried out a good deal of work on the definition and implementation of food aid policies and programmes. It has made a useful contribution to emergency food aid, particularly in Africa, and to the support of efforts by low-income food deficit developing countries in order to increase their food production and their level of food self sufficiency. Since 1979, the Chinese Government has developed and intensified cooperation with WFP. China is a very large country. It is also a developing country of the Third World. Its agricultural production has considerable imbalances between the different regions. At the moment people in certain mountainous regions and far off pastoral regions are experiencing considerable difficulties in food production and living conditions.

The projects we have carried out and those which are being implemented with WFP food aid have played a positive role in transforming these low-income food-deficit regions by using the agricultural resources and by the improvement of the standard of living of the people. In the future, we shall continue to give our support to WFP activities to strengthen and develop cooperation with it.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Most of us here are either professional agriculturalists or development specialists. The thread that binds us together is our mutual appreciation of the importance of agriculture and economic development and our belief in a multilateral system. One of the most concrete manifestations of this common bond was the establishment of the World Food Programme in the early 1960s. Since that time, we have seen the Programme grow from a small experimental programme to its present size. As the distinguished delegate from Pakistan mentioned earlier, it is now the largest single source of multilateral agricultural development assistance outside the World Bank.

With respect to the question of the relationship between FAO and the WFP, I will simply say that the Canadian delegation fully supports the views expressed by the Indian Ambassador and others this morning.

M. ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Ma délégation voudrait remercier vivement M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif, pour son excellente introduction de ce matin au document CL 86/9 qui est soumis à la réflexion du Conseil. Je voudrais également remercier M. Régnier pour les commentaires pertinents qu'il a développés ce matin sur le sujet qui le préoccupe. Ma délégation a examiné attentivement ce document très intéressant du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire. Les activités du Programme y sont relatées d'une façon claire, ce qui a permis de saisir l'extrême importance du Programme comme instrument du développement pour les pays en développement et moyens efficaces d'acheminement d'aide d'urgence, surtout dans les conjonctures défavorables que nous connaissons dans plusieurs pays africains subsahariens.

Nous sommes heureux de constater que l'année 1983 a été pour le PAM une année riche en activités diverses, une année record puisque les engagements, en faveur des projets de développement et des opérations d'urgence, ont atteint le montant important de 896 millions de dollars correspondant à un volume d'aide de 1,5 million de tonnes d'aliments. A cet égard, les efforts spéciaux consentis par le PAM en faveur des pays sinistrés dans les zones subsahariennes sont considérables et ils méritent les encouragements du Conseil. Qu'il me soit permis à cet égard d'exprimer les vifs remerciements de ma délégation au PAM pour les résultats positifs obtenus en 1983 par le Programme et soutenus par la FAO; mes remerciements sont également adressés aux pays donateurs qui ont contribué efficacement à renflouer les ressources du PAM à un moment crucial de la vie de plusieurs pays touchés par les calamités naturelles et autres facteurs défavorables, freinant un minimum de production agricole et alimentaire.

Il est tout à fait normal que le PAM, dont les activités ont fortement été développées ces dernières années, dispose de moyens appropriés lui permettant de répondre sans retard aux exigences d'une situation alimentaire évolutive, qualifiée de critique et de dramatique, et de répondre aussi normalement aux sollicitations des pays membres pour une assistance dans leurs projets de développement.

Ma délégation soutient en conséquence les demandes du Directeur exécutif en vue d'étoffer dans des proportions raisonnables le personnel du PAM. Je tiens toutefois à noter avec satisfaction que le rapport mentionne dans son paragraphe 8 "que les frais de soutien administratif technique et opérationnel" ont diminué en 1983. Je suis convaincu que ces moyens budgétaires nouveaux permettront au PAM de pallier les quelques insuffisances exposées par certaines délégations qui m'ont précédé ce matin et tout à l'heure (je pense notamment au Liban, à l'Inde, à l'Arabie saoudite), notamment insuffisance en matière de durée des approvisionnements. Il semble à cet égard que la durée moyenne des approvisionnements serait passée de 60 à 77 jours comme l'a précisé le représentant de l'Inde ce matin; des doubles emplois ont été soulevés (également par le représentant de l'Inde) ainsi que la synchronisation et la coordination des approvisionnements avec les pays concernés, de même que l'augmentation des volumes de fret au profit des pays en voie de développement, problème soulevé tout à l'heure par l'Arabie saoudite.

L'année 1983 a été pour le PAM une année importante. C'est l'année pendant laquelle a été célébré partout dans le monde le vingtième anniversaire du PAM, célébré aussi bien au niveau national, régional qu'international; le terme proposé par la FAO pour cette célébration - à savoir la sécurité alimentaire - a été le centre d'intérêt adopté par plusieurs pays qui ont voulu souligner la nécessité de donner un contenu à la notion de sécurité alimentaire mondiale en mettant l'accent sur le problème économique de l'accès des pays défavorisés aux ressources alimentaires.

Par ailleurs, l'année 1983 a été également l'occasion pour mon pays de présenter son expérience en matière d'utilisation de l'aide alimentaire. A cet égard je suis heureux de noter les bonnes relations de coopération fructueuse qui existent entre la Tunisie et le PAM. Les multiples projets de développement, exécutés depuis plusieurs années ou en cours d'exécution, ont revêtu différents aspects allant de l'aide au petit agriculteur, au développement de l'arboriculture, à la conservation des eaux et des sols, à la protection des bassins versants, à la lutte contre l'érosion des sols, etc. Les résultats positifs obtenus par mon pays ont fait de l'expérience tunisienne un exemple plein d'enseignements sur la bonne utilisation de l'aide alimentaire aux fins du développement.

L. GANSORE (Burkina Faso): La délégation de mon pays tient tout d'abord à remercier le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour la présentation claire et concise du document CL 86/9 consacré aux activités du PAM. Mon pays qui a pris part aux travaux de la dix-septième session du CPA estime que ce document contient des éléments fort utiles, et nous tenons à féliciter la FAO et le PAM qui ont su, et qui devront plus que jamais, mettre en commun leurs efforts pour venir en aide aux populations affectées par les catastrophes de tout genre. Mon pays appuie surtout les conclusions et les propositions de ce rapport, et notamment celles relatives aux mesures destinées à la formation en milieu rural. Nous appuyons également les efforts faits en faveur des pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier, particulièrement le contenu des paragraphes 50 et 76.

Au cours des débats sur ce point, des réflexions ont été faites par les uns et les autres. Nous souhaitons que ces réflexions puissent servir de source d'inspiration à l'élaboration d'un programme d'action destiné à soulager les populations.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): My delegation wishes to join the other delegations which have congratulated the Executive Director on his lucid presentation of this item. We would also like to applaud the entire Secretariat for the most impressive development of the World Food Programme in its twenty years of existence. The response of a record number of countries at the pledging conference early this year in New York is a clear demonstration of the confidence that the donors and beneficiaries attribute to the activities of the World Food Programme. My delegation would like, to put on record its appreciation for the emphasis being given by WFP to the sub-Saharan region which region has been engulfed by an unprecedented drought for almost ten successive years. The drought that has swept across the continent is believed to be the worst in a century and has decimated human life, livestock and food crops, forcing nations to spend their meagre and scarce resources for food imports. The quick response of WFP and the entire world community is highly commendable.

Secondly, we welcome the emphasis placed on assistance to agricultural and rural development projects as reflected in paragraph 23. This is in line with the objectives that food aid should be used to encourage increased food production domestically. We are very much aware that food aid is a necessary evil. We do not want to be dependent on food aid either on a bilateral or a multilateral basis entirely. The main objective of food aid apart from providing relief in emergencies should be to release the resources for utilisation in development activities. We therefore appreciate WFP's orientation of programmes towards agricultural production and rural development.

Finally, on the question of food aid targets, we are informed in paragraph 17 that WFP and FAO Secretariats had estimated cereal requirements to be just over 20 million tons a year by 1985. Regrettably, we are informed in paragraph 18 that the Committee did not come to any agreement on the increase in the target of 10 million tons. My delegation is of the view that in the light of the present disasters, an estimate of cereal aid requirements of 20 million, tons is more likely to be the correct one. We would therefore urge the Council to request the Committee to review this issue of raising cereal aid targets.

Finally, I wish on behalf of my delegation to thank the World Food Programme for the substantial assistance which my country has received from it. In conclusion, my delegation supports this report.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Tout d'abord, je tiens à associer ma voix au reste des délégations qui m'ont précédé pour remercier M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour la présentation du rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, document CL 86/9.

Je voudrais également remercier le représentant du Directeur général à la FAO de son intervention faite ce matin sur le document.

Je commencerai mon intervention en commentant le paragraphe 40 du chapitre 4, intitulé "opérations d'urgence". Effectivement, en 1983, comme il a été d'ailleurs très bien dit dans le rapport, le Programme alimentaire mondial a engagé 200 millions de dollars pour fournir 577 000 tonnes de vivres dans le cadre de 68 opérations d'urgence dans 38 pays (y compris les rallonges accordées pour un certain nombre d'opérations approuvées antérieurement). On peut dire que jamais les engagements pour les opérations d'urgence n'avaient atteint ce niveau. Toutefois, à notre avis, nous pensons qu'il serait utile de revoir les rubriques globales, et par région; je dis bien par région. Il serait utile également de connaître le temps qui s'est écoulé entre le moment où les pays ont adressé leur requête d'une part, et d'autre part le moment où la décision sur la requête a été prise, les vivres effectivement distribués sur le terrain, les opérations terminées, car il s'agit bien là d'opérations dites d'urgence.

En ce qui concerne les projets, notre délégation pense que l'évaluation des projets est fondamentale, c'est-à-dire que nous aurions souhaité que dans ce rapport il y ait des informations concernant les résultats des projets terminés en 1980. En d'autres termes nous souhaiterions qu'une analyse concrète de la performance des projets figure à l'avenir dans ce type de rapport.

Pour ce qui est du paragraphe 65 du chapitre 6, notre délégation aurait souhaité savoir combien sur les 1 905 000 tonnes de produits expédiés proviennent des réserves régulières, et combien sont expédiées pour le compte des donateurs bilatéraux. De même, nous pensons qu'il faut pouvoir acheter autant que possible des denrées locales dans les pays du tiers monde.

A cet égard, une analyse plus détaillée des achats et moyens financiers dont le Programme dispose pour ses achats, aurait été extrêmement utile à ce Conseil. Il faut absolument diversifier, je dis bien, le panier alimentaire. Notre délégation demande au PAM d'utiliser davantage les flottes des pays du tiers monde pour effectuer les transports maritimes de vivres entre ces pays. Je tiens à appuyer pleinement l'intervention de l'ambassadeur de l'Arabie saoudite sur ces propos.

Pour terminer nous voulons affirmer que selon notre expérience, l'aide alimentaire doit être intégrée au développement et elle doit être intégrée aussi étroitement que possible dans les plans de développement des pays bénéficiaires, comme l'a si bien dit ce matin le représentant du Directeur de la FAO. C'est pour cela que nous pensons qu'une programmation exacte par pays de l'aide alimentaire est importante pour assurer l'intégration de cette aide dans le cadre des plans nationaux de développement en tenant compte des situations spécifiques qui prévalent dans chaque pays. De même nous pensons que les futurs rapports de ce type devront tenir compte également des éventuels effets négatifs que l'aide alimentaire peut avoir pour le système de production nationale.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia reitera su apoyo al Programa Mundial de Alimentos. A ese respecto, declaramos que nos produjo singular complacencia la primera parte de la Declaración de Canadá, país amigo ligado al nuestro, Colombia, por importantes vínculos de cooperación, amistad y simpatía. Sinceramente compartimos la profesión de fe que se ha hecho en favor de la cooperación multilateral, seguros de que ese importante país, alto contribuyente del PMA, seguirá apoyando la función multilateral del Programa sin condicionamientos ni limitaciones.

Nos complace que la celebración del vigésimo aniversario del Programa haya coincidido con el más alto nivel de asignaciones para el desarrollo en toda la historia de este organismo.

Es satisfactorio registrar el hecho de que el PMA haya logrado esa posición destacada con el apoyo de Naciones Unidas y FAO, dentro del actual adecuado marco de cooperación.

El párrafo 5 habla de la participación del PMA en el Grupo Mixto de Acción con la FAO. Desearíamos que esa cooperación FAO/PMA se mantuviera, se incrementara y se reforzara en pleno entendimiento y con mutua cooperación en todos los aspectos comunes a las dos Organizaciones.

Todo esfuerzo de la FAO y del PMA, en conjunto, debe estar dirigido al mejor servicio a los países beneficiarios. A la delegación de Colombia le complace que los recursos del Programa sigan aumentando. Sin embargo, el objetivo de 1.350 millones para el bienio 1985-86, que nos había entusiasmado y que fue recibido con una relativa simpatía en la Conferencia de Promesas de Nueva York, parece que no se va a alcanzar, como lo declaró esta mañana el Señor Director Ejecutivo. Esperamos que en algún bienio, como no ha sucedido nunca hasta ahora, se logre alcanzar la totalidad del objetivo de las promesas.

Decimos esto porque el párrafo 54 indica que para el bienio 1983-84, de los 1 200 millones de dólares fijados, solo se han alcanzado el 82 por ciento. Por el contrario, la RAIE ha avanzado en condiciones satisfactorias.

Estamos agradecidos al distinguido colega, amigo y vecino de la derecha, el representante del Congo, quien señaló el párrafo 56 en el cual se hace referencia a dos países en desarrollo que, por primera vez, han contribuido a la RAIE: Argentina y Colombia. Como lo dijo nuestro colega del Congo, esa es una demostración de nuestra voluntad hacia la buena cooperación internacional.

Sobre la distribución regional, el dato según el cual el 10 por ciento, el más bajo entre todos, corresponde a América Latina y el Caribe, seguramente obedece a las características y condiciones de nuestra región. Sin embargo, algunos países de América Latina y el Caribe aún necesitan ayuda alimentaria, sobre todo para proyectos de desarrollo y alimentos por trabajo.

Por lo tanto, dentro de las prioridades del PMA que apoyamos, en cuanto a los países menos desarrollados y con más graves déficits de alimentos, convendría que, en el futuro, se considerara la posibilidad de identificar y preparar proyectos para aquellos países de otras regiones que aún necesitan asistencia alimentaria.

En relación con las "operaciones de urgencia", la parte referente a América Latina y el Caribe, merece nuestro apoyo; particularmente los desplazados en la América Central necesitan seguir recibiendo asistencia, así como los países damnificados por calamidades naturales. A ese respecto, y en nombre del gobierno de Colombia, deseo agradecer a los señores Saouma, Director General de la FAO y al señor Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA, la oportuna y eficaz asistencia que hace poco más de una semana vienen ofreciendo a algunos sectores de la población colombiana afectada por las recientes inundaciones.

Sobre compra de productos, ya el colega Embajador de Cabo Verde y otros, han hecho alguna referencia a fin de seguir explorando todas las posibilidades para que las compras se hagan en lo posible en países en desarrollo. La transacción triangular financiada por donantes bilaterales son importantes y producen beneficios a todos los países en desarrollo involucrados. Lamentamos que las compras bilaterales y las financiadas por Organizaciones de Naciones Unidas hayan descendido en un 24 por ciento en 1983 en relación con 1982.

Sobre el transporte, compartimos plenamente lo que ha dicho nuestro colega y amigo el Embajador Bukhari, de Arabia Saudita, quien con lujo de competencia presidió el CPA durante el año 1982, de manera que él conoce muy bien esa situación.

Se nos dice en el párrafo 67 que los países en desarrollo transportaron el 11 por ciento, y que ese porcentaje representa el 17 por ciento en número de barcos utilizados; pero no se hace comparación con los años anteriores. Desearíamos saber si son inferiores o superiores a los del año 1982. Tenemos la impresión de que en años anteriores estos porcentajes eran más altos y, como nos dijo el señor Bukhari, el CPA había experimentado un incremento.

Finalmente, y una vez más Señor Presidente, en tono mesurado, cordial, de respeto, pero firme, la delegación de Colombia desea referirse a la distribución geográfica del personal del PMA, a la cual aludió nuestro común amigo Abdel-Malek del Líbano. El párrafo 8 del documento habla de la propuesta aprobada en el 16º período de sesiones del CPA, sobre aumento del personal, pero no se agrega ningún dato más. Quisiéramos pedirle al Director Ejecutivo con todo respeto que cumpla su propósito de equilibrar esa situación que es desfavorable a los países en desarrollo. Cuando se discutió el considerable aumento de personal en el 16º período de sesiones del CPA, se nos dijo que ese aumento del personal facilitaría el balance de la situación, pero entendemos que no se ha logrado.

Sobre este asunto de personal seguiremos con toda atención y con permanente vigilancia la situación, y agradeceríamos al Director Ejecutivo que cuando lo considere oportuno se nos informe por los medios que considere convenientes.

Finalmente, apoyamos con toda simpatía la declaración del colega y amigo Abdel-Malek, del Líbano.

B. H. DJIBRIL (Benin): Mon intervention sera assez brève compte tenu du retard déjà accusé par le Conseil dans son travail de séance. La délégation de la République populaire du Bénin a attentivement pris connaissance du document CL 86/9 qui fait présentement l'objet de nos délibérations. Ce rapport précis et concis mérite les félicitations que nous adressons à M. Ingram et également à M. Régnier pour ses commentaires pertinents.

Ma délégation fait siennes les observations d'ordre général faites par la délégation de la République populaire du Congo. Par ailleurs, comme l'a déjà fait remarquer le délégué du Liban, nous aimerions avoir des informations sur la politique que le PAM a l'intention de suivre à l'avenir à la lumière des actions entreprises en 1983.

Nous avons également noté le manque d'informations sur les difficultés rencontrées et les moyens qui ont été mis en oeuvre pour y pallier. Le rapport ne dit pas non plus si les objectifs ont été atteints ou non ; il ne parle pas des pourcentages de réalisation, des goulots d'étranglement, pour ne citer que ces quelques points.

Par ailleurs, ma délégation se félicite du fait que le PAM s'intéresse aux pays à faible revenu et à déficit alimentaire mais il serait intéressé aussi de connaître si cette aide a été jugée adéquate, opportune par les pays bénéficiaires c'est-à-dire si l'aide arrive à ces pays au moment où il faut en tenant compte des habitudes alimentaires.

Ma délégation soutient sans réserve les objectifs de 20 millions de tonnes comme cible à atteindre en matière d'aide céréalière.

En ce qui concerne le chapitre 6 relatif au transport et activités connexes, ma délégation fait siennes les observations de l'Ambassadeur de l'Arabie saoudite et souhaiterait avoir des informations sur les points ainsi soulevés.

Pour terminer, ma délégation voudrait saisir cette occasion pour remercier le PAM et la FAO d'avoir apporté une aide substantielle à mon pays en 1983 au moment critique. Nos remerciements vont également aux différents pays donateurs et spécialement à l'Argentine et à la Colombie, deux pays en développement qui ont su donner l'exemple de la solidarité Internationale.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh) : We welcome the report which is now before us of the CFA. It is concise and factual and its eight sections have comprehensively reviewed the activities undertaken by the programme. We have noticed with satisfaction the highlights that were elaborated today by Mr Ingram. The WFP is no longer an experiment; it has celebrated its Twentieth Anniversary and it has come into its own as the largest multilateral source of assistance short of the World Bank.

We note also with satisfaction that it reached the highest level of development commitments in its history in 1983, and that in 1984 this is expected to rise further by 20 percent. The vast size of its operations entailed in its shipping 1.5 million tonnes is proof of its growth.

We have noted the efforts that have been directed towards alleviating the worsening crisis in Africa, and WFP's entry into the field long before the present crisis or climax.

We welcome the emphasis placed on the recognition of the imperative reality that food aid must of necessity be regarded as an integral and continuing part of development assistance until these countries have achieved self-sufficiency.

An important rider to this is that food aid must contribute towards national development and ultimately to self-reliance through linkage of food aid with national development.

We are happy also to note many of the innovative organizational approaches that have been initiated by the Executive Director, the review of selected national experience of individual countries which has proved to be of such beneficial use to the CFA.

The emphasis on food aid and training, particularly the role and participation of women, steps to improve the design, monitoring and management of the projects, the composition of carefully selected food baskets, the organized classification of development and projects in terms to achieve their developmental objectives, whether they be agricultural or rural development or the improvement of human resources. We have seen in this report the regional distribution trends. We have seen the categorization of development assistance according to the functions of food, and also the categorization in accordance with the beneficiaries, all of which have given us a much clearer picture of the direction of the Programme.

More important, we would like to commend the Executive Director for the concerted efforts to expand food aid on a multilateral basis, and we hope that his efforts will lead to the accomplishment of the target for the pledge for the 1985/86 biennium.

Mr Chairman, in commending and welcoming the growth of the Programme, we are conscious that there will always be room for improvement inherent in the very process of evolution. The touchstone of the Programme's success is ultimately linked to the usefulness of food aid as a catalyst in overall development. We are fully cognizant of the complexities involved, the variegated circumstances affecting not only groups of countries but each and every individual country.

It is in this connection that we welcome the constructive suggestions raised by Mr Regnier, the Director of the Office for Inter-agency Affairs, when he elaborated on four important aspects in the progressive evolution of the Programme, the stress of integrating food aid into the national development process, particularly measures to strengthen programming to the reinforcing of the cycle of projects; the need for closer examination of the food baskets with a view to diversification so as not to adversely affect established dietary habits, the steps to overcome the growing liquidity problems and its more effective use of cash in terms of purchasing policies, division of services, transport and logistic needs.

Bangladesh for obvious reasons has a vital if not imperative stake in the working of the FAO Council and the CFA and has a corresponding obligation to participate actively in this work. We recognise, along with the Director-General of the FAO, the complementarity of the objectives of FAO and CFA, and the essentiality of FAO's support for the Programme's success. We therefore express our fullest confidence that the Director-General of the FAO, in the very affirmation of this integral link, will indeed take into account all the views expressed by all the governments in consolidating and furthering the progress already achieved by the WFP and the FAO in maximizing food aid to developing countries.

F.J. FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España) : Voy a ser muy breve, quiero simplemente, en relación con el apartado 7 del documento en estudio, informar al Director Ejecutivo del PMA, señor Ingram, que el gobierno español está dispuesto a mantener los compromisos adquiridos con el Convenio de Ayuda Alimentaria Mundial y la RAIE. Al primero de estos Organismos, España aporta una cantidad de 20 000 toneladas anuales y, al segundo, 10 000 toneladas de trigo y 200 000 dólares en

efectivo. De la aportación en alimentos de los últimos cuatro años, el 80 por ciento han sido enviados por el PMA a países de África. En estos días se está llevando a cabo el embarque de 5 000 toneladas de trigo con destino a Etiopía.

Por último, mi delegación quiere unirse al llamamiento del ilustre Embajador de Colombia para que el PMA no olvide las necesidades puntuales de Latinoamérica.

ASSEFA YILAIA (Etiopía): The Ethiopian delegation would like to congratulate and thank the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, for the excellent presentation of the Ninth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The importance of WFP and all other sources of assistance for supplementing food shortages and its contribution to the development efforts of the recipient countries is immense.

Ethiopia is benefiting in WFP's Food for Work project and settlement projects. The emergency operations are of great significance to the continuous drought that affects a major portion of the country at present. The development projects in forestry development, soil and water conservations, construction of access roads to rural areas, training of personnel and the target operation is gaining recognition, and it is a commendable effort.

At this point we would like to indicate that the critical food shortage created by the severe drought in the 1984 cropping season will require the attention of all. Almost all of WFP's assistance programmes are playing very important roles in the long-term development projects and supplementing food shortages at the same time. These will continue to function because they will contribute to the long-term solutions of food problem in Ethiopia.

The present situation in Ethiopia is an emergency situation that will require an emergency response to which WFP has already responded and will continue to respond.

The emergency situation that we observe in Ethiopia today was revealed through the press and at a number of UN organizational meetings, among these the most recent, the IFAD in Paris, the CFA meeting in Rome and the Council meeting at present. The situation is very tragic and should be considered as the worst blow.

Finally, I would like to express our thanks for the substantial amount of assistance that WFP is providing to Ethiopia.

N.H. PASINI (Argentina) : Agradecemos la presentación realizada esta mañana por el Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y por el señor Regnier referente al 9º Informe Anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria.

Paso brevemente a señalar la posición de mi delegación sobre este importante tema de la agenda. En primer lugar, deseo reiterar, como ya lo hicieramos en distintos foros, nuestro convenimiento de que la ayuda alimentaria debe ser considerada como parte integrante y continuada de la cooperación para el desarrollo. Precisamente por ello es que tal programa requiere de un diálogo permanente entre donantes y beneficiarios a fin de que la cooperación se integre de forma más racional dentro de los objetivos y estrategias alimentarias nacionales.

Favorecemos también que se eleve el objetivo global de los 20 millones de toneladas sugeridos en el Noveno Informe. La situación de emergencia alimentaria que se vive en varias regiones del mundo y, muy particularmente en la de África, demuestran que el objetivo fijado con anterioridad no responde, lamentablemente, a las necesidades reales.

Asimismo debe tenerse en cuenta que la ayuda alimentaria debe constituir un instrumento de la comunidad internacional no sólo para enfrentarse a las catástrofes, sino principalmente para coadyuvar en las soluciones de los problemas estructurales que afectan a los países en desarrollo con déficits crónicos.

Por otra parte, vemos con agrado en el párrafo 15 del Informe que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos continúa realizando algunas operaciones triangulares. Confiamos que las mismas se amplíen sensiblemente en un futuro cercano, y debo decir que mi delegación comparte plenamente lo señalado por el señor Régnier en su presentación, en el sentido de que también se utilicen los fondos del Programa Ordinario para las adquisiciones de países en desarrollo.

Reiteramos lo dicho anteriormente en el sentido de que se amplíe la canasta de alimentos que componen la ayuda alimentaria adecuándola a los hábitos alimentarios de las poblaciones beneficiarias y a la capacidad real de producirlos localmente.

Por último, nuestra delegación quiere unirse a aquellas delegaciones que han manifestado su preocupación por la falta de una presencia equitativa del personal en la Secretaría del Programa proveniente de países en desarrollo, y particularmente de América Latina. No es ésta la primera oportunidad que nuestra delegación se refiere a este aspecto y, desafortunadamente, debemos reiterar esa preocupación nuevamente ya que entendemos no se han adoptado las medidas correctivas del caso.

El Programa Mundial de Alimentos cumple una misión muy importante canalizando la ayuda a quienes más la necesitan; merece nuestro total respaldo y puedo asegurarles que mi país continuará canalizando un alto porcentaje del total de sus contribuciones a la ayuda alimentaria a través de este Programa.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): On behalf of the Nordic countries my delegation welcomes the document in front of us and appreciates the introduction given to it by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme. In view of the late hour I find it impossible to go into the document in the detail that it deserves. I must heed your wish in this respect..

The Nordic Governments have followed with interest the progress of the World Food Programme since its inception as a small working operation 20 years ago until today it has grown into the largest channel of aid in the UN system apart from the World Bank. We supported this important work and we will continue to support it. We particularly appreciate that 80 percent of its volume goes to the low-income food-deficit countries and we wish this trend to continue.

We also appreciate the focussing on Africa as a continent that has had more than its share of misfortunes. We also wish this trend to continue in the present situation.

We support the concept of triangular transaction but we find here a practical difficulty to see how the Programme could devote much more of its regular resources to this, as the way we see it these resources are tied to the transport phase of the food that is otherwise given to the Programme.

A difficult problem concerning food aid is to combine it with long-term development, a concept that we are very much interested in and almost wedded to. Many delegations here have already stressed this question. But we welcome the efforts that the Programme has made to solve this question, and we understand the difficulties of this task, which is of paramount importance, especially for developing countries, but it is also important to those of us who believe that development is a common concern, a common task, for all countries. These difficulties make it even more necessary to at least not have administrative difficulties hindering the efficient operation of the Programme. That is why we note with appreciation the statement of the Director-General at the opening of our Council session and also the remarks of the Executive Director concerning the same matter, that a Task Force has been established to look at and to propose solutions to these difficulties.

As far as the Nordic countries' point of view is concerned I need only refer to the statement of my Minister speaking to this Council session on Tuesday morning in a major statement on behalf of the Nordic Governments.

H. WETZEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): First I would like to thank the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for the clear and comprehensive introduction to this agenda item.

The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany would like to make some brief comments. The World Food Programme did reach in 1983 a volume which it never reached so far. After the World Bank group it has become the largest development assistance resource within the UN system. This can be taken as evidence that the Programme and the work of its Secretariat are highly estimated by the donor community. My Government got the impression that the World Food Programme does its best efforts to fulfil its task in a concrete and pragmatic way. The Programme deserves our continuing support in order to enable it to use scarce resources in the most efficient way. To this end, the relatively small Secretariat of the World Food Programme must be enabled to concentrate all its capacities and energies on its important tasks, which include the implementation of the decisions of the CFA. Furthermore, it is necessary to secure good cooperation and mutual respect within the family of international organizations with the aim of optimizing the achievements of the UN system as a whole. Only under these conditions we can be sure that international cooperation will get that support which it deserves.

It has to be stressed that the work of the Programme is not confined to a single sector. Quite the contrary, the Programme is entitled to and in a position to contribute to development efforts in nearly every sector. The Programme has to explore innovative ways to integrate food aid into other forms of development co-operations. In this context we welcome the cooperation of the Programme with UNICEF, which is a UN organization with a multi-sectoral character as well. We welcome too the increasing cooperation of the Programme with the World Bank and other international financing institutions. Cooperation with NGOs can have a positive effect on the work in the field as well as on public opinion in donor countries.

Coming back to the statistics offered to us in the annual report 1983 I want briefly to comment on the activities of the Programme to low-income countries, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa. My Government as the third largest donor for Africa welcomes the high priority which the Programme attaches to this continent, notwithstanding the fact that it seems unavoidable that the bulk of the activities has to serve emergency operations, at least for the very near future.

I. MINTCHEV (Bulgaria): Let me congratulate that staff of the World Food Programme on 20-year-long work in managing and distributing the Programme's funds in the developing countries. The small number of staff, highly efficient and for the most part enthusiastic and dedicated, have greatly contributed to the good name of the Programme and have made significant efforts aimed at satisfying the needs of many countries of the world in terms of food production.

My delegation has studied document CL 86/9, presented for the attention of Council members, which reflects the work of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme. Our country does not take part in the World Food Programme but follows both its activities and results with attention. It appears to us that the universal character of the UN system, in which the WFP plays an important role, there is universality and justice in the actions undertaken with regard to all participating states. In this vein we will continue to follow the Programme's operation with attention and interest and will try to coordinate our bilateral aid programmes where by concurrence of circumstances projects of WFP are under way, so that the recipient country could utilize the resources provided by us in the most effective way.

In this connection, we fully support the activities of the Director-General of FAO for the technical backstopping of the activity of WFP and its efforts for just, efficient, and according to the real needs distribution of the emergency food aid.

May I express once more the conviction that the WFP will continue in the future to operate in collaboration with FAO in keeping the hope of millions of desperate people all over the world that there always will be the helping hand of international solidarity when they need help in cases of emergency.

T. KITLELI (Lesotho): My delegation would like to join those who have expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the Executive Director of WFP, Mr Ingram, for a well balanced document. Undoubtedly this subject of the agenda is one of the most important to us because it touches on a commodity which life is dependent on, which is food.

My delegation wishes to reflect on the following points. Our governments have development plans varying from village, district, regional and national. It is gratifying to see that in food aid policies and programmes there is provision for this. It could have been an enormous error if that was left out. My delegation strongly believes that self-sufficiency can be obtained in close collaboration and coordination with the programmes. Paragraphs 11 and 12 clearly spell out this idea.

The next item to which my delegation would like to pay attention has been addressed in numerous fora. I believe it would not be a waste of time if I took it up again. This is training, or to be most appropriate the human resource development in its widest context. Training can be organized for all levels of people. What my delegation would like to solicit is that there are existing institutions of excellence in all continents. It would be a question of strengthening their capabilities so that they can operate at their most efficiency. I am tempted to say that more often women are forgotten when preparing such training programmes and yet they form the most important segment of the community in contributing towards food production.

Therefore my delegation would like to echo the idea of training women, as the idea appears in paragraphs 23 and 24 of this document.

On the basis of the available information in document CL 86/9 it is observed that this Programme is increasing in leaps and bounds, especially in those developmental areas. Hence this calls for an increase in the original target of cereal food aid which is to be 20 million tonnes by the year 1985. My delegation believes that this idea has to be supported.

One area which requires great attention is the development of dairy projects. As we all know, this enterprise takes a long time before returns are noticed, but with proper management the project is economically viable. My delegation therefore supports the notion of committing certain funds to national dairy projects. This will not only step up the economy or generate income but it will also provide products which are of high nutritional value to human beings.

Although I mention this last it is not that its importance is less. This is overland transport which appears in paragraph 70 of the same document. Low-income food-deficit countries mostly do not have the capability to transport the commodities from where the donors deposit them to the needy people in the rural areas. The tendency is that such aid is left in stores which are not adequate and this results in wastage. My delegation wants to make a humble plea to the UN agencies and to WFP to look into this matter very seriously.

Once again we fully support this document and agree with all constructive contributions made this morning and this afternoon.

G.M. AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): We have reviewed the Ninth Annual Report submitted by the CFA to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO. We join all the previous speakers in thanking the Executive Director for this report. We commend the Programme and FAO for the efforts that they have undertaken to meet emergency needs. We thank the donor countries who have increased the aid provided through the Programme. However, we do hope that a special policy will be undertaken to face problems of drought and desertification in Africa. These problems are complicated ones and require coordination with other authorities. They require increased aid and a programme more able to combat the continued drought. The affected countries must be helped to adopt those development policies that take into account this hazard.

Finally, we support the questions and comments made by the delegates of Saudi Arabia and Lebanon and we hope that we will soon have answers from the Secretariat and receive further clarification in the next report.

ANDRE CRAVID (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): La délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe voudrait avant tout féliciter M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif, pour l'excellent exposé sur la situation du PAM. Notre délégation a eu l'occasion de lire les documents qui nous ont été soumis, notamment le CL 86/9 concernant les politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire et nous voudrions manifester notre accord avec leur contenu, en particulier pour ce qui est des paragraphes 11 et 15 qui disent que l'aide alimentaire devrait faire partie intégrante et continue de l'assistance au développement national pour permettre aux pays bénéficiaires d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire et que les opérations exécutées par le PAM devraient aussi avoir un caractère triangulaire et ces transactions pourraient être plus nombreuses à l'avenir. De même nous voudrions manifester notre accord au paragraphe 23 sur l'importance de l'aide alimentaire dans le rôle de la formation aussi bien dans le domaine non agricole qu'en agriculture. Sao Tomé-et-Principe a subi dans les dernières années une sécheresse qui a provoqué une baisse aussi bien des cultures d'exportation, en particulier le cacao que dans les cultures vivrières, ce qui a diminué la capacité du pays à importer les biens de consommation. C'est pour cela que le pays a soumis au PAM un projet d'aide alimentaire destiné aux travailleurs des entreprises agricoles et de projets de développement en cours, avec pour objectif de stimuler à une augmentation de la production et de la productivité. Notre délégation souligne l'importance et l'impact de ce projet pour le développement national, en particulier dans le domaine agricole et souhaiterait voir leur exécution pratique dès que possible. Pour terminer, notre délégation voudrait réitérer son appui au PAM dans son activité pour l'avenir.

M. YOSHII (Japan): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Ingram for his excellent presentation of the agenda item. Since 1963 the WFP has been steadily developing as a leading international agency for implementing food aid to assist developing countries. It is now the largest source of assistance within the United Nations system. We believe that this is witness to the fact that the important role of WFP has been recognized in the international community. In fact, my Government much appreciates the performance of WFP through the efforts made by the Executive Director and his staff. We hope WFP will continue its efforts to make this already reputable organization more efficient and more effective.

Taking advantage of this opportunity of my intervention, my delegation is pleased to inform the Council of the decision recently taken by my Government on the additional food and agricultural assistance to African countries this year, which amounts to 11.7 billion Yen, which is equivalent to around 50 million U.S. Dollars. This amount is additional to that already announced of 115 million U.S. Dollars.

As mentioned in the previous Japanese intervention in this Council, my country will continue to promote its assistance to African countries not only by way of food, food aid and emergency purposes, but also in the sphere of agricultural rehabilitation and further development of agriculture in those areas.

CHAIRMAN: We thank the distinguished delegate from Japan for his intervention and are grateful to his Government for this additional commitment.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Agradecemos al Director Ejecutivo, el Sr. Ingram, la presentación de hoy de este tema. La delegación de México aprueba el Informe Anual del CPA correspondiente al año 1983, debido a que refleja los logros obtenidos por el PMA en ese año.

En efecto, el vigésimo aniversario del Programa puso de manifiesto el importante papel que puede desempeñar, como segunda mayor fuente de ayuda para el desarrollo dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Hemos notado que el PMA ha sabido inspirar la confianza de los países donantes, muchos de los cuales canalizan gran parte de su ayuda, tanto bilateral como multilateral, a través del mismo, señal inequívoca ésta de la eficiencia que le reconoce, ya que prefieren utilizar al PMA en vez de establecer complicados y costosos mecanismos internos.

De la misma manera, un gran número de países en desarrollo contribuye a los recursos del Programa demostrando así su compromiso con el desarrollo y con la cooperación Sur/Sur.

Lo más notable de esto, señor Presidente, es que el porcentaje de los gastos de carácter administrativo, técnico y de apoyo a los proyectos, representó en 1983, como lo afirma el párrafo 8, el 1,9 por ciento y en dólares bajaron de 24 a 20 millones del bienio 78-79 al 1984-85.

Felicitamos al Programa Mundial de Alimentos por ello, y recordamos que fue por esta razón que el CPA aprobó en su 16° período de sesiones un aumento del personal en presupuesto administrativo, ante las seguridades dadas por el Director Ejecutivo, de que, en el mismo, no había nada que fuera en contra de la relación existente entre el PMA y la FAO, establecida por los documentos básicos; o que duplicara cualquiera de los servicios prestados por la FAO, y también de que no era su intención llegar a ello, de ninguna forma.

Nos hubiera gustado que esta afirmación contenida en el párrafo 149 del Informe de este período de sesiones, se transcribiera al documento que hoy analizamos. Al respecto, señor Presidente, se nos aseguró también que los puestos aprobados contribuirían a mejorar, en general, la inequitativa distribución geográfica del personal, aun aumentando el número de funcionarios provenientes de países en desarrollo. Destaco, en particular, la solicitud de la región de América Latina. Quisieramos saber si esto sucedió.

Como miembros del CPA hemos tenido la oportunidad de participar activamente en los debates del mismo, y nos hemos dado cuenta de que, como resultado de la insatisfactoria situación mundial de la agricultura, y de la carencia de un sistema de seguridad alimentaria, temas estos ampliamente tratados en este Foro, la ayuda alimentaria ha cobrado desafortunadamente una importancia fundamental que hace indispensable un análisis a fondo de su impacto en los países receptores.

Volvemos a insistir, por tanto, en que el PMA debe planear mejor y a más largo plazo el tipo, modo, monto y distribución de la ayuda alimentaria, a fin de hacer efectivo el objetivo de ligarla al desarrollo y a las estrategias nacionales de autosuficiencia y de seguridad alimentaria.

Nos preocupa, en particular, que a las operaciones de emergencia tengan que dedicarse tantos recursos. Deseamos que no se esté sacrificando, por ello, lo importante por lo urgente; y que, en todo caso, se recoja nuestro tradicional énfasis en que las calamidades recurrentes o los problemas prolongados sean atendidos de manera sistemática y rápida con el fin de atacar sus causas también con proyectos productivos.

Quisiéramos proponer, por tanto, que los aspectos teóricos y políticos de la ayuda alimentaria sean también considerados por este Consejo, y que se recomiende al CPA que en su próximo Informe Anual proporcione mayores elementos que permitan a todos los miembros, aun a los no representados por él, dar a conocer sus puntos de vista sobre este problema.

El Consejo podría así contribuir a las labores del CPA con orientaciones que reflejasen un abanico más amplio de opciones y de opiniones. Sabemos que el diseño de las políticas es responsabilidad inicial, pero no exclusiva, del CPA; y en áreas de la congruencia, reafirmamos aquí que la ayuda alimentaria no puede ser un fin en sí misma y que, dada la situación actual, debe ser parte integrante de la estrategia de la seguridad alimentaria, para que mientras sea necesaria incida en el proceso de desarrollo.

Quisiéramos enfatizar también, le pedimos disculpas por el tiempo que estamos tomando, algunos párrafos del Informe Anual que contienen conceptos que, creemos, este Consejo debe refrendar.

Me refiero al párrafo 11, donde se afirma que el Comité subrayó que la ayuda alimentaria debía contribuir al desarrollo nacional, y en ultimo término, a la autosuficiencia. Asimismo, como lo afirma el párrafo 12, dicha ayuda alimentaria debe estar encaminada a reforzar las medidas a nivel nacional, dentro de los planes de desarrollo de los países receptores. Tal y como se expresa en el párrafo 14, la coordinación de toda la ayuda debe ser dirigida por los gobiernos receptores.

Se nos ha presentado un documento que pone de relieve los grandes logros del Programa, de los que nos congratulamos. No debemos olvidar, sin embargo, que la propuesta inicial de establecer un objetivo de promesas en 1 500 millones de dólares para 1985-1986, aumento modesto pero indispensable, no fue aceptado ni tampoco lo fue el incremento a 20 millones de toneladas de cereales, como indicador de las necesidades de ayuda alimentaria en 1985.

Los hechos han demostrado que esos objetivos no eran demasiado ambiciosos. Por otra parte, la RAIE superó por segunda vez su objetivo de 500 000 toneladas, aunque sin embargo, ese objetivo es también insuficiente, como ya se indicó en la séptima Conferencia de Jefes de Estado o de Gobierno de los Países no Alineados, presidida dignamente por la Sra. Gandhi, cuya pérdida no dejamos de lamentar, y quien solicitó que aumentara a 2 millones de toneladas.

Esto refleja que la situación en que se encuentran actualmente los Organismos internacionales, aun aquellos que como el PMA gozan del apoyo de los países desarrollados, es digna de preocupación por los esfuerzos enormes que tienen que realizar para poder llevar a cabo sus tareas en favor del desarrollo, a pesar de la restricción de sus recursos.

Hemos asistido recientemente al Consejo de Gobernadores del FIDA, y sus resultados negativos nos obligan a reafirmar la validez de la búsqueda de soluciones a los problemas de los países en desarrollo, dentro del marco multilateral, y de acuerdo con los lineamientos establecidos por los Organismos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, única forma justa de establecer las relaciones entre las naciones.

De acuerdo con este orden de ideas, creemos que el PMA debe reafirmar su vocación multilateral, como ha sido señalado ya por varias delegaciones, recuerdo en particular la de Canadá, tomando muy en cuenta lo que se afirma en el párrafo 64, y cito: "Hay que velar por que las operaciones bilaterales atendidas por el PMA no redunden de forma alguna en perjuicio de las actividades del Programa, y promuevan ulteriormente los objetivos de éste".

En este sentido, solicitamos también que se incrementen las operaciones triangulares. En lo que se refiere al tipo de proyectos realizados, queremos manifestar nuestra preocupación porque el porcentaje de los proyectos de desarrollo ha disminuido. Notamos también que no hubo ningún proyecto para establecer reservas de alimentos. Esperamos, sin embargo, que esto se haya corregido en el reciente año, e instamos al Programa a que lo tome en cuenta para sus actividades futuras.

Por último, consideramos que el párrafo 58 señala que el 88,5 por ciento de los productos proporcionados, corresponde a cereales, harina de cereales y productos lácteos. Solicitamos que el PMA diversifique los proyectos de ayuda alimentaria abarcando, en lo posible, todos los alimentos básicos, no sólo cereales sino también pescados, raíces, tubérculos, legumbres y otros alimentos complementarios que tienen mayor aceptación en las poblaciones objetivo, preservan los hábitos alimenticios tradicionales y coadyuvan al desarrollo de la producción local de los mismos.

De ahí se desprende la importancia de que el PMA obtenga la proporción que señalan las normas generales con respecto al monto de los recursos en dineros y servicios para que esté en posibilidad de adquirir ese tipo de productos en los países en desarrollo.

Igualmente, notamos que la utilización de buques de esos países fue notoriamente baja. Esto debe corregirse, como lo han dicho otros distinguidos delegados. Nos referimos en particular a las cuestiones que destacó la delegación de Arabia Saudita. La responsabilidad del Programa Mundial de Alimentos es enorme. Como instrumento de transmisión de la ayuda alimentaria, debe poner en práctica numerosas re-soluciones ya adoptadas por la comunidad internacional en las Naciones Unidas y en la FAO, instituciones que le dieron origen y de las que, legal y estatutariamente, depende. Su actuación debe estar, por tanto, ligada a la estrategia general para el desarrollo y ser congruente con el concepto arapliado de seguridad alimentaria mundial. No deberá permitir que la ayuda alimentaria sea utilizada como instrumento de presión política. Cuenta para lograr ese objetivo con el apoyo de todos los países re-presentados aquí.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): I wish to congratulate the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, on his very lucid report and introduction. Mr Chairman, the highlights of the World Food Programme for 1983 indicated the upswing of its activities with regard to commitments of 696 million dollars. We wish to commend the role played by the WFP in coordinating major policies in various countries of the Third World to alleviate human suffering there. We wish to endorse fully the action taken by the Committee in supporting the Executive Director to increase staff in order to cope with the increased workload. This is commendable action under the prevailing circumstances.

With regard to food policies and programmes, I wish to comment on the review of food aid policies. While support the views expressed by the Committee in paragraphs 11 and 12 of document CL 86/9 which is before us, it must also be emphasized that such food aid must contribute to agricultural development leading to self sufficiency in food. Therefore, the Executive Director of WFP, in consultation with FAO, must establish cut off points when further food aid is unnecessary. We further endorse that the proposal in the document at paragraph 13 needs to be studied. We will be pleased to know the findings of such a study and the proposed follow-up on the exercise when it is finalized.

On the subject of coordination and the role of the CFA, my delegation fully agrees with the Committee that coordination at national level is important, as stated in paragraph 14. My delegation fully supports triangular transactions as outlined in paragraph 15 as they help Third World countries to obtain foreign exchange as well as food aid which they need so badly. Efforts should not be spared to obtain foodstuffs within the affected region, if this is possible, for obvious reasons.

We fully endorse the observation of the Committee in paragraph 16 that there is need for training for WFP field staff and the staff of the recipient government. Such training should enhance the efficient use of food aid. Where problems have been observed in the Programme, remedial action should be taken promptly. On the theme of food requirements and targets, I make the point that since the problems of human suffering from hunger have increased substantially in developing countries, and noting the warning of the Director-General that food production will be insufficient to feed people in Africa in 1985, we have no choice but to take appropriate steps in order to avert the impending human catastrophe there, so that the international Community is prepared to assist.

The Council should therefore accept the new target, raising it from 10 million to 20 million tons, in spite of the fact that there was no unanimity within the Committee when this matter was discussed, as revealed in paragraphs 17 to 18.

Experience with Food Aid Programmes and Policies: on this point my delegation fully accepts the proposal under paragraph 19 to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of WFP and therefore, we urge the Council to approve the proposed and justifiable action.

With regard to food aid and training, my delegation is in full agreement with the proposed action in paragraphs 23 and 24 that women in developing countries be the target group for the proposed training. However, my delegation would like to know how women will be involved. I am pressing this point because it has not been clearly spelt out in the report.

On development commitments to low-income and least developed countries, my delegation would like to know if food aid pegged at six percent of the total development commitment is in actual fact above the needs of the least developed countries, as stated in paragraph 28. The picture portrayed there could be misleading without this piece of information to elucidate it further.

On outlook for 1984, although the task before the WFP is formidable, my delegation urges the Executive Director to pursue the goal he has set himself in paragraph 75.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nuestra fe en la ayuda multilateral nos ha hecho apoyar al PMA como instrumento de ayuda eficaz para el desarrollo de los países, además de llegar con urgencia en los casos debidos.

Felicitemos la presentación del señor Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA y al señor Regnier, de FAO, por el Noveno Informe Anual del CPA, al ECOSOC, o Consejo de FAO. Sobria y objetiva la introducción del señor Ingram nos permite saludar los resultados del trabajo del PMA durante 1983 y sus logros. Esperamos que se continúe con el mismo ritmo. Mi país considera que la función hacia el desarrollo de los proyectos puede contribuir a eliminar los efectos negativos que pueda tener dentro de los países en cuanto a los desincentivos de la ayuda en cuestión que se ha analizado repetidamente.

Las urgencias en 1983 paliarían la difícil situación alimentaria que se atraviesa, aunque se demostró con la urgente crisis al sur del Sahel, que la emergencia y urgencia no eran suficientes; por la que creemos debe incrementarse la cantidad propuesta.

Queremos apoyar lo planteado por el señor representante de Cabo Verde, en la necesidad de que se incremente también la compra en países en desarrollo, cuestión que contribuye además a ayudar a estos países.

Finalmente, apoyamos el documento y al Director Ejecutivo, señor Ingram, por su empeño en la ayuda multilateral.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand); First could I just put on record my delegation's appreciation of the introduction that Mr Ingram and Mr Regnier gave this morning to this comprehensive Report of the CFA. I think that the success and impact of the WFP is more than evidenced by the continued support from donor countries, and indeed if one reads the report, particularly at paragraph 7, contributions hopefully are expected to increase the 1985/86 biennium budget based on the pledging conference held earlier this year.

I have one or two other points that the New Zealand delegation would like to refer to set out in the highlights for 1983. This is not to say that the ones that are not referred to are not important, but to note, first of all, in 1983, as the report says in paragraph 3, the 20th anniversary of the WFP was marked by the highest development commitments in its history, some 696 million, representing over 1.4 million metric tons of food, a significant figure in anybody's judgement.

Second, in paragraph 5, the report of course does point up the real efforts made by the World Food Programme and that are continuing to be made in relation to the serious food problem in Africa.

Paragraph 7, as I said earlier, refers to this pledging target of 1.35 billion for the 1985/86 biennium, and while this is only a target, it has subsequently been endorsed and certainly is evidence of the confidence that member nations have in the Programme.

Finally, from the report, it should be noted that at paragraph 8, the comment is made that currently, measured against total World Food Programme assistance, operational costs represent only about 1.9 percent. I think that is a thing that should be kept in mind, because it does instance the effectiveness and tightly run approach of the World Food Programme.

New Zealand sees the World Food Programme as the best way of handling multilateral food aid, and indeed, we have preferred this approach to bilateral food aid. We feel the Programme remains a very good way of getting food aid to where it is needed most, and the African situation of course is a prime example of this.

We would like to thank Mr Ingram and his staff. The challenges facing the Programme are no less important for the future than they have been in the past. New Zealand feels it is important that lessons learnt in the past twenty years as to how successfully the Programme can handle multilateral food aid must indeed make the Programme even more effective in the future. Particularly, I would like to echo the comments made earlier by the Federal Republic of Germany when he referred to the World Food Programme initiatives with other international agencies. We are confident that the initiatives of this kind currently being undertaken by the Executive Director will provide additional methods by which multilateral food aid can be made even more effective and worthwhile.

Finally, there is no evidence that the World Food Programme is resting on its laurels. Indeed, far from it. The Programme continues to shoulder the immense responsibilities which face it, and it is seeking out ways in which these responsibilities can be discharged even more effectively.

In conclusion, we think the report is ample evidence of a job well done.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela) : ya sería un lugar común felicitar al señor Ingram por su buen informe, pero yo quisiera recalcar algunos de los hechos que contiene este informe y que nos parecen interesantes.

Sencillamente para apoyar su labor y para desear que en el futuro este Programa continúe los lineamientos que ha seguido durante la gestión que usted preside y especialmente para atender un poco a los países en desarrollo y a la colaboración que éstos pudieran prestar. Entendemos que lo más urgente es atender a aquellos países que están entre los más necesitados; pero hay algunos puntos del informe que quisiéramos resaltar.

Apoyamos, por ejemplo a México cuando plantea que la ayuda alimentaria no debería continuar siendo exclusivamente a base de cereales, cuyo porcentaje es realmente absorbente de toda la ayuda alimentaria. Países que están en regiones tropicales, están cambiando sus hábitos alimenticios casi a

fuerza de no proporcionarles más que cereales de los que se llaman de primera calidad. Siendo que la agricultura de estos países imposibilitados de producir trigo, y habituados al consumo de otro tipo de alimentos, en este caso podría ser estimulado por programas agrícolas de cultivos de estos tipos de plantas, con lo cual podría ayudarse a sus propios países y a los países que están en iguales circunstancias en regiones geográficas similares; eso es lo que yo pienso que podría sugerirse como un aporte al desarrollo futuro del programa de ayuda alimentaria.

Asimismo, podríamos pensar que esta ayuda multilateral, creciente cada vez más, pudiese constituir una colaboración más inmediata de los países que actualmente están sufriendo las mayores calamidades, como son los países africanos y los países asiáticos.

En la operación triangular, por ejemplo, esos programas mínimos a que hago alusión en desarrollo agrícola, podrían inducir a países pequeños que no tienen una base de agricultura para la exportación, a desarrollar alguna producción que pudiera servir para estimular el desarrollo de una agricultura mejorada y que pudiera servir también de estímulo para los países que están en similares circunstancias. De esta misma manera podríamos incluir, estando de acuerdo con alguien que lo sugirió, creo que fue Lesotho, que este programa se ampliase, como lo señala el informe del Señor Presidente, no sólo a esta ayuda alimentaria en el sentido de ayuda por especies, sino a la capacitación para la producción de alimentos incorporando a las mujeres de estos países que actualmente, en muchos casos por su incapacidad, porque son analfabetas o no están suficientemente orientadas para ser productoras.

Quiero felicitar al Presidente por la atención que le ha dado a un programa de fomento lechero, que espero va a atender en estos países a una porción de la población duramente golpeada por la falta de alimentación en los primeros años de vida de los niños. Estos niños que en sus primeros años de vida no pueden alimentarse con un alimento vital como es la leche, cuya repercusión en su vida, no solamente física, sino también intelectual, es ya un lugar común entre los científicos que estudian los efectos de los alimentos en la infancia y en los primeros años de la vida.

Quería plantear asimismo, otro problema relacionado con esta población desplazada; y quiero subrayar población desplazada, que van de un país a otro no por la guerra como anteriormente, o por los desastres físicos, sino por la falta de trabajo en sus propios países. Hay comunidades que realmente llegan casi al hambre porque en sus países no hay posibilidad de desarrollar un trabajo y acuden al vecino que les ofrece unas condiciones un poco mejores que el suyo. Eso conduce a que estos otros países mantengan una inmigración en muchos casos irregular porque en los países de origen no hay posibilidad de alimentos.

Si nosotros pudiéramos atender con este programa esta situación, no sólo de desastres y de causas de la guerra, sería una interesante oportunidad y una mejora para que la ayuda multilateral pudiera ser más efectiva.

Creo que no podríamos nosotros abarcar todo el informe porque es demasiado largo, pero estos puntos que nos han sido referidos por los oradores que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, podrían ser tomados en cuenta para quienes tengan que hacer el informe de esta reunión y para el inmediato futuro de este Organismo de Programa y Ayudas.

J.C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): Realizing that you have passed your 4 o'clock deadline, realizing also that it would take probably take me an hour or so to respond to all the points raised, I will try and be short, but first I would like, of course, to thank all the delegations who have spoken. This debate, in fact, as is invariably the case in relation to the World Food Programme, elicits a large number of speakers. We find that in itself very encouraging indeed that so many delegations are sufficiently interested in the Programme to comment at some length. It encourages us, and that is what we need.

I should also say perhaps before I go into some points of detail that the report itself, of course, is a report to three bodies. It is not only to the FAO Council, it is to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the World Food Council. It is of necessity rather synoptic, and it is always presumed that if a delegation has a deep interest in a particular matter, they will of course refer to the reports and documentation of the two sessions that take place during the period of the review, and I would particularly refer in this context to the annual report of the Executive Director, which includes a great many of the detailed statistics which have been sought by many delegations, so I am not going to give you all those statistics because most of them are in the Executive Director's Annual Report.

Now just a few, I think, of some of the more interesting questions that came up. I think the first point which recurs fairly frequently really is this functional allocation of WFP'S resources between agriculture and rural development and human resources development. The fact is that under the general regulations of the Programme human resource development is seen as an equally important

form of investment as our other activity, and we find, and indeed over the years have found, a fairly consistent interest by governments in programmes of human resource development, and as I said earlier, there are fluctuations from year to year, but overall the basic distributions of around two-thirds for agricultural and rural development and one-third for human resources development has been maintained over the years. You do get fluctuations from year to year, and in 1983, as it happened, purely by coincidence, many expansions of existing projects in the human resources area came before the Council, and I might say that many of them relate to countries which have spoken on this point in the debate.

Food reserve projects: in fact, there were actually two food reserve projects approved in 1984, not one, and we have in the pipeline for 1985 seven projects whose value is \$66 million, which is quite significant, but I have to say also that at the last session of the CFA there was an evaluation document, a sectoral evaluation study of food reserve projects, and that study revealed that while the concept is admirable and must be pursued with great vigour, nevertheless there are many real complexities and difficulties in designing and implementing such projects, but, as I say, compared with 1983, two in 1984 and seven projected for 1985. On the question of the emergency response time, the Ambassador of India referred to certain figures which are actually not in the report but which we gave to him at the last meeting of the CFA. We are showing that there has been an increase in the time from 60 days to 77 days. This is based on a comparison of the first six months of 1983 compared to the first six months of 1984. Now I will just make two points, that this is a subject which is always before the programme, because obviously one wants to reduce the response time in emergencies to the lowest extent possible, but we also have to recognize that there are certain constraints. In 1983 for example, we were able to initiate distribution under emergency operations in 57 percent of the emergency operations on the basis of stocks which were either belonging to WFP in the country concerned or from the governments own stocks, and this in practice is the quickest way of providing an emergency response. But I have to say that recently we have been experiencing more difficulties than perhaps on average in our opportunities for borrowing, because it happens sometimes that the government itself - for various reasons - would prefer not to see borrowing because after all these borrowings come, say, from development projects, and the government may feel that it wishes not to see such projects disrupted. We also have situations where, for some reason or other, - and it is very laudable - there may be pledges available from nongovernmental organisations, and so the priority is given to their utilization ahead of the use of WFP stocks, the government preferring to wait for the arrival of the actual shipment. So I am only mentioning this to indicate it is a complex issue, as all issues are in relation to food aid, and the experience of one six months compared with another is not all that critical. The important thing is that we seek to try and bring the time down, and for example we also divert shipments that are intended for one country to another, but again that is done with some reluctance as you can imagine, because again that is going to possibly cause some difficulties for the other countries. To give you a very concrete example, just today we are diverting a ship with 28 800 tonnes of wheat which was destined for a particular country - the food comes from Australia - and it has been diverted to Ethiopia and it will arrive at the beginning of December. So there are many ways in which we try to deal with this problem but it is something where in every case we have to be very careful that what we are doing will not, so to speak, cause more trouble than the remedy itself.

I will just mention briefly - this is in relation to some remarks which were made about how do we assist performance of projects, and should we not say more about it in each of these reports. The fact is that since WFP was born, project evaluation has been a feature of its work and every session of the CFA has before it detailed evaluation reports. I say, I think without fear of contradiction, that there are not any other bodies within the UN system that present such full and open evaluations of their activities, and again I would suggest for those who are interested, that they examine some of these evaluation reports that were at our CFA session for example, just a few weeks ago.

The same goes of course for emergencies and we used not to evaluate performance in emergencies, but we have in the last year or two begun to do this because equally the lessons you learn from the mistakes or otherwise, and successes that you make in particular emergency projects, are just as valuable for the future as are the lessons from development projects.

On the use of vessels from developing countries I have to stress that the policy under which we operate is to give preference to vessels from developing countries whenever they are competitive. It is not an absolute preference; it is a preference if their prices are competitive, and the difficulty is of course that who we use at any particular time is going to depend upon the particular pattern of movement of commodities from the donor country who has possession of the commodities - WFP does not own anything at all, or very little anyway; we only take the title when it is given to us. We do not have a big stock of food waiting to use. So therefore the very nature of the pattern from donor to recipient will vary every year. We also have to take account of the fact in most cases developing country vessels are only available for the movement of food shipped as return freight to their homeland. This is the way that the shipping trade for the main developing countries operate. Now it is true that in 1983 less was moved in developing countries' vessels than in 1982, but the reason is precisely the one that I just gave, that in 1982, as it happened, there were many vessels available from developing countries able to take food to their homelands. These circumstances vary from year to year. I have the figures for each year and there is no particular

pattern in them except that it oscillates about 15 percent from year to year. We have had an outside consultant review our transport operations and one of the aspects they looked at was whether in fact we are giving the requisite preference to developing countries, and his report, which was available in full to the CFA shows that we do.

On the purchasing policy of course again we share very much the view expressed by so many countries that purchases from developing countries should be maximized, and of course they can only be maximized if we have got the cash to do so, and also if the commodities are available because again they are not always available. As explained in paragraph 61, the drop in 1983 as compared with 1982 was essentially due to our inability to purchase where we normally had been able to purchase from developing countries. After all, if there were vast quantities of food available for purchase in developing countries we would not really need food aid either. We have to keep in perspective that that is not the case, and that in Africa for example, while we have made very big purchases from Kenya and Malawi, we have not been able in the recent year or so to purchase from Zimbabwe which has been the main source of maize. But a few concrete figures, for you; purchases in 1982 were 87.7 million dollars. Of that amount, 21.5 million dollars was for purchases in developed countries. The balance of 66.5 million dollars was from developing countries, so the overwhelming amount of purchases are from developing countries. But where they are from developed countries it is because a developed country has made cash available under, for example, its food aid convention commitment and it has got to come from a developed country. It is not a matter of choice by the Programme.

Now the cash position of the Programme is such that the amount of cash available to us for purchase from our regular resources is declining, but I am pleased to say that at least in this new biennium we are about to begin, the biennium 1985 86, in the pledges that have been made the percentage of the pledges in cash and services has risen, so perhaps there may be a little more scope as we enter that biennium than there has been in the past, but I would stress it really is a function of our overall cash situation, and while the availability of cash seems to be rather high, in practice on the basis of future projections it will be imperative for donors to provide more cash in the future if the programme is not to enter a general liquidity problem situation.

I think, Mr Chairman, those are some of the main points I wish to speak about. On the geographical distribution of staff, this comes up at every meeting I ever go to and I keep giving the same answer, but either I am not clear or someone is not listening. Anyway the fact is: in practice there is an imbalance not only in relation to developing countries but in relation to quite a number of developed countries. This Programme has only a relatively small staff. It takes time to overcome, it is being slowly overcome, and we will continue to make our efforts in those directions.

I also welcome very much the delegations who commented on the importance of training efforts. That is something that we will be doing a great deal more of in the future as our capacity staff-wise is being increased in this respect, and we will be making particular efforts to help the developing countries train their personnel in areas relating to food aid.

I think, Mr Chairman, I would like to say a lot about women and development because I think it is such an important issue, but I fear that if I start on that topic it will lead me into too long a discourse, but simply to say that we do give a lot more than lip service in WFP. It is not actually a very easy subject to deal with. It is one of those things like motherhood today, everyone is in favour of it but it is not easy. We are serious about it and we recognize that in so many developing countries women working in agriculture bear much of the production burden and that so many aid efforts - not only ours but almost everyone's - have not taken full regard to her role, and we are very anxious indeed to see that our projects over time do seriously address this issue.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je m'étonne des réponses fournies par M. Ingram et en fait les questions qui lui ont été posées étaient fondamentales. Néanmoins je n'ai pas eu de réponses à ces questions que j'ai posées. Les réponses ne m'ont pas été données. Donc, c'est qu'il n'a pas pris note de ces questions. Je suis prêt à les reformuler et j'attends une réponse.

J.C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): I suggest that the representative repeat his questions.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Le rapport n'a pas été clair en ce qui concerne l'achat des produits. 1) Il n'y a jamais eu d'analyse sur les produits achetés, sur leur origine et sur les pays qui ont bénéficié de ces produits 2) ensuite il est fait mention des transactions tripartites qui ont été financées par les donateurs bilatéraux. Mais qu'en est-il des achats faits par le budget ordinaire du Programme? 3) En 1983 quel était le volume des achats? et queues ont

été les dépenses en liquide? 4) Quels sont les services que le PAM fournit aux donateurs bilatéraux et auxquels se réfère le paragraphe 63 du rapport et y a-t-il d'autres moyens de distribution que les quatre indiqués? 5) Il existe un tableau des redevances perçues par le PAM sur les services rendus à des organisations bilatérales. Y a-t-il encore lieu d'assurer les coûts de ces services dans le cadre du nouveau programme? Si tel est le cas quels seront ces coûts? 6) Dans le paragraphe 64 il est dit que le PAM pense que les services qu'il fournit à des opérations bilatérales ne nuisent en aucune façon à ses activités, comment cela peut être exécuté? Des explications à toutes ces questions peuvent-elles nous être fournies?

J.C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): I did give in fact some information about the purchasing in 1983. I said that US \$87.7 million had been purchased in 1983. I will give you all the countries and all the amounts if you need it but I think it might be easier to pass it separately to the distinguished representative from Lebanon, but I have the full breakdown here of the US \$87.7 million. The main commodity purchased was maize - US \$35 million; rice - US \$26.9 million; wheat - US \$12.6 million; pulses - US \$5 million; sorghum - US \$1.9 million; miscellaneous - US \$6.3 million, making a total of US \$87.7 million.

The source of the funds of the US \$87.7 million was US \$4.8 million from WFP's own regular cash resources, US \$3.1 million from cash pledges by donors specifically for commodity purposes, US \$2 million provided by United Nations agencies, US \$53.3 million from bilateral donors, US \$3.4 million from FAC donors, US \$21.1 million by IE.FR donors. That is the cash breakdown.

The services provided too by bilateral donors depend on the particular donor but it may involve the purchase of that food. I mentioned, for example, a moment ago that they provided US \$53.3 million for purchases. They wanted us to arrange the purchase, they wanted us in that case to ship the food depending on the particular transaction because each transaction is different, they would want us to engage in some form of monitoring. If you want us to engage in some form of monitoring of what happens to the food that reaches the country in question it may be simply to be handed over to the authorities of the Government to use as they will. It may be in support of very specific development programmes of the sort that WFP specialize in. They may have invited us to arrange the insurance, a whole range of services. These services are performed for a fee. They are not done for nothing, they are done for a fee. The fee is intended to cover our marginal costs. The level of fees has been approved by the CFA and was recently revised in fact.

As regards paragraph 64 it means what it says. Clearly there has to be some balance in the Programme between the total amount of the efforts spent on multilateral activities and the amount done for bilateral donors. We keep that amount reasonable, relatively small in relation to the total activities of the Programme, and in fact it is not really different in concept from the multilateral activities undertaken by all of the specialized agencies, every one of which accepts large sums of money from bilateral donors to be spent on projects of one sort or another. But the essential point, as I have said, is to keep the balance reasonable so that the bilateral activities do not assume a disproportionate importance.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): May I request Mr Ingram to be good enough to clarify one point which I mentioned, whether the food aid at the WFP's command at present is sufficient to meet the needs of people for the duration of the situation.

J.C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): Each emergency problem is approved for a period which appears to be sufficient for the purpose. If it is going to be a very protracted operation it will be subject to successive approvals. Refugee situations are the commonest in that regard. But we undertake to support a given number of beneficiaries with sufficient food for the period that is deemed necessary, for example, until the next harvest. That it is a defined number of beneficiaries. We are not of course undertaking to satisfy every country's total problem.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia considera que el Sr. Ingram tiene razón cuando ha dicho que en materia de personal, siempre planteamos los mismos asuntos; y siempre él nos da las mismas respuestas. Siempre nos dice que está tratando de mejorar la situación. Creo que el Director Ejecutivo tiene toda la razón cuando lo ha dicho así, pero nosotros desearíamos que además de esa frase ritual, se nos diera como ya lo dije, por los medios convenientes, no aquí en este Consejo, la información en detalle.

Sería conveniente que el Sr. Ingram enviara a las Embajadas, somos representantes de Gobiernos, a las Embajadas interesadas en estas cuestiones, una información acerca de cómo se distribuyó el nombramiento de los nuevos puestos autorizados por el 16° período del CPA. Repito; no queremos que esto se haga aquí pero si que se atienda a los representantes del Gobierno por el canal más adecuado.

J.C. INGRAM (Exexutive Director, World Food Programme): I must say, Mr Chairman, that the issue of how particular posts established in relation to a particular budget are filled seems to me to be something which would not give a very meaningful view of what was happening. What matters is the geographical distribution of staff. There are no secrets about this. We have given plenty of figures. We are willing to give them again. I do not have them with me now but we will let Ambassador Bula Hoyos have some more detailed information.

CHAIRMAN: Will you kindly send them? I would now like to thank all the delegates who have spoken on this very important item. I want to thank you, Mr Ingram, for your presence, for your lucid introduction and for your clarifications. I want to join the other delegates in congratulating and thanking you and your dedicated colleagues on your outstanding work reported during 1983. Mr Regnier, do you want to say something?

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): Just a small clarification, if you will allow me. The question was raised whether FAO intervenes in the purchase of commodities by the WFP or the shipment of foodstuffs. Some clarification on this could be given in a few words. The answer is simple. It is no. The purchase of foodstuffs from commercial suppliers is normally made by competitive bids and FAO does not intervene. Tenders are issued by the World Food Programme. If you look at the guidelines and procedures for purchases by the World Food Programme you will see that it is clearly stated that the Executive Director exercises overall control and supervision over purchases made by the Programme. The final operational responsibility for all decisions regarding purchases rests with the Director, Resource Management Division. Internally there is a Working Group of not less than 5 staff members, and FAO does not participate, and the Director of the Resource Management Division may at his discretion waive tender procedures for purchases below \$25 000. For purchases from private commercial firms in excess of this amount he may do so only after prior approval of the Executive Director. So the Executive Director has a unlimited authority in the matter. Also all purchases affected by the Programme are covered by a purchases contract signed by both parties, and FAO is not a party to the signature. So WFP is absolutely autonomous in these operations. FAO does not intervene. It is also the case for transport and shipment of foodstuffs. Of course we are not speaking about tiny amounts. During the biennium 1982/83, the amount involved for the purchase for commodities and transport was around US \$180 million. I hope that answers the question raised.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Regnier, also for your opening statement. May I join the very many delegates here in wishing the Programme well. The world will be happy when the Programme is not needed. That is the ultimate goal of the World Food Programme. We need not have a Programme of this kind when all human beings enjoy the right to food. But I think we will not see that day during this century. Until 2000 AD at least we will need the World Food Programme. I share the hope of many delegations that the symbiotic bonds between FAO and WFP will grow under the wise leadership of the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of WFP.

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

- 16. Questions arising out of relations with the Host Government
- 16. Questions concernant les relations avec le gouvernement du pays hôte
- 16. Asuntos derivados de las relaciones con el Gobierno hospedante

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): This item is taken up under Organizational Matters in both our Reports. I would draw your attention to paragraphs 60 to 80 in our 53rd report and paragraphs 2.62 to 2.87 in our 54th report. Under the caption "Questions arising out of Relations with the Host Government" there are five sub-items under the main item 16.

Let me briefly comment on what the Committee felt on each of the sub-items under the main heading.

First, Headquarters Accommodation. I should remind delegates that accommodation here refers not to any future plans for expansion for accommodating the existing staff. Regarding the construction work on top of Building D, we were informed that work had commenced, but during the last 3 months there has been no action. There is urgency to undertake major repairs in Building E. This cannot be done because alternative space cannot be found for the staff working there.

Still no alternative accommodation has been found for WFC staff who are occupying part of Building A.

Further renting of some rooms in a building close to the present Building F to accommodate some 50 staff members, apart from having to pay rent, would also incur further costs to the Organization for providing travel and other services. It is immaterial as to whether FAO or WFP pays, but the fact is that additional costs are being incurred because of the delay in finding solutions to the accommodation problem. The Director-General's alternative proposals, which have been referred to in the document CL 86/15, were explained to the Committee at its previous meetings. The Committee, however, has no final news on this matter, although reference has been made by the Director-General in his introductory statement, which may give the Council some hope that some action will take place soon. The need for a permanent solution which would enable the Organization to vacate Building F was authorized. Personally, my view is that the Finance Committee will continue to have this item on its agenda for some considerable time.

The Committee appreciated all the efforts that the Director-General has been taking in this regard and confirmed its support and reliance on him to take all steps which he thinks are necessary to resolve the issues. It also appreciated the efforts taken by the Permanent Representative of Italy to FAO, Ambassador Francisci, to resolve some of these problems and particularly the cooperation he is extending to the Director-General on these matters.

It is because of the absence of any positive results so far that the Committee was compelled to think of further ways of pushing the authorities towards finding a solution, that it thought it fit to even very reluctantly hint at the possibility of moving the Headquarters seat to another country - paragraph 2.65.

On Import Licences - both for goods required for official purposes and goods for the Commissary. Since both types of licenses are issued by the same authority, the difficulties which FAO has to cope with are similar, and these were explained at length by the Secretariat. Your attention is drawn to paras. 2.66 - 2.72 of our 54th report. In this regard, the Committee noted that FAO could not work under such conditions since delays lead to additional costs, if these goods have to be purchased on the local market; also that the programme of work, will be disrupted making it difficult to plan for the future.

The negotiations on the Interpretation of the Headquarters Agreement have gone on for the last 10 years. They have been recently resumed but while discussions continue the Committee was informed of certain unilateral decisions which were being taken by government departments, which were unacceptable to FAO. The Secretariat will no doubt provide details of such actions.

The Committee was informed of certain measures, which are being contemplated and if allowed to materialize, would by next year affect certain sections of staff, both Italians and non-Italians, who are presently enjoying certain privileges through the services provided by the Commissary.

A distinction to be drawn up between categories with rights or no rights would not only cause frustration among staff, but would certainly lead to additional expenditure by the Organization in the form of additional remuneration to compensate for the privileges which are to be withdrawn. In this connection please see para. 2.72 of our report.

The Committee was also informed verbally of the considerable benefits to the economy of the Host Government, as a result of FAO being here. Though it is very difficult to quantify all the benefits, it was nevertheless understood to be substantial - about US \$85 million annually.

On the question of immunities, the Committee felt that the financial implications of Italian, court rulings, if not reversed through other means, would be quite serious. Any measures of execution consequent to the present judgements in the INPDAI case would certainly mean additional payment on rent which is in arrears, together with interest on the sum due, throughout the period covered by the dispute, that is to say from 1974 to the present date. These costs would have to be borne by the Organization.

The substance of these issues will be dealt with by the CCLM.

In view of the serious nature of the above issues - the issue of import licences without delay, interpretation of certain articles of the Headquarters Agreement, more particularly the Organization's immunity from legal process - the Committee decided unanimously to recommend to Council the draft resolution which appears in paragraph 2.77 of our 54th Report. This is in no way to be understood as disrespect for the host country; it reflects the sense of frustration in the minds of the members of our Committee that nothing concrete has happened to change the present situation.

16.1 Headquarters Accommodation

16.1 Locaux du Siège

16.1 Locales de oficina en la Sede

CHAIRMAN: We will take up item 16.1 to be presented by Mr Crowther and Mr Georgiadis.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Mr Chairman, with your indulgence we would like to do several things in introducing this subject this evening. First, we would like to give a brief introduction and then we would like to dim the lights and have a 35 mm slide projection demonstration to look at both the problems and some of the solutions. Some of the solutions have been demonstrated in a model that is at the right-hand side of the stand here. We will demonstrate those solutions further by the slides. I think they will be more vivid to the entire audience if we use slides. First of all, may I take a moment to describe the reasons for using this type of demonstration to emphasize the need for solution.

The problem of Headquarters accommodation has been with us for some 24 years, since 1961, when the Organization had been separated into various buildings. As members of Council will know, in Building F there are some 900 staff, both with WFP and FAO. That is some 5,5 kilometres away which requires a bus service, which requires continual disruption and additional costs in the attempt to find measures to bring these people together. Attempts have been made over many years to find specific solutions to this particular problem.

We have examined various solutions here upon the ground, and we now have a proposal to present to Council in this regard. We have tried several other possibilities which we will discuss very briefly. I think that in order to more vividly display both the problems and the proposed solutions, it would be appropriate for us to go to the 35 mm. slides.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): This is an aerial view of the main buildings in this location. It is the reality; we can see just exactly how our buildings are today in the Via delle Terme di Caracalla complex, which houses 3 200 staff members. For the sake of orientation, this is Building A - (indicating) - and this is connected to building B with two bridges containing offices. This is building D, and parallel to it is building C. What cannot be seen from here is between these two buildings at lower level, the 4-storey prefabricated building, so-called building E constructed in 1964, where about 150 staff members and consultants work.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Building F - this is the Via Cristoforo Colombo - about 6 kilometres away from here. These two towers house WFP, two other FAO departments, forestry and fisheries, and some other smaller units. Naturally, we have to connect between the two buildings by using a bus shuttle service which runs every half hour in both directions.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is one of the offices on the Via Cristoforo Colombo in which there are about 900 staff members.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is prefabricated building E which cannot be seen in the previous slide giving the aerial view of the compound. It was erected in 1964 with an expected life of between 8 to 15 years maximum. Now, of course, it is 20 years ago, and the building is in much need of repair.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is the same building photographed from the back between buildings D and C; you can see at the top there is urgent need for repair and repainting; it is rusting. There are urgent needs for other repairs to plumbing, heating and other installations.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Department of Administration and Finance): We will now take a few minutes to demonstrate the interior of building E. There are much smaller rooms. In this instance you can see the supervisor has little room for confidential discussion, and the employees are in tight corners and it is difficult for them to accomplish the business and objectives of FAO.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

A similar room in building E with the same indication of crowded conditions, which indicates the need for storage, which is not available. There is no room even to provide adequate filing cabinets.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is a slide of the hallways and demonstrates them as they were when the building was first built. We have to use many of these, and we will show you how -

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

- We have built rooms opposite in part of the hallway to provide office space for as many people as we could possibly accommodate, but that makes for very cramped quarters and it is difficult to perform efficient work.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Hallways again. They are both a health and a fire hazard. If we had to vacate the building quickly it would be difficult to do so.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is our security group working in very cramped quarters. They must deal with confidential information, but because of the large rotary files - they have to be accessible to all staff members dealing with them - they are confined in a very limited space, and is a further indication of the need for additional space.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is a picture of one of our supervisors who has an office with several people in it. Since we have introduced word processors we have had to put in a telephone booth to house the printing. No other space is available, because it must be acoustically controlled.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Back to building E. Obviously there is no room in this office because the man has to use a filing cabinet in the hallway, and someone is getting in the lift.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): This is the ground floor in our mail and pouch rooms between Buildings B and C, showing the temporary storage. This is a common scene every day, with the movement of mail, parcels and correspondence. We move about one and a half tons of mail every day, inward and outward. There is not enough space in the rooms themselves so the correspondence and parcels have to be stored outside with little space for the man manipulating the cart to move the mail into the pouch room. There are about 140 destinations of diplomatic pouch services.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

One cramped corner of the mailroom, which shows the difficulties in sorting and distributing mail in very congested conditions.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Storage and documents. We have to go all the way up to the ceiling and use ladders when we need Council, Conference and other documents. They are stored neatly, but the situation is very cramped, as you can see.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is part of the shelving for storage of documents. The kind of wardrobe doors are numbered and are moveable with a lever to make it easier for staff to go into one of them to retrieve documents and to store them again. Every inch up to the ceiling is utilized.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Here is another example of congested conditions in a room used for producing and distributing documents. There is very little space for the staff to move around in order to handle all the parcels which go to all the countries in the world. This is in the Publications Division, in the training area for distribution of documents.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Here is another example of lack of space in offices which receive and distribute the computer printouts in the Financial Services Division. We have to use landings and marble staircases on which to open parcels and distribute papers into the offices which can be seen at the back.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Here is the inside of that same office, with the clerks coding the pages for further distribution.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Department of Administration and Finance): You have now seen some demonstration of the problems: Now we will attempt to get to some of the solutions. One of the first solutions to be examined was an attempt to find whether we could build a new building adjacent to the existing building. You can see some excavation between the trees. This excavation was done to determine whether or not it was feasible, but unfortunately during the digging some antiquities were discovered. If you look in the corner you can see the remains of an old Roman wall. Upon discovery of this wall, the Italian Government said that we certainly could not construct anything here upon this site, so we had to look for other solutions.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is one of the solutions we will explore. This is a picture of the building as is. You will notice at the far end at the moment there is no space occupied, and that is the way it stands at present. There is an orange building at the rear which is St. Stephen's school, which we will discuss later.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): This is the preliminary proposal now submitted to the governing body by the Director-General for general restructuring in order to construct additional space within the main compound within the Terme di Caracalla complex, to enable us to bring there 900 staff in FAO and regroup in one location for the first time for 24 years.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is a model for additional cost. To solve half of the overcrowding and to stop the additional expenditure, which over the years up to the end of 1983, particularly in terms of rent paid by FAO and other buildings, from time to time exceeded 13 million dollars, and maintenance of utility services which exceeded 4,5 million dollars over the same period.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This a model of the main building representing exactly the original picture taken from the air. It shows again Building A north side, and Buildings B, C, D and E. In view of the need to undertake urgent repairs in Building E, or better, the desirability to demolish and reconstruct completely, the first solution was to demolish and reconstruct a new building E which would look exactly the same as the grey part in its place. This would take about 170 staff compared to about 150 using Building E at present, and would give us extra space for about 20 - obviously far from solving the problem. Therefore, that solution was abandoned. We shall show two models of how the new Building E would look if that project were to be undertaken.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is a front view again between the two buildings D and C.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is the side view showing the bridges connecting it to the other buildings.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Therefore, we instructed a reputable firm of architects to study the global solution, one that would enable us to bring all the staff here from building F. This has allowed, too, a proposal involving the construction of several structures in various parts within the same compound, and we start from the first. Building E will be that shape - much in order to permit adequate light in the buildings next to it, and another structure at the end of this area - between buildings D and C.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is a second additional structure, what we would now hope to call building F. It could take about 530 staff members, if constructed with a new building E which could take about 130 more than the present building E.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is the same model seen from the other side, from the front of the main compound of buildings E and F. A third additional structure would be involved between A and B in addition to the two bridges, this one and this, with the construction of a third bridge larger than the other two, of the same type, and a fourth floor on all three, together with the row of offices at the back of building A. These extra offices could take another 240 staff, the three structures together would accommodate approximately 900 staff members.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Here is the same compound photographed from the back showing the conditions. It will be noticed that there is no change in the overall height of the buildings and the original structure would blend nicely with the existing buildings.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Department of Administration and Finance): Now we will try to demonstrate from the completed model that looks to scale precisely what the total construction of this solution would mean. One of the things we would like to point out is the additional parking that would be required, and we have a few views that point this specifically out front. This particular model also includes the additions that Mr Georgiadis was referring to, with the other three specific additions. You will notice that this is a good view to show the additional crossovers between A and B that houses the extra offices there, and from the roof of this you can see very little change in the total roofline of A, but it would house a number of additional offices along this very line.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

You can see the entrances here to the proposed parking garage. This parking garage would be a total of four levels - two levels below ground, one level at ground level and one level above ground level. Also, as you see a different view you will notice the relative height of this parking level to the trees so that it is unobtrusive, is designed well and fits in well with the architecture both of the building and the surrounding area.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is a front view of Building A. Notice that there are a number of windows or acoustical areas, both for ventilation of the garage area but also to separate this from Building A in order to avoid any excessive noise into Building A from the parking area.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is a good description of the relative height of the existing trees that are there versus a proposed construction of the parking area.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

From the Caracalla you would see very little difference in the building after it was constructed, even including a parking area that would increase the number of parking spaces by about 350 and make it much easier for everyone to go and come, including an additional number of spaces for delegates that would be very helpful to them in ease of coming and going.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

You can see from this view the overall crossovers. There is an additional level put on each of the three, and you will notice that the roofline changes practically not at all from this view, the elevation is practically the same. I think it is extremely important from an environmental standpoint that the Caracalla complex will not be changed from the perspective of the Aventino or the Caracalla.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is an overall view, and from this you can begin to see where the new building E would be constructed and the new Building F at the end. We will show you the relativity both of their height and their location.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

This is a closer view the new Building F at the end that closes Building C and D and would house a number of people, but there is still an open courtyard to be architecturally sound and create a nice environment.

As you can see, there is a great deal of window space that is left open for natural sunlight on both Buildings C and D that exist, even though there are considerable structures that would be included inside that would house a total of some 900 people.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

From the back view: now this is totally at the rear of the building. This new Building F would blend in nicely with the ends of both Buildings C and D. We would have to build over as a pier, much like a bridge, for the utilities that exist, the steam lines, the electrical lines, the water and sewer lines. Nonetheless, with this type of construction there would be very little excavating that would be required, and yet we could still house approximately 900 additional people

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

A. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): This is a longitudinal cross-section of the buildings to show the dark areas, the new Building F here and the new Building E, so that the skyline does not change and the overall height of the buildings does not change.

Building E would of course not be seen from the outside.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

Another longitudinal foresection covering mainly Building A in order to demonstrate the new parking areas that we intend to build here, just in front of Building A in three levels, two underground, one ground level and one above. Even the one above is well below the level of the trees.

Preliminary cost estimates for the whole project, as worked out last April, about six months ago, were as you see \$12.7 million. By the time the project is completed, this figure might reach 15 or maybe 20 million dollars, but it would still be a very reasonable cost for solving the Headquarters accommodation problem in a permanent way.

Slide/Diapositive/Diapositiva

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Now, this is one more view of the entire complex, but we would like to stress that if this complex were built with the solution proposed here by the architect, we would be able to house the additional 900 people that are now located in Building F. It would not allow us the expansion space required, so in addition to finding a solution to our immediate needs, some consideration must be given to the future needs.

We talked about the St. Stephens School earlier on, this brown building at the very rear of the present complex. It is housed on an area immediately adjacent to the building. Also, the area along the Aventino houses an automobile dealer with a petrol pump and garage connecting with it. If this entire area were purchased some time in the future and plans were prepared during that period of time for future expansion, eventually a building could be constructed that would tie in directly with the existing building or with the proposed construction that is here. Unless some thought is given to future construction, we will again find ourselves in very cramped conditions, not being able to accommodate the staff, not being able to perform the functions as efficiently as we would hope to do because of the building constraints that would be placed upon us. It is necessary for us - and the Director-General is proposing - that considerations not only be given to finding solutions to the present problem, as were proposed here, but also to the long-term needs.

This completes the slide presentation. We will turn the lights back up and we can then get into the discussion.

The meeting was suspended from 18.00 to 18.10 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 18 h à 18 h 10

Se suspende la sesión de 18 a 18.10 h

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italy): I have to thank the Secretariat for this pleasant entertainment illustrating this project. What I can say is that the Government of Italy was the first to regret that the previous project had to be abandoned for reasons that are well known to the Council. And now I think that this new project with its own peculiarities is quite a clever project because it tries to avoid some obstacles that we have encountered with the previous project. In fact, I think, as far as I have understood, that this project does imply excavations which are very dangerous in this area, and Italy must itself do some enlargements, new buildings, without a change in the general shape of the present headquarters. So I think that all conditions are present to have a speedy and positive examination of this project by our authorities. I can assure the Council and the Director-General that this examination will be started in a very few days, as a matter of fact on December 3rd and it is an examination that will be conducted at a very high level in the Presidenza del Consiglio in which the Prime Minister and the Under Secretary will act as coordinators and stimulators for this examination, and I hope that through this renewed political interest at the highest level, this time we will succeed in having a project for assuring new space to FAO.

I want to state once again that Italy is proud and happy to have this organization here and is ready, as she has been in the past, to ensure that the life and activities of the organization could flourish and develop without any major obstacle.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, I should like to thank Mr Crowther and Mr Georgiadis for giving us a very nice explanation with visual aids that allowed us to appreciate the beauty of the new plan without disturbing the skyline with which the Italian Government and the Italian people are very strict. Having said that, I should also like to express the appreciation of my delegation to the delegation of Italy for the very positive attitude that it has taken with regard to the proposal.

Now having said this, I would like to introduce a resolution which is co-sponsored by Indonesia, Argentina, Cuba, Panama, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon which is very straightforward. It has four preambular paragraphs which indicates first of all the grave concern that since 1961 up to this date the headquarters units have been separated in two or more locations with the resulting insubstantial additional costs to Member Nations including the loss of staff time in moving to and from the various locations or the various buildings. That would constitute the first preambular paragraph, second-having been seized with the problem of finding a suitable permanent headquarters accommodation in one location continuously during the last seven years. The third preambular paragraph deals with the fact that all the previous attempts had not been successful, and bearing in mind that the Finance Committee had recommended some very drastic solutions if the solution to the problem had not been found, we therefore endorse the Director-General's current proposals for restructuring, enlargement and improvement of the buildings of the Caracalla complex which would allow all the headquarters staff to be located in one place which is very important, and then we avoid the time that is lost shuttling the staff from one building to another. The second operative paragraph would say we welcome the high interest shown by the highest authorities of the host country as already indicated by the delegation of Italy. In fact the Permanent Representative of the Host Government indicated that the proposal is going to be examined very soon on the 3rd of December by the Prime Minister himself. So we consider that the adoption of the plan, the resolution of the legal, administrative and financial issues involved, and the initiation of the implementation are vitally urgent in order to avoid unnecessary and mounting additional costs to Member States.

Having said that, we urge those concerned in considering these matters to do so as urgently and constructively as possible, acting in concert with the use of any special procedures that are of use or appropriate to avoid delays.

Finally we invite the government of the host country to approve the plan and to take all the necessary measures to implement it as quickly as possible, and we request the Director-General to report on the progress made to the next session of the Council and then to the Conference.

So Mr Chairman, this is a very straightforward resolution. I think that everything that has to be said is said in here, but nevertheless there is nothing controversial and it would allow action that would be required to proceed to implement the beautiful plan that we have seen as presented to us by Mr Crowther and Mr Georgiadis.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italy): Mr Chairman, I have just two observations on this draft resolution. The first is that I noted that when Italy is concerned, the concern is always grave but there must be some reason for that. But what I object to, because it is really an unpleasant paragraph, it is the first one on page two, "Bearing in mind, etc....the feasibility to transferring the Headquarters to another country". Could we drop this paragraph, because as I said we are very glad to have the headquarters of FAO here and we intend to keep this organization here.

CHAIRMAN: Unfortunately this resolution is now in the hands of delegations. Would the Philippines delegate read it out fully in the form of a resolution so that we may all follow.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I do not think that the preambular paragraphs add anything to the resolution. If it causes the Italian delegation some problems I am willing to drop that paragraph. I hope that with that amendment we can adopt the resolution.

R.C. GUPTA (India): We must express our appreciation for the presentations of our distinguished colleague, Mr Abeyagoonasekera, Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the pictorial presentation from Mr Georgiadis and Mr Crowther.

Mr Chairman, the whole scheme presented to us appears to be extremely attractive, feasible and would avoid some of the difficulties which the Organization has been facing in proposals for additional construction at a little distance from the existing complex. The proposal, as we have seen, appears to be architecturally, aesthetically and environmentally sound. It fits in with the existing complex, it does not raise the skyline and it takes care of the common concern that we do not create monsters. It merges very well with the surroundings and we would like to commend it.

Just one more point, Mr Chairman We were told that during the last 20 years or so the organization has spent in the neighbourhood of 18 million US dollars for rents and maintenance of the buildings that they have hired, and this proposal costing between 15 and 20 million US dollars is definitely a more cost-effective way of utilizing the scarce resources that the countries and the international organizations have.

A very positive aspect of the helpful attitude which Ambassador Francisci di Baschi has always shown is that the proposal would be taken up at the highest level in the government, and we have every hope that this change of attitude - because we have been feeling frustrated that for a number of years the organization had a number of problems to which we would come a little later, and there was a lack of response. Now if this proposal for additional accommodation would entail contacts at such high levels, we are sure that the other issues we are going to discuss would engage the host government in equally serious consideration of the issues, and we welcome this very positive attitude.

Insofar as this resolution is concerned, we always, had this problem that our distinguished colleagues in their enthusiasm would bring up resolutions which are not circulated as yet, with the reserve that others do not have an opportunity of commenting upon them, particularly this preambular paragraph 2 to which the distinguished Ambassador from Italy has referred. My delegation feels that we should strictly avoid any reference to this thought for the time being because this has very serious repercussions for the entire U.N. system. It has repercussions immediately for three sister organizations dealing with food and agriculture stationed in Rome, IFAD, WFP and the World Food Council, because the very justification of their location here is that they can utilize the services of FAO, they can utilize the expertise of FAO, so any thought of shifting FAO out of Rome would by definition lead to shifting all these Organizations out of Rome, and I for one would feel a terrible sense of loss that this Organization has to think even of shifting out of this beautiful place with hospitable people and a charming city, so we would say we should not do these things. This is premature, it is inopportune and this would only lead to hardening of attitudes. It does not help.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I would like to say a few words on this item. I would like to express my appreciation to Mr Crowther and Mr Georgiadis for a very clear presentation with slides and Mr Abeyagoonasekera for his presentation of the item. The document that is before us is CL 86/15 regarding the Headquarters accommodation and gives the details of the Director-General's positive proposals and the need for a permanent solution to finding the Headquarters buildings at one place.

We observe from the presentation that nearly US \$18 million, a colossal amount, has so far been spent on scattered accommodation at various places which is adversely affecting the efficiency, the smooth functioning, of this great Organization. The proposal of the Director-General of restructuring to have the accommodation at one place which would only cost US \$12 million presently would go a

long way in solving the accommodation problem for the staff of the FAO. We wholeheartedly support and appreciate the efforts of the Director-General in this direction, and we also appreciate the assurance that the Ambassador of Italy has given to this august body here that the proposed project and its examination would commence expeditiously at the highest level. It is a matter of great encouragement for all of us and it is indeed heartwarming that the Italian Government would lend a hand to the Director-General in the resolution of this grave problem.

Lastly I would like to support the adoption of this resolution minus paragraph 2, as already agreed by the delegate of the Philippines.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original Language Arabic): This is a matter that has been discussed many times but in the past we thought we had no choice other than to try and carry on with what was there. Now we have a paper before us which shows what can be done here. But in the past we did not seem to have an open door for a quick solution to the problem. We certainly felt in the Finance Committee that we had to try to open a few doors, that it was part of our responsibilities vis-à-vis this Council to at least point to possible thoughts.

Now at this time we have heard some interesting information concerning the favourable reception which this project has had from the Italian authorities. His Excellency the Ambassador of Italy has just told us that there is great interest and they want to look at it quickly and expeditiously and he has assured us that the Italian Government is looking into this matter very quickly and with the utmost good will in a very realistic manner. This puts a different complexion on matters because we may now hope that there may be a very quick agreement on this. Obviously this encourages us to hope for quick action on this issue which is what we all desire. We note this with pleasure and we also note that His Excellency Mr Craxi is going to come here next week and we are sure that at that time the Director-General will not miss the opportunity to discuss this matter with Mr Craxi. This again encourages us to hope for a speedy and harmonious solution. FAO seems to be able to find a solution to all problems and we find that once again a lot of ingenuity has gone into finding a solution that makes everyone reasonably happy. We would commend the Secretariat for having moved ahead along these lines and we appreciate and support this project which has been put before us in principle. We agree that the second paragraph of this resolution should be omitted. We would then support the resolution entirely.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): The preceding discussions have made my task very easy. Very simply we would like to thank Mr Crowther and Mr Georgiadis and the Chairman of the Finance Committee for their presentations which have very clearly spelled out the background, the evolution, the possible solutions to this problem which has beset us for some 24 years. We believe that the solution that has been suggested and which was beautifully visually demonstrated has the merit of being functional, aesthetic, cost saving and environmentally efficient.

We are also particularly glad to hear from the Permanent Representative of Italy welcoming these solutions the fact that his Government at the very highest level will be examining this proposal and the expedition with which they will be able to implement this.

Finally, we would like to extend our support to the outline of the draft resolution which was introduced by the delegate of the Philippines. We also agree that any negative reference should be removed, particularly the preambular paragraph.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): The Indonesian delegation supports the proposal made by the Philippine delegation and agrees to delete the second paragraph as proposed by the delegate of Italy, also agreed by the Philippine delegation. Finally, my delegation would be happy if the Council would endorse it.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Il est bientôt sept heures moins vingt. Nous en sommes encore au point 16.1. Nous remercions vivement Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Italie pour toutes ses informations précieuses qu'il nous a données ainsi que les auteurs de ce projet. On a demandé d'annuler le deuxième paragraphe et je vous demande de vous en tenir là puisque tout le monde est d'accord. Il nous faut peut-être finir et clore le débat à ce sujet afin de passer à d'autres points.

Y.A. HAMDI (Egypt) (Original Language Arabic): After having heard the suggestion from Lebanon it is very difficult for me to say anything. However, I would simply like to thank all those who have spoken on this. I would like to congratulate the author of the project and thank the Ambassador of Italy for the favourable views of his Government on the project, and that is all. Let us put it to the Drafting Committee.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italy): I want just to say that the paragraph to be deleted is the one on the second page. I think this is clear.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: This is a question to the Ambassador of Italy, for clarification. With reference to the Resolution, Ambassador, I understand you suggested that, where it says "Noting further with grave concern," on the first page, you would delete "grave". Then on page 2, the whole paragraph, starting with 'Bearing in mind'. Is there anything else you want to delete?

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italy): You can put "continuous concern".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Ambassador, and also the Director-General. Shall we move on to item 16.2 and 16.3 - FAO's immunity from Legal Process in Italy, and FAO's immunity from Measures of Execution in Italy. This will first be introduced by the Chairman of the CCLM then supplemented by the Legal Counsel.

16.2 FAO's Immunity from Legal Process in Italy

16.2 Immunité de juridiction de la FAO en Italie

16.2 Immunidad de procedimiento judicial de la FAO en Italia

16.3 FAO's Immunity from Measures of Execution in Italy

16.3 Immunité de la FAO contre les mesures d'exécution en Italie

16.3 Immunidad de la FAO con respecto a la aplicación de medidas ejecutivas en Italia

I.P. ALVARENGA (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos) Señor Presidente: Como los distinguidos miembros del Consejo han advertido, el tema está contenido en el documento CL 86/15, et cual toma lo fundamental de los documentos CL 86/5 y CL 86/5 (a). Estos últimos se refieren a los períodos de sesiones 44 y 45° del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. El 44 período de sesiones tuvo lugar el 24 y 25 de mayo de este año. El Comité fue convocado de urgencia para tratar fundamentalmente una sentencia que había sido dictada por el Pretor el 4 de abril ordenando a la Organización al pago de casi 945 millones de liras.

Dado que era la primera oportunidad en que el Comité se reunía después de que sus nuevos miembros habían sido elegidos por la Conferencia, se procedió desde luego a la elección de su mesa directiva integrada por un Presidente y un Vicepresidente. La elección del Presidente recayó en quien habla, y aprovecha la oportunidad para agradecer de nuevo la confianza en él depositada, y expresar su firme deseo de contribuir a los mejores trabajos de la Organización. La Vicepresidencia recayó en el representante de Argelia, el señor Benattallah.

El tema que se enfocó en esa oportunidad fue exclusivamente lo relativo a la inmunidad de la Organización y se empezó por recordar los antecedentes de la situación que ahora tenemos entre manos. El antecedente concreto más remoto es el litigio con los propietarios del edificio F, cuyos pormenores son suficientemente conocidos y no voy a repetir. Otro precedente, otro antecedente importante, es la sentencia dictada por la Corte de Casación de Italia y las solicitudes que se habían hecho al Gobierno Sede para que interviniese en el fondo del problema.

El representante del gobierno italiano informó en esa ocasión sobre las reuniones que había tenido con el representante de la *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato*, o sea, la oficina que representa los intereses del estado italiano, al final de la cual se proponía lo siguiente: Primero, que se interviniese ante el Pretor para alegar sobre el fondo de la materia a juzgar, o segundo, que se interviniese ante los tribunales italianos alegando siempre por parte de FAO las disposiciones pertinentes del acuerdo de Sede o, tercero, que el gobierno italiano señalaría a los tribunales en el momento oportuno las disposiciones del Convenio de Sede, pidiendo que fuesen respetadas.

El Comité recordó que los órganos rectores de la Organización habían ya tomado posición en el sentido de pedir al Director General que no participase en ninguna forma ante los tribunales italianos, y recomendó por consiguiente, que ni directa ni indirectamente el Director General se presentase ante la adjudicación de este país. Por consiguiente, se dejaba sin lugar las dos primeras propuestas planteadas. Tomó nota de que el gobierno italiano intervendría oportunamente para hacer notar la vigencia del artículo que en el Convenio de Sede garantiza la inmunidad de la Organización y, naturalmente, lo deja a la discreción del Gobierno Sede.

En consecuencia de todo ello el Comité concluyó: primero, pedir al Gobierno italiano que continuase con las conversaciones con los propietarios del edificio F para llegar a una solución sin recurrir a los Tribunales Italianos; segundo, pedir al Gobierno Sede que legisle en manera adecuada para resolver la cuestión de la inmunidad en forma clara y definitiva; tercero, sugerir al Consejo que considerara la conveniencia de recurrir a la Corte Internacional de Justicia de La Haya para que interprete el Convenio de Sede; y cuarto, recomendar igualmente a este Consejo que estudiase la conveniencia de aplicar la cláusula de arbitraje incluida en el Convenio de Sede.

El 45° período de sesiones encontró la situación con relación a la inmunidad en el mismo estado en lo que concierne al litigio con los propietarios del edificio F, no se había llevado a la práctica la amenaza que pendía en la oportunidad anterior de que fuesen ejecutados los bienes de la Organización, pero, al contrario, se había agravado dado que nuevas acciones judiciales habían sido iniciadas contra la Organización a raíz de las cuales quedaba igualmente pendiente la posibilidad de una ejecución en los activos de la FAO.

Se discutió sobre la doctrina italiana recogida fundamentalmente en el fallo de la Corte de Casación en materia de inmunidad y se tomó conocimiento de una propuesta de reforma legislativa que existía y a raíz de la cual se esperaba que mejorase la protección de la Organización en materia de ejecución. Sin embargo, el Comité, el resto al menos de los miembros del Comité en cuanto hubo una discrepancia con el señor representante de Italia, notó con preocupación que la situación de fondo estaba sin resolverse y de ahí que reiteró las recomendaciones formuladas en el período de sesiones anterior, que son a las cuales me he referido con anterioridad.

Eso es todo de nuestra parte, señor Presidente. Como el Consejo sabe hay otros aspectos del Comité que están en otro punto de la agenda que serán expuestos oportunamente.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Mr Chairman, I believe it is your wish that the introduction should be made to Items 16.2 and 16.3 together. Before I go into further detail, it might be useful if I gave an initial explanation regarding the distinction that exists between these two Items.

Item 16.2 deals with the problems connected with FAO's immunity from legal process in Italy in general. Above all, it concerns the fact that FAO can be sued in the Italian courts by almost anybody, and it is up to those courts, when seized of a case, to decide whether or not they wish to exercise jurisdiction.

Item 16.3, on the other hand, relates to the results that flow from the fact that Italian courts may exercise jurisdiction over a case, as they now frequently do despite the fact that FAO has not waived its immunity. As you know, in accordance with the Council's instructions, FAO does not appear in court, and the courts nonetheless proceed and tend to find in favour of the plaintiffs. Thus, in brief, Item 16.2 covers immunity in general, while Item 16.3 covers some specific consequences of this immunity not being fully respected.

Now, as the Chairman of the CCLM has said, document CL 86/15 contains so to speak a concise history of the problems before you. I am sure certain delegates will have a slight feeling of *déjà vu* when reading this document but the matter has been under consideration now by the Council for two full years and, of course, some delegates have not had the opportunity of following this matter right from the beginning and, therefore, may not be fully conversant with the actual origins of the various issues that arise. It is for this reason that the Secretariat has attempted to gather the various threads, and present them to the Council in a manner which will be easy to follow from the beginning.

The Council will see, in particular, that as far as Item 16.2 is concerned there is a summary of the problems as they stand at present in paragraphs 30 and 31 of document CL 86/15, and the action that is suggested for consideration by the Council is listed in paragraph 55. There are corresponding paragraphs for Item 16.3, where the summary of the problem is set out in paragraphs 57 and 58, and the action suggested for consideration by the Council is contained in paragraph 70 of document CL 86/15.

With your permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Council to certain specific substantive issues which arise in connection with the two Items before you. First, immunity from every form of legal process of intergovernmental organization such as FAO, and especially those organizations in the UN system is neither unusual, nor even an iniquitous concept, as has been suggested on some occasions. Such immunity, in the same terms as provided in section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement, is provided for in the general conventions adopted by the General Assembly on the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies. There are 119 parties to the UN convention, and 90 parties to the specialized agencies convention.

As far as the rationale for this immunity is concerned, it is intended merely, to permit organizations to carry out their activities independently and without interference by the judicial authorities of any of their Member States, not only of Host states as may be provided for in a particular Headquarters Agreement. The general underlying principle is that intergovernmental organizations such as FAO should not be subject to the national jurisdiction of 156 countries, as would be the case with FAO.

Nor does this immunity lead to any injustice because, as you are aware, provision is made for alternative modes of settling disputes, in particular by arbitration. I shall come back to the question of arbitration in a minute.

It is also important to bear in mind that when the Headquarters Agreement was concluded with the Government of Italy in 1950, the Italian Republic granted FAO the same immunity as was already recognized in the two general conventions which I have just referred, and also in a number of other headquarters agreements which contain identical clauses. It may be speculation on my part, but had FAO known in 1950 the way in which section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement was going to be interpreted, I very much doubt whether Italy would have had that very narrow victory, by one vote, which resulted in the seat of FAO being transferred from Washington to Rome.

It would perhaps also be useful if I explained exactly the extent to which FAO's immunity from legal process is not recognized in Italy, because the distinguished representative of Italy has correctly pointed out on a number of occasions that it is not a question of a total denial of immunity; it is a partial denial. The judgment of the Corte di Cassazione has never been submitted in its full detail to the Council - and I can assure you it makes extremely complicated reading, but I can sum up in a nutshell what the reasoning of the Corte di Cassazione was. The Corte di Cassazione held in the dispute with the landlords of Building F that the immunity of FAO under the Headquarters Agreement could not exceed the immunity traditionally accorded to the seat of diplomatic missions, because the Headquarters Agreement dealt with the Organization's headquarters seat. This agreement deals with a great many other things, too, but that is what the court said. They also said that in any case the immunity of FAO must be determined on the basis of the principles of international law applicable to foreign states.

Then, on the basis of this premise, the Corte di Cassazione went on to distinguish between sovereign acts performed by FAO in the pursuit of what is called its institutional aims - to use the Latin tag, jure imperii - and transactions of a so-called private nature - jure gestionis. In applying this doctrine, and I would like to stress that this doctrine is generally accepted as far as states are concerned, the Corte di Cassazione found the conclusion of a lease for office premises was entirely extraneous to the achievement of the basic aims of the organization. Therefore, on those grounds, the Corte di Cassazione denied FAO immunity from legal process in the particular action relating to the lease. Of course, I would not presume to query the reasoning of the Supreme Court of any country, but I would suggest that perhaps the Court did not fully take into consideration a distinction which I think must be made in this connection. That is the difference in the law applicable to organizations whose immunities are based principally on individual treaties, and the law applicable to states which is based on customary international law, and which is now very well established. I think this distinction does warrant a little explanation because it is fundamental if the Council is to fully appreciate the exact legal position in which FAO finds itself in Italy.

The extent of the immunity enjoyed by intergovernmental organizations depends almost entirely on the treaties that they have concluded with their host states, or to the general conventions applicable to them. There are headquarters agreements concluded with Italy by a number of intergovernmental organizations, and the clauses on immunities vary considerably. Therefore, the extent to which an organization has immunity in Italy or in any other country is a matter of negotiation. It is a matter of how much a country wishes to give to a particular organization, and it is up to the organization to decide whether the organization will be prepared to establish the headquarters of the organization in that particular host state.

I believe the provisions on immunity contained in the FAO headquarters agreement are very clear. In the past, the Council has already affirmed that Section 16 should be given its full, literal meaning. I should add that the very provisions contained in Section 16 of FAO's Headquarters Agreement is the same as clauses contained in similar agreements concluded by other United Nations organizations whose headquarters are in Vienna, Paris and Geneva. So I should repeat that section 16 is not an unusual clause. Perhaps I should also add that, to the best of my knowledge, none of these countries has ever interpreted the clauses corresponding to Section 16 in the manner in which it has been interpreted by the Corte di Cassazione.

I should also mention that there are a number of states, such as Canada and the United States which have given different degrees of immunity to different organizations. Under their national legislation, they give the same immunity to organizations as to states, but they also have treaty obligations which go beyond that, because both Canada and the United States are parties to the United Nations convention on privileges and immunity. I believe it would be the case that if the application of the corresponding provision to Section 16 came up for interpretation by the courts of either of those countries, they would say that the immunity was absolute, whereas if, for example, the organization were only covered in the United States by the International Organizations Immunity Act, the courts would hold that that organization has a lesser degree of immunity because in such case the Government has chosen to grant the organization concerned less immunity.

I should also like to mention another problem which arises out of the judgment of the Corte di Cassazione and which gives considerable concern to FAO; that is, the dictate of the court regarding the arbitration clause contained in virtually all FAO contracts and those of many organizations in the United Nations system. The Corte di Cassazione held that the arbitration clause which envisaged reference to the International Chamber of Commerce was not valid and could not oust the jurisdiction of the Italian courts. We immediately consulted the International Chamber of Commerce and obtained their comments on this. Although the answer we received is too intricate to explain here, the gist was that the arbitration clause should be held to be valid by Italian courts because Italy is a party to the New York Convention.

The conditions under which arbitration clauses would be valid depend to a certain extent on whether the arbitration is envisaged as taking place in Italy or abroad. But I think the point to be borne in mind here is that whether or not the arbitration clause is valid, its validity would be irrelevant to establishing the organization's immunity. If FAO were to appear before the courts it would argue the lack of jurisdiction of the Italian courts on the basis of the validity of the arbitration clause, this would involve a waiver of FAO's immunity from legal process. This is such because such an agreement is not a denial of jurisdiction on grounds of immunity, but a denial of the jurisdiction based on internal Italian procedural law. So I am afraid this is not a satisfactory solution.

As the Council has pointed out on more than one occasion over the past two years, the situation is rather serious. The Council has already adopted resolutions at its 82nd and 83rd sessions, as you will recall, and has urged the host government to take the necessary action to safeguard FAO immunity from legal process in the future. I believe that the Council will agree that the only way of safeguarding this immunity is for legislative action to be taken because, as has been pointed out before, the judgment of the Corte di Cassazione is a fact and something has to be done to legislate, so to speak to overrule, that judgement.

As the Council will recall from the introduction made by the Chairman of the CCLM, that Committee and the Finance Committee have been keeping this problem under review and have explored the question of what further action the Council might envisage to solve the general problem of FAO's immunity.

One course of action that had been recommended is for the Conference to request the International Court of Justice in The Hague for an advisory opinion on the interpretation of sections 16 and 17 of the Headquarters Agreement; both those provisions relating to immunity. I believe this suggestion deserves the Council's most serious consideration, since the International Court of Justice is undoubtedly the most competent judicial body which can determine the extent of the Italian Government's treaty obligations under the Headquarters Agreement.

I know I have been rather long already, but I should just like say a few words on Item 16.3 which relates to immunity from measures of execution. This matter too has been under review for the last two years and, as the Chairman of the CCLM explained to you earlier on, when the Organization approached the Government for protection as measures of execution were imminent, it appeared that certain measures could be taken by the Government but none of these measures would actually guarantee immunity from measures of execution.

Although Section 17 of the Headquarters Agreement does refer to FAO's property being immune from confiscation, sequestration and all forms of judicial administrative or other interference, it is obviously a risk for FAO to expose itself now to an interpretation of section 17. What appeared to FAO to be very clear language in section 16 received an interpretation which I must confess came as a great surprise. Needless, to say, it would be extremely undesirable to risk another surprise relating to section 17.

The situation therefore, as it stands now, is that at any moment at least two plaintiffs, one of them being the landlords of Building F, can at any moment seek to apply measures of execution, and this is a constant threat to FAO's property, including the contributions of all Member States.

On this particular aspect, the representative of the Italian Government informed the CCLM that certain measures were being taken to amend legislation which at present only applies to states, whereby any measure of execution would require the prior authorisation of the Minister of Justice. This, if the legislation is passed, and we hope that it will be passed very soon, gives FAO only some measure of reassurance - and as the Council has already recognised at its previous session - is not a solution to the general problem of the Organization's immunity. It would merely mean that FAO could be sued, judgements could be rendered against FAO, but the plaintiffs would remain unable to obtain satisfaction by, for example, getting FAO to pay damages. This is one of the reasons why Items 16.2 and 16.3 have been kept separate, because what we basically need now is a general solution; a legislative solution to the problems that arise under item 16.2. In other words, full recognition of FAO's immunity from legal process.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Roche, for your clear enunciation of the problems.

R.C. GUPTA (India): We have carefully gone through the Council document CL 86/15, the two Reports of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and the Report of the Finance Committee.

We also listened carefully to the opening remarks of the Director-General on this particular issue. In view of certain positive developments, namely the visit of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Italy and that of His Excellency the Foreign Minister and the likely visit of His Excellency the President of the Council of Ministers next Tuesday, the Director-General rightly felt and in a way suggested to the Council that we approach this issue with restraint in a positive spirit.

Mr Roche's clear delineation of the problem is most welcome because though this issue has been discussed a number of times in the governing bodies of the Organization, perhaps at no time did we have such a clear explanation of the legal implications of the whole issue.

If on the subject of Headquarters accommodation, the Council could do well with expressions of continuous concern, perhaps on this issue it will be an understatement to say that we are only concerned, because this threatens the very existence of this Organisation in this country. It is a much more serious matter.

Still we would find it difficult to believe this attitude of the host Government, because we have seen in our various discussions, Italy is one of the most generous countries in terms of providing assistance and so on and so forth, even in the case of IFAD. We have been attending the various negotiations, and we found the Italian Government's attitude most positive. Where other attitudes were at times, in our opinion, obstructive, the attitude of the Government of Italy was always constructive and generous and we find it very difficult to appreciate this kind of diffidence, this kind of hesitation.

So far as the concept of immunity is concerned, we have before us a judgement of the Supreme Court of the host country, which has tried to put a certain interpretation on this concept of immunity, but even so, we are not very clear what the content of this immunity is. It does not extend to the hiring of buildings, of course, not for private use, it was for carrying out the purposes of the Organizations. It does not extend to contracts for supply of goods. A contractor that was supplying goods for the Organization sued the Organization successfully. His goods were not required for any other purpose except to carry out the objective of the Organization. The Organization had somebody to instal air conditioning machinery on certain floors. The enterprise met with an accident, it caused damage to the property of the Organization. Not only is the Organization prevented from recovering those damages, the Organization is being called upon to pay the damages to that individual for damage to his equipment.

Now, with all this, it appears that this immunity perhaps is interpreted as something which is intangible. It is a concept without any content, it is perhaps a fiction, and it is time that something is done to defend this concept.

We have the highest regard for the independent judiciary which we feel is the fountainhead from which all liberties flow, but certainly, when a sovereign government enters into international treaties. As Mr Roche rightly pointed out, the Government of Italy should have been conscious of these legislations, their interpretation, and it would have allowed the Organization officially to decide whether this charming city was the right place in that context. It was the best place, there is no doubt about it, but considering the facilities, the privileges that the Organization would get it could at that time decide. Ex post facto interpretation of the interpretation of the local laws to deny

immunity to the Organization to our mind most humbly is a question of bad taste, and we would strongly urge upon the host Government to modify its laws, because we are quite sure, we have no dispute in the courts, the courts would interpret the local law as it exists, but it is for the host country, for the executive, for the political government of a sovereign state to assure that its international treaties will be honoured by its courts.

Coming to the question of immunity from execution is just a small step that if immunity from legal process is not there the immunity from execution of those processes certainly cannot exist, and if we insist upon a situation where the Organization does not have immunity from legal processes but from execution only, with the highest respect to the judiciaries, I would say it will make a mockery of the judgements of the courts. It will be a most untenable, unacceptable situation in any democracy that the decrees of its court cannot be executed, so the solution lies in a clear definition of what the immunity is and that this immunity will be respected. We fully support the suggestion of the CCLM that the governing bodies of this Organization should refer for advisory opinion in this matter to the International Court of Justice.

It will not only be fair to the Organization, it will be fair to the Host Government, it will clear many cobwebs to clarify the position where the extent of immunity is, because it is nobody's case that one can get away with murder but while the Organization is entering into certain legal obligations to carry out the purpose for which it was established, it should have the facility.

It is unfortunate that in a crisis through which we are passing, the time, effort and finances which are devoted to this wasteful enterprise of finding solution to these problems is distracting from the object of the Organization.

We also feel that the course of action suggested by the Advocate General is fraught with many implications. It will amount to the Organization providing a waiver to its immunity and the Organization certainly would be ill-advised to appear in the court at any time for any purpose to claim its immunity from legal executions, etc.

With this, we fully support the resolution proposed by the Finance Committee which is on page 26 of Council document CL 86/15 and as I said in the beginning, we have an atmosphere now after a lot of deliberations, after a lot of efforts, whereas the Host Government is taking a positive attitude towards all these problems and we are sanguine that we will find some workable solutions to all these problems.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe) : La délégation libanaise a étudié attentivement le rapport du Comité financier et le document du CQCJ concernant l'immunité de l'organisation contre les mesures exécutoires en Italie. Notre délégation apprécie toutes les questions qui ont été abordées par le document CL 86/15. Le sérieux que nous accordons à ces problèmes vient de leur diversité et de leur importance. Il n'est pas besoin d'être un homme de loi pour se convaincre qu'une organisation telle que la FAO doit bénéficier de l'immunité juridique dans tous les pays où elle exerce. Je ne vois aucune justification pour soumettre l'Organisation à des lois et à des juridictions nationales. Nous pensons que tout litige relevant de l'exercice statutaire de l'Organisation doit être soumis à un arbitrage et non pas aux tribunaux ordinaires, et ce, conformément aux procédures applicables pour les Nations Unies. Il est donc indispensable de prendre une disposition juridique pour préserver l'immunité de l'Organisation contre les mesures exécutoires. La délégation libanaise apprécie également la proposition demandant au Directeur général de prendre les mesures indispensables pour présenter à la prochaine Conférence une demande de consultation auprès de la C.I.J. en ce qui concerne l'interprétation des paragraphes 16 et 17 de l'Accord de Siège. Il est indispensable de prendre une telle mesure afin de permettre à la C.I.J. de faire connaître son avis sur les engagements qui incombent au Gouvernement italien.

En un mot, je dis que la situation est fort critique; et ma délégation est d'accord avec les paragraphes de 55 à 70 du document CL 86/15 souhaitant que le Directeur général entreprenne les efforts pour parvenir à la résolution de ces problèmes. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN: I would again, draw your attention to the resolution of the Finance Committee which was introduced by the Chairman of the Finance Committee and supported by the delegate of India and we would like to know that there is a consensus supporting this resolution.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italy): I thank the Chairman of the Committee on Legal and Constitutional Matters and Mr Roche for their exposition once again of this very serious problem, and you will allow me, Mr Chairman, to expound a bit on these two points which I will treat at the same time because that they are strictly connected.

So many things have been said about the alleged incorrect behaviour of Italian authorities that I am forced to make once again a brief outline of the real terms of the situation with the hope that this time I will be understood by all members of this Council as well as by the representatives of the Secretariat.

The 1982 judgement of the Corte di Cassazione, which has become familiar to all of us but which I think only Mr Roche and myself have read, does not deny FAO's immunity from legal process but only specifies the limits of the said immunity.

The said judgement is based on concepts which have long existed and which have been affirmed by a long series of court judgements not only in Italy but in the great majority of countries.

In accordance with this contract, immunity from legal process of foreign states and other subjects of international law, such as international organizations, FAO of course, is not without boundary but rather is limited to so-called acts of jure imperii through which the entities carry out their institutional purposes, thus representing themselves as sovereign in no way subject to the local state.

On the contrary, when a foreign state or an international organization carries out within the legal system of the local state any acts which are typical of private individuals, the so-called acts jure gestionis, such as entering into a lease contract, in accordance with the local laws, then immunity from legal process is not recognized.

I wish to stress that the concepts to which I have just referred, namely the distinction between acts jure imperii and acts jure gestionis, are not at all a novelty that has emerged in the 1982 judgement of the Corte di Cassazione. Suffice it to say that in a judgement of June 25/1969 the Pretore di Roma, that is the first judge, made use of this very concept in order to declare that FAO, which - I underline this - which at that time did not hesitate to appear in court, I said that FAO enjoyed indeed immunity from legal process in a labour dispute involving the Organization and a staff member. This is a practical case, and I address myself to India, where I can indicate the content of this immunity in the field of jure imperii.

The 1982 judgement of the Corte di Cassazione, therefore, although it has produced so much commotion, has really said nothing new. It has simply answered a query, made by FAO, on whether Italian courts lacked jurisdiction in the dispute concerning the FAO/INPDAI lease contract, and it has confirmed that a lease contract is a typical act jure gestionis for which no foreign State and no International Organization could possibly claim immunity from legal process.

In connection with the general question of immunity from legal process, there are two points that I wish to stress with the greatest emphasis, hoping that all members of this Council will pay due attention to them, because they appear to me to have been the source of much confusion.

The first point is the validity of arbitration clauses. This point concerns the validity of arbitration clauses (which FAO might include and in fact includes in all the contracts it executes in Italy) aimed at avoiding that any dispute arising from the contract be subject to the jurisdiction of Italian courts.

This matter was dealt with briefly and incidentally, as an obiter dictum as we say in Latin law, in the 1982 judgement of Corte di Cassazione. The Corte stated that the particular arbitration clause contained in the FAO/INPDAI contract (which clause had not even been invoked by FAO) was not valid under Italian laws, and that therefore it could not possibly derogate the jurisdiction of Italian courts.

The matter, however, and this is very important, deserves a lot more of attention. Italy has become a part to the New York Convention of 6 October 1958 on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards. So this Convention now is a law of the Italian State. Not only the said Convention has been approved by the Italian Parliament under its law of the country but the Corte di Cassazione has maintained in numerous judgements that arbitration clauses providing for foreign arbitral awards in accordance with the New York Convention, do have the power to derogate the jurisdiction of Italian courts. In practice, therefore, FAO could very well thus be no longer subject to Italian courts in any dispute arising from its contracts. It goes without saying, however, that, if the other contractor attempted to ignore the arbitration clause and initiated legal proceedings against FAO before an Italian court, the Organization would have to appear before the judge, in order to demonstrate to him the existence of a valid arbitration clause - otherwise, the proceedings would continue in absentia until the issuance of a final judgement. Under the Italian laws of civil procedure, it is not conceivable that anyone else but FAO appeared before the Court to protect its own interests and in the case of immunity from jurisdiction. In particular the Italian Government could not defend FAO's interests before a court, but could at most put at FAO's disposal, with no charge, the Avvocatura dello Stato, which is a body of lawyers by which the Italian State itself is represented and defended in court disputes.

The second point which deserves utmost attention is the complete distinction which exists between on the one hand the general concept of immunity from legal process, with which I dealt at the beginning of my speech, and on the other hand the concept of immunity from measures of execution.

While the former concept has some limits, that is to say, it applies only to acts "Jure imperii" as opposed to acts "Jure gestionis" - the immunity from measures of execution enjoyed by FAO under the Italian legal system is full and complete. It is true that there has never been any test case to prove that the courts would uphold such immunity, but it is not difficult to understand that the reason why no one has ever tried to attach FAO's property (for instance INPDAL, which already obtained a court judgement condemning FAO to pay) is exactly the legal impossibility to carry out measures of execution against the Organization. In this connection too, however, it is important to realize that, if someone attempted to carry out measures of execution against FAO (by initiating an ad hoc proceeding before the competent "judge of the execution" in accordance with the code of civil procedure), the Organization would have to appear before the judge, in order to point out the existence of its immunity under Section 17 of the Headquarters' Agreement. Such appearance in court could be made through any lawyer, including the Avvocatura dello Stato, which the Italian Government, as I said before, is willing to put at FAO's disposal free of charge. If, on the other hand, FAO refused to appear in court, the Italian Government could only try to help FAO by calling the attention of the judge of the execution to Section 17 of the Headquarters' Agreement. Such course of action, however, would not be the best to follow, since the most reliable way of convincing a judge - in a legal system based on total separation between the Judicial Power and the Executive Power - is to present one's case in court properly through a lawyer.

Finally, I should like to add that, in order to make FAO's immunity from measures of execution even more explicit, and to avoid even the need for FAO to appear in court and to claim immunity under Section 17 of the Headquarters Agreement, the Italian Government has taken the initiative to adopt a new legislative provision. The new law, which is presently being elaborated, provides that no measures of execution against any international organization can be carried out by any court, unless there is an express authorization by the Ministry of Justice. Only under such a system, which already exists with respect to foreign States, the Executive Power will be actually allowed to block (for reasons of political convenience) the otherwise independent functioning of the Judicial Power.

I have made the best effort I could, to try to convey to this Council an honest view of the real situation in which FAO finds itself nowadays with respect to the question of immunity within the Italian legal system. This situation is not dramatic. If things were viewed by all with a spirit of collaboration and mutual understanding, many problems would really appear to be nearly nonexistent.

Above all I do hope to have explained that the decisions taken by the Council and the Conference by which the Director-General was instructed not to participate in legal proceedings before Italian courts under any circumstances, need to be reviewed, because they are not in the interest of the Organization. Their only effect is to keep nerves tense, and to block the solution of these problems. If the Director-General were allowed a certain flexibility to decide whether in some future case it would be opportune or necessary to put in an appearance in court, in order to defend the Organization's immunities before the independent judicial organs of this country, he would simply be following a practice which was followed by FAO in the past, and which is still followed in Italy by many or the majority of all foreign States and International Organizations, including NATO. Only a few days ago we have learned that the President of the United States, represented by a high-level officer of the Department of Justice, has lodged a complaint to the Italian Corte di Cassazione, seeking a decision to the effect that a judgement issued by the Catania Tribunal, concerning a labour dispute of the American military base in Italy, is not enforceable.

If FAO followed this course of action, it might recognize the existence of Italian courts only for the limited purpose of seeing its immunity reaffirmed in the proper fora, thus avoiding that the legal proceedings continue on its merits.

To ignore completely the existence of the courts and of the legal system of the host country is quite an anomalous attitude on the part of FAO. Certainly when the Organization executes contracts which are governed by the Italian legal system, it does act as a legal person within the said system. On the other hand, Section 14 (c) of the Headquarters's Agreement expressly states that the Italian Government recognizes the juridical personality of FAO and, in particular, its capacity to institute legal proceedings.

In this connection I believe that it might be useful to examine such matters in more depth, perhaps through a meeting at high-level between Italian jurists and jurists of the Organization or maybe also these matters could be reconsidered within the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Before I conclude, Mr Chairman, I should like to add a few words about the dramatic presentation, according to which, after the Corte di Cassazione judgement, FAO would be exposed to all kinds of risks and would have been made the target of very numerous litigations.

I repeat, first of all, that until now no measure of execution has been attempted against FAO. As far as other legal actions are concerned, apart from the INPDAL case only two new cases have arisen, and both derived from the same accident in which two Italian companies working on FAO grounds were involved.

With one of these companies FAO has already made a settlement, of which I am grateful to the Organization. Therefore according to my information there is only one legal action pending, which the second company might not even pursue.

As far as INPDAI is concerned, my government has complied with the invitation made by the Council and the Conference, and has done all that was possible in order to facilitate a settlement between FAO and INPDAI. Some meetings have already taken place, and I believe that the negotiations have already gone so far that a rapid solution of this dispute appears now quite possible. I do hope that the Organization will not delay much longer the payment of some rent increases which are due since 1974.

Now in concluding this intervention of mine what I want to stress is that in my opinion this possibility, flexibility, desirability that the Director-General could, in certain cases, appear or be represented in Italian courts just to defend immunity, should be examined and considered very seriously. For all these reasons, Mr Chairman, it is clear that my Government cannot accept the draft resolution proposed by the Finance Committee which appears in document 86/15, page 26.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): Mr. Chairman, we appreciate the detailed expositions of Ambassador Alvarenga and the Legal Counsel.

We have carefully studied the Reports of the Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth Sessions of the Finance Committee and the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

My delegation, Mr. Chairman, is conscious of the fact that we are engaged in a marathon race against time. Any long statements at this late hour would throw us behind schedule. Therefore, we would like to be brief.

The Director-General has, in his opening statement, apprised the Council of the impasse that the Organization had reached with the Host Government regarding FAO's immunity from legal process and measures of execution in Italy. We appreciate the constructive and pragmatic approach of the Director-General on the issue and hope that the expression of his faith expressed in his opening statement in finding a solution to this grave problem finds practical manifestation on the part of the host government.

Mr Chairman: compulsive optimist that my delegation is, we more than agree with the distinguished Ambassador of Italy that there is no problem which does not have a solution.

We endorse the adoption of the resolution urging the host government to take immediate steps in line with their traditional generous hospitality to find an urgent solution to the problem.

The forthcoming visit of His Excellency the president of the Council of Ministers, Government of Italy, lends further hope that the matter will be amicably resolved with the urgency that it deserves.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): The United States is deeply concerned, as we all are, about the issues involving the host country, this beautiful host country. I expect to make a more detailed intervention on the other aspects of this agenda items later, but now I am happy to present what I consider a most positive step forward.

What I am presenting is a proposed resolution to take the place of the resolution following paragraph 109 in document CL 86/15. It is relevant in the consideration of agenda item 16, but the full document in all the official languages will be presented at the end of the discussion when there is time for the translations. This text has received general acceptance by the delegation of Italy from whom I received the text, and by the highest levels of the Secretariat. I will read the text now, noting that it is of course open to constructive improvement.

"DRAFT RESOLUTION ON
RELATION WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT

THE COUNCIL

Having considered the reports of the Fifty-third and fifty-Fourth Sessions of the Finance Committee and the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters;

Noting that the Host Government had taken some steps to facilitate the settlement out of court of disputes between FAO and Italian contractors;

Noting also that the Host Government had elaborated a draft law to be submitted to Parliament in order to strengthen the Organization's immunity from measures of execution;

Noting, however, that no fully satisfactory solutions had yet been found to ensure the Organization's immunity from legal process and from measures of execution;

Noting further that for a number of years these problems had been discussed at length in the Finance Committee, the CCLM, the Council and the Conference and that practical solutions to these problems were now required;

Concerned about the serious delays in obtaining licences for the importation free of customs and other levies of articles which it had a right to import for its official purposes under Section 10 of the Headquarters Agreement, and that these delays not only hindered the smooth operation of the Organization, but also resulted in additional costs to the Organization that devolved on all Member Nations;

Being aware that in negotiations with the Host Government on the interpretation and application of the Headquarters Agreement, the Host Government was adopting a position on the privileges and immunities accorded to the staff entailing the possible limitation of such privileges and immunities;

Convinced that the Director-General should have the flexibility of action necessary to respond to or initiate steps that would resolve or mitigate these problems;

Strongly urges the Host Government:

- (i) to accelerate the adoption of legislative measures that would guarantee, in the future, the Organization's immunity from legal process including measures of execution;
- (ii) to ensure that licences for the importation of articles required by the Organization for its official purposes are granted expeditiously so as not to hamper its work and cause additional costs to the Member of the Organizations;
- (iii) to take into consideration, in the context of the negotiations on the interpretation and application of the Headquarters Agreement, all the financial and other implications that its position may have for all Member Nations both now and in the future;

Invites the Director-General to consider, and to submit to the CCLM for further examination, the question whether it would be desirable for the Organization to accept the services offered by the Host Government to defend the organization's immunity in the Italian Courts, without cost to the Organization "

I commend this text to you, my colleagues, with respect and appreciation for the untiring efforts of the Italian Ambassador and the Director-General for the goodwill of the host Government and the Secretariat in the sure hope that we will arrive at good relations all round.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I want to thank the Ambassador of the United States. I would like to allow myself to propose some small changes and one addition to the text, which is otherwise very acceptable to me and I think the text is being distributed in all languages. Unless it is distributed it is difficult to follow what I am going to suggest. But meanwhile I can still say something very important.

There is complete disagreement, 100 percent, between the point of view expressed by His Excellency the Ambassador of Italy and that of the CCLM, the Council and the Director-General of FAO about the interpretation of Article 16. According to the Ambassador of Italy our immunity is limited. We believe that it is unlimited, because Article 16 says FAO is immune from any form of legal process. That means it is unlimited. If it said that FAO was immune from certain things, then one could say there are limits.

The same language has been used in the agreements signed between other international organizations in Paris and Geneva about their immunity from any form of legal process: the Governments in France and Switzerland have given unlimited immunity. The only way to deal with this problem is to ask for interpretation. This is why I would suggest that you add to the Resolution a small paragraph requesting interpretation, as recommended twice by the CCLM. We have to know what the interpretation is and we should accept the decision or the advice of the Court at The Hague. Either it is limited or it is unlimited. According to the Italian Government it is limited.

Although I personally accept the Resolution, the last paragraph is not going to solve anything. If we go to the Avvocatura, the State lawyer, and ask him to go to court on our behalf and say that FAO is immune from legal process and the court should not discuss the case against FAO, we are going to lose because the Corte di Cassazione, the highest court, says that we are not immune. So the other courts which are lower than the Corte di Cassazione cannot say something which is contradictory to what the Corte di Cassazione has said.

Anyway, I accept this paragraph. We will make a study that we will present to the CCLM, and the CCLM will report to you about it, but I certainly would not advise to start immediately appearing before the court. Anyway, you are not asking me to appear before the court, you are asking me to study this possibility.

I think we can approve this Resolution with an additional paragraph and some editing.

I leave the first paragraph as it is.

The second paragraph would read, "Noting that the host Government had taken some steps to facilitate the settlement out of court of certain disputes between FAO and Italian contractors".

Then the third paragraph: "Noting also that the host Government informed the Council that it was elaborating a draft law to be submitted to Parliament ..." etc.

Then the paragraph beginning "Noting further" would read: "Noting further that for a number of years these problems had been discussed at length in the Finance Committee, the CCLM, the Council and the Conference and that early and practical solutions to these problems were now required." I add the word "early".

The next paragraph, commencing "Concerned", no change.

Then the paragraph beginning "Being aware" I would add towards the end of that paragraph after the words: "Immunities accorded to certain categories of staff," because it is not all staff.

Then I have nothing to change in the rest. But I want to propose to add to the Resolution: "Requests the Director-General to make such preparations as might be necessary to enable the Conference, if it so decided, to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the interpretation of Sections 16 and 17 of the Headquarters Agreement, unless legislative action has been taken to safeguard FAO's immunity from legal process that would render an advisory opinion unnecessary".

Mr Chairman, this paragraph is very important, because as I have said, there is a complete disagreement about the interpretation of this Agreement. It has been emphasized by the statement of the delegate of Italy and we know that the Italian Government for the time being is not taking any measures, no law has been elaborated to give FAO full immunity. The law which has been elaborated is to protect FAO from execution, not to give FAO full immunity in their own understanding. This is why I think it is necessary to clarify this issue, and nobody can do it except the International Court as recommended by the CCLM on two occasions.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italy): I have no objection at all to the amendments, improvements, that have been suggested. I was just wondering if this initiative to seek an advisory opinion of the International Court could be treated separately, not in the same Resolution, because perhaps some countries have different opinions on one part of the Resolution and on the opportunity to seek this advice. So I think it could be more expedient to keep the two things separate.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think, Mr Chairman, since this part of the Resolution is of concern to the Director-General, who is requested to take measures, for me there is no problem. If this part constitutes a paragraph of the report, saying the same thing without going to the Drafting Committee for hours (but the same text, becoming a paragraph) no problem, because I will act according to the wording of this paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: What the Italian Ambassador has stated is that this last paragraph read out by the Director-General should be a separate resolution or, as the Director-General says, as a paragraph in our report?

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would be happy if this paragraph could be separated. I join with the Italian delegate.

R.C. GUPTA (India): Our understanding is that this Resolution and the paragraph proposed by the Director-General, which would be a separate resolution, would have the unanimous approval of the Council. If we have to go into the exercise of many delegates, the majority of delegates, and all that, is not acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: The Indian delegate proposed that this should be unanimously approved and it should not be recorded what some members felt, and so on. I hope this is agreeable to everyone, that the proposal of the United States delegate, with the amendments suggested by the Director-General and an additional paragraph suggested by the Director-General, be included in the report as the unanimous recommendation of this Council. Then I suggest that we need not have any further discussion. I am very grateful to you for approving the Resolution unanimously. I want to thank all of you for this very nice ending for today. We have passed two resolutions and a statement unanimously and I am grateful to you.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

The meeting rose at 20.15 hours

Le séance est levée à 20.15

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.15 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/11

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
11ª SESION PLENARIA
(26 November 1984)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours
L.E. Williams, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40, sous la
Présidence de L.E. Williams, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria las 09.40 horas, bajo la
Presidencia de L.E. Williams, Vicepresidente del Consejo

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

- 16 Questions arising out of relations with the Host Government (continued)
- 16. Questions concernant les relations avec le Gouvernement du pays hôte (suite)
- 16. Asuntos derivados de las relaciones con el Gobierno hospedante (continuación)

- 16.4 Negotiations regarding the interpretation and application of Headquarters Agreement (continued)
- 16.4 Négotiations relatives à l'interprétation et à l'application de l'Accord de Siège (suite)
- 16.4 Negociaciones relativas a la interpretación y aplicación del Acuerdo sobre la Sede (continuación)

- 16.5 Delay in issuance of Import Licences (continued)
- 16.5 Retard de la délivrance des licences d'importation (suite)
- 16.5 Retraso en la concesión de licencias de importación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, as you were told on Friday afternoon I am going to be in the Chair for the next two items, after which the other Vice-Chairman, Mr McLean, will take over.

When we adjourned on Friday last we had discussed items 16.2 and 16.3, and in fact a Resolution was accepted by the delegates on those two items, but you will observe that the Resolution does in fact take in item 16.5 and possibly some aspects of 16.4. In view of that fact, I would suggest that 16.4 and 16.5 be taken together when they are being introduced by Mr Crowther. If there is no objection from the floor to this procedure we will continue in that way. Since I see no objections, Mr Crowther will introduce items 16.4 and 16.5.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): First on 16.4, this involves the negotiations regarding the interpretation and application of the Headquarters Agreement. On this item there are two basic problems; one has to do with the decision by the Host Government to limit duty-free privileges to all Italian nationals and to some non-Italian nationals. The second problem involves delay in the import licences for the Commissary.

First if I may give some very brief background on this subject. When the Headquarters Agreement between FAO and the Government of Italy was concluded in 1950, it was later ratified by the Italian Parliament and promulgated into law on 9th January 1951. An exchange of letters was concluded between the representatives of the Host Government and the then Director-General which gave details on the interpretation of certain clauses in the Agreement. These letters, which essentially interpreted the Headquarters Agreement at that point in time, are still in force today. Subsequently further agreements were drawn up in the form of an exchange of letters which set forth agreed interpretations of specific provisions or agreed procedures for their application.

In 1972 the Permanent Representative of Italy notified the Director-General that the Government had denounced the exchange of letters that occurred after 1951, and that a new text to replace them would be prepared by the Government in order to specify the scope and method of application of certain sections of the Headquarters Agreement. Negotiation on a new exchange of letters was initiated in February 1974 but no agreement had been reached.

Further negotiations started on 6th February and there were three meetings held between 6 February and 23 March of 1984. Negotiations were interrupted after the meeting on 23 March but were resumed on 29 October 1984. In the meantime there has been an exchange of correspondence between the Director-General and the Permanent Representative of the Host Government, and copies of those exchanges of letters are attached in the documents that you have with you.

The Italian Government states that it is determined in any case to exclude all FAO staff members of Italian nationality from customs benefits as from 1 January 1985. In addition, the Ministry of Finance has indicated that it wishes also to exclude non-Italian staff in the second and third category from duty-free purchase of petrol, liquor and tobacco. The Government wishes to cancel privileges enjoyed by Italian staff since 1971 following an official communication by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs at that time.

It may be helpful at this time, Mr Chairman, to give just a brief definition as to what is meant by these categories. Generally the first category staff could be defined to include all P-5s and above, as it provides essentially for full diplomatic privileges and immunities. The second category staff can be referred to as P-1s through P-4s, and they receive limited privileges and immunities. The third category staff is the General Service staff, and while they have received Commissary privileges, the only immunities they receive are for official acts only.

As a result of a number of delays in the granting of import licences during 1984 for the Commissary, duty-free petrol coupons and other items that were being sold were exhausted in July, with a result in financial losses not only to the staff but also to the Commissary. In view of these reduced sales it was necessary to curtail operations and close Building F Commissary from the beginning of August 1984.

For the first time in the history of the Organization, the Ministry of Finance refused or delayed the issue of duty-free licences for the FAO staff as provided for in Article 12, Section 27 of the Headquarters Agreement. The denial of privileges to the staff have administrative and financial consequences for the Organization since they are part of the conditions of employment of the staff, and the denial adversely affects the basis of the post adjustment of the Professional staff and of the comparison with the best prevailing rates in Rome as applied to the salaries of the General Service staff.

A permanent discontinuance of duty free imports for certain staff members would inevitably entail considerable extra cost to the Organization in the form of eventual upward adjustments in staff remuneration, since some duty free privileges are taken into account in the calculation of staff remuneration, salaries of General Service staff and post adjustment for Professional staff.

The Director-General considers that he should maintain the same privileges and immunities which the Organization and its staff have enjoyed since its Headquarters were transferred to Rome in 1951 and since they were subsequently extended to staff of Italian nationals, as communicated to the Organization by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1971.

The Director-General further considers that it would be difficult to continue negotiations in a constructive spirit leading to their successful conclusion under the conditions which the unilateral decision taken by the Host Government revoking the privileges granted for so many years in the past seeks to impose.

The question has been reviewed by the Finance Committee, which observed that the attitude of certain authorities was at variance with the benefits of the Italian economy deriving from the presence of the Organization, and did a disservice to the Organization and its staff.

On Friday a resolution was taken up that refers to this particular point and it strongly urges the Host Government to take into consideration in the context of the negotiations on the interpretation and application of the Headquarters Agreement all the financing and other implications that this position may have for all Member Nations both now and in the future.

If I may, I will take just a moment concerning item 16.5, which is to do with delay in issuance of import licences. Import licences are provided to FAO for those goods that are required to be imported for official purposes. Article 7 Section 19 of the Headquarters Agreement was incorporated into Italian law on 19 January 1951 and specifically states that "Articles imported or exported by the FAO for official purposes shall be exempt from customs duties and other levies, prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports." There has been a difference in understanding what this means. The Organization views it as being an unlimited authority to import goods for official purposes. Each time an application is made for duty free importation of official goods either the Director-General or the Deputy Director-General certifies that the request is for official purposes. The Ministry of Finance has viewed this differently and has questioned the official purposes. It raises questions on either the quantities or the purposes that the items are being imported for. There were a number of cases where the imports for official purposes were essentially blocked for some period of time while questions were being resolved. This occurred in 1982 and eventually was resolved, and the Finance Committee took this up at its session in April and May of 1983, when it was informed that the situation had improved substantially and an understanding had been reached. However, the Ministry of Finance again stopped granting licences during the last three months of 1983, blocking all the Organization's requests in respect of 1984 requirements.

The effects in terms of unbudgeted extra costs incurred amounted at the end of May 1984 to approximately US \$20 000. The Director-General protested repeatedly, both verbally and in writing, to the Italian Permanent Representative. Some licences were then issued, but with considerable delays, in subsequent months, which caused additional expenditure in the stoppage of the Organization's work. Through the good offices of the Permanent Representative, Ambassador Francisci has done a great deal to assist in alleviating this problem. He has personally intervened on a number of cases and attempted to resolve the issue. In most instances today we have been able to successfully get release of most of the import licences for official goods. However, there still remains outstanding, for example, the importation request for 2 500 000 envelopes covering the requirements of the Organization for next year, 1985. A number of questions have been raised concerning how this quantity fits in with the entire plan for importing for 1985. However, we have made every effort to provide information each time it has been asked for and we will provide the information requested in this instance. I think it is a good example of the type of question that has been raised.

Again let me say that the Finance Committee had put forward a resolution and again on Friday the Council took this resolution up as well and strongly urged the Host Government to ensure that licence for the importation of articles required by the Organization for its official purposes are granted expeditiously, so as not to hamper its work and cause additional cost to the Member Nations of the Organization.

The Council may wish to consider these. The documents are in front of you. This completes my opening remarks. I will be available for any questions that you may have.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Crowther for his introduction. I now put the matter before you for discussion.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I appreciate having the opportunity to speak again on this agenda item. There are a few points that my Government has asked me to make for the record.

Many of us have expressed a sense of urgency concerning the immunity of FAO from legal process and from measures of execution both. I want to add the voice of the United States to theirs and to urge upon the Host Government my Government's belief that FAO must have effective immunity from legal process and measures of execution.

Having said that, I would like to observe that the solutions to the Host Government's relations question lie, in our belief, right here in Rome, where so many successful negotiations have been brought to a conclusion, and not in The Hague. My Government hopes that all these difficulties which FAO is having with the Host Government will be worked out amicably and soon. I think we saw proof of that the other day and I think we should continue in that vein and on that path. We therefore believe that it would be premature either to resort to the International Court of Justice or to invoke the arbitration clause in the Headquarters Agreement. What is required is legislation which the distinguished Representative of the host country spoke to us about the other day, legislation right here in Italy.

We look forward to the speedy introduction and passage of this necessary legislation right here in Rome.

With respect to the host country's desire to limit the diplomatic privileges of its nationals in FAO employment, my delegation lends it full support to the position of the Host Government. Sovereign States have the right to do this, as my own country does with its nationals who are members of the international civil service posted in the United States. Similarly, we support the sovereign right of the Host Government to levy income tax upon its nationals in the FAO service. My own Government taxes its nationals in the international civil service. The modalities exist for doing it. While these measures, taxation and limitation of duty free privileges, may ultimately have some financial implications, we would not oppose the exercise of the sovereign right of a State upon such grounds. However, we would strongly oppose, and we urge that FAO strongly oppose, any such limitation on non-Italian nationals being imposed by the Host Government.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je dois avant tout remercier M. Crowther, Sous-Directeur général, pour l'exposition des problèmes qu'il a faite et je voudrais faire une observation de caractère général. M. Crowther et moi-même sommes engagés dans des négociations délicates, difficiles que nous espérons conclure avant la fin de l'année. Pour cette considération de caractère général je pense qu'il ne serait pas opportun d'entrer dans les détails d'une négociation qui est en train de se dérouler. Nous étudions actuellement différentes formules et peut-être que les intérêts légitimes, économiques et financiers de l'Organisation, trouveront une solution plus optimiste que ce que l'on pense. Donc j'invite le Conseil à avoir assez de patience parce que je ne conteste pas le droit du Secrétaire d'informer le Conseil sur les négociations mais je pense qu'en ce moment il serait opportun d'avoir une information de caractère très général.

Sur le problème des employés et fonctionnaires de la FAO de nationalité italienne, ce n'est pas une tâche agréable pour moi de suivre cette ligne, qui est parfaitement légitime, de mon gouvernement. Le problème des fonctionnaires italiens n'est pas inclus dans l'échange de lettres que nous sommes en train de renégocier. Je voudrais rappeler au Conseil que le Gouvernement italien a étendu ces privilèges aux fonctionnaires de nationalité italienne en 1971. Cela a été une concession unilatérale, un geste disons de générosité, de compréhension. Maintenant mon gouvernement pense que ces privilèges doivent être retirés. Donc ce point particulier ne fait pas partie des négociations parce qu'il n'a jamais fait partie de l'échange de lettres et le Gouvernement italien, en retirant ces privilèges pour les citoyens italiens, ne fait que suivre une pratique qui est généralement suivie par les autres pays.

Pour le reste, je pense que je peux m'engager devant le Conseil au nom de mon gouvernement à trouver des solutions et des formules qui soient absolument conformes à la lettre et à l'esprit du Traité. En revanche, je dois dire que le problème des licences d'importations est vrai et sérieux. Je m'en suis occupé presque tous les jours depuis que j'ai été nommé représentant de l'Italie auprès de l'Organisation. Dans cette question il y a eu des hauts et des bas; quelquefois j'ai réussi à résoudre les problèmes, quelquefois les choses ont mal tourné, mais je pense que, comme l'a dit M. Crowther, maintenant la situation est en train de se normaliser. Le Gouvernement italien est tout à fait d'accord sur l'interprétation de cette partie du décret. Le Gouvernement italien n'a ni l'autorité ni la compétence pour juger les quantités et les qualités des marchandises qui servent à l'Organisation pour fonctionner. Je pense que tout le monde ici connaît le caractère traditionnel, historique des administrations financières dans chacun de nos pays, et, en effet, la négociation avec mon Ministère des Finances est plus difficile sur ce point qu'avec M. Crowther.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr Chairman, I just wanted a little clarification. I thought when you opened the debate this morning you were talking about items 16.4 and 16.5 and that we had already finished items 16.2 and 16.3. I was just wondering whether the interventions relating to this would form part of the record of the debate.

CHAIRMAN: As far as I am aware we concluded discussion on items 16.2 and 16.3 on Friday last: and we are now discussing items 16.4 and 16.5, so that the discussions here will in fact form part of the record. This is my understanding. The Secretary has advised me that I am correct in my understanding. The floor is still open for discussion on this subject. Again I must point out to delegates that on Friday last a resolution was accepted by the Council and in that resolution mention was made of the need to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. In an intervention this morning we had an expression that this was premature, but this was just an expression that was made by the delegate of the United States.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Just a point of clarification. My understanding was indeed that the Council had accepted that resolution but that the last paragraph referring to the ICJ was to form part of the report itself and not part of the resolution. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat informs me that that is correct. It is the view of the Council that the clause relating to the seeking of an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice does not in fact form part of the resolution, but will be included in the report.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Thank you for that clarification. Canada did not speak on this issue because the Council had arrived at what we thought was a very useful position on this. This being said, the view of the Canadian Government was that matters should be solved within the house. We have no serious problem with helping the International Court but we urge that the problem be solved here, so our understanding of the Council "urging" is that it is a general statement.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): With regard to the relationships of FAO with the Host Government, my delegation notes with satisfaction taking into account decisions arrived at on Friday and the statements made so far, that we seem to have arrived at the turn of the tide. We feel both partners should be commended for their action, and fully encouraged to make every effort. We expect that this change will also include the issuance of import licences for the duty-free entry of goods destined for the Organization. We hope that the Secretariat and the Host Government will succeed in ensuring the smooth functioning of the FAO Secretariat, and in avoiding possible additional operational costs.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Briefly, we hope that negotiations will be carried to a successful conclusion in such a manner that there will be no additional cost to the Organization. As has been clearly explained by Mr Crowther, revocation of certain privileges would include additional costs for the Organization and would therefore mean additional assessed contributions to governments or reduction of monies which could more usefully be allocated to the programmes and work of the Organization for the realization of its objectives.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Después de haber reflexionado mucho sobre este tema el Consejo relativo a las cuestiones derivadas de las relaciones con el Gobierno del país huésped expresamos nuestra preocupación en el sentido de sentar precedentes que pongan en peligro los derechos que atañen a las representaciones contemplados en las convenciones internacionales que regulan la materia, y señalamos, asimismo, que, objetivamente, la suma de tiempo que la Conferencia, el Consejo y los Comités de Finanzas y Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos han dedicado a estos problemas, que debieran ser de fácil solución existiendo la buena voluntad de las partes, restan tiempo a estos Organos Rectores de la Organización para la atención de los problemas que fundamentalmente deben atender, como el del establecimiento de las medidas concretas que den respuesta a los graves problemas alimentarios y agrícolas que confrontan muchas áreas del mundo.

Sabemos que el distinguido hospedante sabrá apreciar este importante señalamiento.

Igualmente, los Comités de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos y de Finanzas, así como el Director General, deben seguir de cerca la marcha de estos acontecimientos e informar a este Consejo en sucesivos períodos de sesiones.

Finalmente, vemos con satisfacción el anuncio que nos hizo llegar el Director General sobre la visita del Excelentísimo Señor Presidente del Consejo de Ministros de la República de Italia para el próximo martes 27 ya que abre un compás de espera a la respuesta que pueda darnos el Gobierno italiano a través del honorable Señor Craxi.

La delegación de Panamá no tiene dificultad en aceptar los términos de la Resolución que se propone a este Consejo sobre las relaciones con el Gobierno huésped que aparece en el párrafo 109 del documento a examen.

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): I want only to ask for some clarification in relation to that part of the resolution beginning with the word "convinced" just before the words "strongly urges", because I wish to be clear to what it refers. We have been informed that the Council and the Conference have taken decisions to the effect that the Director-General would not appear in Court on these issues. To me, the sentence as it stands is not clear as to whether it refers to appearing in Court, now granting flexibility to the Director-General on that matter, or whether it restricts that flexibility only to the ongoing negotiations. I request that we add something somewhere there to enable the sentence to be more clear.

CHAIRMAN: I draw the attention of the distinguished delegate of Lesotho to the fact that this subject is closed. This resolution was passed and accepted by Council on Friday and we cannot now reopen discussion on that item which has been passed. As I see it, that is the position. We are now on Items 16.4 and 16.5. The distinguished delegate has referred to the resolution passed on Friday last, and his suggestion that he be allowed to amend that resolution.

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): I am not asking for amendment, but clarification; for my own clarification as to what this is restricted to.

CHAIRMAN: If we go further into this we shall be turning back the clock and discussing the matter, which was done on Friday last. I do not think this is an appropriate time to go back on this item for clarification.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): In fact, this question was discussed in the Finance Committee, of which we have the honour to be a member. During discussion on this matter, we noted that for a number of years it has not been settled in an acceptable way and, therefore, this situation will inevitably have a negative effect on the Organization, on its efficiency in the pursuance of its activities, and in the achievement of its objectives. Furthermore, this will be very expensive, and the funds available to the Organization should be directed towards other priorities.

If we can find a solution to this problem, which is not a recent one, and the Finance Committee will continue its discussions on the matter, we are convinced that the solution will be an effective one. There is no doubt that His Excellency the Ambassador of Italy has made many efforts, and is still continuing his attempts, to find a solution to this problem. We hope it will be possible to put things back in order and that the Organization will be able to obtain the international immunities it deserves.

As to granting privileges to Italian staff members and exempting them from Customs duties, Council no doubt will have noted that the Finance Committee has not specifically considered this particular point. As the representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I would like to give my unreserved support here to all measures and to any laws and decrees to which the Italian staff are subject. We should respect the laws promulgated by the Italian Government, and accept them. The Italian staff are local staff and if their Government does not wish to grant them privileges it has the absolute right to do so.

One last point. So far as concerns the decision taken on Friday and the last paragraph which was added to that resolution, the Director-General is not asked for arbitration from the International Court of Justice; he is simply asked for consultation, for a legal advisory opinion. This will not prejudice either party. It was something we accepted in the Finance Committee. Therefore, we see no objection to the Organization taking this advice and proceeding with the consultation, and afterwards it will inform the Finance Committee and the other Committees involved. That is what we wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN: We seem to have exhausted discussion from the floor, so I call on the Deputy Director-General.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you. First let me say that as you have rightly ruled, Mr Chairman, the subject of immunities was closed late on Friday evening. Furthermore, it was closed with certain understandings. One understanding was that the resolution will contain certain amendments which the Director-General read out which were accepted. Secondly, it would not contain a clause on the possibility - as the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia rightly says - of submitting the question of immunity to the International Court. Instead of being in the resolution, this was put in a paragraph of the report, but the reason I myself am referring back to a closed item is that there may be some misunderstanding about this now as a result of the earlier interventions.

I fully understand that certain delegations wanted to get certain views on record. On the other hand, I think it was said explicitly by the Director-General on Friday evening, and was accepted by the floor and by the Chairman, that in the paragraph referring to the International Court of Justice the possibility was adopted unanimously and would not be changed in the Drafting Committee. I wanted just to recall that. Of course, this does not prejudice the particular view expressed by certain delegations on the timeliness or desirability of actually doing this. The matter has to be studied; that is the unanimous decision in the words read out by the Director-General.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I just wanted to be sure of one thing. We passed unanimously a resolution which did not contain this paragraph. This paragraph was to appear in the report as separate from the resolution - is that correct?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Yes, I have just confirmed that, but as adopted by the Council without qualifications and reservations. This is the point I was making.

Turning to items under discussion this morning, I appreciate very much the spirit in which this has been dealt with by His Excellency Ambassador Francisci di Baschi, and members of the Council could well listen to his appeal not to go into detail. I appreciate the point he is making to us rather than to you on that particular point. However, I must make one or two points.

First, I want to emphasize that no-one is questioning the sovereign rights, of the Host Government of any country. They exist and will be applied. We are discussing the interpretation of an agreement which was entered into on the basis of the sovereign rights of the host country and they are bound by that agreement just as much as we are. It is the interpretation which is causing the trouble. If certain things are changed, in particular matters which affect the calculation of the salaries of staff in the manner suggested, the costs will not be negligible; they will be substantial, and as pointed out, they will be shared by all of you. So this is a matter which has to be taken seriously by the Director-General at any time, but particularly when he is doing his utmost to recognize the demand being made all round for austerity and prudence in budgetary matters.

Secondly, I would like to say as regards income tax which has been introduced into the discussion, but does not form part as far as I am aware of the negotiations with the Host Government - I pause for His Excellency the Ambassador to correct me if I am wrong - I would appreciate his intervention at this point because it was not we who raised the question of income tax, but someone else, and I would like to dispose of it rather than get into that subject. If His Excellency can confirm that is not at issue, we can leave that question aside.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie) : Oui. Après une longue méditation, le Gouvernement italien a décidé de ne pas parler de cette question. Elle ne figure pas dans les négociations. Nous n'avons aucune intention de soulever ce problème.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Thank you, I am most grateful for that clarification. We are left with certain other matters. As regards the question of import privileges for Italian staff, we understand very well that in most countries which are hosting organizations, they do not provide import duty-free privileges to the nationals of their own countries. It is not universally true. It is done in at least one place, but it is generally the case that nationals are not included. Now if they had never been included in Rome, then we would not have a problem, but they were included, not by this

Director-General but by a previous one in the past with the concurrence and cooperation of the host country provided by the then Minister of Foreign Affairs in a letter which we have in our possession, a very distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs who became Prime Minister and was later most horribly and tragically assassinated. At that time, the Italian State decided they were entitled to certain privileges, and I refer in particular of course to the question of access to the Commissary. As I said, if they had not had it given to them by the fiat of the Italian Government at that time there would not be a problem now, but it was given to them by the Italian Government. Now the Italian Government has decided that it does not wish any longer to give it to them.

Well, we cannot go into that as a matter of right, as the Italian Ambassador said, under the Headquarters Agreement. You will not find it there. On the other hand, I think most of the members of the Council will understand and sympathize with our position that we cannot be consenting and willing partners to introducing discrimination against any member of our staff, and that is our position, and that is what we are putting before the Host Government.

The same applies but only more so to the question of limiting the number of staff in Category I. On this it is not only a question of discrimination but it is a question of interpretation, which we think is open to argument, and it is also a question of your rights, because the number and grades of staff are determined by the Conference. And as far as the Conference is concerned, you are determining the number of P-4s, not the number of P-4s or P-5s, who shall be either in a first-class citizen category or who shall be a second-class citizen. We cannot go to the Italian Government in advance of coming to the Conference and say, how many more P-5s will you tolerate in FAO, unless the new ones are second-class citizens and do not have privileges, nor can we go to the Conference and say, please approve this number of P-4s and P-5s subject to the agreement of the Italian Government on their status. This is the problem. It is a practical problem and moral problem, as we see it, but also to some extent a constitutional problem.

Now, I do not want to whip up a controversy on these issues today. We would like to continue in the same way as we did on Friday evening, and therefore I hope that what you have already approved in the resolution on these matters in a general way will cover this issue too, and that we shall continue to negotiate in a friendly and constructive way, which I am sure will be the case as long as we are dealing with the present Ambassador sitting here today.

However, I must speak much more strongly and appeal to your strong and explicit support in this case, because I think this is required to enable Ambassador Francisci to do his job. I must ask you to be very clear and very strong on the subject of import licences for the Organization's official needs. He has already made our case for us, I think, in his statement, so I need not say too much on that issue, but I would like to add just one or two practical examples.

It really is incredible and intolerable that an official, someone in the Ministry of Finance, should be in a position to oblige us to incur increasing demurrage costs for paper for printing held up in railway wagons for lack of an import licence because he thinks that - well, I do not know what he thinks. He thinks that either he is entitled to enquire why we need so much paper, so I have to say to him because international organizations consume a lot of paper and delegates are always asking for more documents, or whether it is because he thinks that instead of buying it on the basis of an international tender more cheaply from Sweden, we ought to buy it in Italy, which is the practical consequence of our not being able to have this paper or for any other reason that he might have on his mind. It is not for him to determine the needs of the Organization. If he believes that we are importing this paper and selling it off to somebody, then of course he should produce evidence, and we could deal with this matter in a proper way, but no such suggestion has been made. It is incredible similarly that we do not have our supply of official envelopes with the FAO title and symbol on it for 1985 because he thinks - well, he does not say anything. He has not granted the licence for 1985 for official envelopes in which we need to dispatch documents and letters. This is not something that happened last week and will be resolved if we have a little patience. We made that application in April 1984 and we are still waiting for the import licence.

It has been indicated that certain things are not linked with other things, but we have the feeling that maybe they are linked, that maybe this pressure by the Minister of Finance - I do not want to whip up the atmosphere so I am not going to go into it any more, but I just want to make it clear where we are with this intolerable situation.

My last point on this will be yes, we are encouraged by recent developments, but I think the words used by the Federal Republic of Germany were perhaps unconsciously correct - I was going to say they were a Freudian slip. I do not know, I will talk to him afterwards. But he said this seems to be the turn of the tide. But the tide goes out and it comes in, it goes out again. This is what we have been experiencing for the last few years. So I hope it is not simply the turn of the tide, I hope it is the conclusion of the problem.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italic): Sur ce dernier point, la position du Gouvernement italien coïncide exactement avec celle sur laquelle M. West a beaucoup insisté. Ma tâche sera d'éliminer ce problème, pas à travers une série de hautes ou basses marées, mais définitivement.

Sur le problème de l'exclusion des fonctionnaires de nationalité italienne des privilèges fiscaux et de douane: le Gouvernement italien est parfaitement conscient de ce qu'il y a des conséquences financières pour l'Organisation. En effet, entre 1971 et aujourd'hui, l'Italie a été l'unique membre de cette Organisation à intégrer les salaires des fonctionnaires de la FAO. Si dans l'avenir cette tâche sera partagée par tous les membres, je ne vois là rien de tragique ni d'irréalisable. Je reconnais que c'est un problème désagréable pour le management de l'Organisation mais il faut quant même y faire face. Merci M. le Président.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): This is the first time that I have heard the question of appointment of staff being brought up, and the position is that we support the administration. It seems to me impossible that anybody that tries to run an organization has not the power of deciding about the staff they wish to appoint, so we would support the Secretariat of FAO in this regard.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Le Gouvernement italien n'a aucunement l'intention d'interférer dans la politique du personnel du Directeur général ni du Conseil. Nous parlons simplement d'une négociation de privilèges matériels, pas d'immunité; donc nous n'avons aucune intention de faire des pressions indirectes sur le Conseil, par exemple sur le groupe de fonctionnaires P-5, mais on doit rappeler au Conseil que depuis son implantation à Rome, le groupe de fonctionnaires de première catégorie est passé de 50 à 500. C'est de cela dont on parle; et en tout cas, si on a l'intention, au moins de la part du Gouvernement italien, de congeler ce nombre ou plutôt de le réduire, cela n'a rien à voir avec les privilèges juridiques qui sont reconnus à n'importe quel fonctionnaire international. Donc, disons qu'il y a d'un côté des privilèges physiques, matériels et de l'autre des immunités de caractère juridique. Ce second type d'immunité n'est pas touché par les négociations; il y a simplement le désir du Gouvernement italien d'avoir un accord avec l'Organisation sur un nombre de fonctionnaires qui a terriblement grandi au cours des dernières années; et il s'agirait en fait de calculer avec une certaine bonne volonté des deux côtés.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous avons suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt la discussion sur cette question qui nous touche nous tous membres de la FAO. Nous pensons pour notre part, et c'est ce que nous avons toujours encouragé, qu'il faudrait que le gouvernement hôte de la FAO puisse aboutir le plus rapidement possible à un accord satisfaisant toutes les parties. Mais nous voudrions nous appesantir un peu sur ce point qui concerne les privilèges matériels accordés jusqu'ici aux fonctionnaires de la catégorie I par exemple. Nous pensons qu'il est extrêmement dangereux que l'on puisse créer des différences à l'intérieur de cette catégorie. Je prends l'exemple des fonctionnaires P-5, il serait extrêmement difficile de faire une distinction entre les P-5 qui pourront jouir des privilèges matériels que l'Italie pourrait accorder, et les autres qui n'en jouiraient pas.

Il convient lors de ces négociations de faire en sorte que la justice puisse être sauvegardée; si les P-5 sont concernés, il faut que tous les P-5 puissent bénéficier de ces avantages et non pas que certains en bénéficient alors que d'autres n'en bénéficieraient pas. Il faut éviter de créer des discriminations au sein de ce groupe de fonctionnaires, discriminations qui risquent d'avoir des répercussions dangereuses dans le cadre du travail. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN: In brief summation, it seems to me as though the agreement reached could be accommodated under the draft resolution which was passed on Friday, a general consensus that the host country should ensure that FAO is allowed to have immunity from legal process and execution. The view was expressed by one or two delegations that it may be premature for the Council to resort to the ICJ for an advisory opinion, but this view does not detract from the fact that a clause was included in the report to the effect that even though this clause is there, the Secretariat, having a mandate to proceed, will determine when and how and if they should so proceed.

We also heard from the Italian Ambassador that the Council should show some restraint in view of the fact that discussions are now being held, and he cautioned patience.

DEPUTY-DIRECTOR GENERAL: Mr Chairman, you have just summarized what occurred here this morning but it is my understanding from the exchanges between myself and others that there will be no reference in the report on this item to the discussion about immunity. The verbatim records will take care of what people said.

- 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. Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO
- 9. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et qui intéressent la FAO
- 9. Novedades recientes registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): I take pleasure in presenting to you, on behalf of the Director-General, document CL 86/12 on recent developments in the United Nations system of interest to FAO.

It will be recalled that the last documents on this item were submitted to the Twenty-second session of the Conference in November 1983. The present document intends to summarize important developments since then. As in the past, in accordance with the pattern established by the Council, the document deals with developments of an inter-agency nature in the United Nations system which are not covered elsewhere.

It will be seen that it covers a wide range of subjects and reflects the increasing degree of FAO's involvement in the coordination of and contribution to matters of system-wide interest.

This involvement assumes different forms, depending on the degree of interest the Organization has in the subject and the nature of requests for cooperation. We have substantively contributed to the documentations and debates on a variety of subjects, such as the International Development Strategy, economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, population, industrialization, and the review and appraisal of the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. In certain areas, our cooperation assumed the shape of joint or collaborative activities, such as in the case of science and technology for development, or nutrition. In certain others, like agrarian reform and rural development, FAO has the lead role. In passing, it may be mentioned that, up to end of October of this year, we have been asked by the United Nations to contribute to as many as a hundred reports and invited to attend over 500 meetings of the UN system, besides over 600 non-UN meetings.

This of course showed the important scope of inter-agency activities.

These are only a few examples. It is neither our intent nor is it possible in fact in a document of this nature to give a complete view of the inter-agency aspects of FAO's activities.

I would therefore confine myself to updating the Council since the issue of this document on developments regarding selected items.

I would like to deal with them in the order in which they are listed. First of all:

The International Development Strategy. The Council and Conference have been kept informed of the various stages of the review and appraisal of the IDS. Our participation in the process is briefly described in paragraph 6 of the document. The resumed and final session of the Committee on the Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the IDS. was held from 10-18 September 1984. It unfortunately failed to fulfil the task entrusted to it by the General Assembly. In the absence of a consensus, the Committee would present a brief factual and procedural report to the Second Committee of the General Assembly. A possibility envisaged is that a decision might be taken by the General Assembly with a view to continuing and completing the review and appraisal exercise in early 1985 but a decision has still to be taken.

Critical situation in Africa. Subsequent to the ECOSOC discussions in July this year referred to in paragraph 33 of the document, the World Bank, in late September, presented a report entitled "Towards consistent development: A joint programme of action for sub-Saharan Africa". I am sure most delegates are already very familiar with this document.

The report inter alia recommends that the African governments should undertake necessary policy reforms and the international community should provide adequate and consistent external financial assistance. Agriculture was singled out as the most crucial sector for policy reform and external assistance. The report also recommends that an additional funding of US\$ 2 billion should be placed in a special assistance facility to support reform programmes.

The Development Committee expressed strong support for the report's proposed action programme, but the key problem of financing the plan, and particularly the annual funding of \$2 billion, is still unresolved and the World Bank is continuing its discussions with donor countries.

As recommended by ECOSOC at its July 1984 session, an item on the critical economic situation in Africa was inscribed on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly. The General Assembly, for the consideration of this item, had before it a report reviewing the emergency situation in 27 countries facing abnormal food shortages and nine countries also affected by drought, as identified by the FAO/WFP Special Task Force. FAO participated in the preparation of this report. The debate on the subject in the General Assembly was concluded on 6 November but according to our latest information just received this morning, informal discussions are still going on. The President of the General Assembly has appointed an open-ended working group to elaborate a draft "Declaration on the critical situation in Africa". A text has been presented by the African Group and negotiations, as I said, are still proceeding informally.

A few words now on ICARA II, the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa. FAO participated actively in the preparation of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held in Geneva in July. As mentioned in the document, FAO prepared 40 agricultural project profiles to the value of approximately \$91 million, equal to about 25 percent of the total value of the 128 project proposals submitted to ICARA II. The situation with regard to the exact amounts of pledges for the project proposals placed before the Conference, the extent to which such pledges represented or would represent additionality in resources, and the issue of the channelling of the resources through multilateral means are still not clear three months after the channelling of the Conference. Two focal points have been set up within the United Nations for handling all contributions channelled through it. UNHCR is the focal point for all assistance dealing with emergency relief and voluntary repatriation of refugees; UNDP is the focal point for technical and capital assistance for refugee-related development projects. As of 31 October, 22 governments had indicated a pledge or contribution in response to a letter of August 17 from the Secretary-General asking for information on action in response to the refugee needs.

On Science and Technology for Development. Paragraphs 81 to 89 of the document summarize developments in this regard. I should like to add only a few words about the latest situation relating to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. As indicated in paragraph 83, the Secretary-General convened a preparatory meeting on resources at the end of October. Sixteen governments and interested members of the European Economic Community indicated their readiness to contribute a total sum of \$10 million for the first year of the Financing System. This amount is far short of the target of \$50 million for the initial year. A suggestion was made at the meeting that an informal open-ended intergovernmental working group be constituted to continue the negotiations. Thus, so far, there is no substantial progress to report, and the future of the Financing System is still hanging in balance.

On Environment. As indicated in paragraph 103 of the document, the World Commission on Environment and Development held its first meeting in Geneva. The Commission gave preliminary consideration to its own mandate, identification of key issues and its strategy, work plan and timetable. The Director-General sent a message to the Commission highlighting the global environmental issues as seen from the perspective of agriculture and the growing food requirements. The Commission intends to work in close collaboration with, among others, UN bodies and specialized agencies, including FAO, and to hold discussions with them. FAO has assured the Commission of its fullest cooperation.

ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. It will be noted in paragraphs 122 to 125 of the document that the three priority areas identified by the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition were endorsed by ACC, the Administrative Committee on Coordination. I am happy to report the following further action. As regards Initiative Africa, the United Nations University has undertaken to organize missions, in consultation with FAO and WHO, to identify the African institutions to be strengthened. Also, consultations are under way on the strengthening of the Joint FAO/WHO/OAU Regional Food and Nutrition Commissions for Africa, and the matter will come up for further consideration at the next session of the ACC Sub-Committee in February 1985. As regards coordinated country-level approach, Kenya has been selected to study the coordinated support to nutrition activities at the country level. A consultant and a panel of Kenyan national experts is engaged in preparing a review of the nutritional problems, policies, resources, external inputs, and opportunities. This will form the basis of a symposium which will take place during the next session of the Sub-Committee planned to be held in Nairobi in February 1985. As regards control of vitamin A deficiency, ACC, at its October 1984 session, requested the Sub-Committee to prepare for its review a detailed ten-year plan of action for concerted action by the United Nations organizations concerned.

Mr Chairman, it will be noted that, in response, to a suggestion made at the twenty-second session of the FAO Conference, a section of the document on relations with international financial institutions has been included. In this context, by way of updating, it would suffice to say that the discussions on the replenishment of IFAD, held during the session of the Fund's Governing Council in Paris in October, did not prove conclusive and the negotiations are expected to be resumed next month.

In conclusion, I would like to share information on two other matters which are not included in the document but may be of interest to the Council. The first relates to the establishment of a UNIDO-sponsored International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology with the purpose of undertaking training, research, development, exchange of information, and transfer of technology activities in these fields. At a plenipotentiary meeting held in Vienna in April 1984, in which 25 developing and developed countries participated, it was decided to establish the two components of the Centre respectively at New Delhi and Trieste in Italy. The unit in India is reportedly expected to focus on agriculture and human and animal health, while the focus of work in Italy would be on energy, microbiology and protein engineering. The Centre would have affiliated institutions in individual countries, which would participate in the training, research and development activities of the Centre.

FAO's views were sought in the early stages of the elaboration of the proposal, and FAO was represented at the various meetings which led to the establishment of the Centre. In May 1984, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the Centre were invited to visit the laboratory of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Isotope and Radiation Applications of Atomic Energy for Food and Agricultural Development located at Seiberstorf, Austria. They showed great interest in the biotechnology activities of the laboratory and thought that it could become an affiliated centre for agricultural biotechnology in the proposed scheme for the Centre.

The other matter relates to the 1984 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities which was held in New York on 7 and 8 November 1984. At this Conference, pledges to UNDP by 98 countries amounted to \$511 million. Contributions by governments which have not yet announced their pledges would, according to the estimate of the Administrator of UNDP, bring the expected total of UNDP resources for 1985 to \$672 million. This represents a virtual stagnation in contributions before inflation, since the actual contributions amounted to \$676 million in 1983, and \$671 million up to 30 June 1984.

With these few introductory notes I would like to submit this document for the Council's consideration. I would just like to add one small thing, a misspelling in paragraph 102, unfortunately, in the first name of Mrs. Brundtland. It should read Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland. We apologize for this misspelling.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos complace, Señor Presidente, intervenir bajo su dirección, Embajador Williams.

Como siempre nuestro amigo André Regnier ha hecho una presentación clara y completa de este documento. No sólo el texto de este documento, sino la oportunidad de participar en actividades realizadas en diversos foros, nos permite registrar con satisfacción el hecho de que la FAO, nuestra Organización, ocupa un lugar preminente y destacado en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas. Particularmente en los últimos nueve años la FAO ha logrado escapar de la torre de marfil en la cual se le tenía segregada, tristemente aislada de la realidad de hechos que tienen lugar en el seno de las Naciones Unidas, víctima de las políticas conservadoras, negativas y retrógradas de algunos países. Para satisfacción nuestra hoy la FAO es la Agencia más importante de las Naciones Unidas y es reconocida su labor por la manera eficaz y positiva en que se adelantan sus labores.

La riqueza de este documento pleno de datos e informaciones útiles, confirman la presencia viva, activa y permanente de la FAO, así como la adecuada y eficaz coordinación de las actividades de nuestra Organización con los demás Organismos de las Naciones Unidas. Nos complace esta evolución favorable en la posición de la FAO, porque es evidente que los problemas de la agricultura y de la alimentación no pueden considerarse ni responderse aisladamente, ya que están directamente relacionados con todos los otros aspectos que integran la economía mundial.

Deseamos referirnos al examen y evaluación de la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo, a partir del párrafo 2.

Este Consejo debe lamentar que, como lo indica en los párrafos 3 y 4, ni siquiera pueda llevarse a cabo el examen y la evaluación de esa estrategia, que como tantos otros documentos quedó convertida en letra muerta y sin que se alcanzara ninguno de los objetivos, particularmente en los sectores de la agricultura y la alimentación. Claro que a ciertos países no les conviene evaluar el resultado de esa estrategia porque se confirmaría que vamos de año en año y de promesa a promesa siempre incumplida.

Bastaría referirnos a las negociaciones globales. Creemos que ésta es una de las raras ocasiones en que en este documento, que siempre estudiamos en el Consejo en el otoño, no aparece ninguna referencia a las negociaciones globales, y sin duda cuántos de nosotros recordamos las veces que se ha dicho en este Consejo que ya casi van a empezarse las negociaciones globales.

En su discurso de apertura el Director General dijo que ya no se habla de las negociaciones globales; está en curso el 39º período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas y se nos ha informado que no existe ninguna posibilidad de que esa Asamblea General vuelva a ocuparse de las negociaciones globales. Esto debemos de lamentarlo y hacerlo constar en nuestro informe; pero seguramente el amigo Regnier podrá aún darnos la esperanza e informarnos de que por lo menos antes del año 2000 volveremos a ocuparnos de las negociaciones globales.

La Delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente la participación de la FAO en el incremento de la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo. En nuestro informe deberemos pedir que se intensifique este apoyo por parte de la FAO, al cual hay que asignársele más recursos, si bien reconocemos que la responsabilidad principal en la CEPD corresponde a los propios países en desarrollo. Debemos igualmente destacar lo que se dice en el párrafo 12 en el sentido de que los organismos internacionales no deben esperar pasivamente a que se les presenten peticiones de asistencia, sino que necesitan actuar como Agente catalítico para promover en forma activa esa cooperación.

En el párrafo 14 el Director General ha presentado muy bien los problemas con que se enfrentan los países en desarrollo. Apoyamos ese enfoque positivo del Director General pidiéndole que siga concediendo muy alta prioridad a la CEPD en el Programa de las Labores y Presupuesto para 1986/87.

La Delegación de Colombia desea expresar su reconocimiento al Director General de la FAO por la presencia de nuestra Organización en la reunión de Bucarest celebrada en marzo pasado bajo la hábil y competente dirección de nuestro distinguido colega amigo y vecino el Embajador Tchicaya, del Congo, que entonces era presidente del Grupo de los 77.

Estamos igualmente agradecidos a la FAO, al PMA, al CMA, y al FIDA por haber enviado sus propios representantes a la Tercera Reunión de Seguimiento y Coordinación del Grupo de los 77 celebrada en septiembre pasado en Cartagena, Colombia, con la asistencia oportuna y eficaz de nuestro Presidente actual del Grupo de los 77 el colega y amigo Horacio Carandang, de Filipinas.

El primer día de nuestros trabajos el Director General se refirió al FIDA.

El capítulo de este documento sobre las relaciones con las instituciones internacionales de financiación a partir del párrafo 170 cita el Fondo Internacional del Desarrollo Agrícola, FIDA, y nuestro amigo Regnier en su reciente declaración se ha referido al fracaso con que concluyó el 8 período de sesiones del Consejo de Gobernadores del FIDA celebrado en París.

La delegación de Colombia desea hablar del caso alarmante del FIDA por las siguientes consideraciones:

El FIDA es una agencia de las Naciones Unidas cuyos acontecimientos recientes preocupan seriamente a la comunidad internacional. La situación del FIDA es la más escandalosa en el deterioro patente e incontestable de la cooperación multilateral. Los objetivos del FIDA coinciden con los de la FAO; la FAO, particularmente por medio del Centro de Inversiones, ha participado activa y eficazmente en la identificación y preparación de numerosos proyectos del FIDA. Además el FIDA es el último y más reciente ejemplo que confirma la posición de los delegados de Colombia en diversos foros sobre la crisis creciente y deplorable que afecta a la cooperación multilateral.

Aún nos parece increíble, señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, la actitud que desgraciadamente logró el apoyo de los miembros de todos los países industrializados, países que nosotros sabemos que no pueden estar en favor de la eliminación del FIDA. No podemos aceptar un sentido tan negativo de la cooperación internacional dentro del cual persista la obstinación irracional de que por que el FIDA empezó coyunturalmente sobre la base de cierta distribución de las contribuciones esa proporción deba mantenerse al infinito sin ninguna consideración, sin importar que esa obsesión produzca un final tan doloroso como el de París.

¿Cómo es posible que hoy se exija a los países de la OPEP la misma proporción de contribuciones y que no se reconozca que ahora las condiciones económicas y políticas de esos Estados son muy distintas a las de 1977 cuando se inicio el FIDA?

La Comunidad Internacional debe reconocer los cambios ocurridos, hechos irrefutables, y expresar su reconocimiento a los Estados de la OPEP, categoría dos del FIDA, que así han reiterado su generoso apoyo a ese Organismo.

Nos resistimos a creer, ojalá que la impresión no corresponda a la realidad, que para algunos países de la categoría uno pueda significar más una cierta distribución de contribuciones que la vida, la suerte, los sufrimientos, el hambre, la miseria y la malnutrición que padecen millones de campesinos entre los más pobres del mundo.

¿Cómo es posible que una delegación haya declarado aquí, en el Consejo, cuando discutimos el tema y cito: "estamos muy animados por el progreso reciente que se ha hecho para lograr la reposición del FIDA y tenemos confianza que pronto se llegará a un acuerdo sobre la reposición"?

Es realmente demasiado cinismo hablar de recientes progresos cuando la fecha para la nueva reunión de diciembre de 1984 ha sido transferida a enero o febrero de 1985 o diciembre de 1999; ese cambio de fechas es contrario al espíritu de la Resolución que como tabla de salvación aprobaron en París 139 Estados Miembros según la cual esa reunión del Grupo de Consulta debería celebrarse preferiblemente antes del 23º período de sesiones de la Junta Ejecutiva que va a iniciarse el próximo 11 de diciembre.

La delegación de Colombia desea rendir homenaje especial al Gobierno de Francia, Miembro de este Consejo. Los representantes de Francia en todas las instancias han demostrado particular preocupación por la subsistencia del FIDA. Desgraciadamente esa constructiva actitud francesa, apoyada inicialmente por la gran mayoría de los países de la categoría uno, fue arrollada por la falta de flexibilidad de algunos representantes de gobiernos cuyas actuaciones fueron definitivamente negativas, para que no se lograra ningún acuerdo sobre la segunda reposición de los recursos del FIDA.

La reunión de París constituyó otro eslabón de la cadena de paradojas y de injusticias a través de las cuales se está consumiendo el FIDA. Asistieron dos Jefes de Estado, los Presidentes de Francia y Argentina, numerosos ministros, se eligió un nuevo Presidente, se nos anunció que pronto el FIDA dispondría de una sede moderna y confortable ofrecida por el gobierno italiano, generosa siempre Italia. Todo ello, naturalmente, constituye una fachada maravillosa, pero con un interior vacío, sin recursos.

No podemos entender que haya indiferencia frente a una situación como ésta; resulta extraño, incomprensible, e inaceptable que se esté cumpliendo la conjura contra el FIDA, organismo que fue creado por recomendación de la Conferencia Mundial de 1974 en atención a las condiciones que existían en ese momento, condiciones que hoy lejos de mejorarse son aún peores.

Señor Presidente, distinguidos delegados; les rogamos unos minutos más para concluir nuestra referencia al FIDA que consideramos un organismo excepcional, la evaluación de cuyas actividades ha demostrado plenamente el cumplimiento de sus objetivos.

La delegación de Colombia propone que en nuestro informe se señale la grave situación del FIDA y que haga un llamado a todos los contribuyentes a fin de que no permitan la muerte del FIDA. Debemos pedir también a los más altos contribuyentes de la categoría uno que reconozcan hechos nuevos y se aparten de la distribución de las cargas para que su contribución en definitiva permita la subsistencia del FIDA.

Al analizar serena y objetivamente lo que está sucediendo en las Naciones Unidas y también fuera del Sistema nos lleva a una conclusión triste, lamentable, dolorosa, inconcebible en pleno siglo 20 cuando los seres humanos se divierten en el espacio. Toda la cooperación multilateral está sometida a la falta de voluntad política de algunos países desarrollados; países que en el seno del Consejo Internacional del Trigo se oponen a la adopción de un nuevo Convenio Internacional sobre Cereales; países que en la reciente reunión del Grupo Intergubernamental sobre el Banano como mayores importadores torpedearon y bloquearon toda la posibilidad sobre un acuerdo internacional del banano; países que ejercen presiones económicas sobre la UNESCO y la ONUDI; países bajo cuya influencia la EID (Intl.Develop.Strat.) debió reducir sus recursos en un 25 por ciento; países que en el Fondo Monetario Internacional se oponen a la apertura y ampliación del Servicio Cerealero; países que en el CSA se oponen a la adopción de un pacto sobre seguridad alimentaria mundial; países que mediante sus propios servicios de evaluación constatan que el reducido personal trabaja de manera excelente y sin embargo no vacilan en aceptar un golpe irreparable para la moral del personal del FIDA, organismo del cual han comenzado a retirarse altos, pequeños y medianos funcionarios. Países que en la categoría uno lograron el milagro de la unánime conversión, y en fin, países que incumplieron el compromiso moral y legal con la primera reposición de los recursos del FIDA, y originaron desde entonces todos los males de ese Organismo hasta su actual agonía.

Esta ha tratado de ser una descarnada, aunque benévola, radiografía de esos países todopoderosos. Amén.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar, queríamos agradecer al Ser. Regnier por el magnífico documento que nos ha presentado, y por la exposición que él ha hecho al presentar el documento. Queremos decir que este documento nos es muy útil para enterarnos de lo que sucede en el área de la agricultura y la alimentación, o en otras agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas; y también nos sirve mucho para coordinar nuestra posición con las delegaciones que tenemos acreditadas ante esos Organismos.

Queremos referirnos especialmente a dos cuestiones. La primera es el examen y evaluación de la EID. Lo que queremos decir cuando acá se analizan los párrafos 3 y 4, es que si esta negociación no ha tenido éxito no ha sido justamente por la postura en materia de agricultura y alimentación que ha tenido el Grupo de los 77, en su momento, que fue en abril de este año bajo la presidencia del Presidente del Congo, que presidía el Grupo de los 77.

Nosotros desde Roma, el Grupo de los 77 en Roma, envió sus comentarios sobre el examen de lo actuado por la EID, en materia de EID, y sobre cuáles debían ser las modificaciones para actualizarla, con lo cual consideramos que el Grupo de los 77 en Roma ha hecho un aporte para que sea evaluado.

Eso no se ha reflejado después en la práctica en haber adoptado una posición al respecto por el resto de la comunidad internacional.

En cuanto a la segunda cuestión que es la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo según surge en el documento, vemos que estas cuestiones siempre están incluidas entre las atribuciones de las agencias especialistas del Sistema de Naciones Unidas.

El problema es que ello no se refleja, en la misma manera, en los programas y en los presupuestos. Quizá sea porque estos Organismos no tienen identificados claramente en sus programas y presupuestos, las actividades de apoyo a la CEPD y CTPD. Quizá una manera de avanzar en este sentido sería señalar el Consejo Administrativo de Coordinación y al Comité del Programa y Coordinación, que consulte con el Grupo de los 77 acerca de las propuestas concretas que el Grupo de los 77 tiene, y que son muchas, para todos los Organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, y que se incluyan entonces esos programas para los bienios. Me refiero a consultas con el Grupo de los 77 en sus distintos capítulos, en Nueva York, en Ginebra, en Nairobi, en Kenya y en Roma, y en el caso que corresponda también en París. Eso es una cuestión concreta en lo que hace a la FAO. Por supuesto que destacamos y agradecemos muchísimo la participación de la FAO en todos los temas de apoyo al CEPD y al CTPD que ha tenido un papel muy activo en este bienio, y esperamos que lo tenga aún más.

En ese sentido, creemos que las reuniones de Bucarest, y la del Comité Intergubernamental de Seguimiento y Coordinación, que ha tenido recientemente lugar en Colombia, le dan mandato para ello. Y lo que queremos decir acá, en este sentido, es que nosotros, el Grupo de los 77, tiene constituido un Grupo que se llama Grupo de los 16 formado de cuatro países por región, que se ocupa de identificar y de coordinar todas las acciones que tienen que ver con la CEPD y la CTPD. Esto es resultado de una Conferencia de la FAO del año 1979, en que salió por mandato. Este Grupo está trabajando muy activamente bajo la presidencia del delegado de Filipinas. Entonces, lo que sugerimos acá, y lo que queremos que quede constancia es que haya una coordinación de la FAO con este Grupo para la identificación de todas las acciones de la CEPD y CTPD que puedan surgir.

Esto es todo. No queremos abundar en detalles que han sido muy bien planteados por la delegación de Colombia. En cuanto a la gravedad de la disminución de la financiación del desarrollo, creemos que ese tema ha sido abordado en el punto 4, cuando se hicieron referencias concretas a la gravedad de la disminución y de las tendencias decrecientes de financiación para el desarrollo, y como nos referimos en aquella oportunidad, no lo vamos a hacer ahora.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): There is no doubt in the mind of any one of us about the excellence of the report document CL 86/12 which is a feature of Item 9, and also the admirable presentation of it in summary by the Director of the Office for Inter-Agency Affairs. Both have impressed us very greatly. I am sure that the exertion of FAO in the interest of the hungry people in the world has left its impress on the sands of time in the corridors of the United Nations. From what the Director has said, we learn that FAO has been invited to as many as 100 meetings and has presented as many as 500 papers to different world organizations associated, allied and aligned to food promotion to different parts of the world, and this bears eloquent evidence and testimony to the indispensable importance of FAO.

The three principal agencies, FAO, the WFP and IFAD, have been the focal points for taking succour to the affected peoples of the world. From the documentation I see that almost every variety of food aid and agricultural production activity, and various steps which are the appendages of such assistance and aid, have been undertaken. The involvement of FAO in so many United Nations activities cannot be denied or questioned insofar as the food front is concerned. FAO will want to increase this aid still further with the valuable suggestions which will be coming forth from the floor and at the initiative of the FAO Secretariat itself, under the inspiration of its very able and dedicated leader, the Director-General, Mr Saouma.

United Nations confidence in FAO in matters of food production, supplies, research and programmes in general is fully borne out by the wide extent of United Nations consultation with FAO. This itself proves that the United Nations has come to look upon FAO as an organization which can carry out the aims and objectives of reaching far-off areas in the affected world with the aid, assistance and programmes which are required to save suffering humanity from starvation and death. As everyone has repeatedly mentioned, at present our hearts go out particularly to the Continent of Africa and its many countries which are the worst victims for the present.

There are a number of areas - as a matter of fact all of them - in which India has always given the fullest cooperation to FAO and other international agencies associated with it for these programmes. While the demand for food in the developing countries is increasing, production in many developing countries is not only lagging behind the growth in population, but the level of production is becoming stagnant. The developing countries face food shortages, and their imports have registered a sharp increase. This requires to be kept under constant observation, with a sense of alertness, not only by FAO but by its associated agencies provided by the United Nations. These countries continue to face protectionist practices by the developed countries which impose severe constraints on the efforts of the developing countries to improve their food aid and agricultural prospects.

It is hoped and trusted that in view of the calamitous situation now prevailing, the developed countries, whom I believe have also the same measure of human sympathy as those who are suffering, will try to reconsider and relax their policies of protectionism which affect the developing countries so badly. Food aid and agricultural assistance to the developing countries for the improvement of their agriculture have been lagging behind the internationally agreed targets of various international organizations with which FAO has been associated, and which has been pointed out in the excellent document before us.

With a view to stepping up the rate of agricultural growth in developing countries in general and in the context of the worsening food and agricultural situation of the developing countries, I would like to stress that agencies, led by FAO, must constantly endeavour to press, as we have done, for maximum priority to be given by FAO to strengthening technical assistance directly and through international agencies and bilateral assistance for programmes aimed at raising food and agricultural production. Continued stress on the minimization of tariff and non-tariff barriers on trade in agricultural commodities, improvement of terms of trade in agricultural commodities and increased flow of assistance for agricultural and rural development from international institutions - these will require the involvement of all the agencies concerned so that FAO can get adequate support and strength from the efforts which they are trying to make on their own.

The implementation and increase of various internationally agreed targets for food and food security to the developing countries by the developed countries is another area in which international agencies will have to play a leading role. In the coordinating group of experts from developing countries held in New Delhi in February 1983, we proposed a three-tier strategy for food and agricultural development in the developing countries. This strategy was 1) to give an agreed high priority to food and agriculture at national level; 2) to intensify mutual cooperation and collaboration among developing countries for increased food and agricultural output by achieving collective central reliance; and 3) by extension of assistance on liberalized terms to developing countries by the international community. This is where FAO, with assistance of its parent body, the United Nations, will have to exert still greater influence, with the help of all Council members, to make sure such assistance on liberalized terms to developing countries is forthcoming from the international community. I would like to feel that with the donations which have been coming from donor countries in this hour of crisis, they will not be wanting in their response.

It may be stated that, along with the help of other countries and agencies, FAO is involved and engaged in the mighty task of providing food security for teeming millions all over the world. For this purpose, the main elements of our food security system on which FAO will have to work along with other international agencies, and to which it has been paying attention, but which will have to be accelerated to a greater extent, are: 1) ecological security, by which I mean protecting the land, water, flora, and fauna resources in such a manner that sustained agricultural advance is possible; 2) technical security which can help to increase and stabilize production under varying agro-climatic conditions; 3) public policy packages which could help to stimulate both production and consumption, particularly by small and marginal farmers who constitute the majority of the farming community in the developing world on the one hand, and urban and rural consumers living below the poverty line on the other; 4) to provide for safe storage of grains and their effective distribution. This is another area in which FAO can effectively seek the assistance of all other agencies concerned in order to make it more efficient; the build-up and the maintenance of buffer stocks meant primarily to ensure stability of supplies and prices over the years are among the most important planks of India's food policy and I am sure that with the assistance of other international agencies in other countries, it should be possible to help Africa in such a way that that country never again finds itself in the same straits to which most catastrophically they are reduced today.

May I mention the Seventh Non-aligned Conference held in New Delhi. Our beloved Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, laid stress on the solidarity and collective self-reliance of the developing countries with the international agencies to reduce the vulnerability to continuing pressures in affluent countries with a view to sponsoring food security. We have always shown readiness to pool our experience in the field of agricultural production, marketing storage, food management, research, and so on.

Other areas in which such experience could be expanded to developing nations and other assistance given bilaterally or on a sub-regional basis - and I identified them when speaking on one of the earlier items - are the building up of infrastructure for operating food reserves, construction and storage, setting up of extension and training centres, training of personnel in food management, formulation of projects for food security, and so on. I consider it should be the constant endeavour of the international agencies, again under the expert direction of FAO, to provide not only sufficient quantities to meet growing needs in food, but that we should contribute to the food security of developing countries. If we had a comfortable stock position, we would be able to provide food grains to the countries afflicted by shortage.

I believe that what the Director mentioned was perfectly correct: FAO certainly is the main organization for the purpose. But it must have the full cooperation of all concerned, all the member States as well as all the international agencies. This is where the involvement of various organizations to which reference has been made would be of such great value. Every year we have been pressing for the attainment of the annual food aid target of ten million tonnes of cereals set by the World Food Conference in 1974. Recently, we have been pressing for increased food aid. International agencies must support this for developing countries, for coming to their rescue, especially to the rescue of those so severely affected. We have been pressing in the IEFR for a figure of at least 750,000 tonnes rising to 2 million tonnes. What is important is the whole-hearted support of the international agencies, as mentioned in this report, for the objective of promoting food security in the world. We have laid stress on the need for fully replenishing international development assistance, for international food and agricultural development, to which my distinguished colleague, the Ambassador of Colombia rightly referred, and on reversing the decline in the United Nations Development Plan for Agriculture in favour of expansion and liberalization of the IMF cereal and food import financing facility. We have always favoured the establishment of world food aid security, which has been discussed earlier.

An important point is the disturbing development in the world today of the total collapse of commodity prices.

While the prices of commodities, of exports from developing countries have fallen sharply, there has been a sharp upward movement in the prices of essential imports into developing countries, with the result that the terms of trade have gone against the developing countries, particularly the non-oil-exporting countries. The collapse of commodity prices has left a severe impact on the earnings of the developing countries and consequently to the development of the developing countries. On the basis of the available indications that we have, the 1980s may well be a period of considerable commodity prices fluctuations, since the current period of abnormally low real prices of several agricultural commodities like tea, jute, etc., will inevitably have adverse effects and consequences for production capacity in the world's primary commodity sector. There is therefore need for formulation of an international policy undertaken by all the organizations concerned. There is therefore need, I repeat, of formulation of international policy measures to deal effectively with the current prices in the crisis in the world commodity economy. Already programmes and mechanisms, namely an integrated programme for commodities and the Common Fund for Commodities, have been thought of and have been pursued in UNCTAD, but not with much result as yet. We should support the innovative programme and mechanisms to restructure the world commodity economy, which would be of great help to us.

Reference has been made to the importance of the international community having been able to adopt the integrated programme of commodities at UNCTAD IV in 1976. Under the integrated programme of commodities the establishment of a common fund, which would be the key and the integrating element of the IPC, was envisaged to contribute to the financing of international stocking measures for stabilizing prices as well as to finance the commodity development measures such as research and development, market improvements, productivity improvements, marketing and so on. India has signed the agreement and accepted it. Our interest is to give a push to the international forums by persuading generally the countries which have not so far ratified the Common Fund Agreement to do so quickly so that the Common Fund becomes operational without any further delay which cannot be afforded. Similarly we have to think of stabilization mechanisms on a global basis. We should also plead for expeditious conclusion of international commodity agreements in a number of commodities representing producers and consumers so that development measures and financial facilities for the same would be possible to be realized in the near future.

I would like to mention about the International Agricultural Adjustment. It has been referred to but passingly. Eleven guidelines for international agricultural adjustment were adopted by the Eighteenth Session if I mistake not of the Conference in 1975; I think I am right. The Nineteenth and Twentieth Sessions of the FAO Conference decided that the guidelines should be reviewed and revised in the light of developments since their adoption in 1975. A government consultation was held in March 1981 under the auspices of FAO to revise and update the guidelines and targets for IAA. The consultations, however, appeared to have failed to reach a consensus of the revised guidelines. Later the Eighty second Session of the FAO Council, held November-December 1982, which considered the report of the government consultation and to endeavour to reach a consensus. This contact group after a number of meetings reached consensus on all proposed twelve guidelines except one part of the revised guideline if I am not mistaken, number ten. I am not too sure. The revised guidelines relate to production

growths, inputs to production, institutions, structures and incentives in developing countries, people's participation, which is most important, and we should stress more and more on it, and public relations, integrated food and nutrition policies, better distribution and utilization of food, access to markets, and access to supplies, trade among developing countries, food security, food aid, and internal assistance to agriculture. These are some of the very important points which have come up.

One reference which requires to be made is to what the Ambassador of Colombia mentioned, and that is of very great and vital importance in sustaining the IFAD, the International Fund for Agricultural Development. I could not agree more with him when he mentioned that it is most essential that the IFAD, in which we have also been taking a great deal of interest to try to bring about an agreement, should not fail. At present, IFAD has got only \$100 million left for 1985. That means even for subsequent years in the absence of any agreement having been arrived at, in spite of our most strenuous efforts both in Rome as well as subsequently in Paris, which unfortunately I could not reach. There all the efforts were made by all the delegates to try to see whether Category I and Category II could come to a conclusion so that the 58/42 formula of load sharing could be accepted. Even then, it was possible to arrive at some kind of a compromise and from the original target of \$1 000 million, which was the target for the second replenishment, we agreed to bring it down to \$800 million, and a compromise was suggested by the Ambassador of Colombia and myself and others that if the Category I countries which do not have a resources problem and which can also be considered to be second beneficiaries, because they get the contacts, the consultancy, the exports and other advantages, should be able, if not all the 465, which was the original target of the formula, could be 442 million, in which case it might have been possible to persuade Category II countries, which are also in difficult straits now because of the fall of oil prices, to agree to as much or as near as possible to not the original 335, which would have been their share had 465 been agreed to, but to 295. It might have been possible. Category III countries, which are not the donors but which are the beneficiaries, might also be able to make some nominal contributions from whatever is possible.

I would suggest that even if we cannot reach all the \$800 million, at least 750 or 730 should be arrived at and the rest might be possible to be found from voluntary donations and from small donations by Category III countries to reach the \$800 million before the period of the Second Replenishment is out, but it is most vital that it should continue because it has got a programme of \$350 million in 1985, it has barely got \$100 million left, and how will it be able to carry out this programme unless good friends in Category I countries will very kindly agree to reconsider their stand and with all their, I like to think, good will and good hearts to assist developing countries, just like they have been doing in the case of donations which they have been giving, also consider this as the same idea and the same purpose, and then we could be able to do at least 720 or 730 million dollars.

I agree with the Ambassador of Colombia that there is no need delaying further negotiations beyond December, because January begins within a month or two, and I have no doubt that it will be possible for us to sit together once again in Rome and, as the Ambassador said, do in Rome as the Romans do, show their generosity which the Italians have shown in other matters, so I would suggest that this is of great importance.

In conclusion I would only like to state that the importance of public relations for preservation of environment to which the Director has made reference is very important. Intensifying transfer of knowledge from the industrialized countries to countries of the Third World through FAO and other organizations must be undertaken to a greater extent. The research, that is intensification of studies of causes and effects, say, of forest destruction which we discussed at such length the other day, and elaboration of strategies and forest management systems which would ensure the perpetuation of forests. We have to stop cutting the woods in order to be out of the woods once and for all. The application of more rigorous criteria for organization of projects such as industrial projects, projects pertaining to powers projects and road construction, regulation of waters, clearing of these areas for purposes of development without effecting the forest, development without destruction should all be a part of the international programme, the development and application of exploitation technologies which are ecologically harmless to the wealth of the world, namely forests, and pay special attention to the reduction of waste and conservation of food: to my mind are those considerations we have to keep in mind.

In conclusion, I would only mention the legend of the Yeti, that means the Abominable Snowman, many of you might have heard. Whether that legend actually exists or not is another matter but what we cannot afford to have at this stage is the Abominable Snowman in administration, because the world cannot have any negative attitudes any more from any part of the world, especially those which have a unity, sympathy and desire to assist each other.

A. EL SARKX (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

At the outset I would like to thank Mr Regnier for his introduction of the document before us. My country's delegation examined the document that deals with recent developments within the United Nations system of interest to FAO. We noted that the ordinary budgets of international organizations

have been unable to assume the burden of activities related to economic and technical cooperation. We also noted that there is a need to improve the flow of information from the United Nations to developing countries. Considering that these two factors are very important, we hope that further resources will be made available for these activities and that efforts will be undertaken to improve the flow of information.

My country's delegation agrees with the contents of paragraph 12, that is to say that developing countries must assume the larger responsibility in strengthening economic and technical cooperation among themselves. I would nevertheless like to express my country's satisfaction with the efforts undertaken by the Organization and for the attention it has accorded this type of programme.

My delegation has reviewed paragraphs 19 to 25, and wishes to express its satisfaction for FAO's effective participation in implementation of the special programme of action to support the activities of LDCs.

We also wish to commend FAO's efforts to overcome the critical food situation in Africa. My country participated in the Tenth Ministerial Meeting of the World Food Council held in Addis Ababa. We supported the decisions and resolutions adopted by that Meeting. The resolution adopted by that session on encouraging small landowners was implemented in Egypt, and we reduced the cost of a number of inputs for small farmers and have also removed the freeze on some other commodities. We have provided soft loans as well as production inputs at reasonable prices.

We attended the International Conference on Population Activities, we welcomed the resolutions issued by that Conference. I would like to point out here that in my country we have a high rate of population growth. This has led officials to reconsider the population situation and to redraw the population distribution map in our country in order to reduce the erosion of agricultural land by urbanization. We however hope that the necessary progress will be achieved to find the necessary financial resources in the field of science and technology for development.

We also reviewed paragraphs 111 to 114 dealing with agrarian reform and rural development, and we wish to commend the organization for its efforts.

After having reviewed paragraphs 162 to 164, we wish to commend the Organization for the aid it has provided to our Palestinian brothers. Egypt has responded to the request of this Organization requiring us to appoint an official in the Ministry of Agriculture as a liaison officer for the preparation of rural youth programmes. We hope that the necessary procedures for the establishment of a network of liaison between the countries concerned will be completed soon so that we may undertake the preparation of this programme.

We fully welcome the increased commitments provided by financing institutions to the agricultural sector, but we are still concerned about the declining trends to provide soft loans for developing countries. We therefore urge donor countries to provide further financial aid to such institutions to help them undertake their task.

My country's delegation also examined paragraphs 176 to 184 dealing with the Investment Centre. We welcome the important and constructive role undertaken by this centre, especially in developing countries. This centre has helped the developing countries to identify or draw up projects for financing. I would also like to thank the centre for the services it has extended to my country.

F. RIBADENEIRA (Ecuador): Me complace intervenir en esta sesión bajo su presidencia y en su calidad de distinguido representante del Grupo Latinoamericano y el Caribe. Igualmente, apreciamos la lúcida presentación del Sr. Regnier.

Mi delegación, señor Presidente, estima que el documento CL 86/12, que sirve de base para este estudio, contiene una completa síntesis de los principales y más recientes acontecimientos en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO. Por ello comentaré solamente, y en forma breve, ciertos puntos relacionados con las actuales circunstancias internacionales preferentes para mi delegación y de mayor interés, aunque reconociendo que todos son importantes. Para seguir el orden del documento, citaré en primer lugar el de la Cooperación Económica y Técnica entre Países en Desarrollo.

Apoyo plenamente la declaración efectuada por el señor Director General de la FAO en las reuniones conjuntas y recogidas en el párrafo 14, en el sentido de que los países en desarrollo se enfrentan con graves problemas para llevar a cabo una efectiva cooperación entre ellos, por lo que es natural que se dirijan al Sistema de las Naciones Unidas para coadyuvar a la superación de esas dificultades.

La FAO, como lo ha hecho en el pasado, debería continuar asignando alta prioridad a este asunto bajo el espíritu del Programa de Acción para el establecimiento de un nuevo orden económico internacional aprobado en 1974 por la Asamblea General de la ONU que señala a la promoción de la cooperación entre los países en desarrollo un papel fundamental para el reordenamiento de las relaciones económicas mundiales.

Con respecto al medio ambiente, al Ecuador le complace la colaboración acordada entre la FAO y el PNUMA y en particular la expresada en el párrafo 109 para la conservación, ordenación y aprovechamiento de los mamíferos marinos y anhelamos que puedan extenderse a otras especies e intensificarse dicha cooperación en el año que transcurre, como señalé brevemente en otra intervención.

La Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur con sede en Quito e integrada por Colombia, Chile, Ecuador y Perú, que cubren la totalidad de la extensa costa occidental de Suramérica y recogiendo una declaración de los ministros de Relaciones Exteriores de los cuatro países, protesto enérgicamente por la reiniciación en mayo último de explosiones nucleares en la cuenca del Pacífico y pidió el cese de las mismas al advertir desechos reactivos en la zona que perjudican gravemente el ambiente con el consiguiente riesgo para el medio marino y sus recursos naturales que constituyen base sustancial de la economía y la alimentación de nuestros pueblos.

Por otro lado, miramos con simpatía todo aquello que realice la FAO como lo señalado en el párrafo 143 para combatir el cultivo y la producción ilícita o incontrolada de plantas para la obtención de estupefacientes que constituyen una verdadera plaga para la humanidad. Constituye una dicotomía que en muchas áreas del mundo se amplíen las zonas para la elaboración de drogas en menoscabo de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Mi país, aunque sin ser de los mas afectados, es profundamente sensible a la necesidad de combatir ese fenómeno que ha rebasado los límites de acciones aisladas de los Estados por lo que requiere acciones multilaterales orientadas a liquidar el narcotráfico. Así, hace apenas unos tres meses, en agosto último, siete países latinoamericanos, representados algunos por sus propios Jefes de Estado como el caso de Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Panama y Venezuela, junto con altos dignatarios de Nicaragua y Peru, suscribieron la declaración de Quito contra el narcotráfico, la primera multinacional y regional en la materia y en la que tras manifestar la plena evidencia de que está íntimamente vinculada a diseños y acciones dirigidos a subvertir el orden jurídico y la paz social en nuestros países, a fin de afirmar sus innobles propósitos mercantilistas, acordaron someter a la consideración de las Organizaciones Internacionales competentes los siguientes:

Primero: la consideración del narcotráfico como delito contra la humanidad con todas las consecuencias jurídicas aplicables al caso; y segundo: la creación de un fondo mundial o regional destinado a suministrar ayuda a los países en desarrollo afectados por el narcotráfico, a fin de combatir y superar las causas creadoras de tales circunstancias y dotarles de los instrumentos idóneos de lucha contra tales actividades ilícitas.

Pensamos que esta Organización podría jugar un importante rol en el logro de los objetivos de esa Declaración de Quito.

Para terminar, resulta saludable, igualmente, que la FAO haya contribuido a preparar y difundir los pronunciamientos emanados dentro del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas sobre el desarme, como es el caso citado en el párrafo 153.

Es necesario profundizar la conciencia universal acerca de la vinculación entre desarme y desarrollo; bien lo señalo el Señor Director General en su declaración inaugural al manifestar que el usogeneralizado de las armas lleva a los países pobres a derrochar la poca riqueza que pueden obtener, en perjuicio de la situación alimentaria.

Parafraseando la declaración de la Conferencia Económica Latinoamericana efectuada en enero pasado en mi país, insistimos en nuestro llamado en favor del desarme que permita reasignar los recursos dilapidados en la carrera armamentista hacia objetivos que contribuyan a fortalecer el desarrollo de todos los pueblos del mundo.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Mr. Chairman, even if our agenda item is called "Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO", I should like to begin by quoting of the preamble to the Constitution. It reads as follows:

"The aim of the Members should be to promote the common welfare by furthering separate and collective action for the purposes of raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the peoples under their respective jurisdiction, recurring improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, bettering the condition of rural populations and thus contributing towards an expanding world economy".

Thus if you analyse the objectives of this Organization and also our efforts as member countries towards achieving them, clearly all activities within the UN system are of interest to FAO. We therefore have taken a great interest in this agenda item and in the document placed before us. In our opinion it has given a very valuable examination of the activities that we take such an interest in as members of this Organization. It reflects also FAO's own active involvement in the various conferences throughout the year on subjects, directly or indirectly, related to all our activities.

The Norwegian delegation is pleased to note the emphasis placed on the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO where a number of positive conclusions were reached. We also agree with FAO's endorsement of the International Conference on Population held in Mexico. The support for world-wide programmes on population are a priority for the Norwegian Government. It therefore welcomes the recognition of the close connection between food production and the rural population as we find it stated in paragraphs 71 to 80 of the document before us.

Mr Chairman, concerning the preparations for forthcoming conferences, my delegation welcomes the participation of FAO in making ready the documentation for the World Conference to be held in Nairobi in 1985 to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. This Conference will have the role of women in development as a major item. Norway places great emphasis on the promotion of the status of women in general, and women as a target group for aid among the rural population in particular. Not only should women be given due recognition for their role in agro-production but also be given the chance to participate fully in the formulation and implementation of agricultural policies.

We look forward with interest to the report to be presented in Nairobi, of the efforts made by FAO to facilitate the recruitment and promotion of women in the Secretariat, as well as in the activities where FAO is the guiding agency.

Another sector closely linked to FAO's activities is environment. My Government welcomes FAO's positive attitude both towards the World Commission on Environment and Development, and to the general follow-up of UNDP's decisions. Rural development, Mr Chairman, is indeed extremely closely linked to environmental aspects and energy economization. They must be taken into account in the planning process. Both the planning and the realization of rural development requires from FAO a close a continuous collaboration with UNEP and other relevant institutions, respecting, of course, their different mandates and divisions of work.

Finally, I should like to point to paragraphs 170 to 175 in relation to International Financial Institutions. My delegation welcomes these paragraphs as a part of the report, but would like to have a clearer description of the programmes of cooperation mentioned, especially those regarding the regional development banks.

In the development process it sometimes seems as if the vital fields of food production, energy, environment and population form a vicious circle where a step forward in one area may result in a step backwards in other areas. It must be our task in FAO to help break with negative circle and turn it into a positive one, where progress promotes progress in the inter-linked areas of development. This will demand close collaboration, as I earlier stated, between the various members of the UN family which, while respecting the different mandates and the principle of division of work, only concerted action can create this positive inter-link needed for broad-based lasting development.

CHAIRMAN: Before calling on the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, I would like to give the floor once again to the Indian Ambassador who has asked for the floor to make an additional comment.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for your kind indulgence; I will not take more than a minute.

The Director referred at length to the genetics project. I am very glad to say that it has taken off the ground very quickly and a high level delegation from Delhi is coming here the day after tomorrow to proceed to Trieste for the purpose. The funds have been allocated by both Governments and the work is about to start. I believe it has already taken off the ground from Trieste and is about to do so from Delhi as well. It has secured the sanction of most of the countries of UNIDO already, gratification from most of the countries of UNIDO under whose auspices the project has started, and it is expected that in both areas the Director has quite rightly identified what can be done at the Delhi centre and what can be done at the Trieste centre. It is one of the biggest projects on genetics of the kind which will bear fruit in the near future, God willing.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for the information on recent developments in the UN system of interest to FAO, summarized in document CL 86/12 and supplemented by Mr. Regnier in his introduction. This report is in our opinion a quite comprehensive and detached description of the state of affairs, and an improvement on the last document. Therefore, and because we lag somewhat behind on our time schedule, I should like to confine myself to some remarks only.

First, the Federal Republic of Germany fully supports economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, ECDC and TCDC. We feel that in the wide field of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, there is still plenty of room for extending and strengthening the regional, sub-regional and inter-regional cooperation. We welcome in this context the action programmes for the 1980s for the least-developed countries and the instructions given to FAO Country representatives for close cooperation with others at country level. This is of course of particular importance now in many African countries.

Second, at the Tenth Session of the World Food Council a full account is given in the document. This session mainly concentrated on the critical food and agricultural situation prevailing in many African countries and is, as such, an important contribution to ECOSOC and General Assembly discussions on that subject.

Third, my delegation notes with satisfaction the involvement of the FAO Secretariat in the preparation of the International World Conference on Population which took place only recently in Mexico City. We consider that FAO's major study on potential population-supporting capacities of land in the developing world and the popularized report based on the study were most valuable contributions to the Conference showing clearly what could happen if not sufficient action is being taken to bring food production and population into a better balance. We are glad that the Conference gave due emphasis to population and the food problems, and to the inter-relations between population and rural development in general.

Four, we note with satisfaction the FAO Secretariat's cooperation in the ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development, and the readiness of the Task Force to respond to specific requests.

Five, as regards the forthcoming conferences, the FAO Secretariat should have no difficulties in drawing attention to the fact that the important and often key role of women in food, agriculture and rural development has increasingly been taken into account in FAO's work and that this policy would be pursued also in the future.

Six, in the area of environment and the maintenance of ecological balance, close cooperation and coordination between the relevant organizations is absolutely necessary, in particular between FAO and UNEP. The forests and their conservation play a key role in this crucial area for the future of mankind. After having taken a positive decision on the International Year of the Forest, UNEP should be approached in order to help make forestry a real global concern already in 1985. In the area of food and agriculture we very much hope that close cooperation is being assured on issues like the UNEP discussions on harmful substances and the draft of FAO's conduct on the use and application of pesticides.

Seven, FAO's role in the ACC Task Force on Rural Development is of great importance. We followed its activities closely and welcomed the account given thereon at the last ECOSOC session. We feel that FAO can particularly influence within the Task Force activities towards practice-oriented work.

We welcome the support given by IFAD to help in preparing guiding principles for the design and use of monitoring and evaluation in rural development projects and programmes.

Eight, to conclude, and after having taken up only some of the issues before us, I should like to restate that in our view there is no alternative to international cooperation. The Federal Republic of Germany therefore supports it strongly. This attitude leads my delegation also to welcoming the decision of the UN Secretary-General and of the Director-General of FAO on the setting up of a task force with a view to eliminating problems identified and with the aim to further improving the efficiency in the area of food aid, and to strengthening the already longlasting cooperation between FAO and WFP. It goes without saying, in view of my delegation, that this task force has to draw on all relevant available information, experience and expertise. We wish to see soon constructive and positive results. The assurance given in this respect to the Council by both heads of the different agencies should be taken as an encouraging feature. I will not dwell further on this subject on which amongst others the delegate of India so eloquently spoke last Friday.

The meeting rose at 12.30 pm.

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'AUMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/12

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
12ª SESION PLENARIA

(26 November 1984)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
L.E. Williams, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous
la présidence de L.E. Williams, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas, bajo la
presidencia de L.E. Williams, 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. Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO (continued)
- 9. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et qui intéressent la FAO (suite)
- 9. Novedades recientes registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (continuación)

H. REDL (Austria): The Austrian delegation takes note with great interest of the document, and in particular of its excellent introduction by Mr. Regnier. Owing to the time available I shall try to be brief and precise. The food situation in Africa has already been commented upon under Item 4.1. Therefore, we observed with interest the work that FAO is doing, which is presently being discussed in New York.

As regards paragraph 45, I would point out that Austria welcomes the activities of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator with reference to the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO, paragraphs 62 onward. It should be stated that Austria is satisfied with the development of the UNIDO activities, and that useful results have been obtained. We would advocate its conversion into a specialized agency of the United Nations.

With reference to paragraph 81, and particularly to paragraph 84, Austria regrets that so far no substantial progress has been made in making a long-term financing system operational.

As far as the peaceful use of outer space is concerned, my country is generally interested in these important activities. We shall be advocating cooperation as explained in paragraph 135.

Turning to IFAD activities, in particular the statements in paragraphs 170 and following, I should here point out that Austria has made great efforts in raising contributions. My delegation expressed the hope that during the deliberations in December of this year, the final problems can be solved.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We would like to thank Mr. Regnier for his clear and comprehensive presentation, and to the Secretariat for the excellent document CL 86/12 bearing on FAO's intimate involvement in the wide range of subjects in the United Nations system. The vast scale of FAO activities and collaboration with other members of the UN system is indeed impressive. My delegation would like briefly to underline some of the important points.

We are dismayed to observe that the Committee of Universal Membership in carrying out a review and appraisal of the implementation of the international development strategy could not reach agreement, and that its meeting ended without producing any report. It is difficult to go into the reasons for the disagreement without the report before us. We hope that a proper and objective review of the items will be undertaken in the not-too-distant future. My delegation nonetheless appreciates the contributions of FAO to the review and appraisal exercise in this regard.

We appreciate the useful role of FAO as a leading agency for the promotion of ECDC and TCDC in the agricultural sector. We support assistance, consultation, information activities and the formulation of projects promoting ECDC and reorientation of global, regional and social research to lend support to ECDC and TCDC activities.

This august house has listened to some of the touching statements on the critical situation in Africa under Item 4.1. My delegation wishes only to express its hope that the additional funding of two billion dollars will be forthcoming to support all the programmes in the African countries. The situation in Africa is at the top of the global agenda. We appreciate the initiatives of the Director-General of FAO in making Africa the focus of world attention. Once the emergency situation is over, we hope that Africa, in the spirit of the Harare Declaration, will attain the ultimate goal of individual and collective self-reliance.

The problems of adequate food production and distribution are closely linked to that of population. It is encouraging to see that FAO is closely collaborating with UNFPA in highlighting the importance of increasing productivity to reduce the pressure of population and land resources.

The Eighth Council of IFAD, which again was preceded by special consultations, ended without the replenishment of IFAD, a unique organization in the United Nations system which has for its mandate the alleviation of rural poverty, its focus being the small farmer and the landless in the furthest corners of Asia, Latin America and Africa. It is, indeed, a sorry state of affairs. My delegation calls upon the countries involved in the negotiations for an early replenishment of IFAD so that it is salvaged from the throes of the most unparalleled crisis in its existence. It is also disconcerting to note that the resources committed to the UNDP have virtually reached a point of stagnation.

Again, this is an intolerable situation which needs to be solved so that the flow of resources to developing countries in their developmental activities can be augmented.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): First of all, let me say how much we appreciate the fact that the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia has drawn to the attention of the Council the IFAD meeting which took place only a few weeks ago. Of course, this is entirely appropriate since the documents before us were sent to the printing presses before certain meetings took place.

With respect to IFAD, may I emphasize that we share the concern over the inability to date to find a formula for the replenishment of IFAD. The distinguished Ambassador of Colombia is right when he says that we all want it to survive. In spite of the current difficulties we believe it will survive, and it will do so with the efforts and goodwill of all categories, including the continuing efforts of the Chairman of the Governing Council.

Thus, we do not believe that the responsibility for the present difficulties lies only with Category I - it lies with all of us. To repeat, we firmly believe that IFAD in fact will survive.

My second comment deals with the World Commission on Environment and Development. Canada fully supports the work of the Commission and we would encourage FAO to cooperate wherever possible. In this respect, we are pleased to note that the FAO Secretariat has already been in contact with the Commission.

My third comment deals with a very recent development in the UN system. As noted by the Director-General in his opening remarks at the beginning of the Council session, the United Nations Secretary-General and the FAO Director-General have taken the initiative of establishing a Joint Task Force to examine problems between WFP and FAO. As the Director-General is aware, we welcome this initiative. We have made our views known in detail on the content, structure and terms of reference of the Task Force during the recent session of the CFA. Since the Agenda item before us is essentially an information item, I will not go into the substance of the circumstances surrounding the Task Force. Instead, I simply encourage the Council to take full note of the complete discussion and unanimously agreed on Report of the Eighteenth Session of CFA, particularly as it applies to the Task Force.

In closing, I draw attention to the following points. The CFA agreed that there was no question of WFP becoming a separate agency, and that the basic relationship with the United Nations and FAO should be preserved and improved.

The CFA welcomed assurances by representatives of the Secretary-General and the Director-General that it was the intention to involve the Executive Director of the WFP at every stage of the work of the Task Force.

Finally, the CFA noted the Director-General's assurance that the work of the Task Force should proceed with all due dispatch and emphasizes the need for the Task Force report to be submitted to the 19th Session of the CFA for its consideration and appropriate action.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panama): Luego de haber examinado el documento CL 86/12 sobre los acontecimientos ocurridos en el sistema de Naciones Unidas, después del último período de la Conferencia, pasamos a hacer los siguientes comentarios. Dentro del contexto de las varias Conferencias mundiales celebradas este año, observamos que en la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Asistencia a los Refugiados en África, la mayoría de los Gobiernos donantes reiteraron sus contribuciones financieras, y además prometieron ayuda a través de conductos bilaterales para cubrir la asistencia adicional a los refugiados y repatriados en África.

Asimismo, la Conferencia Internacional de Población celebrada en México el pasado agosto, de la cual emanó la Declaración de la Ciudad de México sobre Población y Desarrollo, estudió la relación entre la población y el desarrollo rural, recalando los problemas de las zonas rurales, en las cuales se había originado la erosión de los suelos y el agotamiento de las tierras de labranza; recomendo la aplicación del Plan Revisado de Acción Mundial sobre Población.

Mucho apreciamos en el ámbito de las conferencias, que en la Conferencia Mundial para el Examen y la Evaluación de los Logros del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer: Igualdad, Desarrollo y Paz, que se celebrará en Nairobi en 1985, se propondrán medidas para asegurar el progreso de la mujer hasta el año 2000.

Apoyamos la iniciativa de declarar 1986 Año Internacional de la Paz y consideramos muy atinada la contribución de la FAO a ese respecto en el sentido de vincular los objetivos del Año de la Paz como el Día Mundial de la Alimentación 1986, en el marco del tema Alimentos y Desarrollo para la Paz.

La delegación de Panamá cree oportuno señalar la oportunidad de lo que sobre este particular declara el Presidente del 38º período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas al expresidente panameño Jorge Illueca, cuando al referirse sobre este particular expresó, "que no existen

pruebas de que problemas apremiantes como el desarme, el hambre y el desarrollo económico se puedan resolver de modo eficaz mediante esfuerzos meramente bilaterales o unilaterales". Agregando, además, "que la causa de la paz nos impone primordial responsabilidad hacia cada uno de nuestros propios pueblos y para todos los que habitan el mundo."

Particular interés nos ha suscitado para el año 1985, el Año Internacional de la Juventud. Participación, desarrollo, paz, porque en la juventud tenemos basadas todas nuestras esperanzas, porque representan a los ciudadanos del mañana y en consecuencia juegan un papel importante en el futuro del mundo.

Apreciamos las actividades de la FAO encaminadas a ofrecer a la juventud rural la oportunidad de participar activamente en el desarrollo agrícola y rural mediante la capacitación en agricultura, economía doméstica, organización y dirección a través de una serie de actividades a este propósito.

Por último, con referencia a las relaciones con las instituciones internacionales de financiación, deseamos hacer especial mención del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola y destacar el problema por el cual atraviesa el FIDA que es, básicamente: demora en la reposición de recursos y disminución de los presupuestos de préstamos; distribución de la carga para la reposición de recursos. Notamos con pesar, los resultados negativos de la segunda reposición cuando en el último Consejo de Gobernadores, en París, no se llegó a un acuerdo sobre el reparto de cargas entre la categoría I y la categoría II, influenciando esto la meta límite propuesta de 800 millones, ya que sólo se llegaría a un total de 760 millones, así distribuidos: 415 millones para los países de la OCDE; 295 para los donantes OPEP y 50 millones adicionales por parte de varios países de la OPEP.

Señalamos también la idea de algunos donantes de convertir al FIDA en una banca comercial mas y que para lograrlo pretenden modificar las condiciones en que se dan actualmente los préstamos.

Es por esto que nosotros recordamos aquí la reciente Declaración del Presidente del Panamá, Nicolás Ardito Barletta, al 22° período de sesiones de la Junta Ejecutiva, en el sentido de que el FIDA "había llenado un vacío en el ambiente internacional financiero". Y sobre los plazos agregó que: "en el mundo actual, el plazo de vencimiento de los préstamos es un elemento de extrema importancia para todos los países, no sólo para los muy pobres sino para los de ingresos medios también". Citamos estos conceptos, por la validez que tiene la observación que hace un estadista latinoamericano con larga experiencia en instituciones financieras internacionales. Nuestra delegación se augura sinceramente que se encontrará una solución concreta con miras a resolver la grave crisis que aqueja hoy al FIDA.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): We would like to express our thanks to the Secretariat for having presented to us the informative document on the Agenda. We also appreciate Mr Regnier's excellent introduction. We welcome the fact that FAO is carefully following and paying due attention to the inter-agency affairs that are particularly relevant to the work of FAO. We fully support the role of FAO in trying to achieve increased food and agricultural development by effective utilization of its expertise primarily in the developing countries.

Concerning the activities referred to in the document, my delegation particularly appreciates FAO's initiative in calling for international assistance to the food crisis in African countries and the activities created by the FAO/WFP Task Force established by the Director-General in alleviating the food situation and estimating the external assistance requirement for drought-affected countries. My delegation hopes that FAO will continue to play a central role in coping with the food and agricultural problems of the developing countries, in particular African countries now facing serious and difficult situations in close cooperation and coordination with other organizations in the UN system toward alleviating hunger and malnutrition, improving the economic situation and attaining the well being of developing countries.

With regard to the recent decision taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO on the creation of a Joint Task Force, my delegation would like to express our appreciation for the timely decision and our expectation that the Joint Task Force will make a thorough review of the problems which have arisen since the inception of the World Food Programme.

My delegation also hopes that the possible solution of their problems and the recommendations of the Joint Task Force will be put forward to the Nineteenth Session of CFA which will be held next spring. We believe that it is also very important that the Executive Director of WFP be fully involved in the work of the Joint Task Force.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je pensais, pour ma part, je ne sais plus exactement quel jour, la semaine dernière dans tous les cas, que nous avions discuté du problème de savoir s'il fallait que nous parlions des rapports entre la FAO et le PAM. Je crois, si ma mémoire ne me trahit pas, que nous

étions arrivés à un accord pour que nous ne puissions pas aborder cette question au cours de cette session. Il se trouve qu'un certain nombre de délégués - je veux parler du Canada, du Japon, de la République fédérale d'Allemagne - ont abordé ces questions. Je voudrais, pour ma part, savoir ce que vous ferez de ces informations concernant les rapports entre la FAO et le PAM, notamment l'équipe spéciale. Je voudrais être rassuré par vous-même, Monsieur le Président, et savoir si malgré ces déclarations notre rapport n'en fera pas du tout mention.

H. CARANDANG (Chairman of the Group of 77): I would just like to state that the Group of 77 is not prepared to open a debate on the CFA Report, which is not on the Agenda of this Council. My own delegation is not prepared to make any comments on the CFA report, as we have no instruction in this regard. I would like to fully support the views expressed by Congo, and we hope that no further reference to the CFA will form part of the report of the Council.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): I certainly do not want to make your life more difficult, Mr Chairman. I certainly do not want to reopen the detailed discussion that took place in this city three or four weeks ago, simply to make the point that we think it was entirely appropriate that the Director-General in his opening remarks made reference to the recent meeting of the CFA, and in fact the reference to his agreement with the UN Secretary-General to initiate a Task Force. A few delegations thought it might be desirable for information purposes that some documentation be circulated for the information of delegates. That was the issue, as you recall, that was pushed to a vote last week. However, I think that the comments you have received to date, particularly this afternoon and this morning, have been extremely moderate in tone, and I think constructive in content, and there is no doubt whatsoever, none of us wish to reopen the substance of this issue.

CHAIRMAN: We have just heard interventions by Congo, Philippines and Canada on the subject as to whether reference should be made to the CFA Report, the Council having taken a decision earlier this week that no reference be made to that Report.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): With all due respect, perhaps my memory is faulty, but I thought the decision that the Council - and I accept that, it was a decision of the majority of the Council - was with respect to my inquiry as to whether certain documents would be circulated. The decision, as I recall it, was that circulation of new documents would somehow constitute a new agenda item and therefore this would be inappropriate, but that is all my recollection of the meeting was of last week.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Il ne semble pas que ma délégation ait saisi de la même manière ce que nous avons décidé la semaine dernière. Je veux dire que nous sommes en contradiction flagrante avec la délégation du Canada. Nous pensons pour notre part que le document concernant le CPA n'ayant pas été distribué à tous les membres de ce Conseil pour être discuté, nous n'avons pas à nous pencher sur cette question et nous avons demandé que la discussion sur ce rapport FAO/PAM, notamment sur l'Equipe spéciale, ne soit pas introduit dans nos discussions actuelles. Je crois que c'était clair et, de toute façon, ma délégation s'opposera à ce que mention soit faite dans le rapport sur cette question.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): In fact, the Canadian request to include certain documents in the agenda came a bit late, I would think. It did not come in at the right time, because we had already adopted our agenda and had started our discussion of the agenda as adopted, so, I would fully support the view put forward by Congo and also by the Chairman of the Group of 77 to the effect that it is not customary to enter the views of certain delegations into the report of the Council. The report of the Council should contain the essence of the points that have been discussed as on the agenda, because otherwise, any delegation could bring up anything and expect to have it included in the report. But if this were the case, we would have to ask the Italian Government to liberate hundreds of thousands of tons of paper to be able to produce the report of this Council, so I would again stress that we should not include in our report any items except those that have been agreed upon when adopting the agenda.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I do not want to add to your difficulties as Chairman of this Session but I do think I need clarification of what is going on in this Council at this time. And I do so as if I were raising a point of order, and in accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 20. I will not discuss the substance but merely the procedural side.

My understanding is that on Friday afternoon a representative in this Council made a request. This was debated; some supported it and some opposed it. After the Legal Counsel had drawn attention to Rule XII.24, the Council agreed to a representative's proposal that the debate should be closed. At the same time the Legal Counsel did draw our attention to Rule XII paragraph 25, which provides that when a proposal has been adopted or rejected it will not be reconsidered, but, in my view what the Council did was to decide to suspend the debate. It reached no decision that I am aware of with regard to the adoption or rejection of the request that had been made by a particular representative.

Equally it seems to me that there has been ample reference during the whole course of our debate to the issue of the Task Force, a matter which surely the Council will agree is of direct and extreme importance to the Food and Agriculture Organization as well as to very difficult at times to sit here when I hear members say they will not, as independent sovereign states or representatives of them, be intimidated by any single member. I cannot accept that there is any question about the references having been made in this Council, and therefore that there should be some reference made to that in the Council report.

Now, if my interpretation of what I have said about the procedure is wrong, perhaps the Legal Counsel can be asked to put me right.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je crois que la question a été discutée longuement la semaine dernière et qu'aucun élément nouveau n'est intervenu pour que nous en discussions de nouveau. Par conséquent, j'appuie la proposition faite par M. l'Ambassadeur du Congo et par le Chef du Groupe des 77 ainsi que par l'Ambassadeur de l'Arabie Saoudite car il n'est pas coutume d'insérer dans le rapport du Conseil quelque chose qui n'a pas été inscrit à l'ordre du jour de ce même Conseil.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Benin): Je ne voudrais pas être plus long. Je, voudrais simplement dire que le débat a déjà eu lieu à ce sujet la semaine dernière, et que le Conseil avait arrêté une position bien claire. Je ne comprends pas pourquoi cette même question revient sous une forme plus insidieuse. Ma délégation voudrait simplement s'associer à ce qui a été dit par le Chef du Groupe des 77, et de certaines délégations, à savoir la délégation du Congo. Donc en conclusion, ma délégation souhaiterait que le débat s'arrête à ce niveau pour que l'on puisse avancer dans nos travaux.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I just wanted a clarification, because apparently it is now being claimed that there was no decision with regard to the substance of the matter, whether or not the document should be circulated, and that the point of order or the motion was just to stop the discussion on the matter. I would like to state that the way I saw it, the majority was clearly against the circulation of such documents and therefore the inclusion of the matter in the agenda. If there was any doubt on that, I suppose you could call for a raising of hands as to whether indeed there was or there was not a decision of the majority against the circulation of the documents to the Council at that time.

M. ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Je pense pour ma part que le débat sur cette question a été clos. Nous sommes en train de perdre du temps: un temps précieux. J'appuie par conséquent ce que vient de dire le délégué des Philippines en ce sens que le rapport de notre réunion doit contenir le fond des points discutés par le Conseil et qui ont été prévus par l'ordre du jour lequel a été adopté par le Conseil dès le premier jour.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I must say, that like the representative of the United Kingdom I too have a certain feeling of what was actually debated and what was the decision of the Council. I shall not prolong this but I would just like to support the request by the United Kingdom for a clarification of this point by the Legal Counsel.

CHAIRMAN: It seems to me that before we call on other speakers we should hear the views of the Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL: When, in the course of a debate, one of the delegates moves the closure of the debate on whatever matter is under discussion at the time, and the motion is carried and the debate closed, this leaves the matter exactly where it was before the motion. It may be, as seems to be the case, that no decision was formally taken on the question under discussion. The end result would be that certain delegates spoke in favour and certain other delegates perhaps spoke against a particular course of action, but no decision was taken and the debate ends as from the adoption of the motion, to close the debate.

If there is no decision one way or the other, delegations can draw their own conclusions from the discussion that took place as to whether there were more or fewer who wanted a particular course of action to be taken. It is a well-known procedural move when delegations do not wish to pursue a matter, to propose the closure of the debate. Those delegations who wish to pursue the matter further until a decision is actually formally taken, will then vote against the motion to close the debate. But once the closure of the debate has taken place, that is where the matter rests.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Let me first of all say that I agree entirely with the representative of Tunisia that we should not prolong this debate, and I assure you that this will be the last time I speak on the subject. All I can repeat, is that my understanding of what I said last Friday was a suggestion that certain documents be circulated. I was asking the Chair for clarification as to whether it was appropriate for those documents to be circulated. We then had a rather heated debate that ended in a vote, but that was the intent, as I understood it in my own mind, as to what I was asking.

Turning away from that issue on the question as to what is sensible in an international meeting, it seems to me that a number of us during the course of this Council meeting have made reference to activities in other fora, for example, the question of IFAD was discussed at length and in depth this morning. This was a particular reference to a meeting that occurred only three or four weeks ago. This, as I said, is entirely appropriate when we are discussing an item on development in the UN system, so I fail to see why the references that some people have made to the formation of the Task Force by the UN Secretary-General and the Director-General of FAO should generate this kind of debate. I am quite frankly at a loss.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I should like to clarify a couple of points concerning the Director-General and this item. Firstly, reference was made to the fact that in his opening Statement to the Council, the Director-General referred to the appointment of this Task Force. Well, this was a matter for information in his opening speeches to the Council or Conference. He refers to many subjects but this does not mean that they are on the agenda or he wishes them to be on the agenda or expects the Council or Conference to discuss them, or for that matter and even more important, to appear as matters which have been discussed in the report of the meeting. Otherwise you will limit him simply to discussing those items on the approved agenda and for which documentation had already been issued. You do not wish to limit him in this way and it has never been the case in FAO, so I think it is really irrelevant to the question of the agenda whether he mentioned it or not in his opening Statement.

Secondly, I think that in my 21 years experience of FAO, this is the first time that the subject of the WFP's activities or its relations with FAO has been raised under this particular item. The WFP has always been treated as part of the UN and FAO and as meriting a discussion on the basis of circulated documentation as a separate item on the agenda. It has not been the case that the report of recent CFAs have been discussed under this item of the agenda. Of course it might be a good precedent to subject the CFA and its report to the general supervision of the Council in this way, but if so it should be a conscious decision and not one incidental to this particular situation in which we find ourselves.

Thirdly, the Legal Counsel was very careful to answer the question which was put to him in a very precise way. It was a precise question and he answered it precisely, but I recall that during that

discussion there were very explicit statements to the fact that the question of the Task Force should not figure on the agenda of this Council, and that whatever anybody wished to say about it, references to the Task Force should not appear in the report. Normally, when a subject is left hanging in the air like that, one would proceed to a second vote on the substance. In this case the vote was on the closure. The next vote should have been on the substance. Did the Council want this matter to be referred to in its report or not? The Council in its wisdom decided not to go to those lengths of voting. It is open to it to do so today, but I would suggest that given the spirit of all the interventions - I say of all the interventions - this would be unfortunate and in any case unnecessary, because what is the situation? People are simply repeating their agreement of what the Director-General said as an obiter dictum, so to speak, in his opening Statement. This reminds me of an actual incident when I was a child and I was taken to the circus. There was an act involving several people, one of whom was trying to sing a song. He was interrupted by his companions who said "Stop", and he stopped. And they said "Go on singing: we wanted to tell you to go on singing". So he went on singing, but they resorted to further methods. First one hit him on the head with a very large hammer. It was of course only a cardboard hammer but it looked terrible and made a terrible noise as it touched his head. And then they said "Go on singing". Then one came with an axe which buried itself in his head. It was a false head but the axe was left sticking there, and they said "Go on singing", and then someone came with a knife and stuck it in his back. Of course he had a pad there so it did not do him any harm but you could see this great knife sticking out of his back, but they said "Go on singing". You are saying to me "Go on singing", but it is not really necessary. I have not even started singing yet, but I will sing because the Director-General has said I should. So I do not think it would honestly serve any purpose to have a vote on this issue, But if that is what the Council wants to decide the substance, then of course it is open to you and the Council to decide to do this.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I asked for the floor earlier to make a substantial intervention which, with your permission, I will do later on. I just wanted to make one or two brief observations on the procedural point in front of us now. It seems to me, and I was not here on Friday morning, but the verbatim record, as the Deputy Director-General has just said I think confirmed by the Legal Counsel or vice versa, "stop at that point", and certainly as I read it - and I think that is just what has been said again - there was not a decision taken on the second point, whether discussion or reference or whatever, to the issue should itself be ceased.

Secondly, in that context it would seem to my delegation that if speakers do want to refer to the reference by the Director-General in his opening statement, which I have read from the text, it would be in order in that context, but I would suggest that you may wish to rule so that speakers who want to address the item substantively know where they stand.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): Since Indonesia is not a member of CFA my delegation has no instruction on the last CFA session and my Government needs time to study the report before discussing it. Finally, my delegation supports fully the decision made by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and others not to include the report into the present Council meeting since it is not in the agenda.

Y. A. HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): According to the clarification given by the Legal Counsel and by Mr West the DDG, the Egyptian delegation feels that we should not re-open the debate on this subject, either with regard to the distribution of documents or with regard to the inclusion of the debate on this subject in the report of this session of the Council.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Nosotros pensamos también que la interpretación del Sr. West y la anterior dada por los representantes del Congo, de Arabia Saudita y de Filipinas es adecuada.

No rechazamos solamente que se circularan los documentos sino que la mayoría se opuso a que se tratara el tema referente al informe del CPA, como ya dimos nuestra opinion la semana pasada. Nosotros nos oponemos igualmente a que se refleje cualquier comentario sobre el informe o sobre el Grupo de Acción en el informe.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban): La délégation libanaise voudrait remercier le Conseiller juridique pour les opinions qu'il a exprimées. Toutefois, ces opinions n'ont pas contribué à éclaircir la situation; de même l'opinion de M. West n'a pas non plus éclairci la situation. Ce problème a été discuté quant au fond, et le débat a été clos. Par conséquent, si le Conseil estime que le débat n'est pas clos, nous proposons de soumettre cette question aux voix pour en finir et passer à une autre question.

A. M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We have listened to the discussion which has been going on here; we have listened to the Deputy Director-General; we have listened to the Legal Counsel; we have listened to the various distinguished delegates. What are we doing, what is the purpose for which we are gathered here today? We have 49 Members of the Governing Council of FAO here to solve the problems of the world on malnutrition, on hunger, on poverty, on people going away without food, children crying for food. What are we doing here; what is this kind of debate? It will lead us nowhere. Each one of us has the mandate to strengthen FAO, the World Food Programme, to make them more effective, to render services to the hungry who are dying. We have several problems; we have a voluminous agenda before us; we have so much to do. I only propose that in the spirit of international cooperation we close this debate and proceed on the item which is under discussion.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would like to second the motion of the delegate of Pakistan. I agree with him. We are fiddling here while Africa burns.

CHAIRMAN: We have a motion tabled by Pakistan and seconded by the United States that the debate be closed. Are there any delegates who wish to speak against the closure?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Bien entendu le Congo ne s'oppose pas à ce que l'on mette fin à ce débat, tout au contraire. C'était notre objectif depuis le début. Nous pensions pour notre part ...

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, but there is a motion tabled for closure of the debate. If you are going to speak against closure you will be allowed to speak. If you are not going to speak against closure we cannot entertain your intervention. Are there any delegates who wish to speak against? There is a motion, which has been seconded, for closure. The chair is entertaining at this moment interventions against that motion. Are there any such interventions?

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Can I ask a question for clarification? Is that possible? I do not know if I am in order or not.

CHAIRMAN: The Ambassador for Lebanon asked for clarification. I told him No. So I have to tell you No. Let us move on with the question of the vote for closure. We have a motion before us for closure. The chair can entertain two speakers against the motion and then we take a vote on it. I will read the relevant regulation: "A delegate or representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion whether or not any other delegate or representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded to only two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Conference or the Council is in favour of the closure the Chairman shall declare the closure of the debate." Perhaps we should hear the Legal Counsel as to whether a point of order can be raised.

LEGAL COUNSEL: If you look at paragraph 24 of Rule XII, which gives the order of precedence of motions, you will see that "The following motions have precedence in the following order over all other proposals or motions before the meeting, except a point of order". Therefore I consider that it would be perfectly correct for a delegate who is not clear on what the motion is about, or wishes to have an explanation, to raise a point of order. Then immediately after that point of order has been answered, there still may be only two speakers who may oppose the motion and, immediately thereafter, the motion must be put to a vote.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Legal Counsel for his guidance. We are hastening slowly.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): C'est exactement ce que je voulais faire. Je voulais effectivement présenter un point d'ordre. Pour ma part, je n'ai pas bien compris la motion ni surtout ce que cela recouvre; en effet, il me semble que l'on avait déjà voté sur une motion et sur ce débat; et cela n'a pas empêché que le débat s'ouvre à nouveau.

Est-ce que cela signifie que nous remettons ce débat à plus tard? Ou est-ce que nous décidons maintenant que l'on ne doit plus parler de cette affaire?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: As I indicated before, on this point of order a closure of a debate is a closure of debate. As stated by the Legal Counsel earlier, it does not answer the substantive question. Therefore if you want an answer to the substantive question, should this matter be referred to in the Report, rather than have closure of the debate you should have a vote on whether this matter should be referred to in the Report or not.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Deputy Director-General. As I see it, we are still at the point where we have a motion for closure moved and seconded. There have not been two speakers against that vote for closure. There has been adequate time for any such speakers. There have been no such speakers. The Chairman rules that the motion for closure which has been tabled and seconded has been accepted and passed.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): My reason for having to speak against the closure of the debate is very simple since I could not have the clarification. I do not really know what is entailed in this motion, how far it goes, what implications it has not only for this issue but for other issues in this and in future Councils. I consider these questions serious and I would like to have them answered before I can take a point on this motion. Since I do not have the information I would have to go against the closure.

CHAIRMAN: One country has now spoken against closure. Is there another country prepared to speak against closure of the debate? We need two countries.

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt): Can I have a point of clarification or not? Let me put my question. Is it possible to modify the motion?

CHAIRMAN: I do not think so. So we are at the point at which we have only one speaker against closure of the debate. The regulation requires two speakers. Therefore the vote for closure of the debate, tabled and seconded, is passed, it is accepted by the Council. That means the debate is closed.

The question still is, however, whether in making their statements delegates will be able to refer to the CFA Report or to matters arising directly therefrom. Prior to the taking of the vote for closure there were two clearly defined views on the subject. One school of thought felt that it was decided earlier that the CFA Report should not be discussed since it was not an agenda item. This school of thought today expressed the view in so many words that an attempt was being made surreptitiously to discuss the CFA Report. They therefore took objection to these attempts to discuss the CFA Report under this Item. As a result the Ambassador of Congo raised what was virtually a point of order. Another school of thought argued that no such decision was taken earlier in the week, that in point of fact their request was made, discussions were held, but before a decision was taken a vote of closure was tabled and accepted. Legal Counsel, together with the Deputy Director-General, supported this view. They said that the vote of closure having been taken no decision was in fact reached. So the question was at that point of time whether in view of the fact that no decision was actually taken on this subject delegates should be able to make reference to this subject in their speeches and their interventions. This is where we were when the vote of closure was taken and this is where we are now.

The Deputy Director-General made it quite clear that there is a way to go if delegates are insistent that no reference should be made to this Report, and that is that a motion should be tabled to that effect stating specifically that no reference must be made to the CFA Report directly or otherwise. That is the way you can go. If you do not go that way, then I do not think the chair can prevent any delegate from making reference to whatever subjects they wish.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Après le point que vous venez de faire sur la situation, pour notre part celle-ci nous semble désormais claire. Nous voudrions poursuivre dans le sens que nous avons évoqué dès le début; nous voudrions, pour notre part, demander à ce que nous puissions nous prononcer sur la question de savoir si l'on doit, ou si l'on ne doit pas mettre ces allusions dans le rapport.

Comme nous l'avons déjà dit, nous pensons que le CPA vient de tenir sa réunion, et que le rapport est à peine prêt. Il n'a pas été distribué; en tout état de cause, il sera soumis à notre Conseil à une session ultérieure. Pour cette raison, nous pensons que pour ce qui concerne cette session il ne doit en aucune façon être fait mention dans notre rapport de la situation ou plutôt des rapports existant entre le PAM et la FAO; et notamment aucune allusion ne doit être faite à l'équipe spéciale d'action.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): We already said that nobody has the right to reopen the debate on this subject. We did not simply want to close the debate on the subject: we said that we did not have the right to discuss this question for a number of reasons. First, this is the CFA Report, it is not a Report of the Council. Secondly, this item was not included on the Agenda of the present session of the Council. Thirdly, the request of the delegate of Canada was not presented at the right moment, it was presented after adoption of the Agenda and even after the discussion of a large number of items on this Agenda. Fourthly, within this same Council representatives of sovereign countries are represented who are not members of CFA, How can

they discuss this Report? Finally, if the objective is simply to take note of the contents of the Report without discussing it then I am quite sure that any delegation can get the Report from the Secretariat if all they want is to have the Report available to read it. The Secretariat can hand out this Report outside the room. This is why I have asked for the floor, in order to reaffirm that nobody has the right to reopen the debate on this subject and that therefore this question, or any opinion on this matter, should not appear in the Report of the Council.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): There appears to be a lot of confusion in the discussion we are having this afternoon. First, with regard to the closure of the CFA on the Agenda, there is no question of that. It is clear that if anybody wants it put on the Agenda 60 days' notice is needed. Once the Council has started nobody can put anything in any more unless there is a two-thirds vote of the Council to add to the Agenda. But even that has gone because the Agenda was adopted on the very first day of the session. So there is no question of the CFA Report being included in the Agenda. That is absolutely out of the question.

The second question, whether the request to circulate the documents of the CFA was decided upon or not, as you have indicated apparently you have made a ruling that before it was decided the discussion was closed. But I indicated earlier that it was very clear that the majority was against the circulation of these documents because it had not only the effect of giving information but it also had the effect of giving a legal status to a document which has not been studied by our governments, not sent to our governments, therefore we could not have had any instructions with regard to these documents as a matter of discussion for our Council.

So if you have any doubts with regard to this, that that request was really rejected by this Council, please clarify this before we proceed further because you will know very clearly that at the time although there was a closure of the debate the consensus of the meeting was very clear that the majority was opposed to the circulation of this document because also of the implications that it would have.

There is the other question of making reference to that Report, which was not on the Agenda, for which no documents have been circulated.

These are three different questions. Before we close the debate, let us clarify our minds in this regard. If anyone has doubts as to how the Council feels, there was a meeting of the Group of 77 this morning, and I have to tell you that the Group of 77 is not prepared to discuss the CFA Report because of the reasons I have already indicated - it is not on the Agenda, we have no documents, we have not had time to study it, some delegations cannot give their opinion on this matter and therefore, we are not ready to discuss this item. We hope also that references to this will not be made in the report for reasons I have stated already.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of the Philippines. We have just taken a vote of closure and we are speaking on the subject again. We must cry "halt" somewhere, or we will just go on and on. It seems to the Chair that the majority of delegates favour a position whereby no reference is made to the CFA Report either directly or indirectly, and I think we should so proceed. If members who have formerly taken a different position on this matter feel otherwise, we can put the matter to the vote, I am inclined to rule that in view of the fact that it is clear that a majority of delegates would rather not see any inclusion of the CFA Report in speeches directly or indirectly, then we shall so proceed and I so rule.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): I was quite content to be quiet after my last intervention, as I indicated, because I agreed with the statement made by the distinguished delegates of Pakistan and the United States of America that we have spent far too much time in arguing about this issue. But now, as I interpret your ruling, you are suggesting that if no one objects, your interpretation then would be that there will be no reference to the CFA Report in the report of this Council meeting. Am I correct? If that is the case, I would like to make a statement opposing that interpretation if I may, and if you would bear with me, I think the point I am trying to make here is that the issue before us goes far beyond the simple question of a reference to CFA.

This appears necessary to the extent that in the few visits I have made to Rome I have been struck by the tendency to invoke the gladiatorial imagery of Rome's past to characterize the present day intentions of delegations. In our view, this is unfortunate and counter-productive. However, I do realize that as in any other multilateral meeting, there is a tendency for all of us to relieve the monotony of set-piece speeches by engaging in verbal jousting. No one takes it personally, and we all engage in it from time to time. However, there are limits. As the adrenalin surges, we should try and remember that points of order, requests for votes and other parliamentary techniques are not really substitutes for debate and dialogue.

Each delegation in this Council, whether from a developed or developing country has a basic and inalienable right to express its view on matters before the Council. No delegation can impose its view on another, but if any of the others are effectively prevented from expressing their views, we are not members of a multilateral agency of the 20th century, we risk instead becoming members of a star chamber of the Middle Ages,

Most of us have been extremely moderate, and I, for one, wish to maintain the tone of moderation expressed by many in this room. Therefore, I honestly believe it will be counter-productive for future meetings of this Council if the question of the reference to the CFA in the report is put to a vote. I think the motion put forward earlier by the distinguished delegates of Pakistan and the United States is entirely appropriate. We have spent far too much time in arguing an essentially procedural issue, but when you put forward the ruling that there should be no reference to it in the report, you are raising a fundamental point that goes beyond the procedural issue, or so it seems to me.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I hesitated to say anything, but I think the decision is made by the majority, and the views of the minority are always accepted and listened to. But the minority should not be tyrannical and arguing will not benefit anyone. I still fail to understand the insistence of some to make mention in the report of what has happened in another meeting when the subject is not on the agenda. Mr Chairman, I know you have closed the debate on this subject, but I feel personally concerned because I have had discussions with Canada on this subject, and I still do not understand. The matter will be discussed here next year in the CFA and I hope there will be no more arguing.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban)(langue originale arabe): Je regrette que mon collègue et ami du Canada ait traité notre Conseil d'un "Conseil de gladiateurs".

Je considère que ce que nous entreprenons au sein de ce Conseil est tout à fait conforme aux règles de la démocratie. Le Canada lui-même est un berceau de la démocratie. Je fais partie de ce Conseil depuis 1960 en tant que représentant du Liban et j'ai connu 7 présidents de conseil et aucun conseil n'a été qualifié de "Gladiateurs".

Du point de vue juridique la chose est très claire: il y a un ordre du jour mais ce point n'y figure pas. Donc il n'est pas utile d'inclure dans le rapport un point qui ne figure pas à l'ordre du jour. Aussi je propose que le débat sur cette question soit clos et que l'on passe au vote si besoin est.

CHAIRMAN: I think we should move on. This matter has been aired at great length. There have been several speakers on the subject even after a vote of closure was passed, so I do not think that anyone can truthfully say they were not given a fair chance to speak, or were not allowed to speak.

S. ZAHARIEV (Bulgaria): I do not want to continue the discussion but, would you please take into account that some members of the Council are not members of the CFA and cannot spend so much time on things which are entirely matters for the CFA and the World Food Programme. Let us carry on with our agenda.

CHAIRMAN: We will continue with the statements on the substance.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Había perdido el hilo de la discusión, no sabía qué estábamos discutiendo, puesto que cuando nos salimos de lo que está programado corremos el riesgo de que pase esto.

Primeramente quisiera saludar la exposición y presentación que nos hizo el Sr. Regnier. Creemos que con su acostumbrada claridad nos ha expuesto un documento muy amplio. En el contexto del programa de nuestro Consejo, la FAO es hoy un organismo de participación plena en todo el sistema de Naciones Unidas, logrando la integración de alimentación y la agricultura en toda la economía mundial.

Este documento analizado con detenimiento, realmente nos pone de manifiesto toda la gama de actividades que el Sistema de Naciones Unidas desarrolla, tratando fundamentalmente de examinar, evaluar y aplicar programas y reforzando asistencias para aliviar los incumplimientos de la estrategia internacional. Así en este análisis conjunto del documento, creemos que debemos insistir en la necesidad de que se exprese la necesidad, valga la redundancia, de la implementación del Nuevo Orden Económico y Social. Pensamos que todo lo que expresa este documento, es todo un palpito de búsqueda de nuevos

caminos, de búsqueda de caminos que realmente refuercen. En una ojeada rápida por algunos aspectos de este gran documento, cuando hablamos del examen y evaluación de las estrategias, deploramos que no se reconozca que para la estrategia internacional del desarrollo debe de aparecer el establecimiento del nuevo orden económico y las negociaciones globales, específicamente éstas; porque son ellas esencialmente las que nos van a dar un poco de sentido. No hemos podido llegar realmente a una estrategia internacional del desarrollo referente a la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Sencillamente queremos saludar a la FAO por su participación; saludar también al Director General por el empeño que ha tomado en que la cooperación entre países en desarrollo se haga realidad.

El párrafo 14 nos parece muy importante en toda su implementación, considerando los problemas internos que tiene esta cooperación entre los países. El documento tiene expuesto toda una serie de consideraciones que hizo el Sr. Regnier y toda una serie de reuniones muy bien relacionadas, pero nosotros queremos hablar sobre dos o tres, aunque no vamos a tomar mucho tiempo. Tenemos una preocupación con el párrafo 44, que viene de la Décima Reunión Ministerial del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación. En ese párrafo se dice: el Consejo Mundial subraya que el verdadero problema de la coordinación no residía únicamente en estos propios organismos, sino también en los diferentes objetivos y las distintas orientaciones políticas de los organismos ajenos al sector alimentario, especialmente las instituciones financieras. Quiere esto decir que el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación ha llegado ya a la conclusión de que la coordinación se hace imposible con las orientaciones políticas de los Organismos Financieros ajenos al problema alimentario. Nos hubiera gustado que esta exposición se hubiese plasmado en el documento final. En este documento, se nos expone con toda amplitud los resultados de esta Décima Reunión Ministerial; pero, cuál es la función del CMA? ¿qué haría para poder cumplir su función de coordinación? Esta es una pregunta que hasta ahora no le vemos respuesta.

Quiero pasar ahora a los Aspectos Interorganizacionales del Desarrollo Rural en el que se habla del Informe sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural para el Consejo Económico y Social, cuyo documento nos parece que es una pálida visión de la realidad del análisis y seguimiento que se presenta en la Conferencia. No dejamos de reconocer que el párrafo 113 analiza la situación real por que atraviesa el desarrollo rural en el mundo, aunque con algunas palabras un poco tupidas, ya que en el segundo párrafo se nos dice: que esto parecía indicar que había otros factores - especialmente limitaciones de la estructura agraria • Creo que se han hecho muchos informes sobre esta materia, bastantes razonamientos para decir "parecía". Creo que cuando tenemos cifras podemos decir: "es".

A pesar de los esfuerzos que le reconocemos y que saludamos en la FAO por el seguimiento de esta Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, la 22 Conferencia llegó a la conclusión de que los adelantos no habían sido muchos y que todavía manteníamos en algunos importantes casos, como el acceso a la tenencia, la misma situación de concentración de la tierra de muchos años antes y en la participación popular y en la creciente concentración de la modernización de la agricultura.

También se puso de manifiesto que se había creado ya una gran diferencia entre las posibilidades de participación de las masas marginadas, de las masas pobres, de las masas de pequeños agricultores y las grandes, diríamos en otros momentos haciendas latifundistas, hoy grandes haciendas de las transnacionales agroexportadoras. Creo que esto fue también discutido con bastante profundidad durante la Conferencia de la FAO.

En este punto queremos expresar nuestro criterio sobre una situación que tiene mucha relación con el desarrollo del trabajo de la FAO. Esta situación la presento el distinguido colega Bula Hoyos que hizo algunas preguntas y que yo quiero responder a alguna de ellas.

Creo que todos somos conscientes de que el FIDA surge como un organismo sui generis para ayudar a los pequeños agricultores y cooperativistas en su esfuerzo para poder participar con alguna posibilidad frente a los grandes productores y transnacionales agroalimentarios para no seguir siendo marginados y arruinados gradualmente como lo son.

El Consejo de Gobernadores de París, depuso otro fracaso; fracaso que han llamado muchos, eso: fracaso. Yo quisiera llamarle otro escalón en la estrategia contra las organizaciones multilaterales. La FAO sostiene la bandera del desarrollo rural y la reforma agraria a través de la participación popular y ésta no es otra, la participación popular, no es otra que el pequeño agricultor, los marginados, los pequeños productores del campo. En este sentido nosotros creemos que es necesario buscar la causa del escalón o de la respuesta que el colega Bula Hoyos pide; todo efecto tiene una causa, y nos gusta bastante analizar un poco de donde va a correr. Se debe comprender que el FIDA no es un organismo que posibilite el engordamiento de los monopolios y las transnacionales alimentarias; si esto es así, vemos una razón por la cual no hay una adhesión a tener posibilidad de ayudar a un organismo como éste. Nosotros diríamos que si el FIDA se hunde no es solo la muerte de otra institución de las Naciones Unidas; significaría la pérdida de las esperanzas para los pequeños agricultores y los trabajadores agrícolas que trabajan fuera del dominio de las transnacionales y agroexportadoras en los países subdesarrollados.

Nosotros vemos aquí la razón de porqué hay países que, repito, lo expresé cuando se citó el análisis de la situación de la alimentación, se pueden dar el lujo de expresar en París que sus legisladores no pueden aprobar una participación en el FIDA, que es un organismo de nueva creación sui generis,

distinto, es que están tratando de convertirlo en otra agencia bancaria para, en el mecanismo de su cadena de distribución interna, poder seguir creciendo ellos.

Eso es un punto que yo considero muy importante entre las novedades del sistema en estos momentos.

Queremos terminar repitiendo nuestra felicitación al Sr. Regnier y a la FAO por este documento tan completo que realmente nos permite hacer un análisis general del sistema en toda su fortaleza y su interrelación, y además apoyamos, como colofón para demostrar que la FAO es en estos momentos un organismo de total integración dentro del Sistema. Los párrafos 153 y 156, donde la FAO debe también vigilar y preparar los análisis sobre el desarme y la indicación expresa de que está dispuesta a participar en 1985 en los Seminarios Regionales organizados por las Naciones Unidas para preparar el Año Internacional de la Paz. Por qué?. Porque la FAO está consciente que la alimentación y la agricultura hay que desarrollarlas sin armas y en paz.

CHAIRMAN: I would just like to indicate at this stage that we have lost a lot of time on this item, and as a result we may have to extend this Session until 8 or 8:30 p.m.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Tout d'abord, nous remercions M. Régnier pour la présentation remarquable du document CL 86/12. Nous notons avec beaucoup d'intérêt le rôle de la FAO dans la coopération et la collaboration avec les autres institutions des Nations-Unies.

Permettez-moi de souligner certains points de ce document, points qui nous paraissent d'extrême importance.

Nous prenons bonne note que la question du développement soit comprise dans sa globalité et l'intégration de l'agriculture aux autres secteurs; là aussi la FAO en étroite collaboration avec les autres institutions a un rôle important à jouer.

Au paragraphe 14 nous nous associons pleinement à la déclaration de l'Ambassadeur de la Colombie car nous sommes certains que la coopération économique et technique entre les pays en voie de développement est fondamentale. La FAO comme l'a très bien affirmé le Directeur général se doit de soutenir les pays dans leurs efforts pour développer la coopération technique et économique et souscrire pleinement aux activités de CEPD/CTPD dont l'Organisation a explicitement fait l'une des principales priorités de son programme de travail et budget pour 1984-85.

Nous soutenons le contenu du paragraphe 36 concernant la création de systèmes nationaux de prévision des récoltes et d'alerte rapide, et l'élaboration de plans rationnels de sécurité alimentaire.

Nous donnons beaucoup d'importance aux questions qui ont trait à la participation des femmes, et nous avons pris bonne note du rôle de la FAO dans la préparation du principal document de la Conférence sur les femmes prévue en 1985 à Nairobi. Nous appuyons le paragraphe 92 à ce sujet.

En ce qui concerne la résolution 8/71 de la Conférence de la FAO, l'Organisation continue d'appliquer les dispositions de la déclaration sur l'octroi de l'indépendance aux pays et peuples colonisés. Nous félicitons la FAO d'avoir été la première organisation spécialisée à admettre la Namibie en qualité de membre à part entière de l'Organisation et de lui avoir fourni une aide alimentaire d'urgence et une assistance technique notamment en formation et soutien à la production vivrière. Nous donnons notre plein appui au paragraphe 159.

Pour terminer, nous saisissons cette opportunité pour appuyer le paragraphe 176 concernant les activités du Centre d'investissement de la FAO, et surtout les aides et assistance en faveur des pays en développement pour l'identification et la préparation des projets d'investissement.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Ma délégation remercie M. Regnier pour son brillant exposé introductif de ce matin. Nous encourageons la FAO à continuer sa coopération étroite avec d'autres institutions des Nations Unies.

A l'instar d'autres délégations, nous souhaitons féliciter la FAO pour ce rapport qui est riche en informations et qui présente avec objectivité la situation qui prévaut dans le système des Nations Unies et qui touche ces activités. La délégation de mon pays tient à exprimer sa déception pour le manque de résultats probants du Comité chargé d'examiner, d'évaluer la mise en œuvre de stratégies de développement pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement. Pour notre part, cela nous surprend lorsque l'on sait que les objectifs de la stratégie n'ont guère été respectés par ceux-là même qui ont la plus grande responsabilité en raison de leur puissante économie. Nous espérons néanmoins que le Comité arrivera à produire un rapport qui nous permettra d'aller de l'avant. Nous sommes reconnaissants de la contribution de la FAO aux travaux de ce Comité. Pour ce

qui concerne la coopération économique et technique dans les pays en développement, nous souhaitons réitérer notre appui aux efforts faits par la FAO pour soutenir cette coopération dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Nous souscrivons à l'analyse du Directeur général qui figure au paragraphe 14, relative aux problèmes que rencontrent les pays en développement pour promouvoir entre eux une coopération économique et technique viable.

En effet, cette analyse rejoint celle que le Groupe des 77 a faite du 26 au 30 mars dernier à Bucarest et nous sommes confiants que la FAO, comme l'a dit ce matin le représentant de l'Argentine, coopérera avec le Comité des 16 du Groupe des 77 pour rassembler toutes les informations utiles à un développement harmonieux de cette opération. La participation de la FAO à Bucarest et à Cartagène en Colombie, montre l'intérêt que notre Organisation porte aux relations Sud/Sud. Nous espérons qu'elle continuera à oeuvrer dans ce sens. En outre, ma délégation note avec satisfaction que la FAO fournit des propositions concrètes de projets agricoles aux différentes tables rondes qui ont eu lieu ici et là, dans les pays les moins avancés et qui visent à mobiliser une aide extérieure accrue. Nous nous félicitons des instructions que le Directeur général a donné à ses représentants dans les pays en développement pour suivre ces questions et de sa disponibilité à contribuer à l'organisation des missions d'identification et formulation de projets.

La situation en Afrique a largement été débattue mais nous voudrions réitérer notre appel aux donateurs pour qu'ils fassent preuve de plus de réalisme et appuient davantage les programmes nationaux et collectifs d'autosuffisance alimentaire. Nous exhortons le Directeur général à continuer à diffuser des rapports détaillés sur cette situation afin de tenir la communauté internationale informée de l'évolution de la situation.

Nous nous félicitons des excellents résumés des travaux du dixième anniversaire du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation qui ont mis en évidence les principales conditions à remplir pour atteindre les objectifs de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation dont l'échec est principalement dû au manque de volonté politique véritable des pays développés.

En vérité, le Conseil à travers les stratégies nationales s'efforce d'établir un lien entre la production et le besoin de consommation et chacun sait que les efforts soutenus de la part des pays en développement pour accroître la production alimentaire et améliorer l'accès aux approvisionnements se heurtent à un fléchissement des efforts de la communauté internationale sur le plan de l'aide publique au développement. Autant dire que 1985 est un nouveau rendez-vous manqué: celui de l'éradication de la faim dans le monde, car les engagements pris en 1974 n'ont pas été tenus par ceux-là même qui bloquent l'ouverture des négociations internationales qui ouvriraient la voie à l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique international plus juste et plus humain et qui consacraient ainsi de nouveaux rapports entre le Nord et le Sud.

J'en viens aux relations avec les institutions financières internationales pour dire combien ma délégation se réjouit du soutien constant de la FAO à l'investissement dans les pays en développement, et ses rapports avec la Banque mondiale et son guichet spécial avec l'AID, avec le FIDA et les Banques et Fonds régionaux de développement, devraient être renforcés. Cependant, comment ne pas déplorer la faiblesse des ressources de ces institutions au regard des problèmes à résoudre, auxquels certains pays ne souhaitent plus voir jouer le rôle qui leur revient.

L'exemple du FIDA, comme mon collègue et ami de gauche, l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos de Colombie, Président du Conseil des gouverneurs du FIDA, a présenté avec son éloquence particulière ce matin, nous semble suffisamment édifiant. En effet, non contents d'avoir fixé l'objectif de la seconde reconstitution des ressources à un niveau ridiculement bas, sans rapport aucun avec la situation qui prévaut dans le monde en développement, tous ces prétextes sont irréalistes et scandaleux.

Je n'entrerai pas dans le détail de questions sur lesquelles l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos s'est étendu ce matin et dont j'approuve l'analyse et les conclusions en tant que membre de la Consultation de la seconde reconstitution. Nous espérons sincèrement que le bon sens l'emportera, afin que le FIDA, dont les activités en direction des plus pauvres des pays ruraux sont appréciées de tous, (de tous les pays membres), continuera à assumer sa noble mission. Nous sommes favorables à ce que le Conseil en fasse état dans son rapport et nous exprimons nos vives préoccupations, tout en réitérant notre appui au FIDA. De cette manière, nous invitons les pays membres de la catégorie I à faire preuve de plus de souplesse dans leur position, eu égard à la conjoncture économique et financière que traversent les pays de la catégorie II afin de garantir le succès de ces négociations dont il apparaît clairement que l'échec aurait des conséquences désastreuses dont ils porteraient l'entière responsabilité. La FAO devra poursuivre sa collaboration avec le FIDA par l'intermédiaire de son centre d'investissement, dont les activités sont précieuses aux institutions financières et aux pays en développement.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Mi delegación considera que la inclusión del tema que nos ocupa en la Agenda del Consejo es muy útil porque permite a los miembros estar enterados de los acontecimientos recientes en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, pero sobre todo porque hace hincapié en la importancia de la cooperación interagencial para que todos los componentes del Sistema trabajen en base a alineamientos generales que permitan que las estrategias comunes puedan ser puestas en práctica de manera efectiva.

En primer lugar es muy importante señalar la participación de la FAO en la estrategia internacional para el desarrollo. Apoyamos energicamente que todas las actividades de la Organización formen parte de esta estrategia. Igualmente nos parece acertado el enfoque del párrafo 9 que señala que la CEPD no es un sector independiente del Programa, sino que debe aplicarse a toda la faceta de los trabajos del sistema. Apreciamos la opinión del Director General expresada en el párrafo 14. Hemos apoyado ya, y lo reiteramos, la actividad de la Organización en favor de África y de los países menos adelantados.

Instamos a la FAO a que participe con la ONUDI en el terreno de las agroindustrias; tal vez alguno de nuestros Comités podría abocarse al estudio de este tema que ha demostrado su relevancia en los sectores rurales de nuestros países. Apoyamos también la declaración de la Ciudad de México sobre población y desarrollo.

Revestirá especial importancia la Conferencia Mundial para el examen y valoración de los logros del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer. Nos complace que la FAO esté atendiendo el problema de la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y es obvio que cuenta con el apoyo de los Estados Miembros para seguir trabajando en este sentido. Esperamos, por tanto, que con motivo de la Conferencia intensifique sus actividades para garantizar todos los derechos de la mujer campesina y participen activamente en la misma.

En ninguna Organización del sistema de las Naciones Unidas son tan evidentes como en la FAO las absurdas consecuencias de la carrera armamentista. Reiteramos en este foro la invariable posición de México en favor de un desarme general y completo.

Sabemos que si solo algunos de los inmensos recursos que se dedican al armamentismo fueran orientados a solucionar el problema del hambre en el mundo, este objetivo primordial y prioritario podría lograrse. Instamos, una vez más, a que se produzca la voluntad política que permita la utilización racional y humanitaria de los recursos.

En este sentido, apoyamos también los objetivos de la cooperación internacional para la utilización pacífica del espacio ultraterrestre. No podemos terminar, sin manifestar nuestra grave preocupación por la constante tendencia descendente de la disposición de capital para el desarrollo, como lo señala el párrafo 174. El ejemplo del FIDA, ya expuesto por la delegación de Colombia, a la que apoyamos en su planteamiento, está presente. Lo está también el del PNUD al que se refería el Sr. Regnier. Este Consejo debe manifestar claramente su profunda preocupación por este hecho, expresión clara de las mismas actitudes que inciden las negociaciones globales y el establecimiento del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

La delegación de México reafirma su apoyo respecto a las Organizaciones internacionales y su fe en el multilateralismo ya que es el sistema más perfeccionado al que hemos llegado, porque está basado en la igualdad jurídica y soberana de los Estados. Expresamos nuestro desencanto por algunas actitudes de bloqueo sistemático al multilateralismo. Apoyamos, por tanto, y suscribimos las declaraciones de Colombia, Argentina, Ecuador, Panamá, Cuba y Congo.

P. S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): In view of our earlier debate I have been at some pains to ensure that if I address myself to one particular item under this agenda item I should not be found out of order. In fact, I do find that in paragraph 175 there is a reference to IFAD and it is that subject that I want to address very briefly. All members of that institution were greatly disappointed at the failure of the consultations which had been going on for over a year to reach agreement on a second replenishment of the IFAD resources during the Governing Council in Paris last month. This was not through want of trying, as the distinguished Ambassador for Colombia is well aware since he, of course, is the Chairman of our Governing Council.

This is not the occasion to rehearse all the problems that beset the second Replenishment but I think it is important that the Council should appreciate the nature of the outstanding issues. The partnership arrangement between members of OECD and members of OPEC was a fundamental consideration in the creation of IFAD, and that partnership has been confirmed by both categories at successive annual meetings and during the consultations on the Second Replenishment.

The issue of burden-sharing which we have heard a lot of, that is how that partnership is effected, is of basic importance to the members of category one, and it would, I suggest, be unfair to assert that OECD countries in these negotiations have had no regard for the problems of the oil-

producing countries. They have recognized that the replenishment will have to be at a level below that which would be desirable in relation to the needs of the poorest countries which IFAD serves, because it would be unreasonable and unrealistic to expect many OPEC countries to contribute at the same level of resources as they did to the initial capital and to its first replenishment.

Thus the postponement of the next round of talks is, I believe, to enable the new President of the Fund to carry out his own consultations before the contributing members are called together again. I am confident there will be a solution and that the valuable work of IFAD will not be disrupted.

In this connection, I think I should mention to the Council that the largest contributor in category one has already indicated a figure at which it would be prepared to contribute to the Second Replenishment under certain conditions. Therefore while not in any way dissenting from an appeal by this Council, my delegation hopes it will be addressed to achieve a positive response from all members of the Fund, whatever the grouping to which they belong in the Institution.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Could I just seek your indulgence to enquire if I do refer to the Task Force that the Director-General referred to in his opening statement, will you rule me out of order, because if you will then I will not refer to it, and if you will not I will refer to it, but to avoid a procedural debate I seek your ruling, Sir..

CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): New Zealand finds that the resume of developments in the UN system which are of interest and indeed concern to FAO, set out in document 86/12, provides indeed a very comprehensive analysis of the wide range of view in aid and development-related activities which are central to food aid and of course to agricultural development. We feel that FAO's involvement in agricultural development is evidenced by the wide range of contributions to the many agencies which are delineated in the paper. It is of course also to be commended. Sir, many other delegations have drawn attention to much of the work of extreme substance in the document, and New Zealand would like to mention just one or two points. First, we would place particular attention on the work of the World Commission on the Environment and Development, primarily because of the emphasis being placed on the effect of development, particularly agricultural development, on the environment by the newly-elected Government of New Zealand. We will of course await the Commission's report with interest and note FAO's expertise on environmental matters which, because of the Organization's very nature, as related to agriculture and rural development, is being made available to the Commission.

Similarly, we would like to refer to the reference in the document to the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the UN Decade for Women. This again strikes a very responsive chord with my delegation since one of the first actions of our new Government was to establish in New Zealand a Ministry of Women's Affairs, and this has already set itself the task of addressing in fundamental terms the state of women in New Zealand society.

The document gives a very good impression of a willingness, indeed of a necessity for the agencies in the UN system to coordinate their efforts in the light of their common objective. In this context New Zealand feels that the Task Force discussed by the Director-General in his opening address to examine the FAO/WFP relationship in the context of the existing worthwhile interface between the two bodies deserves full support.

S. M. MATIUR RAHMAN: (Bangladesh): My delegation would just like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the comprehensive report, and Mr. Regnier for his lucid presentation of the subject. The document is very informative and as such, should continue into the future.

However we would like to make a few observations on a few points. The document gives a clear picture of what is happening to food and agriculture in all other agencies of the United Nations system. It also describes FAO's involvement and valuable contribution in all these areas. We are pleased with FAO's increasing contribution in all these matters which are of great interest to all our developing countries. We encourage FAO to continue its due and increasing role in all areas having a bearing on food and agriculture.

We have noted with great interest the valuable support FAO is rendering to ECDC and TCDC. We commend FAO and the Director-General for their valuable support to the efforts of developing countries, for the promotion of ECDC and TCDC amongst them, and we request that these be further stepped up.

Regarding the implementation of the substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least-Developed Countries, my delegation invites attention to the fact that the UN General Assembly at its session on 20 December 1983 called upon the international community to provide support measures for the effects of the LDCs in the priority sector, particularly in food and agriculture. The UN General Assembly also invited all organs and organizations of the system to take necessary measures for effective implementation of the SNPA within their respective spheres of competence. In this connection the active part and valuable contribution of the FAO in the implementation of the SNPA for the least developed countries in the food and agriculture sector is noted with appreciation. We would invite all other organizations to step up their activities for implementing the recommendations of the SNPA in their own areas of competence.

We commend FAO's continuous and relentless effort to help the African countries to overcome their present critical situation..

FAO's contribution to the follow-up of the WCARRD programme of action in monitoring the progress of its implementation is impressive and commendable. This work should continue in the future.

FAO's relation with international financial institutions. We note with sincere appreciation FAO's programme of cooperation with the major multilateral and other financing institutions lending for agriculture and rural development mentioned in paragraph 170 of the document. We believe that FAO's valuable cooperation with these institutions has facilitated these financial institutions in making increased investment for food and agricultural development in the developing countries. We would therefore recommend the FAO's continued close cooperation programme with these financial institutions in the future also.

FAO's Investment Centre is playing a major role in promoting investment in the agricultural sector of the developing countries. However, Mr. Chairman, in this connection my delegation shares the serious concern expressed by all developing countries because of the continuing declining trend in the availability of urgently needed capital assistance on concessional terms for the development of the developing countries. The low level of the last replenishment of IDA, a small increase in the resources of the Asian Development Bank and the serious uncertainty about the level and timeliness of the replenishment of IFAD are of great concern to our delegation. We would urge upon all members concerned to finalize the negotiation on the Second Replenishment at an adequate level without any further delay. IFAD is for helping the small farmers in the poorer countries and it deserves the support of all those who want to improve the lot of the rural poor in the developing countries.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would like to speak, not in the spirit of debate or annoyance but only because I do think that one cannot let allegations pass unanswered when everybody knows what is being referred to, as though those allegations might be true. If this happens often enough it becomes accepted as true. Why do we not answer? In that spirit, not in anger, or because I want to debate, I would like to put a few matters on the record.

In the first place, mention has been made very generously concerning U.S. actions by our distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom, and it is true that the United States is very much in favour of IFAD and is prepared - I do not know if it is public knowledge - under the conditions that existed and under which the Congress first agreed to IFAD, to put up to 150 million dollars into IFAD replenishment. That is not perhaps generally known, but that is the truth.

Further, mention has been made of the decrease in the aid that has been given internationally to agriculture in the less developed countries. I would like to point out that, far from that, it has gone up. It has gone up, and this is according to paragraphs 171 and 172, from 4.8 to 7.1 thousand million dollars. That is not a diminishment, that is an increase, and I am happy to say that I think all our countries have a share. But also I would like to say it is not enough to say we support IFAD or we support help for others. Some effort, some evidence has to be there. All the countries of the world should support help for those who suffer - east and west, east as well as west. All countries should respond when people suffer, north and south, each country according to its ability to provide help. It is not enough to say we are all for it and then do nothing. I was very moved, as I think all of us were the other day, when Congo announced its contribution, and I thought that was a very important and a very significant step - two million dollars, a lot of money, and something that we ought to respect and admire which I hope will be an example to others.

I would like also to speak about the question of arms in section 153. It is indeed a terrible burden on the world, but leaving aside the two great armed associations - NATO and the Warsaw Pact - I wonder if all my colleagues know what is being spent in the world outside those two. Three hundred million dollars a day, three hundred million dollars a day for military armaments and military affairs by countries which are in terrible problems. Three hundred million a day. Billions and billions a year and this is not something.

Now we speak also of the economic difficulties, and God knows that is something we all ought to be prepared to do something about. We have in the United States instituted a Generalized System of Preferences for tariffs, now extended this year for another eight and a half years covering 140 countries, covering 2 800 different items which come in duty-free or in some cases very much diminished duty from the developing countries. Why? On purpose to allow for freer trade; to lift restrictions on entry into our big market. We are not unaware, we are not unfeeling, we are not unconcerned, and our actions tell that, not just our words. You have all heard me here in the Council, you have heard me, you know how I feel in my heart, but this is what our country is doing and this is what our people are supporting. As long as they know that this aid is going where it is intended to go, that it goes into the mouths of the poor, that it goes to help the developing countries, as long as it is fairly spent I am convinced that you will continue to get that kind of support.

I hope I have not taken too long but I think there are some of these things that never get said. I hear these inferences, I know what they mean, and I just want to lay this before my colleagues and thank you, Mr Chairman, for the kindness that allows me to do so.

CHAIRMAN: That concludes the list of speakers under this item.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): A la fin de ce débat, je voudrais avant tout remercier les nombreuses delegations qui ont pris la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. Leurs commentaires et leurs remarques ont été dûment notées avec attention, et le Secrétariat tiendra compte de leurs questions dans la preparation de futurs rapports de ce genre. Je voudrais surtout remercier les nombreuses délégations pour les commentaires favorables qu'elles ont bien voulu émettre au sujet de ce rapport.

Je ne voudrais pas anticiper sur votre resume mais permettez-moi de faire quelques remarques: Tout d'abord, pour noter avec plaisir l'intérêt manifesté par de nombreuses delegations aux questions interagences et l'appréciation portée par elles quant aux efforts entrepris par la- FAO pour consulter et coordonner ses activités avec les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies.

Nous avons pris note de l'appui donné par de nombreuses delegations aux activités de la FAO ayant ainsi des applications au niveau du système, soit que la FAO y joue un role pilote comme par exemple dans le cas du développement rural et des activités de l'Equipe spéciale sur le développement rural, soit que la FAO collabore avec de nombreuses organisations du système dans des secteurs comme par exemple - et je cite seulement un certain nombre de cas qui ont été particulièrement mentionnés ce matin et cette après-midi - les problèmes de l'environnement, le role des femmes dans l'agriculture, les transferts de technologie, la cooperation économique et technique entre pays en voie de développement.

Nous avons également note avec satisfaction l'appui qui a été donné aux activités du Centre d'investissement et de manière plus générale, l'importance attachée aux actions de la FAO pour promouvoir l'investissement dans le secteur agricole. Ceci d'ailleurs fait comprendre l'intérêt que nous portons aux relations avec les institutions financières internationales et, du même coup, l'importance que nous attachons au devenir du FIDA, sujet qui a été largement mentionné aujourd'hui, matin et après-midi. Je voudrais seulement rappeler que les projets élaborés par le Centre d'investissement de la FAO représentent quelque 66 pour cent des montants totaux engagés en faveur de l'agriculture par le FIDA, c'est dire l'importance que nous attachons à un FIDA sain et en pleine expansion.

Ceci étant dit je me permettrai seulement quelques petites remarques sur des points plus spécifiques. Je ne crois pas qu'il y ait eu des questions précises qui aient été posées mais je souhaiterais, malgré tout, apporter quelques éléments d'information additionnels sur quelques points.

Tout d'abord le représentant de la Colombie a demandé où on en était concernant les négociations globales. Malheureusement je crains n'avoir pas grand chose à vous dire à ce sujet. Tout ce qu'on sait c'est que ce point est à l'ordre du jour de la présente session de l'Assemblée générale. Le Président de l'Assemblée générale a tenu un certain nombre de consultations informelles jusqu'à ce jour mais, apparemment, la situation ne s'est pas débloquée et je ne peux pas vous en dire davantage.

De nombreux délégués se sont également référés aux problèmes de la coopération économique et technique entre pays en voie de développement et ont appuyé l'action de la FAO à ce sujet, ainsi que les préoccupations et les actions du Directeur général dans ce domaine.

Je voudrais seulement dire ceci au représentant de l'Argentine qui s'est référé à ce sujet en demandant que le CAC, le Comité Administratif de Coordination, consulte le Groupe des 77 de manière à s'assurer de l'appui des organisations du système à ce sujet. Je voudrais l'assurer que ceci se fait déjà puisque, pour ne prendre qu'un exemple, lors de la réunion conjointe du CAC et du CPC le Comité du Programme et de la Coordination des Nations Unies, qui tient une fois par an des réunions conjointes, lors de ces réunions, en juillet dernier a mis ce sujet à l'ordre du jour et le Président du Groupe des 77, l'Ambassadeur MUÑOZ LEDO du Mexique, a été invité à participer à ces délibérations.

De même, j'ajouterai que le Secrétariat FAO est informellement en contact, selon que de besoin, avec le Groupe des 16 auquel il s'est référé également ce matin.

De manière plus générale d'ailleurs, je dirais, rappelant une information qui se trouve déjà dans le document CL 86/5, qu'une analyse des programmes à l'échelle du système - ce qu'on appelle en anglais COPA - doit avoir lieu et la FAO est étroitement associée à sa préparation. C'est ce qui permettra de donner une idée plus précise des ressources qui sont dirigées par le système vers ce vaste secteur.

Nous avons également noté avec intérêt l'appel du représentant de l'Égypte pour que dans ce secteur des ressources additionnelles soient mises à la disposition du système parce que, comme indiqué dans le rapport, le niveau actuel d'activités peut être soutenu avec le niveau des ressources mais tout accroissement de l'intervention du système nécessiterait certainement des ressources additionnelles.

Enfin un dernier élément d'information: on a demandé, et c'est le représentant de l'Inde, où en était la mise en place du Fonds commun des produits de base. Je voudrais signaler à cet égard les chiffres suivants: 110 pays ont signé l'Accord portant établissement du Fonds commun, 81 l'ont ratifié représentant 47 pour cent du capital souscrit. Cependant pour que ce Fonds commun entre en vigueur il y a deux conditions à remplir simultanément. La première c'est que ce Fonds soit ratifié par 90 pays, il l'a été par 88 seulement et, d'autre part, que ces 88 pays représentent les deux tiers, 66 pour cent, du capital souscrit. Jusqu'à présent on a rassemblé 47 pour cent. Donc ces conditions ne sont malheureusement pas remplies pour la mise en oeuvre du Fonds commun dans l'immédiat.

Je pense qu'avec ces quelques remarques j'ai couvert les principales questions et remarques et je remercie une fois encore les délégations qui ont bien voulu s'exprimer et marquer une appréciation de la FAO dans ce vaste secteur des relations interagences.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Regnier. This brings us to the end of the discussion on Item 9. It is very difficult, if not impossible, to give an in-depth summation of an item of this type. I will therefore not attempt to do so. I do not think it is desirable. Suffice it to say that I consider the discussion very useful and that due note will be taken of all your valuable contributions by the Secretariat.

It is my pleasant duty now to pass the chair over to Mr McLean of the United Kingdom, but before doing so let me say thank you for your support and your collaboration during my stint today. You will have me again some other time in the week and I look forward to being here.

P.S. McLean, Vice-chairman of the Council, took the chair

P.S. McLean, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia P.S. McLean, Vicepresidente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, can I first on a personal note say that it is with some surprise that I find myself sitting here, remembering that three weeks ago I was sitting in an equivalent position in a room not so far away. At least here I should be able to see you all when you ask for the floor, unlike on one or two occasions in that other room.

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

- 15. Reports of the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Sessions of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters:
- 15. Rapports des quarante-quatrième et quarante-cinquième sessions du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques:
- 15. Informes de las reuniones 44^a y 45^a del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos

I. ALVARENGA (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales, y Jurídicos): Efectivamente, como está señalado en el Orden del Día el Documento que hace referencia al tema que nos ocupa, es el CL 86/5 a) y como se recuerda en este Documento, la Conferencia en su 22º período de sesiones solicitó que se examinaran las normas que regulan los procedimientos de votación del Consejo y de la Conferencia. El Consejo a su vez en su 85º período de sesiones, solicitó que emitiera su opinión el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, el Comité analizó el tema en la forma que le fue sometido durante su 45º período de sesiones celebrado del 8 al 10 de octubre del corriente año. El tema propuesto se refiere al voto secreto que, según el Reglamento de la Organización, es obligatorio para elegir al Presidente Independiente del Consejo, al Director General, a nuevos miembros y miembros asociados de la Organización, así como a los miembros del Consejo mismo.

En el Documento preparado por la Secretaría se ha señalado que, aun cuando es difícil hacer un cálculo exacto del tiempo consumido en esas votaciones, la del Presidente Independiente del Consejo realmente alarga la reunión, o mejor dicho consume un tiempo de la reunión de veinte minutos, porque como observarán ustedes, en el párrafo 7 se habla de que la elección, toma veinte minutos para la votación, más 20 para el recuento. En cuanto a la elección de los miembros del Consejo, requieren dos horas; o sea 120 minutos para la votación, lo cual dará un total de 140 minutos. Es obvio que se considera este tiempo frente a la duración toda de la Conferencia; no es que signifique una gran proporción del mismo, sobre todo si se tiene en cuenta que son dos ejercicios: la elección del Presidente Independiente y del Consejo y de los miembros mismos del Consejo. Es una de las funciones más importantes a las cuales debe abocarse la Conferencia.

El Comité tomó nota además de que esta es una cuestión que ha sido ya debatida en otras oportunidades por los Organismos de Gobierno de la Organización y que frente al interés de ahorrar tiempo existe la opinión manifestada en diversas oportunidades por las respectivas delegaciones, de que suprimir el secreto del voto, o suprimir el voto por así decirlo, crearía algunos inconvenientes en cuanto a la política exterior que en determinado momento pueda sustentar un determinado Gobierno. En otras palabras, se daría el caso, que es el más frecuentemente citado, aunque otros ejemplos podrían existir, de que un Gobierno aparezca votando en favor de otro por el cual en ese momento no tiene las mejores relaciones a nivel internacional. Por ese motivo cada vez que se ha propuesto la supresión del voto secreto en esos casos se ha llegado a la conclusión de que la Norma debería dejarse como estaba. En esta oportunidad el Comité también llegó a la conclusión de que no conviene modificar el Reglamento, tal como ahora se encuentra. Sin embargo advirtió que habiendo sido la Conferencia la que solicitó que se analizase el tema, era ésta misma la que teniendo en cuenta las adecuadas consideraciones políticas que fuesen necesarias tomar en consideración, llegase a una conclusión definitiva. En caso de que la Conferencia estimase oportuno reformar las Normas del caso, el Comité ha propuesto en el párrafo 10 del Documento una posible redacción.

Incidentalmente el Comité tomó nota de que hay unas discrepancias, como lo señala nuestro Documento, entre los textos, españoles por una parte y francés e inglés por otra. En efecto, en el texto español se habla de realizar las elecciones cuando haya tantos candidatos como puestos vacantes por aclamación. En cambio, en los otros textos se habla de una expresión que significaría consenso general; dado que la palabra “aclamación”, según una breve indagación de tipo semántico, en esa oportunidad indica una entusiasta aprobación en la elección, esa palabra se presta justamente al inconveniente político señalado; o sea, los países aparecían eligiendo con entusiasmo a otros con los cuales no tienen en ese momento la mejor relación. De ahí que el Comité ha sugerido proponer concretamente al Consejo que a su vez apoye la uniformización, perdonen por la palabra, de los tres textos a fin de que quede en la misma forma y con el mismo significado. Este es en general el tema que hay que discutir en este momento.

CHAIRMAN: In inviting Members of the Council to address this item I suggest that they might indicate whether they are in general agreement with the CCLM's recommendation that the present provisions seem adequate or whether they feel that they would wish to put as a Council the matter to Conference with a contrary view.

I suggest that perhaps the item which our colleague has just referred to concerning the Spanish text is, I hope, non-controversial, and even looking at my Spanish-speaking friends I hope we will not find any disagreement with the recommendation there.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): De la sala verde a la sala roja cambio de color pero es el mismo Presidente, nuestro colega y amigo el Sr. Peter Mc Lean, del Reino Unido, bajo cuya dirección nos complace intervenir ahora.

Señor Presidente, cada ocasión que este Consejo discute cuestiones relacionadas con el CACJ es grato a la delegación de Colombia reconocer la competencia y el profundo contenido jurídico con que nuestro colega el embajador Alvarenga, de El Salvador, ejerce sus altas funciones de Presidente del CACJ, asesorado muy válidamente por nuestro Consejero legal el Sr. Roche.

Creemos que el CACJ cumplió en forma adecuada la solicitud que le hizo el Consejo al atender la solicitud de la Conferencia anterior del año 1983 sobre esta cuestión.

Conviene notar también, como lo ha dicho el Presidente Alvarenga y como consta en el párrafo 8 del documento, que este mismo punto fue ya planteado en ocasiones anteriores, particularmente en los años 1959, 1965, y 1967 y en todas esas ocasiones se ha llegado a la conclusión de que se trata de una materia de definición política. Sin embargo, queremos reiterar nuestra gratitud al CACJ porque en el párrafo 10 nos ofrece un menú variado, dos alternativas a la luz de las cuales podría pronunciarse este Consejo para hacer una recomendación a la próxima Conferencia.

Sin embargo, no obstante, en ese buen trabajo del CACJ la delegación de Colombia piensa que subsisten, que siguen muy válidos los motivos por los cuales en ocasiones anteriores se ha decidido mantener el statu quo en este asunto. De allí que nosotros expresemos nuestra opinión en favor de que el artículo XII apartado a) se mantenga en su forma actual, o sea, que no recomendemos a la Conferencia la supresión de los dos miembros de frases que aparecen entre corchetes en el apartado a) del actual párrafo 10. Por el contrario, queremos apoyar la propuesta del CACJ que aparece en el párrafo 11 en el sentido de que se ajusten los artículos del Reglamento General de la Organización de manera que los textos en español correspondan al significado actual de los textos en inglés y francés.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I want only a point of clarification at this stage. Paragraph 8 mentions that the CCLM noted that previously (1959, 1965 and 1967), the Governing Bodies of the Organization had examined the matter and thought it preferable to maintain a secret ballot. I would like to know whether the matter was referred to the Council or to the Conference, and at what stage the Governing Bodies, both the Council and the Conference, took that decision. I would like to know what happened.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): My delegation wishes to support the recommendation of the CCLM.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany), Federal Republic of: My delegation would like to thank the CCLM and it welcomes the presentation of the documents before us.

As regards the question of voting procedures in both Council and Conference, when there is the same number of candidates as places to be filled, we share the votum of the CCLM as reflected in paragraph 9 of its Report. We believe, too, that the interests of member States are best safeguarded by the proven procedure practiced for so long under Rule XII.9 (a). Former investigations came to the same result. Therefore, we cannot concur with the eventual modification of the existing provisions which call for secret ballots.

M. ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier vivement le Président du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques pour l'exposé très clair introduisant la question qui est soumise à notre examen. Le rapport de la 85ème session du CQCJ ayant enregistré ces références dans le document CL 86/5, a traité dans sa seconde partie de questions soulevées lors de la dernière Conférence générale. Ma délégation estime que le Comité s'est acquitté convenablement de son mandat à lui confié par la Conférence. Puisque la question des règles régissant les procédures de vote du Conseil et de la Conférence a été traitée sous tous ses aspects et les conclusions du Comité sont bien argumentées en matière de procédure de vote régissant la désignation des Membres du Conseil, l'admission de nouveaux Etats Membres, la nomination du Directeur général, les textes de l'Organisation sont clairs, puisqu'en principe le vote de scrutin secret est le vote obligatoire prévu par ces textes; le secret de vote étant destiné à garantir aux Etats Membres la possibilité d'exprimer leur choix sans contrainte ni gêne. Toutefois, pour Selection du Conseil, il n'y a pas de possibilité de secret ciui soit suspendu, certainement pour des raisons de commodité et d'économie de temps et conformément au Règlement général de l'organisation. Ma délégation estime que cette disposition, en vertu de l'article régissant cette question au sein du Règlement général, article qui prévoit la possibilité de suspension du vote au scrutin secret du Conseil, est suffisamment souple pour ne pas envisager quelque modification que ce soit. Ma délégation appuie en consequence les conclusions du rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais dire toute ma satisfaction de vous voir présider cette séance. Nous pensons également qu'il convient de remercier le Président du CQCJ pour le travail qu'il accomplit, avec tous les autres membres du Comité. Nous estimons qu'ils se sont acquittés convenablement de leur tâche et qu'il convient de les en féliciter. Néanmoins, nous pensons aussi qu'il n'est pas opportun que nous puissions procéder à des modifications des textes qui existent. C'est pour cette raison, pour être bref, que nous pensons pour notre part que le statu quo devrait demeurer pour ce qui concerne l'article XII-9^a.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): First of all, my delegation would like to thank Mr Alvarenga for the excellent presentation of this item. We thank the members of the CCLM for the considerable amount of work done on the various important subjects. Concerning the issue of rules governing the voting procedures of the Council and Conference, we share the same view as the CCLM. In addition, we are of the opinion that the General Rules of the Organization should not be amended unless there is an absolute need to do so.

Paragraph 9 of CL 86/5 (a) mentions that "Rule XII.9(a) could be suspended in accordance with Rule XLII.1....". We would be able to refer to this Article if there is a serious shortage of time, so therefore, we do not see any absolute necessity for the amendment of the Rule XII.9(a).

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panamá): Sobre este tema la delegación de Panamá apoya la conclusión a la cual llegó el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos expuesta en el párrafo 10 del documento CL 86/5(a), en el sentido de no considerar necesaria ninguna enmienda al artículo XII a). Por las implicaciones políticas que las elecciones secretas conllevan, esta delegación propugna que las mismas se mantengan y que en todo caso exista la salida expuesta al final del párrafo 9 del documento sobre la posibilidad de suspender el artículo XII a) como solución apropiada si en circunstancias excepcionales hubiera una grave escasez de tiempo.

Por otra parte, conforme a lo expresado en el párrafo 11 nos pronunciamos de acuerdo con la recomendación del CACJ en el sentido de proponer a la Conferencia modificar la version española del Reglamento General de la Organización (RGO) suprimiendo las palabras "por aclamación" que figuran en el párrafo 9 a) del artículo XII y sustituirlas por las palabras "evidente consenso general", así como introducir notas análogas en el párrafo 17 del artículo XII tal como se señala en las tres últimas líneas del párrafo indicado del documento en mención.

A. M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I did not get an answer to my earlier request for clarification, but anyway, I must congratulate you, Mr Chairman - it is nice to see you presiding over this session this afternoon. We would like to thank the distinguished Ambassador of El Salvador, Mr Alvarenga, for his clear presentation of document CL 86/5(a).

Listening to the distinguished delegates of the United States, Mexico, Tunisia, Panama and others, my delegation also feels that the present provision is adequate to protect the interests of member Nations. Therefore, we feel that any amendment to Rule XII.9(a) is not necessary.

CHAIRMAN: I can assure the distinguished delegate of Pakistan that I am about to call upon the Chairman of the CCLM to reply to his earlier point, and I have much pleasure in so doing.

I. ALVARENGA (Presidente, Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos): Creo que, en efecto, la única cuestión pendiente es la planteada por el distinguido representante de Pakistán.

Yo preferiría que fuese el señor Asesor Legal quien diese las explicaciones del caso y ya aprovecharía yo para plantearle otra cuestión.

Ha habido varias referencias a la posibilidad de suspender el Reglamento. Esa posibilidad tal como está expuesta en el documento recibió una consideración más amplia oralmente en el curso de los debates del Comité; se llegó, y ahí quisiera que el señor Asesor Legal nos aclarara, a la conclusión de que realmente es un remedio casi tan difícil como la enfermedad, porque para suspender el Reglamento se necesita un procedimiento largo y se perdería más tiempo que el que se consume en la votación misma. Temo que sea un remedio heroico que se tiene que recurrir solo en casos extremos. Prefiero, entonces, ceder la palabra al señor Asesor Legal.

Para no volver a interrumpir, agradezco muchísimo las observaciones que se han hecho sobre la labor del Comité, en especial las que se han referido a mi persona, y entre ellas escojo la de mi queridísimo amigo Gonzalo Bula Hoyos que en base a su amistad ha tenido palabras muy amables.

LEGAL COUNSEL: To reply to the question raised by the distinguished delegate of Pakistan, for the record I should mention that in 1959 both the Conference and the Council examined Rule XII, of the General Rules of the Organization. The Council suggested to the Conference that it might wish to amend the Rules in order to obviate the need for secret ballots, but at its Tenth Session in 1959, the Conference preferred to retain the requirement.

The problem arose again at the Thirteenth Session of the Conference in 1965, when the Conference suspended Rule XII and asked the Council and the CCLM to look into the matter again. On this occasion, the CCLM and the Council submitted their recommendations to the Conference which decided, once more, that on balance it was preferable to maintain the secret ballot. The Chairman of the CCLM mentioned the fact that suspending the General Rules might not always be easy, but the need for suspension would normally arise only when the Conference realizes that it is very far behind in its work and wishes to obviate the need for night sessions, and so on. Therefore, this crisis situation could be foreseen fairly well.

The Rule on suspension requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast and there must be 24 hours notice. Therefore, suspension of the General Rules of the Organization is not all that easy, but it is not an insurmountable problem and the Conference has already shown on one occasion, when presumably the need became very urgent, that this procedure can be resorted to and can solve any serious problem.

Therefore, as the Rules stand at present, I think the Conference has all the safeguards it needs in the event that it runs very seriously behind in its timetable.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Legal Counsel. I take it there are no further comments. I think I can sum up by saying it is clear that the Council supports the recommendation of the CCLM that the present provision in terms of voting procedures is adequate and that no amendment of Rule XII.9(a) should be necessary or desirable. I think the Council has noted that suspension of the rules can be considered by the Conference in appropriate circumstances, perhaps for the election of the Chairman of Council or for the election of Council members, but that the general feeling is that, this should be resorted to perhaps rarely and only, as the Legal Counsel has suggested, in circumstances where otherwise the item cannot be dealt with.

Finally, I think it is clear that there is support for the amendment of the text in Spanish in the two places indicated, as proposed in paragraph 11. That completes our short discussion on this item. It remains for me to thank the Chairman of CCLM, the distinguished Ambassador of El Salvador, Mr. Alvarenga, for all the work of the Committee.

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION
IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

11. Reports of the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Sessions of the Programme Committee, and Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth Sessions of the Finance Committee
11. Rapports des quarante-sixième et quarante-septième sessions du Comité du Programme et des cinquante-troisième et cinquante-quatrième sessions du Comité financier
11. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 46° y 47° del Comité del Programa, y de los períodos de sesiones 53° y 54° del Comité de Finanzas

including:
notamment:
en particular:

- 11.1 AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy
11.1 Politique d'utilisation de la base de données AGRIS
11.1 Política de utilización de la base de datos AGRIS

CHAIRMAN: I remind the delegates that we have also within this item a specific sub-Item concerning the AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): It is not just a courtesy if I say that I am very glad to see you presiding over this particular item on our agenda. I am very grateful to you for giving me the privilege to address the Council on behalf of my colleagues on the Committee.

As is broadly known, the main task of the Programme Committee in a non-Conference year is to systematically review FAO activities on the basis of already existing documentation; that means the Programme of Work and Budget, the Review of Regular programme, and the review of field programmes, previous findings of the Council and the Committee itself and of course, through a traditional dialogue, intensive dialogue with the Secretariat. The Committee has studied the remaining part of the programme and thus completed the four-year cycle reviewing exercise at its last two sessions, in May and in September-October.

In accordance with the sequence decided by the Council in 1980, the Committee studied in considerable depth the following programmes: in May, Nutrition, Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis, Food and Agricultural Policy, Fisheries, Forestry; in September-October the Committee considered Field Programme Planning and Liaison, Investment, Two Special Programmes, Freedom From Hunger Campaign and Andre Mayer Fellowships, FAO representatives and Technical Cooperation Programmes.

Obviously, Mr Chairman, I would take too much of your precious time if I were to refer to details on such an appreciable number of programmes and sub-programmes. Therefore, I feel honestly obliged to confine my introductory remarks to some general points and to only a few specific issues which I feel merit fully your attention.

On Nutrition, the Committee supported the gradual shift in emphasis with the primary objective to incorporating the nutrition component in most FAO field activities wherever suitable through practically oriented and locally suited approaches. It welcomed the continuing close cooperation of FAO with the rest of the UN system, directly or through the ACC Committee on Nutrition. In the same context, the Committee noted with satisfaction the agreement reached in the sub-Committee to undertake an in-depth assessment of the nutritional situation in some countries, especially in Africa, and Mr Regnier on the previous item has already informed you that Kenya was selected for that purpose. The Committee continued to support the joint FAO/WHO work on Food Quality and Standards.

Before I continue, I want to stress one point of principle, that is that the Programme Committee only very exceptionally and with considerable reluctance addresses itself to the Regular Programme Resources in programme reviewing. I think it is for obvious reasons and I will not dwell on it too much. As I said, basically it is a matter of principle and I think it is well recognized by the Council. Thus, whenever you see references to the resources, it means that the whole Committee without any hesitation thought that it was really necessary to bring the resource issue to your attention.

The Committee made such an exception in the case of Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis regarding the need for a gradual increase in Regular Programme resources, primarily to assist governments to improve their own statistical systems. We thought it was essential and also we noted that extrabudgetary resources for that purpose were very limited.

May I only add that the Committee on the whole was very pleased with the ongoing activities in this field that we always considered as very vital and one of the mandatory activities of the Organizations.

On Food and Agriculture policy, a very closely inter-related programme to the one that I have just made very brief reference to, the Committee expressed general satisfaction with the ongoing work and was mostly concentrated on the main, new undertaking, that is agricultural price and incentive policies studies. Our views on this important initiative or programme or project are contained in paragraph 38 of our report. I am referring to document CL 86/3.

On Fisheries, I have very little to report. I would like just to reiterate that the Committee continued to highly appreciate the fisheries programmes, its decentralized approach, its close cooperation with national institutions, the TCDC and ECDC components in most of its activities, its remarkable flexibility and its abilities to adjust to speedy changing realities in the global fisheries. I do not need to go any further because the Committee was also largely concentrated on the preparations for the World Fisheries Conference. The Council has already discussed the outcome of the Conference as well as the initial follow-up activities by FAO.

On Forestry, I will limit myself to expressing the view of all my colleagues on the importance and in many respects unique role of FAO in this field. The Committee was generally satisfied with the progress already achieved within the reoriented activities approved by the Council and the Conference. It placed particular emphasis on rural energy and in that on fuelwood, with clear recognition of the need for FAO to be increasingly involved in assisting countries to alleviate the grave energy problems in rural areas.

On the additional work on forestry, the Committee shares the hope expressed by the last Conference that increased resources should be available for forestry in coming biennia.

Field Programme Planning and Liaison provides a logical frame for considering FAO extrabudgetary resources. I will not go into the resource problem. Also, Mr Regnier made a reference in the document prepared for the previous agenda item. The Council was fully updated on the situation with regard to the UNDP and other extrabudgetary resources. The part of our own report which referred to the resource is still fully valid, since nothing has happened in slightly more than a month since we met. In the programme itself, the Committee highly appreciates the fact that it was able to bear an increasing workload with more or less the constant resources.

The Investment Centre has been traditionally appreciated by the Programme Committee. With regard to the FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme, it is enough to draw your attention to the results of the recent evaluation study by the World Bank. The World Bank team concluded that the quality of FAO's work was comparable with other sources, including the World Bank itself. Given the fact that the Cooperative Programme is mainly involved in the so-called "First Generation" projects and taking into account many other factors, certain small realities which are so human and exist usually to a certain degree within the system, the Committee felt that the conclusion gave well-deserved tribute to FAO achievements jointly with the World Bank.

On the Investment Support Programme, while fully supporting the current activities, the Committee suggested in paragraph 1.26 of the report modification in budgetary procedures. The Committee was assured that the Director-General had already taken steps to give effect to this suggestion.

Given the time restraints, I obviously cannot make specific reference to two special programmes. It is enough to say that on the whole, the Committee fully supported the activities of both the Freedom-From-Hunger Campaign/AD, and Andre Mayer Fellowships. May I only draw your attention to the updated information on all relevant aspects of the Programme in paragraph 1.42 to 1.47 of the report.

Finally, on TCP, let me first underline that the Committee was provided with detailed figures, a small part of which is incorporated in the report. The Committee thoroughly examined all aspects of TCP. It particularly focussed on the essential issue of TCP, that is its original concept. After a profound debate, the Committee was glad to conclude that while every effort had been taken to incorporate new and changing ideas and approaches, the essentials of the original concept had been fully maintained. I am obliged to bring to your attention paragraph 1.55, as it contains the views of the committee with regard to the potential resource base of TCP in the next biennium. May I conclude my presentation of the programme reviewing with the suggested sequence for the next cycle of programme reviewing, which is contained in paragraph 1.56, which is in fact the same as the one we have just completed and through its report to the Council is advised by the Committee to take note and give its consent to reviewing the sequence. Now let me deal briefly with the Use of Consultants in 1983/84. This is the second report. A summary of the document, because the document was prepared for both committees, is provided in Annex A to the report. The Committee noted the considerable

progress achieved in implementing the recommendations the Committee had made at its Forty-third Session. Further, the Committee urged the Director-General to persist in his efforts to reduce expertise from a few countries.

May I be allowed to make a very brief reference to the AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy. This is a matter of formal decision by the Council. The Committee recommended that the Council give its support to the text contained in Annex A of document CL 86/3. In the same context, the Committee welcomed the progress achieved within the AGRIS network now with more than 130 countries, national centres participating and the amount of reference has already reached more than one million. We suggested in our report a small change and in fact in Annex 3 has been modified by the Committee. In our best judgment, the modification was suggested to reflect better the partnership concept in the whole network.

Finally, with reference to the Joint Inspection Unit Reports, the Committee studied in depth seven JIU reports. Most of the reports are as usual voluminous and deal obviously with very complex matters. Given this and the new procedures decided by the Council a year ago, I do not think I need to introduce specifically JIU documents. On the whole, this set of JIU documents bears yet another evidence of the very favourable position of FAO within the UN family. I may only recommend to your attention the JIU report on the OPE, that is the Office for Project Execution of the UNDP as it has obviously great significance not necessarily only for FAO but the whole UN system.

The Committee had no difficulty in reaching full agreement with the Inspectors on both their diagnosis and or analysis and remedial actions that they recommended.

Of course, I stand ready to answer or clarify any point that the members of the Council may wish me to do.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure the Council will wish me to express appreciation to Mr Trkulja for that very succinct introduction which he has given to the two Programme Committee reports and I would now invite the Chairman of the Finance Committee Mr Abeyagoonasekera to introduce the two reports of the Finance Committee.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Let me first say how pleased I am to see you chairing this part of this Session, not only as a senior member of FAO but as a member of the Commonwealth.

Under this item I shall be covering only those aspects of the two reports which are not covered by items listed on the Agenda for tomorrow and Wednesday, mainly Contribution matters and financial matters and budgetary matters. The audited accounts of the UNDP, the Regular Programme and WFP, I will not be touching on them. They will be taken up, I presume tomorrow and the day after.

On Budgetary Performance discussed under Budgetary Matters in the Fifty-third Session, the Council's attention is drawn to certain comments the Committee has made, although not matters requiring a decision and/or discussion by the Council. Your attention is drawn to paragraph 4 to 12 in the Fifty-third Report.

With regard to the transfers made which have been referred to in paragraph 6, the Committee noted that these had in no way had a negative effect on the implementation of the approved Programme of Work and Budget for 1982-83; rather they had facilitated the execution of additional activities within the level of resources approved for the total programmes.

Secondly, the programme savings had been deliberately made in some areas, for example, posts proposed for abolition in the 1984-85 biennium had been frozen as soon as they became vacant in the 1982-83 biennium; economies were also made in the cost of documentation, interpretation, and in the cost of the FAO Country Offices.

The Committee noted these measures, and appreciated the constant attention that had been given to enhance economy and efficiency of the Organization.

In the Report of the Fifty-fourth Session, there are two items under Budgetary Matters for the information of the Council, namely, the Report on Duty Travel in 1982/83 which are referred to in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.7, and the Report on the Use of Consultants in 1982/83, referred to in paragraphs 2.8 to 2.12.

The Chairman of the Programme Committee has already referred to the report on the Use of Consultants, and I shall not be going into detail of our discussion.

The Report on Duty Travel is the fourth report of its kind to the Finance Committee. The Report on the Use of Consultants is the second report of its kind to the Finance Committee. The Committee spent quite some time on discussing these reports. It was the Committee's view that both reports contained very useful information and that they should continue to be presented to the Committee in the future, since both areas covered by the reports dealt with key areas of expenditure of the Organization.

JIU Reports: The Council may wish to note that with regard to the JIU report on United Nations System Cooperation in the Developing Evaluation by Governments, the Committee agreed with their conclusions and recommendations. In a previous report the JIU had complimented the FAO on its evaluation measures and procedures and the Committee continued to encourage the Organization to involve itself in building national capabilities in monitoring and evaluation further.

On the JIU in the UN per se, the Committee raised a number of questions (paras. 81-83 in our 53rd Report) in relation to its structure, organization, how subject matter for subjects are selected, the level of the budget (\$4.4 million), FAO's contribution to it (\$560 000) based on cost-sharing formula of the CCAQ, and the extent to which the reports were of benefit to FAO. The Committee was informed of the background and history of the JIU, the provisions of its statute, procedure for appointment of Inspectors, process followed in producing reports and the present procedures in reporting to Council as adopted by the FAO Council at its Eighty-third Session.

I wish to draw particular attention to one of the JIU Reports which was discussed at our Fall Session, the report on the Office of Projects Execution of UNDP. This is an important study as it draws our attention to friction that arose between UNDP and the iSpecialized Agencies, where with the expansion of OPE activities, since its establishment in 1973 there was considerable overlapping of activities, particularly in areas where existing agencies had the competence and capacities, although it was a requirement that UNDP should consult other agencies on each project to be executed by OPE. Please see para. 2.91 for the Committee's views of this.

I come next to Personnel matters. The Council's attention is drawn to the International Civil Service Commission Survey of General Service Salaries in Rome. Attention is drawn to paragraphs 2.50 to 2.58 in the Fifty-fourth report. Under Article 12, paragraph I of the ICSC statute, ICSC is empowered to conduct surveys and make recommendations to the Executive Heads of UN Organizations. It is also the practice for representatives of those organizations to place their views before the Commission and the recommendations which are finally submitted are generally implemented.

We were informed by the secretariat that the ICSC Report stated that there were problems with the data for some of the jobs selected for the survey, and as a consequence some difficulties were experienced in the drawing up of grade-to-grade relativities.

The Committee therefore sought and obtained clarification from the Secretariat on a number of general as well as technical points relating to the survey. The Committee felt certain aspects of the ICSC survey methodology, particularly, the criteria for the selection of employers, could have been the reason why the recommended salary increase was so high. The Committee also felt that a more representative cross-section of employers in the Rome labour market ought to have been selected; and recommended that in future there ought to be a better balance since the present survey included more employers from the credit and financial sectors and fewer employers from other sectors such as the Italian Civil Service, the Ministries, the other Embassies in Rome apart from the one selected for the survey.

Based on the ICSC Recommendations, the Director-General recommended to the Committee five measures for implementation. These are referred to in paragraphs (i) - (v) in paragraph 2.53 of the Fifty-fourth report. To mention them briefly, the first recommendation is for a 9.1 percent increase throughout the grades and steps - please see Appendix C for more particulars. These recommendations are to be implemented from 1 March 1984. Secondly, addition of a new biennial step for all grades to be implemented from 1 January 1985. Thirdly, to endorse the ICSC recommendation on the interim adjustment procedure and the Separation Payments Scheme. Fourthly, level of Dependency Allowances recommended to be endorsed subject to one proviso that the allowance for a dependent child should be raised only to Lire 846 000 per annum and not 859 000 as recommended by the ICSC. Fifthly, joint studies between ICSC and FAO for a possible salary scale based on biennial steps.

These proposals are submitted to the Council with the Committee's approval for their implementation.

The consequences of these recommendations or their implementation to the Organization would be: Firstly, they would bring the General Service salaries in Rome to a level higher than that reached in the last between-survey adjustment to the old salary scale which became due in June 1984. Secondly, in the current biennium, it would lead to additional costs to the Regular Programme of \$4.2 million and US \$2.1 million under support costs.

The Committee was also informed that it would be possible to cover these costs from within current budgetary allocations without affecting the programme level if there are no serious adverse currency or inflationary trends during 1985. Thirdly, the implementation of the new scales of salaries for staff in the General Service category would also cause some overlapping with salaries of some professional grades, particularly at the P-2 level. Some concern was expressed regarding this.

The Committee also wishes to impress upon the Members of the Council that these recommendations were discussed in detail and questions were asked by all members; and that we did not merely put a rubber stamp on the recommendations of ICSC,

CHAIRMAN: Again the Council will, I am sure, be very grateful to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for those introductory remarks.

Before I open the debate perhaps I ought to clarify one issue concerning Agenda Item 11.1 on AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy. I did mention this in my own introductory remarks as indeed has the Chairman of the Programme Committee, and although it is actually shown as a separate item I would like to suggest to the Council that the Members could perhaps cover this in their interventions on the reports in general in order to save time, and if this is agreeable I would ask Mr Savary, the Secretary-General, to say some additional words about the AGRIS item before we proceed with our general debate.

Le SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Je vais prendre la parole maintenant en tant que responsable du Département des affaires générales de l'information car c'est en cette qualité que je voudrais dire quelques mots sur la politique d'utilisation de la base de données AGRIS. AGRIS, le système international d'information pour les sciences et la technologie agricoles, a été créé et il est coordonné par la FAO, mais c'est essentiellement un système coopératif. En dix ans d'activité, il a connu une expansion remarquable. Il y a aujourd'hui 131 centres qui fournissent des références relatives à plus de 10 000 nouvelles publications agricoles chaque mois. La base de données AGRIS compte maintenant 1 100 000 références concernant tous les domaines de compétence de la FAO et constitue un capital intellectuel important et aussi un atout économique précieux d'où l'on peut tirer des services et des produits d'information extrêmement divers. Certains de ces services et produits peuvent être fournis par la FAO tandis que les centres participants en préparent d'autres pour leur propre usage ou pour distribution à partir des données mises à leur disposition par la FAO, soit sous forme de bandes magnétiques, soit sous la forme imprimée de notre bibliographie AGRINDEX. Cette croissance remarquable d'AGRIS a fait apparaître la nécessité de définir une politique qui précise les modalités de coopération dans le système et qui définisse leurs droits et obligations ainsi que ceux de la FAO, tout en conservant la souplesse qui a toujours été une caractéristique de cette coopération.

La politique qui est maintenant soumise à l'approbation du Conseil est basée sur le consensus qui s'est dégagé de la troisième consultation technique des centres AGRIS. Après examen du projet par le Comité du programme, le texte qui est soumis à l'approbation du Conseil est celui qui figure à l'annexe A du document CL 86/3. Les caractéristiques principales de la politique proposée sont les suivantes: Premièrement, les entrées dans la base de données AGRIS consistent en informations bibliographiques se rapportant à des publications non confidentielles et dont la distribution n'est pas limitée. Chaque participant partage avec la FAO les droits d'auteur et d'exclusivité sur les données qu'il fournit mais c'est la FAO qui exercera ces droits en ce qui concerne l'ensemble de la base de données.

Je voudrais souligner d'ailleurs que les droits en question ne concernent pas les données individuelles mais bien l'ensemble des entrées d'un pays ou la totalité des données bibliographiques traitées par la FAO.

Deuxièmement, en vue d'encourager la circulation de l'information tout en renforçant les systèmes nationaux d'information agricole, tous les participants peuvent utiliser les données pour préparer des produits et fournir des services destinés à l'usage interne, mais ceux qui désirent fournir des services dans d'autres pays peuvent le faire seulement si le centre national intéressé n'y fait pas d'objection. De toute façon aucun participant ne peut réclamer de redevances ni imposer un droit quelconque sur le contenu intellectuel des données, évidemment un paiement peut être demandé pour récupérer le coût matériel des services fournis.

Troisièmement, enfin, les participants présenteront chaque année un rapport sur l'utilisation qu'ils auront faite de la base de données, et c'est sur ces rapports que sera fondé le développement futur du système.

Au cas où les membres du Conseil auraient des questions à poser au sujet de ce texte, mes collègues de la Division de la bibliothèque et des systèmes documentaires seront à leur disposition pour répondre aux questions qui seront posées.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Savary very much in his capacity as Assistant Director-General for General Affairs for that very useful description of the AGRIS which I am sure will be helpful to the Council in your deliberations of this item.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba desea saludar a usted, en esta primera oportunidad en que nos está presidiendo. Sé que es usted una persona dinámica y nos va a ayudar a salir antes de las siete y media. Nosotros trataremos también de ayudar a usted.

Nuestra Delegación ha estudiado con interés el Informe sobre el 46° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y queremos agradecer al Sr. Trkulja por la magnífica presentación del mismo. Creo que se ha hecho un gran esfuerzo de concisión.

Queremos presentar algunos aspectos. Referente al sentido de la nutrición, al sector de la nutrición, quisiera insistir en la necesidad de que la FAO continúe sus actividades en dicho sector, considerando que tiene un alcance universal ya que se ocupa de los problemas tanto de la población urbana, como de la población rural y, particularmente, de los grupos más desfavorecidos.

Consideramos igualmente necesario reiterar la necesidad de que se elaboren acciones de carácter práctico adaptadas a las necesidades locales vinculando los programas de nutrición con otros programas de desarrollo agrícola y rural que se cumplan en los países, tratando de aprovechar al máximo los servicios de la FAO y de todo el Sistema de Naciones Unidas. Quisiera resaltar la importancia del planteamiento recogido en el párrafo 13 del Documento 86/3, referente a la función de la mujer en el campo, la nutrición y la necesidad de mayor cooperación entre la FAO, y la OMS y la UNICEF con vistas a elaborar programas de nutrición eficaces y a poner remedio a la deficiencia de determinados nutrientes.

Consideramos también de gran importancia que se continúe dando prioridad al fortalecimiento de la infraestructura para la inspección de la calidad de los alimentos y las actividades de vigilancia y control de la contaminación de los alimentos en los países. En tal sentido quisiéramos mencionar la labor de coordinación que está desarrollando en nuestra región el Comité Regional de Codex Alimentarius, para América Latina y el Caribe, el cual celebrará en abril próximo su tercera reunión en La Habana, con la participación activa de todos los países miembros de la Región.

Apoyamos las labores que se han programado y se están realizando de acuerdo con el Programa complementario de la Conferencia Regional de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, en especial en el sector de seguridad alimentaria, y la función de la mujer en el desarrollo, tal como se plantea en el Informe.

También mi delegación quisiera destacar la importancia de que se mantenga el sistema analítico elaborado para el estudio Agricultura: Horizonte 2000, mediante revisiones y actualizaciones periódicas de sus elementos, así como la utilización de sus datos y metodología en el examen a mediano plazo de la estrategia internacional para el desarrollo.

Quisiéramos también exhortar a que se continúe el trabajo de análisis de los precios agrícolas para que sea revisado en el Comité de Agricultura próximo.

En nuestra Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe celebrada en Buenos Aires, nuestras delegaciones se refirieron ampliamente a este aspecto.

Instamos, igualmente, a que se ponga en práctica el programa de seguimiento de la Conferencia Mundial de Desarrollo Pesquero celebrada en junio pasado, especialmente lo expresado en el párrafo 71.

Apoyamos los planteamientos del párrafo 79 referente al incremento de los recursos asignados para montes en los Programas de Labores y Presupuesto para futuros bienios.

Nuestro país, Señor Presidente, reconoce los importantes servicios prestados por AGRIS, y que puede prestar en adelante, sobre todo en la distribución e información entre países desarrollados y subdesarrollados, que es muy importante para los subdesarrollados.

Nuestro país apoya el Apéndice A sobre políticas de utilización de la base de datos AGRIS en todas sus partes.

Esto es con respecto a la información del Comité del Programa.

Sobre la información que nos ha dado el Sr. Abeyagoonasekera, de Sri Lanka, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, queremos expresar que muchas de sus partes han sido ya discutidas en nuestras sesiones anteriores. Queremos solamente apoyar en todas sus partes los asuntos presupuestarios y financieros que se nos han presentado. Creemos que la información del Presidente del Comité de Finanzas es una información muy amplia, muy detallada y muy esclarecedora.

W.A.F.GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to thank the Programme Committee for its work and analysis as presented in the documents before us, CL 86/3 as well as CL 86/6. We share the basic statements in document CL 86/3 on the Programme Review. This applies to programmes relating to nutrition, food and agricultural information and analysis, food and agriculture policies, fisheries and forestry.

To further agricultural production in many developing countries, particularly through agricultural price policy incentives to farmers in developing countries to produce more, is in line with the view expressed by us at several former FAO sessions. On the other hand, we support the opinion reflected in paragraph 8 of document CL 86/3 that within the framework of a comprehensive agricultural and food policy steps have also to be taken to give access to food to all people, particularly to low-income groups.

The request for linking nutrition programmes to other development programmes, as pointed out in paragraph 9 of the document, continues to be necessary to an increased extent. We welcome the measures already initiated and implemented.

We also attach great importance to the improvement of nutrition education of the rural and urban population. The main target groups must be women and school children, but men should also be included as far as possible.

We welcome the establishment of the global information system for the trade in fishery products. In view of the great share of cost of energy in fishery we also attach great importance to saving energy in fishery. Good results were achieved in that sector by the Federal Research Centre of Fisheries in Hamburg, which tests on so-called stationary fishing with regard to the quality of catches with the same yield or slightly increased yields.

My delegation welcomes the fact that more than 60 percent of FAO's field projects directly serve the increase of agricultural production aimed at small farmers and fishermen, as pointed out in paragraph 1.15 of document CL 86/6.

We share the assessment of the work of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit as reflected in documents CL 86/3, CL 86/4 and CL 86/6 as well as the Programme of Work for the Joint Inspection Unit.

We feel that the system of AGRIS data bases is a very valuable contribution of FAO to the world-wide scientific work in the field of nutrition and agriculture as well as related subject matter fields. The clarification of rights and obligations brought about by the new utilization policy for the use of the AGRIS system is also useful in our opinion.

With regard to the utilization policy under paragraph 5(c) of Appendix A of document CL 86/3, we have however a little problem. Our reading of this draft provision is that before giving an answer to an information request from a user of another country we would have to notify the National Participation Centre in that country and see whether the Centre has any objection. We consider this a provision which would hamper the flow of information. According to the legal practice in the Federal Republic of Germany we give and will have to give all users free access to the data base of the AGRIS system. A prior notification of use to the respective national data centre is therefore not practicable for us. In the opinion of my delegation the principle of equal treatment must be maintained for all users. My delegation therefore suggests as change the deletion of this provision in paragraph 5(c) of the new utilization policy.

My delegation further holds the view that it would be useful on a long-term basis if the existing three agriculture data bases were comprised to one single world-wide system. The practice used so far makes it necessary to draw on all three systems for bibliographic references. This renders scientific work somewhat difficult. In the case of one single system such a difficulty would not exist.

Before taking up one point on the report of the Finance Committee documents, I would like to thank that Committee. The one point I would like to take up concerns personnel questions. In this regard we support the Finance Committee's request that the planned fully computerized personnel data system should take up operation as soon as possible. We would also like to see in the future documentation on personnel the established posts at FAO country representations broken down according to grades. The other matter on financial issues we will take up at a later stage.

ZHOU WEI (China) (original language Chinese): We have read with great care the Report of the Forty-sixth Session of the Programme Committee. They have carried out their regular studies of the FAO activities. The comments of the Committee and the examination of the various programmes are reflected in the Report. This is particularly useful for the Members of the Council to be informed of the activities of the Organization. We would like to thank the Programme Committee for the excellent work they have carried out.

Paragraphs 36 to 39 go into the question of the agricultural commodity prices. This is one of the subjects which is often discussed at international meetings. We certainly welcome the efforts made by FAO in this regard. In November of last year an expert was sent to take part in a colloquium on this question and discussion of the price policies for agricultural commodities and our information was communicated at that time. As you know, a reform of the economic structures is at present taking place in China and the primary activities are taking place within the cities. The price policies are therefore a very important element in such changes and in regard to agricultural commodity prices there are still some problems which need to be resolved. For example, there are too small differences between the different qualities of prices and in some cases the difference between given product prices is too great. So measures have to be taken to change these matters, but progressively.

The Chinese delegation agrees with the suggestions made by the Programme Committee in regard to the great diversities among countries, particularly concerning the economic, political and social differences as well as the financial resources available. In regard to appropriate price policies, we realize that these policies can have a repercussion, for example on income distribution and investment policies, and we must therefore realize that this is a very complex problem which we are dealing with and to simplify the solution would make it very difficult to apply policies to various countries or groups of countries because of the complexity of the issue.

We hope that FAO will continue to study this question in depth and that this can be discussed at the Twenty-third Session of the Conference of FAO. We hope that useful conclusions can be reached for all developing countries.

A. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah the Merciful, the Compassionate, my country's delegation wishes to thank the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for their excellent presentation of this Report. I shall take up two main items in my statement, namely the AGRIS system and FAO's programmes.

As far as the AGRIS system is concerned my country fully appreciates the vital role undertaken by this programme in the field of research documentation and information exchange. This enables us to achieve food security and provide services to researchers. As a result of our faith in the targets of this programme we, in Egypt, thanks to the help of FAO, have set up a centre for agricultural documentation. With the training provided by FAO for the staff of this centre we were able to provide documentation for a number of research projects that have helped scientific research in my country. We also took part in a technical consultation on the AGRIS system and welcomed the results of these consultations.

After examining paragraphs 95 and 96 we welcome the special draft resolution on the principles of AGRIS data base utilization policies.

After examining paragraphs 8 to 11 on nutrition, Programme 2.1.6, we wish to welcome the design of these programmes and more specifically those dealing with the role of women in nutrition.

Sub-programme 2.1.6.3 dealing with nutrition criteria and quality control as well as its targets on this subject have come in accordance with the legislation recently issued in my country dealing with the control of food quality and safety. We have set up a Higher Council in my country to draw up policies in this field and it is staffed by high officials. This council is responsible for the supervision of importation, exportation and distribution of food commodities as well as quality and safety controls. We also provide incentives to workers in this field.

We also wish to stress the importance of Programme 2.1.7 dealing with food and agricultural information and analysis. We also support the sub-programmes, especially 2.1.7.3. This programme deals with the food information and early warning system. It is a system that has proved its vital importance in predicting food crises and shortages. Egypt has sought to expend training programmes in the field of analysis and designing of projects. This is in accordance with the targets of programme 2.1.8.5. We would welcome more cooperation with FAO in this field.

My country is currently according great importance to the fisheries sector. We are seeking to achieve the maximum benefits from fisheries and to develop them. We are also attempting to develop and to improve the social conditions of fishermen. We have prepared comprehensive programmes for this purpose.

After having reviewed programmes 51 and 71 on major Programme 2.2 dealing with fisheries, my country wishes to express its full satisfaction with this programme. We wish to stress the need to take into account the priorities referred to in paragraph 71 of this document, especially when a special programme dealing with the development of fisheries is drafted.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): First I wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and say that I am indeed glad to see you chairing this meeting. On behalf of my delegation I wish also to thank very warmly Mr. Trkulja and Mr. Abeyagoonasekera for their excellent work and the clear introduction of the documents of the Programme and the Finance Committees.

The delegation of Cyprus has carefully studied document CL 86/3, the Report of the Forty-sixth Session of the Programme Committee, which we fully endorse. We note the Committee's comments in reviewing several programmes of FAO's activities. We generally agree with the comments.

We have only one observation, which refers to sub-programmes 2.1.7.1 and 2.1.7.4, statistical processing and analysis, and statistical development. We are in agreement with the planned publication of long term historical data service on area yield and production. We are sure that such a study would be very useful and that valuable conclusions could be drawn from such a data service. We also agree that data on vegetables and fruits needs more attention. However, it is our belief that a more comprehensive picture will emerge if, in addition to area yields and production, also consumption is added. We wish to know whether the possibility of including quantities consumed has been studied and if not what are the reasons for not doing so. We are sure that with the proper analysis of such data, including the incorporation of conception, future projections would be possible, of course a very useful factor for the planners.

From the other parts of the Report we emphasize the need for monitoring and evaluation and we note with satisfaction the comments of the Committee in paragraphs 80 to 83. We find also the AGRIS data base utilization policy to be well balanced and especially for the future operation of the data base, and we are pleased to endorse it. The access to information by those interested and the right of all participants to the network are well safeguarded.

Turning to document CL 86/6, I would like to express my delegation's agreement with the comments of the Programme Committee, which we fully endorse. I would also like to stress the value of the role of TCP in the development process of developing countries. On this point I wish particularly to stress paragraph 1.55, where it is mentioned that the Director-General would take into account the very positive assessment of the programme in formulating his proposals for the next Programme of Work and Budget.

J.P. NEME (France): La délégation française a étudié avec intérêt les rapports du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, notamment en ce qui concerne les rapports du corps commun d'inspection sur le bureau d'exécution des projets du PNUD. A cet égard la délégation française déclare que le principe directeur, mis au point conjointement par le PNUD et les organisations spécialisées qui prescrivent des consultations préalables au sujet des projets exécutés par le bureau de l'exécution des projets du PNUD dans les domaines relevant de la compétence des organisations spécialisées, n'a toujours pas été appliqué.

Elle regrette tout particulièrement que l'OAA n'ait bien souvent été informée qu'après la décision de confier au bureau d'exécution des projets du PNUD l'exécution directe de certains projets concernant le secteur alimentaire et agricole. Elle considère que la première recommandation des inspecteurs est très importante et mérite une attention approfondie du Conseil.

La délégation française recommande donc que les procédures de consultation entre le PNUD et les institutions spécialisées telles que l'OAA, soient systématiquement respectées à l'avenir.

Par ailleurs, en ce qui concerne les rapports du corps commun d'inspection sur les politiques et pratiques suivies en matière de publication des organisations du système des Nations Unies, ma délégation appuie la suggestion figurant au paragraphe 170 du rapport de la 47^{ème} session du Comité du Programme concernant la signature par leurs auteurs des ouvrages publiés afin de mieux motiver les rédacteurs.

Enfin, ma délégation se félicite des résultats remarquables obtenus par le système international d'information pour les sciences et la technologie agricoles qui a permis de mettre en commun les informations dont disposent les pays développés et les pays en développement dans ce domaine. Elle appuie en particulier la politique proposée d'utilisation de la base de données AGRIS avec la modification recommandée par le Comité du Programme.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Can I first thank the Chairmen of both the Programme and Finance Committees for their comprehensive introduction which reduces the need for all that much comment. I have just one or two observations on behalf of my delegation, first in relation to document CL 86/3, which is the Report of the Forty - sixth Session of the Programme Committee held in May. There are two particular points in the agricultural area, to which I would like to refer, first under the heading "2.1.8 Food and Agricultural Policy". In paragraph 38 in particular, reference is made to the study which I think has been underway for quite some time, looking at factors to be taken into account in the formulation and implementation of national price and incentive policies. The point is made by the Committee that in their view, it certainly is as my delegation understands it, notwithstanding that price policies are one of the guidelines for production, that other elements need to be taken into account. Well, my delegation would not agree with this in principle, but I leave the thought with you that remunerative prices for producers in the long run, certainly in our experience, should not be underemphasized. Unless the producer can see a return for his investment, no matter how small, in the long run production development is inhibited.

Turning to page 6, paragraph 41, Commodity Policy and Trade, and sub-Programme 2.1.8.3 refers, we would support "...the pivotal importance of trade issues for food and agricultural development, particularly for countries which were heavily dependent on exports of a few primary commodities as the main source of their foreign exchange earnings."

In paragraph 42, reference is made to the work of the various FAO intergovernmental commodity groups. Mention is made there of the sub-group of the banana exporters and other groups of meat, oilseeds, fats and so on. We endorse the thought behind paragraph 41. We also recommend the efficacy of the various intergovernmental groups which from time to time look at trade problems in the particular areas.

On fisheries, the Report is very much to the point, I think. In paragraph 64 on page 8 of document CL 86/3, it brings up again the question of barriers to trade in fish and certainly we would endorse the studies being made by the Organization in relation to a register of import regulations affecting fishery products, which I gather is updated from time to time. Unless people developing inshore fisheries can get to these products, the development of prices is stultified, to say the least.

Paragraph 71 of the Report was mentioned by the distinguished delegate from Egypt. Various subjects for further priority attention in relation to future Programmes of Work relating to fisheries are mentioned, and we endorse them as they emphasize the two elements of conservation and management; (vi) of paragraph 72 is mentioned the overall question of marketing and trade of fish and fishery products

Turning to the Fifty - fourth Session of the Finance Committee, I wish to touch on one observation made by the Chairman in introducing the item at paragraph 2.56 on page 25 - the question of relativity and Chairman in introducing the item at paragraph 2.56 on page 25 - the question of relativity and methodology used in compiling ICSC data for recommendations. We would endorse the points made in paragraph 2.56, and from what is said in paragraph 2.58, I guess that the Director-General has taken on board the Committee's concern in bringing those items to the notice of the Director-General. One final point I have overlooked - the AGRIS policy in Appendix A under the Programme Committee's Report. We endorse the concept generally taking into account the point made, I think by the distinguished delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany, that one or two elements of free availability may cause some problems because of legal requirements of individual countries. I would think application of a general policy like this could be modified to enable particular countries in individual situations to be taken care of.

N.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar, nos referimos al documento CL 86/3. Queremos acá referirnos al párrafo 40. Para nosotros el apoyo de la FAO a la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo, cooperación técnica, debe ser apoyado, y al mismo tiempo, solicitamos se intensifique. En el caso del Seminario propuesto, como en el Grupo de los 16, al que ya nos hemos referido esta mañana, estamos teniendo actividades que podrían complementarse con las del Seminario propuesto, lo que pedimos, en nombre del Grupo de los 16, es que se coordinen las acciones preparativas de este Seminario con las que realiza el Grupo en materia de identificación de proyectos, en materia de CEPD y CTPD.

Permítame pasar ahora a AGRIS. Para nosotros este sistema es muy importante. Asimismo, queremos agradecer especialmente el apoyo dado por el Centro Coordinador del AGRIS en FAO, como la base de datos de AGRIS de Viena, que nos han prestado un gran apoyo, e inclusive lo han hecho durante la última Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe que tuvo lugar en Buenos Aires.

Además, tengo acá la solicitud, que para nuestro país sería muy útil, de aumentar el número de ejemplares de AGRINDEX que se recibe por país.

Permítame ahora pasar al documento CL 86/6, sobre el 47° período de sesiones del Comité del Programa; respecto al párrafo 1.14 en donde se prevé el análisis de los diversos aspectos de la CTPD y de la CEPD, en el campo de actividades de la FAO que es cuando se analiza el Examen del Programa Ordinario 1984-85.

Acá se dice que la FAO presentaría al ECOSOC un análisis interinstitucional de los programas en este campo. Eso por una parte. Por otra parte, en el próximo Comité del Programa se haría un análisis profundo de las actividades de la FAO al respecto.

Lo que a nosotros se nos ocurre, debido a que la FAO ya tiene previsto hacer estos dos trabajos, es por que ello no podría ser presentado al próximo período de sesiones de este Consejo como tema de la Agenda; o sea que se incluya el tema de cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo dentro del marco FAO, como tema de Agenda del Consejo, y también el tema de análisis interinstitucional también como tema del Consejo.

Nosotros pensamos que ésta ha sido una buena oportunidad para presentarlo. La FAO tiene una serie de mandatos y actividades específicas que surgen de la Conferencia de 1979, los párrafos 365 a 371, en el Programa de Arusha, en la Quinta Reunion Ministerial del Grupo de los 77, en la Reunion del CEPD sobre Agricultura y Alimentación que tuvo lugar en Bucarest; y hay innumerables resoluciones de Conferencias internacionales que le dan mandato a la FAO para trabajar en este sentido, y lo hace muy bien.

No obstante, nunca o por lo menos desde 1979 a esta parte, hemos hecho un balance sobre las actividades a nivel de Consejo. Es por eso que nos interesaría quede incluida en la próxima reunion. Ello nos va a permitir a nosotros, los del Grupo de los 77, tener una mejor evaluación de estas actividades. Y al mismo tiempo, nos permitiría identificar acciones de CEPD de acuerdo a nuestras necesidades.

En cuanto a los párrafos 1.48 a 1.55 que se refieren a actividades del PCT, queremos apoyar especialmente las que se refieren al párrafo 1.50.

En cuanto al empleo de consultores a que se refieren los párrafos 1.57 a 1.62, apoyamos con entusiasmo la recomendación del párrafo 1.60 sobre la contratación de consultores del mundo en desarrollo. No obstante, debemos decir que en el caso de América Latina, la situación no es tan satisfactoria como la que se dice en el párrafo 1.58.

Mrs. M. RAVN (Norway): First of all, I would like to thank the Chairmen of both the Finance and Programme Committees for their comprehensive introduction to this item. I have just a few comments on the AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy. As you all know, one essential precondition for developmental society is the ability to utilize information and knowledge which had been acquired in different spaces over time. The value of this information depends on whether it can be adapted to the particular circumstances or not. There are a lot of problems in the path of transferring the knowledge from one country to another, but there is no doubt that a precondition for the transfer is a proper way to procure, treat and store information and data. In our opinion, AGRIS is one example of this kind of system of link in a chain of transfer, which we consider to be very important.

A question arises with regard to the capability of using this system of data collection, and as we all know, this is a real problem in many countries. But we think the problems can be overcome by training users and by developing the system further to serve this very essential and important purpose. As such, we can go along with the recommendations in the Report before us.

Sra. M. LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México) La delegación mexicana desea felicitar a los distinguidos Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas por la excelente presentación que hicieron de los respectivos temas. Asimismo expresa su apoyo para que el Consejo apruebe el documento CL 86/3 en su conjunto; y en particular, manifiesta su acuerdo con lo planteado en el párrafo 95 relativo a la política de utilización de la base de datos AGRIS, en donde el Comité propuso mejorar el texto del artículo 3, a fin de reflejar el reparto de derechos nacionales con la FAO respecto de los datos enviados al sistema, los cuales serían ejercidos por la FAO, en nombre de todos los participantes.

En función de ello, apoya que el Consejo ratifique esa modificación expresada en el Apéndice A del documento.

En relación con el documento CL 86/4, particularmente con el Informe de la Dependencia Común de Inspección de las Naciones Unidas, relativo a la Oficina de Ejecución de Proyectos del PNUD, la delegación mexicana se hace eco de la preocupación del Comité en el sentido de que las operaciones de la OEP se llevan a cabo, principalmente mediante la adjudicación de subcontratos a compañías de consultoría, y normalmente incluían pocas actividades de capacitación, incumpliendo en cierta forma las directrices del PNUD y los organismos que preveían la realización de consultas previas respecto de los proyectos que la OEP ejecutara en las esferas de competencia de los órganos especializados, y que la FAO era informada después de la decisión de recurrir a la OEP para ejecutar un proyecto. Referente a la alimentación y a la agricultura, el Comité encargó a este Consejo las recomendaciones del informe y exhortó a que se observaran estrictamente los procedimientos.

Nuestra delegación comparte plenamente que el objetivo primordial de la cooperación técnica debe ser la autosuficiencia, por lo cual apoya la recomendación contenida en el párrafo 1.67 del documento. La delegación mexicana, asimismo, pide sea incluido en el informe del bienio 1984-85 información relativa al uso de consultores.

Queremos apoyar a la distinguida delegación de Argentina en lo relativo al apoyo de las actividades del CEPD, y asimismo el Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

En lo relativo con el documento CL 86/4, habida cuenta de la información contenida en los párrafos 5 a 12 del informe, la delegación respalda la aprobación de los asuntos presupuestarios.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): First of all, my delegation thanks the members of the Programme Committee for all their efforts in coming to this Report contained in document CL 86/3. My delegation also congratulates the Chairman of that Committee for his excellent presentation of the Report.

My delegation is in full agreement with the view expressed by the Programme Committee in recognizing the important service provided by AGRIS, as stated in paragraph 92. With the assistance of FAO my Government hopes to set up a centre for AGRIS, and we thank FAO for its continuing assistance to the Government of Indonesia.

Regarding the proposed AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy referred to in document CL 86/3, my delegation has no difficulty in supporting it.

Referring to document CL 86/4, the Report of the Fifty-third Session of the Finance Committee, my delegation much appreciates the work done by the Finance Committee in producing that Report, and congratulates the Committee Chairman for his presentation. The Indonesian delegation endorses the Report contained in document CL 86/4.

J D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): In this intervention I will speak only about Appendix A of document CL 86/3 concerning the AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy. I wish to state that the United Kingdom delegation in general finds the text of Appendix A acceptable and timely, but like the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, we question the need for sub-paragraph 5(a), since we think operationally this provision on occasion could act against the rapid utilization of information held by AGRIS. To some extent, this defeats one of the objects of on-line computerization. Therefore, we suggest this paragraph could be deleted or modified as suggested by the distinguished delegate of New Zealand without loss to the purpose or effectiveness of the text.

CHAIRMAN: I am looking at the clock, and remembering there are members of Council who feel it would be in our interest to adjourn at 7 o'clock. But I have been made aware also that there are some members of Council who would prefer to make a statement under this general item tomorrow, so I think that indicates there is no chance of concluding tonight. There are a number of issues still on which we have to reach a decision. I would like to suggest to the Council that it might be useful at this stage to pick up the particular point made about AGRIS - i.e. Appendix A of document CL 86/3. I refer to the proposal made initially by the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, which has also been commented on by the distinguished delegates of New Zealand and the United Kingdom. If the Council agrees, it would be helpful to our further deliberations if I were to invite some comment from the appropriate member of the Secretariat. If that is agreeable, I would like to ask the Chief of the Documentation Systems Branch, Mr Samaha, if he would come to the dais and speak on that particular point.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): This will not necessarily mean that the Director will not reply to other points raised about the AGRIS later when some of us intervene.

E.K. SAMAHA (FAO Staff): I will confine my comments on this particular issue as you suggested. Paragraph 5(c) was also discussed at length by all the AGRIS participating centres, particularly this issue of access to the AGRIS Data Bases and to services to other countries. We appreciate very much the concern of some countries which are providing world-wide services through their host computers and we are grateful for the support of the Federal Republic of Germany for having put AGRIS on line within Europe. And in fact most of the European countries, particularly members of the EEC now have access in AGRIS also through the German host. Therefore there is no difficulty in this particular situation to apply this policy because the member countries of the community have accepted to be served by the German host. But you also appreciate the concern of other countries. As you know, the purpose of our activity assistance is to help strengthen international capabilities. Several countries have also undertaken to develop their capabilities to provide services to use the AGRIS Data Base to provide service to their users and from this point of view they also have a certain right to safeguard their own right to serve the users and they said during the discussions in case a country would like to provide such on-line services outside its frontiers, it is normal that the country itself, the recipient country, would agree to do so. It is not at the individual user's, it is a matter which is commonly used by hosts when they have hundreds sometimes of data bases that some of these data bases have some restrictions to some countries. They get the agreement in principle from the country and then the access to the data base comes free. In that case, in our situation here, the reason for this is that if in a country X, they have the AGRIS Data Base, the whole data base mounted in a computer and they offer on-line services, a user with a terminal can have access to that data base. The principles said that if this country would like to offer this service outside for another country, it is necessary to have the agreement in principle of the country, and once the agreement is given, there is no restriction at all on any user to get access to it. This will happen normally when the country itself is providing services. Therefore, there is no hindrance at all, and there is no restriction at all of the distribution of information to the users.

This matter has been reached through a consensus of about 130 participating centres, the Data Utilization Policy was circulated to them, that was modified on various occasions to meet the requirements. They came here to discuss it at length and they agreed on this proposal, so what we have submitted to you is really the consensus reached by all the participating centres. Some of them have already raised this issue of access and this objection to 5(c).

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed, Mr Samaha. As I say, perhaps those who have raised this issue and are concerned about it might perhaps reflect on this response, so that tomorrow when we have to reach a conclusion, I hope we can do so amicably, and I want to emphasize this in no way prevents obviously other speakers on this item taking the floor.

The meeting rose at 19.00.

La séance est levée à 19 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19 horas.

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/13

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
13° SESION PLENARIA
(27 November 1984)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours
P.S. McLean, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous la
présidence de P.S. McLean, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas bajo la
presidencia de P.S. McLean, Vicepresidente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (continued)
IV. QUESTIONS CONCERNANT LE PROGRAMME, LE BUDGET, LES FINANCES ET L'ADMINISTRATION (suite)
IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS, FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS (continuación)

11. Reports of the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh sessions of the Programme Committee, and Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth session of the Finance Committee (continued)
11. Rapports des quarante-sixième et quarante-septième sessions du Comité du Programme et des cinquante-troisième et cinquante-quatrième sessions du Comité Financier (suite)
11. Informes de los periodos de sesiones 46° y 47° del Comité del Programa, y de los periodos de sesiones 53° y 54° del Comité de Finanzas (continuación)

including:
notamment:
en particular:

- 11.1 AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy (continued)
11.1 Politique d'utilisation de la base de données AGRIS (suite)
11.1 Politica de utilización de la base de datos AGRIS (continuación)

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): At the outset I would like to express my appreciation of the AGRIS Data Bank Utilization Policy which was started in 1975, and has now over 130 centres operating in different parts of the world. It is no doubt serving an extremely useful purpose and providing agricultural information at all levels, technical as well as the latest developments in modernization of agriculture.

In this connection, the importance of dissemination of information on agricultural development to farmers and village level workers cannot be overemphasized. It is of the most vital importance, and very often it is the communication gap which is the main culprit to lack of development to the extent that it is possible to do. Therefore, with more knowledge being imparted to farmers who are receptive and responsive through the instrument of AGRIS, it will be very greatly beneficial. I have only to make one or two suggestions in this connection before I come to others, and that is that the information also requires to be conveyed through word of mouth and audiovisual aids, because there is still considerable illiteracy among the farmers of developing countries.

It may be true that the AGRIS agency provides information at intergovernmental level, but at the same time if it does not percolate right down to the farmers, it would not serve the purpose for which this ideal has been created, because from what I have seen of the AGRIS literature, it is really excellent data and would be extremely useful to the farmers, but it must reach the small and marginal farmers, as I mentioned just now, through word of mouth, audiovisual aids and through the village level workers who themselves will require to be explained its purpose.

Secondly, this could also be done through government demonstration farms in various parts of the world. In various countries there are government demonstration farms, and if these numerous government demonstration farms are provided with the literature of AGRIS, it will be of the greatest value and importance. I do not know to what extent it reaches them, and organizations in India like the ICCR and others might be having them, and it could be operated also through the lab-to-land programmes so that they could reach the mass of the farmers, which is most important.

So I would like to ask the question: as of now, how far down does AGRIS information reach the farmers for whom it is essentially meant, and to what extent have the benefits accrued to the farmers since the inception of the scheme in 1975? There is no doubt of its value, no question about it, and it should be encouraged and enhanced in future by further development.

Nutritional information is also extremely important and various other references which have been made in the course of the papers which have been circulated to us. Our representative to the Forty-sixth Session of the Programme Committee had found paragraph 3 of the Policy as proposed by the Organization a little ambiguous, and so we had proposed instead of the present text that the sentence be modified to read as below:

“Input to AGRIS Data Base Policy shall be provided free of charge. Participating centres shall share with FAO any copyright or any other exclusive rights that they may have over their input. Copyrights or other rights over the cumulative impact provided by all centres shall be exercised by FAO in the interest of all the participants.”

I would suggest that the original clause which reads: "inputs to AGRIS data shall be provided free of charge. Participating centres renounce in favour of FAO any copyright or other exclusive rights that they may have over the material they supply. Such exclusive rights should be exercised by the FAO in the interests of all the participants in the AGRIS." Instead of that I propose what I have just read out. It will I think make the issue more clear.

Coming to the document which, as I said, is of greater value, I would begin by noting that the references made to agriculture, fisheries and forestry have the recommendation of the Committee which we wholeheartedly endorse; the recommendations of the Committee as detailed here. There are a few points which I would like to stress and I would like to begin with those on the forestry side.

The ecology movement must proceed hand in hand with the movement for peace and the fight against economic backwardness. AGRIS could also help in the propagation of this. The process of cleaning and gleaning should be emphasized in the AGRIS organization, the process of cleaning and gleaning, as a working slogan for our environmental intactness for which we are trying to create consciousness. The world of environmental forestry knows no distinctions because the trees never quarrel, Mr Chairman, they never resent each other as human beings sometimes do, they live in happy harmony and free of differences, so integrated by nature's forces they never have intrigue whatever the myriad variety.

The main aspect of this is one of the points I would like to inquire into which is in paragraph 76 where a reference has been made to the starting of a forestry school which has not as yet materialized. I would be glad to know when this is proposed to be done, because our experience of forestry institutions has been very happy and the sooner that this is implemented it will be better for the developing countries.

In the Third World the forestry development strategy will require to ensure harmonization of the productive and social missions of the forest with environmental balance, and here also increased attention will require to be paid to this necessity for the Third World. The general public require to be made fully aware of the imperative need for the preservation of our forests. To what extent is AGRIS assisting in these information sources through national and multinational mass media deliberate action to better inform the decision makers and political leaders through a variety of measures like seminars, scientific symposia, relevant exhibitions, establishment of modern areas under management and administration of possibilities, not only to improve and redevelop the forests but also on how forest resources contribute to social economic development maintenance of environmental balance.

I think in this AGRIS might be of considerable assistance with the vast wealth of information which it has accumulated at its command. The deepening understanding of the fundamentals of forest conservation and treatment by means of specific training seminars for teachers at general education level and increased consideration of these questions in the curricula is to spread knowledge about forest ecology and the hazards they are exposed to, particularly among the youth. Here I also feel that AGRIS can be of substantial assistance in special efforts to raise the level in technical training and advanced education, and to create additional training centres in those parts of the world where qualified foresters are wanting. In this AGRIS also might be able to penetrate such areas as well, so that where there is a shortage of foresters AGRIS could provide the necessary educational requirements. Special consideration for intensified transfer of knowledge from industrialized countries to countries of the Third World, here also FAO could play a leading part. The distribution of well documented films and videos to bring the message of AGRIS home. Perhaps AGRIS itself may not be making out the films or videos, but based on the information which it has it could be utilized for the purpose. The intensification of studies and causes and effects of forest destruction and elaboration of strategies and forest management assistance which could ensure the perpetuation of forests. I do not know to what extent AGRIS has cultivated this side of its studies.

The creation of legal prerequisites are necessary in order to prevent further destruction of the forests and to the conclusion of international conventions containing defined and well-timed programmes for the future protection of forests, because it is definitely of great economic wealth of indispensable value to the world. More rigorous criteria for examination of projects such as industrial projects pertaining to power plants road construction, regulation of waters, clearing of forestland, and as I said the other day, these could be undertaken without any destruction of forests, development without destruction. The development and application of exploitation technologies which are ecologically harmless to forests, and pay special attention to the reduction of waste and conservation of wood in areas where there is a shortage of wood. Here also the AGRIS machinery could find out through its research resources how it could be done. The main thrust should be on production forestry to meet industrial requirements, and of social forestry which has been referred to in the document at some length for meeting energy requirements and household needs also, particularly in rural areas. The buoyancy of this sector cannot be over stressed. It has been fully testified by a number of international agencies led by FAO, There has been spectacular progress which I think that we have been able to show in the 20 point programme started by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in India, as a result of which over 500 000 hectares have been covered under social

forestry, and 12 hundred million seedlings were distributed under farm forestry. So I consider that social forestry and farm forestry are of most value in the promotion of forestry resources and utilization. The programme through AGRIS could be undertaken for "save trees and grow trees".

Coming to the agricultural side which has also been exposed in this paper, agriculture and its allied occupations predominate the livelihood pattern of the rural people. In our country nearly 42 percent of the male workers are cultivators, 25 percent are agricultural labourers, 30 percent live on household industries and also on secondary and tertiary sectors.

We fully support the adoption of the report by the Council. We would urge FAO to take appropriate action on the recommendations of the Committee as expeditiously as possible. I would further add that the World Food Programme should be encouraged to include - and I am now coming to the fisheries side - the World Food Programme should be encouraged to include more fish projects in its food aid programme, and in the implementation of the triangular operation in fish projects in developing countries. Adequate finances and other resources - administrative, servicing, technical backstopping, should be provided to support regional fisheries bodies and associate them into the technical assistance project. This has also been mentioned in the paper and it could be further elaborated in its actions by AGRIS. Urgent jjeeds to mobilize greater funds for regional collaboration are vital, because from the programme, Mr Chairman, which I see in the Committee's recommendation, funds would certainly be required to undertake these regional collaborations to make fisheries a success. Studies need to be undertaken for investment identification. I am not quite sure and I would like to be enlightened whether FAO has already undertaken such investment studies.

There is a continuing need for certain improved management techniques. The FAO short-term multi-disciplinary missions have been extremely effective and I would like to compliment FAO for this in order to formulate national fisheries policies, plans and projects. They are now required in specific areas. Those areas include resource studies, enforcement of regulations, inland fisheries, surveys of unexploited resources, monitoring of exploited resources, stock assessment analysis, appropriate allocations between user groups, particularly small-scale and industrial fisheries, technical and economic studies, training needs especially for high level fisheries, administration at the regional and sub-regional and intermediary level. Mr Chairman, I mention these, because judging from this document which is so comprehensive, these steps will require to be undertaken in order to fulfill its purpose and mission.

The development of small-scale fisheries is another very important aspect. Special programmes should be developed, also for women, particularly in fish handling, processing, marketing and aquaculture. Aquaculture is now recognized as a potential tool for the rapid development and improvement of socio-economic conditions. The three main components to my mind are training, multi-disciplinary research and the development of information network, and I would like to know to what extent AGRIS can be of assistance in these different fields. For developing countries to increase benefits through infra and inter-regional trade in fish and fish products, efforts should be concentrated on the following:

removal of obstacles to trade, up-grading of projects, promoting greater international collaboration in trade, trade-related matters, supporting industrial investment programmes and providing the training.

The promotion of fish campaigns against malnutrition could be very effective. So far as nutrition is concerned, the first item in the paper, there are two sides to it - nutrition can be affected either by malnutrition or under nutrition. In some areas there may not be a shortage of food but there will still be malnutrition because the diet which is provided is not balanced. So in addition to the difficulty of under nutrition in food shortage areas, there would also be the problem of malnutrition if there is not a well-balanced diet of protein and calories which affects the health particularly of the growing generation.

In paragraph 10 of the same document I would like to know if anything has been done for more extra budgetary funds especially in this field. It is in paragraph 10 and if reference is made by the Chairman I would be grateful for the reply.

In food and agriculture two major areas remain in question. One is whether the trade can regain the vigour it possessed in the 1970s, and whether financing of development from both commercial and official sources could be maintained. It is of particular concern to us that the momentum of flows of official development assistance which characterized the 1970s appears to be diminishing and sometimes faltering. The rate of growth in official and multilateral commitments to agriculture appeared to have slackened since 1979, except just now during the emergency in Africa - that is another matter - but generally the rate of growth in official and multilateral commitments to agriculture has slackened since 1979, and multilateral commitments have actually declined since 1982. Non-concessional commitments are compensated, but they add further to the debt problem of developing countries. The commitments to agriculture have been nearly 40 percent short of internationally agreed estimates during 1975/80 at 1975 prices.

Funding of the IEFER is of great importance. To what extent is the funding sufficient to the expectations of its estimates. In 1981 it was certainly short. In 1983 it came up to 500 000 tonnes and certainly there has been an improvement in this crucial year of 1984 of having reached 600 000 tonnes. That is an improvement but it will require to be maintained, whether the particular critical situation continues or not, in order to safeguard for the future. The need for growth in food production in developing countries reveals that in a study, if I am not mistaken, made in 38 developing countries; in 17 developing countries the food production was more stable between 1971 and 1980 than it was in the previous decade 1960-1970, while in 19 countries it was less stable. Now here FAO could come to the assistance and rescue and see that the rest of the developing countries are also given the necessary fillip to be able to produce more. Of course those which are so vitally and fatally affected as Africa is today is another matter, but even so there also future innovative techniques will have to be derived to ensure that for the future permanent remedies are to be found in addition to the immediate rescue operations which are now going on.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished Ambassador for India. I certainly hope there will be an opportunity for the Secretariat officers concerned to give answers to the number of questions he has raised. I wonder if I could ask him, to assist us, if he is able to let us have in writing the proposal he made with regard to the amendment of the AGRIS Policy. That would be helpful when we come to the end. Thank you, Mr Ambassador.

H. REDL (Austria): Concerning the report of the Programme Committee the Austrian delegation would like to concentrate on the following items. We share the serious concern expressed by the Programme Committee at the decline in resources especially affecting the major financing institutions lending for agriculture. Especially the disappointingly low level of replenishment of IFAD has been particularly noted in the course of the discussion of this Council. As regards IFAD activities, Austria makes great efforts to raise its contribution. The Austrian delegation expresses the hope that during the negotiation in December the financial problems can be solved.

We believe that the future activities of the Investment Centre should also be seen in the light of the cooperation with the food security action programme of FAO and the discussions which were held in CFS in April this year. We share the opinion expressed in paragraph 1.23 concerning the recent extension of activities in Africa. We also urge the Investment Centre to continue and to intensify its work in the poorest countries.

Turning our attention to FAO's training activities we note this with particular satisfaction. In this connection special importance should be noticed that we ascribe to these activities in regard to the agricultural and forestry sector. We are impressed that the number of people trained during the period under review has grown substantially. Fellowships increased from 783 in 1979 to 847 in 1983. During the same period the number of study tour participants rose from 718 to 1141. The role that women trainees continue to play in FAO's training activities is shown when we note the substantial number of women trainee posts in absolute terms and as a percentage of the total. Austria supports every effort to increase progressively the number of women trainees in developing countries in general, and in Africa in particular.

The importance of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign and its liaison role between non-governmental organizations in developed and non-developed countries to promote participation of local communities in rural development is correctly noted in paragraph 1.33. We would like to suggest that a similar activity could be developed when organizing the preparation of World Food Days activities in these countries.

Turning to the TCP activities in the current biennium, we note that according to present indications the TCP requests received by FAO went up from 937 in the biennium 1984-85 and welcome the corresponding data according to which TCP was filling a gap in meeting the urgent technical assistance needs of developing Member Countries.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): First we thank the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their excellent presentation of this important agenda item.

My delegation would like to comment specifically on the technical competence of the programme which is referred to in document CL 86/6. In paragraph 1.55 it is stated that "The Committee expressed its general satisfaction with the effectiveness of the TCP projects" and that "The Committee expressed its confidence that the Director-General would take into account the very positive assessment of the programme as made by the Council itself in formulating his proposals for the next Programme of Work and Budget". In general we appreciate that TCP is very useful and effective in meeting unforeseen and urgent needs of the developing countries. However, we should also give full

consideration to the fact that the TCP is an unprogrammed budget item, while all other programmes of work are formulated on the programme budgeting system. In this connection we believe that it would be desirable to set a certain upper limit at the TCP level. We cannot agree with unlimited increase of the share of TCP more than to the present level, since this increase of the share of TCP would be at the sacrifice of other important FAO activities in the current difficult financial situation where we can hardly expect a budget increase.

We welcome the recent effort of the FAO Secretariat in providing us with more information on TCP. We hope that the FAO Secretariat will further endeavour to provide us with the necessary information, not only with information concerning the selected examples but also analytical information regarding the whole project. For example, in paragraph 1.51 it is stated that "the contribution of TCP projects in limiting in various ways the adverse effects of the UNDP resources crisis is stressed". We would very much like to know how many of the projects and what percentage of TCP resources are being used for this purpose. It is also very helpful for us to have information on FAO's efforts in coping with the serious African food situation by utilizing TCP resources, especially the activities of the emergency component of TCP. We hope that the FAO Secretariat will be kind enough to provide us with this information, preferably before the next Council session, which will be discussing mainly the 1986-87 Programme of Work and Budget.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am happy to tell my colleagues about some of our work on the Programme Committee. First I must, as I did last year, say that I have had the privilege of serving for two years now, two sessions or more, under one of the ablest and finest chairmen in 50 years of being vice-chairman I have ever known - fair, intelligent, just and balanced. It is a great joy to serve on such a Committee.

There are three programmes that I would like to draw your attention to. One is the training programme. That has gone up to 72 000 this year of people who have been trained to take up the work of their own countries. It was 64 000 last year, it was 47 000 five years ago, now it is 72 000, and that is a tremendous improvement. I am sorry to say that only 10 000 are women, but we are looking forward to an increase and a sensible training programme involving women, who do so much of the work.

The publications libraries are most interesting, and I think you ought to know about them. There are a million items on file. Freedom of information prevails. Anybody can get anything they want out of these million items that are in the information of FAO. The only restriction, and I think it is a wise one, is that if you or your government or a group of people take the trouble to take various items from the library and make them into a whole, separate, thought-out piece of work, you have to get permission from the author, which I think is correct. In other words, they are protecting the work of those who have taken the items in the information to make a separate and original publication. That seems to me, extremely sensible. The whole system of dissemination of information is extremely good. In the offices of FAO in the various countries of the world there are records on what is available in the library of information. There is a microfiche system which has 23 subscribing institutions which is praised by the JIU Report on Information. In fact the whole FAO information and library system was shown as a model for what the rest of the UN system should be.

I will not take up more time, but I just wanted my colleagues to know that there are these very interesting and useful programmes. If you want to find out something about soil you write to Information and you will get Dr Hamdi's Bulletin No. 39 on soil, one of the finest that there is. These are the things which are ready and open to you free of charge, so we trust that you will use them.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the United States. I think the members of the Programme Committee value her presence on that body as much as she herself clearly enjoys being on it.

H. FONTES DA ROCHA VIANNA (Brazil): Allow me to express our thanks to the Chairman of the Programme Committee and Finance Committee for their presentation of the documents before us.

With relation to the report of the Forty-sixth session of the Programme Committee, I would like to express my delegation's full support for what is stated in paragraph 8 of document CL 86/3 regarding FAO's constitutional mandate in food and nutrition matters. We join with members of the Programme Committee in reiterating the leading role FAO should continue to play in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, especially in favour of disadvantaged groups. I would also like to stress the importance of the role of women in nutrition and the need for cooperation between FAO, WHO and UNICEF with a view to developing effective programmes in this field.

As regards sub-programme 2.1.6.3, Food Quality and Standards, my delegation fully endorses FAO's activities in food quality and consumer protection. In this respect Brazil wholeheartedly supports the work of the Codex Alimentarius Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as stresses its importance for the improvement of food quality control and standardization systems in the Region.

As far as Food and Agricultural Policy is concerned, I would like to express the Brazilian Government's appreciation of the close working relationship maintained with UNCTAD, GATT and ITC in the field of agricultural trade.

With regard to Fisheries, Brazil supports FAO planned activities in aquaculture, including the improvement of the information base, promotion of natural aquaculture planning and assistance in the formulation of appropriate aquaculture projects, especially as components of integrated rural development programmes.

Turning to Forestry, my delegation endorses what is stated in paragraph 79 which refers to the hope that increased resources be made available for Forestry in Programmes of Work and Budget of future biennia.

Considering document CL 86/6, I would like to express the Brazilian Government's agreement with the increased emphasis of TCP delivery on the LDC countries, especially on African countries. We join with the Committee's members in commending the high priorities which the Director-General has assigned to TCDC initiatives. As far as Latin America and the Caribbean are concerned, my delegation would like to refer to FAO's networks of national technical cooperation institutions. Brazil recognizes their valuable role within the scopes of TCP as well as of TCDC and according to our position expressed in other opportunities we reiterate the idea that such networks should always operate on a governmental base.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we would like to endorse what has been said by the distinguished delegates of Argentina and Mexico about paragraphs 1.57 to 1.62 regarding the Organization's use of consultants and institutions from developing countries rather than full-time experts as a way of seeking new sources of expertise.

L.E. WILLIAMS (Trinidad and Tobago): May I first express the appreciation of our delegation for the concise yet informative documents placed before us by the Programme and Finance Committees.

Next we wish to congratulate the respective Chairmen for the effective presentation to the Council of the information contained therein, an accomplishment even more admirable given the time constraints within which they functioned.

We direct your attention to the report of the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh sessions of the Programme Committee, documents CL 86/3 and CL 86/6. We emphasized at the outset that we fully endorse the affirmation expressed in paragraph 9 of CL 86/3 with respect to the linking of nutrition programmes to other agricultural and rural development programmes. In the area of food and agriculture Trinidad and Tobago recognizes as a fundamental issue the alleviation of malnutrition and under-nutrition. We advise strongly therefore that the longer term benefits should be sought for the promotion in developing countries of the appropriate food and nutrition policies against the background to which the required food and agriculture programmes can be developed. In this context we commend FAO for its activities designed to assist developing countries in the areas of nutrition, food and information analysis, food and agricultural policies, fisheries and forestry. We emphasize here yet again, however, the significant role that FAO will be called upon to play for the foreseeable future in ameliorating the resource deficiencies evident in so many regions of the Third World. In this regard we hope that the efforts of the Director-General in respect of financial support for forestry and fisheries development as well as management thrust will be adequately rewarded. We repeat, however, that such burdens of his office will only be reduced in the context of a just and equitable new economic order.

Trinidad and Tobago supports fully such policy objectives as ECDC and TCDC and welcomes the idea of workshops designed to enhance the probabilities of success in this direction. We compliment FAO on its role in this area.

We are particularly interested in FAO's programme of agricultural planning assistance and view this as an area in which irreversible gains can and should accrue to developing countries.

On the question of the AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy, Trinidad and Tobago wishes to express its support. We take the opportunity to emphasize our appreciation of the value of AGRIS to the developing world in all aspects of agricultural research developments and business. Our view is however that consolidation of the arrangements for cooperation and a clearly defined policy as

indicated will contribute to the desired level of achievement only against the background of an extensive and sufficient effort in the training aspect of the agricultural information arena in the Third World. FAO, we are confident, realizes the technical and personnel resource implications in this area.

In conclusion, we read with great interest the information contained in the report of the Finance Committee, document CL 86/4. We draw your attention, Mr Chairman, to paragraph 29 and offer the following comment. Given the evident awareness of the difficulty that so many countries face in meeting their international financial obligations, we hope that FAO will respond to informal indicators to the effect that support will be afforded the developing countries in the various celebratory and promotional activities that they have agreed require participation.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Les rapports du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier que nous sommes en train d'étudier couvrent les deux sessions, celle de l'automne et celle du printemps. Ces deux sessions ont traité un grand nombre de problèmes relatifs au programme et aux finances de l'Organisation. Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer notre gratitude à tous les membres des deux Comités et ici j'obtiendrai de cette gratitude comme étant membre du Comité du Programme, mais je voudrais plus spécialement remercier le Président du Comité financier et le Président du Comité du Programme pour la façon dont ils ont dirigé les travaux de ces deux Comités et dont ils ont traité les questions très importantes lors de ces deux sessions. Je voudrais m'arrêter sur certains points qui sont très importants pour mon pays. Pour ce qui est par exemple de l'exécution du budget, nous avons constaté avec satisfaction les efforts qui ont été fournis par le Directeur général et l'application sage du programme de travail qui a été adopté par la Conférence, outre les activités supplémentaires qui ont été effectuées par la FAO dans le cadre des allocations budgétaires. Nous avons également noté que le Directeur a réussi à réaliser 15 millions de dollars d'économies pour la période 1982-83. De même avons-nous noté que le Comité financier a étudié la question des transferts de certaines rubriques à l'intérieur du budget et les économies réalisées. Nous sommes certains que ce Conseil ne manquera pas de souligner la manière excellente dont le budget a été exécuté par le Secrétariat de l'Organisation et notamment par son Directeur général et de l'en féliciter. Notre délégation voudrait également dire combien elle est satisfaite de la vérification des comptes en ce qui concerne le recours à des consultants et les dépenses de voyage pour le biennium 82/83. Le recours plus large aux consultants de tous les pays membres de l'OAA, conformément à une résolution du Conseil, a déjà fait ses preuves et nous demandons au Directeur général de continuer dans cette voie. Nous n'en pensons pas moins que le recours aux consultants étrangers, tout en facilitant la tâche des Etats Membres, pourrait avoir des conséquences peut-être négatives sur l'Organisation puisqu'il nécessite également une certaine aide et une certaine documentation à présenter aux consultants étrangers à l'Organisation.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): As a member of the Programme Committee, Pakistan wishes to join the Ambassador of the United States of America and others in complimenting Mr Trkulja for his outstanding abilities as Chairman of the Programme Committee. He always guided our deliberations in a mature, pragmatic and balanced manner. As a member of the Programme Committee, I must also commend the indication with which we worked together as a team, day and night, and the most valuable support provided by the Secretariat. My delegation endorses the report of the Programme Committee.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I am sorry to speak again on this subject, but having now got some background information from the Secretariat on the meaning the authors had in mind with regard to paragraph 5(c), my delegation is prepared to go along with the majority of the Council, with the proposal in document CL 86/3 as it stands. Of course, this is on the understanding that my country will continue its active support of AGRIS in accordance with our own legal practice.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Federal Republic of Germany for helping in this way. Unless I hear to the contrary, may I take it that those members of the Council who had associated themselves with the original request - I see people nodding, so I take it that the proposal originally made is now withdrawn.

H. BENATTALLAH (Observateur pour l'Algérie) : Nous sommes observateurs et c'est là notre première intervention au cours de ce Conseil. Sans doute aussi la dernière vu l'ordre du jour avancé.

Auriez-vous l'indulgence de nous permettre très brièvement une rapide digression sur un point de l'ordre du jour déjà examiné et qui a retenu notre attention?

Nous avons attentivement suivi les échanges d'opinions et des réflexions produites sur le thème de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1984.

Nous avons eu le sentiment d'être en présence de deux évaluations de la situation, dont les nuances ne s'arrêtaient pas à la forme et dont les implications n'étaient pas de portée égale.

Le document CL 86/2 présenté par le secrétariat se voulait presque rassurant : malgré la persistance de quantité d'indices négatifs concernant essentiellement les Pays en voie de développement, le ton s'est porté sur "soulagement" grâce aux effets hypothétiques d'une reprise, encore discutée.

Il y a eu aussi la déclaration du Directeur général dont nous partageons les appréhensions et les inquiétudes. En fait, ces inquiétudes nous rassurent, car elles traduisent la détresse de millions d'êtres humains auxquels la conférence mondiale de l'alimentation a promis, il y a dix ans, la fin prochaine de l'état de crise.

En raison même des indices contenus dans l'évaluation du secrétariat, nous estimons que l'état de crise n'a pas enfanté une situation de non-crise pour deux raisons essentielles :

D'abord parce que les traits saillants de l'agriculture et du développement rural esquissés dans l'introduction n'ont pas disparu dans les débuts de la décennie en cours.

Sans doute y a-t-il amélioration de la production alimentaire mais, dans la majorité des pays en voie de développement, l'objectif minimum envisagé par la conférence mondiale de l'alimentation n'a pas été atteint, la stabilité de la production alimentaire est demeurée partielle et non permanente, les cultures non vivrières prennent une importance excessive et la céréaliculture en Afrique accuse un recul relatif.

La deuxième raison porte sur l'aptitude des pays en voie de développement à tirer partie d'une reprise durable de l'économie mondiale qui serait conditionnée par les politiques macro-économiques des pays développés.

En temps de crise, les uns comme les autres, on tente d'opérer la reprise par un appel à un surcroît de financements. Alors qu'il s'agit là d'un dénominateur commun aux pays développés comme aux pays en voie de développement, le document ne signalait que la dette des pays en voie de développement.

Il faut pourtant donner crédit aux dires du Directeur du FMI, qui mettait en garde le 27 août dernier envers les dangers que fait peser le laxisme budgétaire et l'explosion de la dette publique "dans les grands pays développés".

Dans les sept pays les plus industrialisés de l'Occident, le ratio de la dette de l'Etat au produit national est passé de 22 pour cent en 1974 à 41 pour cent en 1983. "Un tel phénomène disait-il, peut susciter de brusques fluctuations des taux de change avec toutes les conséquences défavorables que celles-ci peuvent avoir pour l'économie mondiale".

Un pays peut-il s'endetter à raison de 175 milliards de dollars par an en moyenne, alors que tous les pays en voie de développement n'ont pas bénéficié de plus de 10 milliards de dollars de crédits à des conditions commerciales en un an.

Concernant le chapitre relatif à l'urbanisation sans nier son intérêt descriptif, nous pensons qu'à raison de 175 milliards de dollars de déficit accordé à tous les pays en voie de développement, le problème serait certainement posé en d'autres termes.

Concernant l'Afrique, nous pensons aussi qu'à raison de 175 milliards de dollars par an d'investissements dans la production alimentaire, l'aide alimentaire n'aurait plus de sens.

Maintenant, si vous le permettez je parlerai du document CL 86/3 qui est actuellement examiné et qui porte sur le rapport de la 46ème session du Comité du Programme, et particulièrement au paragraphe 40, c'est-à-dire, sur la question de la coopération économique entre les pays en développement.

Cet intérêt est suscité par trois raisons essentielles :

- la CEPD comme alternative au dialogue Nord-Sud et qui prend davantage de relief en temps de crise ou de reprise économique;

- parce que cette question hautement importante pour nos pays passe inaperçue au cours des sessions du Conseil, quasiment comme un fait divers. La CEPD dans la sphère de la FAO : quelques lignes sans grand intérêt lui ont été consacrées au paragraphe 14 du document CL 86/12 "Faits nouveaux intéressant la FAO survenus dans le système des Nations-Unies".

Quelques lignes lui sont consacrées au paragraphe 1.14 du document CL 86/6 "rapport de la 46ème session du Comité du Programme" pour annoncer qu'une "étude approfondie" - encore une autre - figurerait dans le prochain examen du Programme Ordinaire.

- Enfin,, comme le signale si bien le rapport de la 47ème session du Comité du Programme d'octobre, ce thème "fait l'objet de beaucoup d'attention dans d'autres tribunes internationales dans l'espace du système des Nations-Unies".

A la FAO, la CEPD est certes examinée au cours de l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget, mais en Comité restreint, et ne donne pas lieu à une attention soutenue.

Autant que l'on s'en souvienne, la dernière occasion qui focalisa l'attention sur cette question fut la consultation technique CEPD de juin/juillet 1979. Elle donna lieu à un échange fécond et aboutit à cerner des perspectives d'actions concrètes et réalistes.

Depuis, cette question n'est plus revenue à l'ordre du jour du Conseil.

Le paragraphe 161 de la consultation en question avait, on s'en rappelle certainement, "recommandé que cette question soit constamment suivie de près et que l'on envisage de l'inscrire de temps à autre à l'ordre du jour des conférences régionales de la Conférence et du Conseil de la FAO".

Le programme de travail et budget 1984-85 dans ses considérations fondamentales, en faisait une priorité et un objectif. Aussi important que soit un chapitre descriptif sur l'urbanisation par exemple (document CL 86/2) ou d'autres querelles accessoires, un axe de travail aussi important que CEPD devrait davantage focaliser l'intérêt surtout lorsque la Conférence reconnaît à la FAO une fonction de catalyseur pour promouvoir la CEPD.

De ces trois remarques de formes émerge donc la nécessité de l'inscription à l'ordre du jour du prochain conseil du thème de la CEPD.

Nos observations de fond qui débordent le cadre du document dont nous sommes saisis seront par conséquent brèves et s'attachent à deux aspects du paragraphe 40.

Le premier fait référence au fait que le Comité du Programme a approuvé les activités envisagées durant l'exercice en cours, en particulier les consultations et les réunions techniques, et à la proposition d'envisager une réunion technique sur la formation et le transfert de techniques.

En nous en tenant aux termes de la rédaction de ce paragraphe, deux questions nous préoccupent:

- la CEPD considérée comme une priorité et un objectif peut-elle se résumer à l'organisation de réunions techniques, de séminaires et de consultations? et

- Quels sont les effets de ces réunions techniques, séminaires et consultations sur les productions agricoles, sur le commerce et sur la coopération entre Pays en voie de développement?

Un exemple: du 3 au 7 octobre 1983, une consultation d'experts sur les moyens de favoriser le commerce des produits agricoles grâce à la CEPD s'est réunie à la FAO. Quel a été son impact? Quels en sont les effets?

En nous basant sur un résumé des principales conclusions - en l'absence du rapport - il ne nous semble pas que les considérations tenant à la structure, économique et sociale, à l'élimination de divers obstacles, aux exportations subventionnées, aux restrictions tarifaires ou à la circulation de l'information aient fourni un éclairage plus intense que celui fourni de façon routinière par le Comité des Produits.

En somme, y a-t-il une évaluation globale?

Nous estimons que par référence à l'esprit et aux termes de la consultation de 79, il y ait les 99 distorsions à ce sujet. Si l'on parvenait par exemple, à aider 1, 2 ou 3 pays du Sahel ou d'autres régions, à échanger 1 et 1 seul produit, en les aidant à travers un projet technique de surmonter des obstacles qui sont connus et en y consacrant des ressources qui sont en déperdition, nous aurions sans doute bien plus que des motifs de satisfaction intellectuelle.

Le second aspect fait référence aux besoins des pays en voie de développement qui ne seraient pas clairement définis et à l'absence de mécanismes appropriés de consultations et d'échanges d'informations.

- Affirmer la non définition des besoins signifie que nos gouvernements ont une idée approximative de leurs productions, de leurs importations, de leurs exportations des potentialités offertes par d'autres régions, ainsi que les complémentarités possibles.

- Que signifie aussi absence de mécanismes appropriés de consultation? Si ces mécanismes n'existaient pas comment se serait organisée la coopération entre la FAO et le CILS, entre la FAO et la CEA, entre la FAO et l'association d'intégration Latino-américaine (ALADI) qui s'est mise en place avec l'assistance de la FAO.

Nous sommes au contraire impressionnés par la densité et la diversité des mécanismes existants. Un document interne de la FAO (19.4.82) intitulé activités de la FAO, Programmes et projets de support de la CEPD fait précisément la démonstration contraire et montre à quel point les mécanismes sont imbriqués et les échanges d'information avancés.

Ces deux aspects concernant les besoins et les mécanismes posent un problème d'orientation. L'objectif de la FAO énoncé au chapitre "CTPD, CEPD et nouvelles dimensions" (page 14) du Programme du Budget et de ravail, B/84.85, qui consiste "à procéder à des analyses et à donner des conseils propres à promouvoir des politiques compatibles et constructives de coopération économique et d'échanges commerciaux entre pays en voie de développement", demeure-t-elle valable?

Faut-il tenir les séminaires prévus? Faut-il tenir la prochaine consultation technique CEPD prévue en mai 85 si elle doit subir le sort de sa devancière? La mise en garde prononcée au paragraphe 49 de la 46ème session du Comité du Programme contre une prolifération inutile de publications est valable pour le paragraphe 40, en ce qui concerne les séminaires, ateliers et consultations techniques.

Ne faudrait-il pas regrouper ces précieuses ressources et les destiner à la promotion d'un cas d'espèce, qui soit concrète?

En somme, pour terminer, que le prochain Conseil examine cette question, mais sous l'éclairage de nouvelles orientations.

CHAIRMAN: I very much appreciate the wish of Observers from Member Nations not members of the Council to contribute to our work, and I would not in any way wish to restrict such contributions, but I am very conscious that we are now somewhat behind time in our schedule and I hope that other Observer Nations would not feel too encouraged to make further contribution before we close this item. However, I do have one request further and that is from Senegal.

M. BALLA SY (Observateur pour le Sénégal): J'essayerai d'être assez bref, l'Algérie a déjà évoqué le problème qui m'a préoccupé. Il s'agit essentiellement de la CTPD. Je voudrais compléter son introduction en l'appuyant pour dire que depuis le sommet de l'OUA de juillet 1975 jusqu'à la dernière réunion de Bucarest l'année dernière en mars, les pays (en tout cas africains) et en voie de développement en général ont clairement défini les objectifs en la matière et mis en place des organismes.

Je peux signaler rapidement la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la coopération technique de Buenos Aires, la Conférence des experts gouvernementaux africains sur la coopération technique entre les pays africains de Nairobi du 12 au 20 mai 80; je peux signaler également la Réunion de coopération technique entre pays en développement de Genève du 26 mai au 2 juin 1980, tout cela pour dire que toutes ces réunions en plus des deux que j'avais énoncées ont défini des objectifs dont les principaux visaient à permettre un échange de cadres qualifiés entre les Etats en développement, africains en particulier, à faciliter les confrontations et les connaissances scientifiques et techniques en matière de développement, à offrir aux spécialistes de ces pays la possibilité de valoriser leur compétence, à établir une liste d'experts africains, notamment dans le secteur de la science et de la technologie, conçue comme un service automatisé d'informations à l'intention des gouvernements concernés.

Les seules difficultés ne sont pas en fait une définition des objectifs ni une mise en place des mécanismes puisque dans la plupart de nos réunions il y a des centres de recherche notamment à Ibadan et même au Sénégal où il y a des recherches agronomiques assez avancées. Le seul problème est qu'il y a des difficultés d'ordre financier, d'ordre linguistique et de culture parce qu'à défaut de parler la même langue et d'avoir les mêmes cultures et la même idéologie il est difficile à des pays différents d'entretenir une véritable coopération. Donc nous avons cerné aussi bien les objectifs que les difficultés. Le seul problème est un problème de moyens. Mon avis est que la FAO et les organisations internationales comme le PNUD peuvent bien faire beaucoup de choses dans ce domaine; c'est

pourquoi pour conclure très rapide ment, je pense que c'est une question assez importante et que si les membres concernés le voulaient bien, elle devrait être examinée, comme on vient de le faire pour des questions non moins importantes.

CHAIRMAN: I think this completes our speakers on this item, and if you agree, what I propose in order to conclude is as follows: that I will first call on Mr Samaha, the Chief of the Systems and Projects Development Branch, to answer points that were raised in connection with AGRIS, followed by the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees. We will then try to deal with Appendix A of AGRIS, and then I will try to sum up, so I will ask first of all if I could have Mr Samaha reply on AGRIS.

E.K. SAMAHA (FAO Staff): I would like first to thank the delegates for their nice words on AGRIS and for their appreciation to FAO's action in this field. These words of appreciation could be returned, through you to all participating countries in AGRIS. As the system is a cooperative system, FAO and participating countries share together the success and the difficulties and problems encountered in this system.

I would like in replying to some of the remarks to assure you that AGRIS is a world-wide agricultural information system which covers all the fields of FAO, which includes bibliographic information on legal, socio-economic, scientific and technical aspects in agriculture, food, forestry, fisheries and nutrition. It wishes to respond to all needs in the countries. This system is at the disposal of all users. It is also at the disposal of all AGRIS centres. We encourage our AGRIS participants to make full use of it to distribute information as widely as possible to their users. We do not spare any opportunity to make this information known. While we are meeting here, there is a technical consultation in Addis Ababa on fuelwood and charcoal in Africa organized by our Forestry Department. We have provided them with a search in AGRIS on fuelwood and charcoal in Africa, and this bibliography is being distributed to the participants there. Therefore, we try our best to serve the users' policy makers, researchers, educators, engineers involved in production and development as well as extension agents.

The AGRIS methodology is also used by the AGRIS centres to collect and disseminate their own extension material in their own languages. Therefore, with this system we think we can contribute to what we call the free flow of scientific and technical information in agriculture.

I think I have replied to the comments made, and I wish again to express our deep thanks and appreciation for your support and we also wish to request you again to continue this support by calling more on your AGRIS centres in the countries and requesting their services, which would be the most stimulating action that we would like to request of you.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I am aware of only a few points that I need to reply to. First of all, I am very grateful to the Federal Republic of Germany and subsequently the United Kingdom and New Zealand for joining ranks with the others, and I think we have no major difficulties in agreeing with the AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy. I am addressing this issue first because it requires a firm decision by the Council.

I am very glad that we have reached a full understanding, because I personally believe very much that AGRIS has developed a tremendous potential now and, has achieved, in fact, much more than was originally believed possible. It is now highly valued as a global intellectual input provided on the initiative of FAO.

On Article 3, I am very glad to say that the Committee concentrated its attention and wanted to change the original paragraph. I think it was Mr Gupta of India who initiated our debate on Article 3, and in Appendix A, you see the revised text. I emphasized in my intervention that we could change it and decided to recommend to the Council a change because it concerned only FAO. It was of no concern to the participating centres, either national or regional. The original wording that the Ambassador of India read out we felt did not properly reflect the partnership concept in the AGRIS network, so we changed the words slightly to escape mentioning that the national and regional centres should renounce their rights, and we then implied only that FAO would share with them the Data Base that shall be provided free of charge and FAO would only exercise a cumulative input, copyrights or whatever what might emanate from the network on behalf of the whole Scheme.

Cyprus, among other things, asked why in the data on consumption and historical trends, the consumption was not included in the activity of FAO. I would just say that stress was laid initially on area yields and production in general, as we believe jointly with the Secretariat of FAO that it would be possible then to reconstruct the consumption side quite easily. May I also add that FAO regularly publishes data sheets on consumption on a regional basis and it contains really very valuable analytical information which then may be used either nationally or internationally.

It is not my point, but I am aware that a number of members wanted this Council to study ECDC and TCDC material that we referred to in paragraph 114. I think they basically referred to cross organizational programme analysis, one that needs to be submitted to the ECOSOC in 1985, and it is up to you, Mr Chairman, and members of the Council to decide whether this Council would wish to study this material which is originally intended for ECOSOC. Again I think it is a matter for the Secretariat. I am aware the Argentina asked for more than one copy of the AGRIS index, but obviously it is not a matter that I am suitable to cover.

Then the issue was raised with regard to investment studies in fisheries. I may perhaps say only that we encourage FAO very much to intensify its work on the so-called desk studies and to try its best to assess the investment potential of all FAO field activities, and it has already produced very valuable results in a number of fields. I may mention malnutrition, for example, but there are many others, and I think the Investment Centre has relied heavily in recent years on desk studies on the investment potential.

Many references were made to paragraph 155 on the TCP. I would even agree that the text of the Programme Committee was a bit cryptic, but it referred obviously to the statements made by most of the members with regard to the very useful role the TCP played in helping them to achieve their own objectives, and on that ground the Programme Committee agreed to address the Director-General and suggest to him to take into account fully the very favourable assessments of the Committee in framing his own mind in regard to the resource base of the TCP in the next biennium.

On the TCDC, I will not go into the substance. I have perhaps personally been very much involved. I attended I think most of the meetings, including the meeting in Bucharest to which many references were made. I want to assure Algeria and Senegal and all others, of course, that the Director-General laid very special stress in the present Programme of Work and Budget on TCDC and ECDC activities. Paragraph 40 referred basically to the TCDC and ECDC work within the agricultural analysis. I want to assure you that the Programme Committee looks very carefully indeed on all TCDC and ECDC components which are scattered around all FAO's activities or most of them, and it was always demonstrated an utmost wish to make sure that the ECDC and TCDC is given proper emphasis and proper attention in all FAO programmes.

It is quite well known to the Council that developing countries have already established a Committee of Sixteen, and I personally hope the the Committee, together with the Secretariat and the Director-General will continue their efforts to achieve full understanding of the role of FAO in catalyzing activities of so many countries in this area. The concept is vastly complex, and given the very nature of agriculture, its regional, even local, specificity, it is quite natural that the TCDC and ECDC are first of all confined to regions, sub-regions and countries, and then of course I would be the last to deny very valuable TCDC and ECDC activities at the global level.

With this, I think I have at least touched on most of the issues that were addressed specifically to me.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): I do not think there are any specific questions raised by the members except the asking for more details, that was raised by the distinguished delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany. This refers to statistics of personal services, and I recall quite clearly the same question was asked by him during the last session also.

I would refer him to paragraph 2.59 to 2.61 and the five tables which have been given.

As you will see from this data, these have all been collected manually and during the Committee meeting, we expressed a desire to see this in some kind of computerized form in the near future. While they set a target date of 1986, we were also told of the difficulties they experience at present. The breakdown that has to be given and all the comprehensive details the collection of which is done manually is very time-consuming, but they assured us that every effort would be made to get the computerized information at an early date.

So, until such time as they are able to produce the computerized data system, we will continue to receive the information in this form and we attempt to refine this information as much as possible, when presenting it to the Council.

CHAIRMAN: I am very conscious that there are a number of questions which perhaps have not been answered and we could call on members of the Secretariat. I wonder again, in view of the time factor whether those who feel that they do require or would like answers whether they might be prepared to pursue them with members of the Secretariat. Again I am in your hands but I do think we ought to try and press on. If that is the case I would like to refer again to the question of Appendix A to CL 86/3 on the AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy. As the Chairman of the Programme Committee explained, I think the text that is proposed by the distinguished Ambassador from India is in fact the text of paragraph 3 as it stands in the paper before us. I am not sure if perhaps he was working on an earlier version but the manuscript text he gave me is the same as the one in paragraph 3. I trust on that basis and on the basis of the explanations given from the podium that he is satisfied. I am looking at him but he seems to be fine. In that case I think then we are all clear, as it were, on that Appendix. Of course it will come back to us in the report, and if there is any possible chance of anything wrong we will have another opportunity.

So I think it now falls to me to try to sum up what has been a rather more lengthy discussion than I had anticipated. I will not attempt to do it comprehensively but I think first of all the Council has expressed its great appreciation to the work of the Programme and Finance Committees under their respective distinguished chairmen for the work that they have carried out during this current year. The Council has emphasized the importance of a large number of aspects of FAO's activities which were brought to our attention by these Committees, and indeed have brought to the Council's attention a number of other important aspects. As I say I will not attempt to list them all in the interest of time, but I am confident that the Secretariat will have made due note of them for the purpose of proper recording in our report.

There are perhaps just a few matters which I feel I should make reference to since they are ones which we are specifically asked to consider in the reports before us. The first is the matter of the JIU report on OPE where the Council's attention has been drawn to the Programme Committee's review of this report and has agreed with the Programme Committee on the importance of the adherence to agreed procedures between the UNDP and the Specialized Agencies such as FAO.

In relation to AGRIS, the Council has confirmed the important service provided by AGRIS in the international information system on agricultural sciences and technologies. It agrees with the Programme Committee that the cooperative arrangement should be consolidated and that a policy be defined to clarify the modalities of such cooperation and the Council has generally endorsed the text of Appendix A of CL 86/3 to be incorporated into Article 3 as a modification of the AGRIS Data Base Utilization Policy. I think we might perhaps add with the hope that with the experience of its operation it may later be possible to eliminate any restrictive features.

Now finally, we have to take a decision on the matter which is raised in paragraph 2.53 of CL 86/6 -that is the question of the General Service Salary increase. I think the procedure will be that if we endorse the reports as they are before us, with of course the salary increase, and I think that if that is agreed by the Council that in fact is the authority that is needed.

As I say, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have not attempted a comprehensive summing up of a very interesting discussion on which I have been privileged to take the Chair. It remains for me to thank you all for your help and cooperation, and therefore to say that we have now concluded our debate on item 11 and item 11.1 on AGRIS, and I will now ask the Chairman to return to his Chair.

M.S. SWAMINATHAN, INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, TOOK THE CHAIR.
M.S. SWAMINATHAN, PRESIDENT INDEPENDANT DU CONSEIL, ASSUME LA PRESIDENCE.
OCUPA LA PRESIDENCIA M.S. SWAMINATHAN, PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO.

CHAIRMAN: Before we resume our discussions and take up item 14 I would like to associate myself fully with the sentiments expressed by the Council about the outstanding contributions of the two Chairmen, the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and also the members of those two Committees. I had an opportunity to attend the meetings of these two Committees, and I would like to associate myself fully with the well deserved tributes paid.

- 14. Financial Matters, including:
- 14. Questions financières, notamment:
- 14. Asuntos financieros, en particular:

- 14.1 Financial Position of the Organization
- 14.1 Situation financière de l'Organisation
- 14.1 Situación financiera de la Organización

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Under item 14.1 I shall be referring to the documents which have been already looked at in the previous item, document CL 86/4, CL 86/6 and document CL 86/LIM/1. This refers to the status of contributions.

The position of contributions as at 23 May appears in the Fifty-third report in paragraph 21 going on to paragraph 29. The Council's attention is drawn to the graph in paragraph 23 illustrating the cumulative year to date figures of current assessments received during 1984 as compared with 1983 and 1982. The plotting of the line depicting the 1982 progress is incorrect. It should reflect only 20 percent as at 23 May compared to 30.5 per cent for 1984. Please note that correction, and I may point out that this has been corrected in the most recent cumulative graph which appears in paragraph 2.15 of the Fifty-fourth report.

The Council may wish to note that there is an improvement in the receipt of assessments for 1984 as compared to the previous years 1983, 1982 and 1981. As to the most recent position regarding contributions which are set out in the LIM document, I leave it to the Secretariat to update the position, and also they may refer to the impact of the improved inflow of contributions, particularly after September, on the implementation of the Conference Resolution 14/83 referred to in paragraph 2.16 which will be dealt with by the Secretariat. But the Council may wish to note that despite the improved status of contributions there are still certain unsatisfactory shortcomings. You will note that 79 Member Nations have not fulfilled their 1984 financial obligations. There are 50 countries who continue to hold arrears relating to 1982, 1983 and the previous years. Paragraph 5 of the LIM document states that it is only from the end of October that the rate of receipts has been satisfactory, whereas for the first five months of the year it has been bad.

In accordance with financial regulations, all Member Nations are under an equal obligation to pay assessed contributions in full within 30 days of receipt of the Director-General's notification which had been sent on 14 December 1983.

With regard to late payments arising from the dates of fiscal years of some Member Nations, the Committee expressed the view that those Governments should initiate actions to adjust appropriation requests for an earlier fiscal year to permit remittance in keeping with the financial regulations. While a number of developing countries are facing serious financial difficulties, the Committee observed that they derive significant benefits as a result of memberships in the Organization and consequently should make every effort to meet their financial obligations as members. With regard to outstanding arrears many of the poorest countries have met their financial obligations to the Organization. Others should therefore endeavour to make the necessary arrangements to pay the overdue amounts without further delay.

The Finance Committee has been concerned with the long-term problem of delayed receipt of contributions and intends to review possible solutions at its next Session in May 1985. The intention of the Committee is to consider possible incentives or penalties for those Member Nations which do not remit their contributions promptly, with a view to both ensuring an adequate cash flow to permit the Organization to implement fully its Programme of Work and Budget, and to avoid inequitable treatment to the disadvantage of those members which paid on time. The Council may wish to endorse this approach by the Finance Committee.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The Chairman of the Finance Committee has given you an up-to-date account of contributions essentially through 15 November, and I am pleased to say that even since 15 November we have received some additional payments and I would like to call them to your attention at this point. All of the contributions that have been received up through 15 November are properly set out in the LIM document, CL 86 LIM/1. Additional payments received up to close of business yesterday amounted to 9 495 593 US dollars from five countries. It includes Bulgaria who have submitted 100 000 dollars, from the Federal Republic of Germany 9 340 599 which has been paid up in full, Grenada which paid 16 093 dollars, the Sudan which has paid 4 933 dollars and Uganda which has paid 33 968 US dollars. Those five countries have paid since 15 November information included in the LIM document.

Also I wish to bring to your attention that the total contributions now received to date represent 92.78 percent of assessed contributions for 1984. Therefore I am very happy to report Mr Chairman, on the 75 percent minimum receipt figure provided for by Conference Resolution 14/83 in its delegation to the Council of the authority to decide to withhold distribution of the cash surplus for the 1982/83 Biennium. The 75 percent minimum has not only been met but substantially surpassed because we have now received 92.78 percent, and we are very pleased with that.

The cash surplus amounting to 46 193 205 US dollars can be released with the approval of the Council in accordance with the financial regulation 6.1B and applied as of January 1 1985 against Member Nations contributions due to the Organization at that point. Thank you Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, we are happy to note this satisfactory state of remittances.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): C'est pour dire que figurant dans la liste des pays indiqués le Cap-Vert depuis trois semaines a versé tous ses arriérés par un virement télégraphique.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for this information.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): My Government's instructions are that I should tell you how happy we are to hear about the contributions reaching the fine figure 92.78 percent, and that everybody is supporting FAO so handsomely. I would like to propose that the Council decide, in accordance with the terms of Conference Resolution 14/83 that the distribution of the 1982-83 Biennium cash surplus should proceed as of January 1 1985, under the provisions of FAO financial regulations 6.IB. I know that this has just been announced but I believe we have to have a resolution that the Council will adopt on that subject.

Finally, the delegation accepts the Salary Survey as prepared and urges that the Council accepts it.

In reviewing the financial implications for the salary scale arising from the survey and the related recommendations in the current Biennium, we note that the estimate is 4.2 million at the exchange rate of 1 615 lire to the dollar. We recognize that the FAO Financial procedure requires the Organization to project costs at an annual exchange rate that was adopted in November in 1983. However, that exchange rate is now irrelevant to the cost of money, as anyone can tell who goes down to the bank downstairs in Building B, and it is just as likely to be irrelevant to the projections for the balance of the biennium. Of course it is arguable but we would like to present this thought.

My delegation therefore strongly suggests that the Secretariat consult with the Finance Committee to determine whether there are ways in which the financial procedures can be updated to improve the present system that requires the Secretariat to compute cost estimates that are all but meaningless in terms of today's exchange rate.

My delegation would welcome any and all improvements in these procedures.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the specific proposal of the United States delegation. Shall we take it that there is general support for what the United States delegation has proposed? I see nods. So we thank her for her valuable suggestions.

The meeting rose at 17.20 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.20 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/14

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUATORZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

14ª SESION PLENARIA

(28 November 1984)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième seance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: I would like to congratulate the members who have been elected. It is a very important responsibility and I want to wish you all well.

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

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

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

14. Financial Matters, including: (continued)

14. Questions financières, notamment : (suite)

14. Assuntos financeiros, em particular : (continuación)

14.2 Audited Accounts

14.2 Comptes vérifiés

14.2 Cuentas comprobadas

a) Regular Programme 1982-83

a) Programme ordinaire, 1982-83

a) Programa Ordinario, 1982-83

b) UNDP 1982-83

b) PNUD, 1982-83

b) PNUD 1982-83

c) World Food Programme 1982-83

c) Programme alimentaire mondial, 1982-83

c) Programa Mundial de Alimentos 1982-83

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Under [General] Rule XXVII.1 the Finance Committee considers the audited accounts of the biennium. I will first deal with the Regular Programme accounts for 1982-83. Your attention is drawn to paragraphs 2.27 to 2.35 of the Fifty-fourth report. The Committee supported the External Auditor's new approach to audits after consultation with the Director-General of FAO, which went beyond the audit of the accuracy and financial regularity of the accounts. The External Auditor's intention to carry out a review of the monetary and evaluation systems applying to the Regular Programme in 1984-85 was endorsed by the Committee.

On the UNDP accounts, the Committee endorsed the recommendation of the External Auditor regarding the review of the projects referred to in his report and FAO's arrangements for monitoring and evaluation of UNDP field projects.

On the WFP accounts the External Auditor's report for 1982-83 was discussed at length. During two days of discussion the members sought and obtained both oral and written clarifications on a number of issues raised in the report of the External Auditor, the Director of Financial Services of the FAO, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, and the Internal Auditor of the FAO. Besides the official documentary information, a paper from the WFP Executive Director concerning some of the issues raised, particularly in the statement by the Director of Financial Services Division, was also circulated among members, with translations provided by FAO. The result of these deliberations was that all members endorsed the External Auditor's report. On the propriety of including a representation only three members disagreed, while others had no objection to its inclusion and endorsed the principle of the representation.

Your attention is drawn to the Draft Conference Resolution in paragraph 2.44 of the document. This was unanimously adopted by the Committee and is now placed before the Council with recommendations for approval and submission to the Conference.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Mr Chairman, first let me say that, as you yourself have noted, there have been extensive consultations among delegations trying to reach a resolution to this problem. Unfortunately, although we got very close to a solution we appear to be separated by just a few millimeters. I still have hope that at the end of this debate a resolution that is satisfactory to all parties will be possible. In making those introductory comments let me say that the comments that I now make will be moderate in tone, and, I hope constructive in content.

You will no doubt recall, Mr Chairman, that last week I had requested that certain documents be circulated for the information of delegations in order that Council members would have all the relevant information necessary to make an informal judgment as to the appropriateness of the draft resolution contained on page 21 of the Council document CL 86/6, which contains the report of the Fifty-fourth session of the Finance Committee. The request was reflecting the unanimous opinion of the Eighteenth session of the Committee on Food Aid that in the interests of 'transparency and fairness' the report of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administration and Budgetary Questions, the ACABQ, and the comments of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme should also be before the Council and the Conference when examining the World Food Programme's audited accounts for 1982-83. In addition, as Chairman, you will recall that I also asked that the Report of the Eighteenth session of the CFA and the comments of the Director-General be circulated. Why is

all this additional information necessary? Without getting into the details, suffice it to say that the representation on financial statements prepared by the FAO Secretariat, and which now forms an integral part of the accounts, could be construed by an uninformed reader as questioning the validity of the accounts. This erroneous impression is reinforced by the wording of the proposed resolution recommended by the Finance Committee. It is only when one reads the Report of the External Auditor, the Report of the ACABQ, and the comments of the External Auditor during the Eighteenth session of the CFA that it becomes clear that the validity of the accounts is not in question. What also becomes clear in reading these documents is that, as the Eighteenth session of the CFA concluded, it would have been preferable for the questions raised in the FAO representation to have been resolved internally through prior consultations with the World Food Programme. The fact that this was not done reflects, in the view of the External Auditor and the ACABQ, a symptom of deterioration in FAO/WFP relations.

Let me emphasize that the Canadian delegation does not, and I underline this, question the professional or personal integrity of any of those persons involved in the FAO Secretariat. It is always easy to say with the benefit of hindsight that this or that judgment should have been made differently. The only point that we would make is that in view of the comments made by the External Auditor, the ACABQ and the Eighteenth session of the CFA, this Council would not be discharging its responsibilities if it simply accepted the Finance Committee resolution as it is now drafted. Instead it is the view of the Canadian delegation that the draft resolution should be amended as follows. First, in the first paragraph, starting with the word 'Noting' the reference to the ACABQ and the Eighteenth CFA reports as well as references to the comments of the Executive Director and Director-General, should be included in this paragraph. We would suggest that the second paragraph, which starts with 'Noting further' be deleted completely.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the distinguished delegate of Canada would be good enough to repeat his amendment .

M. GIFFORD (Canada): In the third paragraph that starts 'Noting the issues raised in the Representation of Financial Statements of the World Food Programme by the Director, Financial Services Division, and the External Auditor's comments thereon,' -here I would insert "reference to the ACABQ, the Eighteenth session of the Committee on Food Aid, the comments of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and the Director-General of the FAO". I would then propose that the next paragraph starting with the words 'Noting further that' be eliminated completely.

H. REDL (Austria): With regard to the draft conference resolution on the audited accounts, my delegation is of the opinion that the draft should be forwarded to the Conference in the form in which it is presented under paragraph 2.44. In so doing the Austrian delegation is prompted by the following considerations: first, the Finance Committee in its report of the Fifty-fourth session noted in paragraph 2.38 that concern was expressed with regard to the Representation of financial statements signed by the Director of the Financial Services Division and approved by the Director-General on five issues; secondly, the External Auditor had drawn the attention of the Finance Committee to the Representation of financial statements, and to his observations thereon and had qualified his audit opinion.

Thirdly, the Finance Committee in paragraph 2.39 generally endorsed the recommendations made by the External Auditor, and fourthly, the Finance Committee subsequently recommended - see paragraph 2.44 - that the Council submit to the Conference the text of the draft resolution referred to. We feel that if there is a consensus in this Council, we will not object.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): There are some disputes as to what should and what should not be put in this draft resolution. It is a very definite resolution and we should follow our basic texts in order to avoid confusion. The basic text should be our guide.

In the resolution, we are requested to note the Eighteenth CFA report, and to note the report of the ACABQ. I would have no difficulty in noting these, if the documents were before the Council, but the problem is that they are not. There was a notion that they should be before the Council but there were difficulties. The Eighteenth CFA report is not an agenda item, and according to our Rules, if we are to have an agenda item we must request its inclusion 60 days before the start of the Council so that appropriate documentation can be circulated to our governments. This Rule is not there for any abstruse reason; the obvious reason is that if an agenda item is to be put before the Council, the appropriate documentation should have been circulated and 60 days before that, the documentation should be going out to all delegations so that appropriate instructions can be issued to the delegations attending the Council.

I do not know whether I have anything for or against the ACABQ report or the CFA report. I have no opinion regarding them because I have not been sent the ACABQ report, so how can I note it? It is not before the Council, only the substance of these two reports, on which I do not pass judgement. It is difficult for us to put that in a resolution because that is against the facts. I am sorry, but I do not think it possible to ask Council to note something which is not before it.

With regard to the documentation before the Council, we should be governed by the Basic Texts. In the Basic Texts we have a rule that audit should be presented to the Council according to instructions given by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has given very precise instructions, and therefore, the audit is presented in that way to this Council. For all these reasons, I find difficulty with the amendments proposed by previous delegations to note these reports.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I have three points to make in fact. Firstly, this draft resolution presented under paragraph 2.44 is a draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Finance Committee. This was a unanimous decision. No member of the Finance Committee objected to that draft resolution. It included the delegations of Canada, Australia, the Federal Republic of Germany and others. This Finance Committee was appointed by this Council and I think that its decisions should be respected, given that our august assembly has appointed its members. This is my first point.

My second point is the following: in fact I am wondering about the steps taken by the Canadian delegation, because in a very short period the distinguished delegate of Canada has changed his mind, after we had reached a solution that he had accepted. He accepted the solution arrived at, but now, unfortunately, I find that he has reversed his stance, so to speak, in a very short period of time, again. This reminds me of what happened in Paris when we were discussing the replenishment of the IFAD resources during the second replenishment deliberations. In fact, this was the position taken by the countries of Category I. I do not want to dwell upon that subject because we are all aware of what happened, especially the President of the Governing Council of IFAD. The distinguished Ambassador of Colombia is well aware of that, as are other delegations who participated in that Meeting.

Thirdly, I object to any amendment to that draft resolution. I accept the draft resolution because I respect this august assembly and respect the decision adopted unanimously by the Finance Committee.

G.BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El hecho de haber estado ocupado durante los últimos días en algunas reuniones, ha impedido a nuestra delegación, y por ello queremos hacerlo ahora, expresar el reconocimiento, la admiración y la simpatía que hemos sentido siempre por nuestro Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, el colega y amigo Abeyagoonasekera de Sri Lanka, e igualmente por los miembros de ese importante Comité, como lo dijo el Embajador Bukhari de Saudi Arabia.

Ese Comité es elegido por nosotros, y a la vez este Consejo es elegido por la Conferencia. De manera que el Comité de Finanzas cuenta con el pleno apoyo de nuestros 156 Estados miembros. No obstante, la intención, por lo menos manifestada, del colega de Canadá en el sentido de que iba a adoptar una actitud constructiva, creemos que él, en una parte de su declaración, trató de reabrir toda la discusión acerca de las relaciones entre la FAO y el PMA.

Nosotros vamos a evitar caer en esa tentación, y esperamos no incurrir en esa actitud que, a nuestro juicio, es desafortunada en este momento. Pero si queremos expresar una primera reflexión y es la de que, si bien durante todos los contactos de estos días, habíamos creído en la buena fe de nuestros colegas que discutían con nosotros, ahora se asoman a nuestras mentes algunas ligeras dudas sobre esa buena fe de nuestros colegas.

El Comité de Finanzas nos ha presentado este Proyecto de Resolución que está basado, muy claramente, en el párrafo 2.38. En el párrafo 2.38 aparecen las referencias a las graves preocupaciones que se habían manifestado acerca de cinco cuestiones concretas. Y yo creo que al proceder así, al presentar este texto, el Comité de Finanzas le está haciendo un bien, está cumpliendo adecuadamente sus deberes con la Organización, o sea con la FAO y también con el PMA.

En cambio, yo creo y esto lo digo con todo respeto, que asumen una actitud opuesta los tres miembros del Comité de Finanzas que, en el párrafo 2.41, y entre esos tres miembros supongo que está Canadá, dicen que, porque el Comité de Finanzas ha estudiado y ha analizado las observaciones del Auditor Externo, le está haciendo un mal servicio al Programa Mundial de Alimentos y está perjudicando su imagen.

Yo creo que esto no es realmente sensato ni es constructivo. No se puede prestar un servicio incondicional a un organismo, por mucho que nosotros lo apreciemos, y todos saben que Colombia ha reiterado su apoyo pleno al PMA; pero si hay observaciones, es necesario tratar de investigarlas y de analizarlas para así realmente prestar un buen servicio y favorecer la buena imagen de ese Organismo.

Señor Presidente; nos resistimos a creer que realmente el representante de un país serio, de un país serio que invoca el ánimo constructivo en su declaración, proponga a este Consejo que en un texto de Resolución que va a pasar a la Conferencia, al máximo Organismo de la FAO, en un texto de esa Resolución, incluir comentarios, comentarios de funcionarios internacionales. Creemos que esto, sinceramente, no es serio ni es constructivo. Se sentaría un precedente gravísimo porque todos sabemos que los funcionarios de los Organismos internacionales hacen sus declaraciones, producen sus comentarios, y que todo ello se refleja en los Informes de los Organismos ante los cuales se hacen esos comentarios o esas declaraciones. Y esos informes son los que pasan a los Organismos subsiguientes; pero jamás yo he visto que a una Conferencia de la FAO se transmitan comentarios de funcionarios, que ya han sido reflejados en los Informes.

Si este es un punto de principio que en nuestra opinión es válido, diáfano y válido, Señor Presidente, ello no nos impide entrar a manifestar aquí con la claridad y franqueza que nos caracteriza, que no entendemos, aún más cómo es posible, que se haya sugerido aquí, que se haya propuesto que se incluyan en el texto mismo de la Resolución, los comentarios del Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

La mayoría de los miembros del Consejo no son miembros del Comité de Finanzas ni del CPA, y posiblemente no conocen esos comentarios. Pero nosotros los conocemos; son comentarios tendenciosos, suspirados, agresivos, dirigidos a aumentar la controversia que existe entre las dos Organizaciones. Será sensato entonces incluir en el texto de una Resolución, cualquier referencia a comentarios semejantes? Los colegas del Canadá y de otros países saben muy bien que hemos estado actuando, nosotros sí, de buena fe; nosotros sí de buena fe, repito, para evitar que se produzca un debate como este, y que estábamos dispuestos a aceptar, inclusive en contra de alguna parte de nuestros principios, que en el texto del Informe se introdujeran referencias a los Informes del ACABQ y al 18º período del CPA. ¿Por qué aceptábamos esas referencias? La respuesta es bien clara y es bien conocida.

El Comité de Finanzas terminó sus labores el 5 de octubre, o sea que cuando se produjo este Proyecto de Resolución, aun no se conocían los Informes del ACABQ que los distribuyó el 26 de octubre, 21 días después. Y tampoco se conocía el Informe del 18º período del CPA que concluyó sus trabajos el 7 de noviembre.

Entonces, por eso habíamos pensado que era lógico incluir en el texto del Informe, las referencias a esos dos Informes de esos dos Organismos. Pero, por favor, que no insistan en que se incluya ninguna referencia a ningún comentario que es desapacible, que no ayuda y que afecta a todos este problema.

Señor Presidente; estábamos dispuestos también, y estoy ahora conjugando el verbo en el pasado, estábamos dispuestos porque, quiero repetir tenemos buena fe; estábamos dispuestos también a aceptar que se suprimiera el segundo "tomando nota" del Proyecto de Resolución; el segundo "tomando nota" del Proyecto de Resolución, y que luego aparecieran en el Informe referencias a esos dos informes. Pero ahora, se nos sorprende con una propuesta: que está muy lejos de lo que hemos venido discutiendo todos juntos estos dos días, y eso no podemos aceptarlo. Y en ese caso, debemos volver a la posición original de apoyar plenamente la recomendación del Comité de Finanzas.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Let me, like others, start by saying how much I deplore that this discussion has to take place. We are so near a solution, and so many people have shown such an extraordinary amount of goodwill. I will still raise the question. Is it in spite of this, too late to get to a solution? I would request that this issue not be closed finally but that a last effort could maybe be made even after the discussion has taken place. I do not know if that is possible, but I will now go on to the substantive part of my remarks.

CHAIRMAN: Since you raised a question whether there is still a possibility of continuing the contact group outside this hall, is it on that point the delegate of India wants to talk?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I'm sorry for interrupting Norway, but I would seek a clarification if you would be able to give a little more time for the negotiations which we are actively conducting in order to find a solution acceptable to one and all. It should not be impossible because we have been in touch with one and all, and instead of engaging in anything which is acrimonious or leaves a bad taste in the mouth, it would be far better if we negotiate outside the hall and continue with the other items on the Agenda and in the meantime we can finish the rest and could have a little more time to get together because we appear to be coming nearer, and sometimes going again further off. I wish we had not had time to sleep over it last night, and had finished it last night, but it was impossible to do so. However, I should not think it would be very difficult now in the light of the very sober statements made by all sides that

we can find a solution, unless on what was nearly agreed upon yesterday any side tried to go back, and that we can still find some solution to the confusion which may have been caused in order to find a solution, because we are all of one mind. I note what Norway has said and also Saudi Arabia, and what others have said. It should not be impossible to find an outcome for this, if you can kindly agree to defer the solution for a little time and go on.

CHAIRMAN: I find others wish to speak. May I first ask the wish of the Council? Would you like to defer this item until first thing tomorrow morning on the condition that we will not have had any time for an extensive debate? We will just decide on the Finance Committee's resolution tomorrow morning, or alternatively to an agreed solution. In other words, there will not be adequate time tomorrow for a debate in the house. We either adopt the Finance Committee's recommendation or something that the others have agreed upon by mutual consultation, in which case we can postpone this item until tomorrow morning and then continue with the rest of today's programme.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I only wanted to suggest that if we are postponing this item until tomorrow morning and I am sure we will find a resolution to the problem, perhaps it would be advisable to name the contact group, a few countries. Anybody that wants to be in the contact group, they are of course welcome, but we should know exactly who the people are that are consulting.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I have no objection actually to whatever you suggest, but a couple of days ago I warned this Council about the way we have been adopting the report of the CFA. Everybody knows how we adopted that report, in a way which we did not like at all, nobody liked it, nobody accepted it.

I am also worried about the report of the Council, which is the most important report. I wish that we really had the capacity to adopt our report in the right way, not in the way the CFA did its report.

CHAIRMAN: We have interrupted Norway, he had the floor, I would only like now for you to limit yourselves to this specific point. Pakistan has proposed that we set up a formal contact group. Informal contact groups have been working, but he says you should name a contact group which would work the rest of the day and come forward tomorrow with a report.

Please only speak on this limited point, otherwise I would not be fair to Norway for having interrupted his intervention.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I wondered when we would have an opportunity to take up some other issues other than just the draft resolution. We want to make some other comments also.

CHAIRMAN: We can continue with item 14. Right now we are only talking about the resolution. If you have other points not related to this resolution, we will consider those as soon as we have resolved this particular issue.

Do you want to speak on this question?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I wish to make just one remark also on the proposal which we have.

CHAIRMAN: May I first have your ideas, Philippines, and then New Zealand, on this contact group. We have a list of speakers here who have already given their names.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would propose a very small contact group, about four on each side, and I would propose the Ambassador of Colombia, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, the Ambassador of India and myself to be members of this contact group and anybody else who would like to.

CHAIRMAN: Well, anyway, we have a firm proposal from the Philippines, who is also Chairman of the Group of 77, that an eight-member contact group be established, and he has suggested four, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Philippines and India, and four more. That is his concrete suggestion, because I want to make progress one by one.

Does somebody else want to speak on this specific proposal?

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I am not taking the floor to propose membership, I will be guided by the Council, but just to take the floor to support the suggestion in principle that Pakistan made, that we have used this technique of contact groups before, and I think with some success, so I would support his suggestion.

Secondly, on the timing, assuming a group is set up, and I guess we should consider membership or who should belong to it, I think we should ask it to report a couple of hours at least before we come back to the Plenary, just in case there may be issues that even the contact group had not squared away. It is only a question of timing.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Lebanon): I would like to support the suggestion made by the Philippines, and I would like to add our friend Mr Tchicaya from Africa to be also on this committee, so there will be five.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): I would like to know the list of the members of the contact group, the full list, so we would be more clear on this situation.

CHAIRMAN: So far five names have been proposed: Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, India and Congo. If you are all agreed upon a contact group, may I suggest Canada, Norway, the United States of America and maybe the Federal Republic of Germany to serve on this contact group.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Just to speed up the proceedings, we accept that suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: If the Council agrees, then we hope that the nine members of the contact group will be able to sit during the rest of the day, and as New Zealand said, they will be able to resolve all issues and we may not have to have a very extensive discussion once again. Thank you very much.

Then the nine-member contact group, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, India, Congo, Canada, Norway, United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany will start their work. Who will there be to convene them? If you agree, the distinguished Ambassador of India could be the Convenor.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I think I must explain for the sake of order I only meant to accept on behalf of the delegation of Norway. I have no power to speak on behalf of the Council. There seem to be some surprised faces around me. I just wanted to get some comments in quickly.

CHAIRMAN: The names of the countries I have read, are they agreeable to serve on the contact group, because we have to make progress? I find assent.

We are very grateful to all these members, and I want to once again thank all of you. The World Food Programme, the activities of the World Food Programme, we have heard repeatedly stated, is going to be crucial to many countries. It may mean a matter of life and death to millions of people, and therefore I hope the cause which we want to serve will lift us off to a higher plane of understanding and mutual cooperation. That is my only request.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation welcomes the financial reports of the 1982/83 biennium presented by the Director-General for the Regular Programme (document C 85/5), the UNDP funds (document C 85/6) and the World Food Programme (document C 85/7).

In view of the cash surpluses of over US \$46 million from the 1982-83 biennium from the Regular Programme and unliquidated obligations of over \$ 21 million from the Technical Cooperation Programme, we positively assess the financial situation of the Organization. My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Director-General and the Secretariat towards an economical budget management.

We share the statement and endorse the recommendations in the report of the External Auditor in document C 85/5 and support in particular his proposal in paragraph 51 of his report to review the monitoring and evaluation systems applying to Regular Programme activities during the 1984-85 biennium on the new basis of his proposals.

We regret the substantial decline in UNDP funds during the 1982-83 biennium as against 1980-81, as shown in document C 85/6. We share the remarks made by the External Auditor in his report and suggest that the Secretariat should follow the suggestion of the External Auditor within the possibilities of the Organization.

Mr Chairman, abiding by your ruling, you will understand that I have to reserve my delegation's position on the proposed draft resolution until the juncture when we take up that issue again.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): La delegacion de México está de acuerdo con la aprobación del documento C 85/5, al observar el excelente manejo de los recursos de nuestra Organización, incluyendo las recomendaciones del Auditor Externo contenidas en los párrafos 50 y 51, las cuales procuran en general una mayor coordinación y efectividad de los trabajos de la FAO, ya que tanto el Informe del Director General como el Informe del Auditor Externo se apegan a criterios establecidos por el Reglamento Financiero de la Organización.

En lo que se refiere al PNUD, mi delegacion aprueba el documento C 85/6, al considerar que el informe del Auditor Externo revela que el estado de cuentas se ajusta a lo prescrito por el Programa y que el control financiero es adecuado.

Asimismo consideramos que es necesario aplicar mejores métodos de vigilancia y evaluación en los proyectos PNUD/FAO para que los recursos asignados sean utilizados con mejores resultados ya que se observan algunas deficiencias mencionadas en los párrafos 45 y 49.

Por tanto, respaldamos las recomendaciones propuestas en el párrafo 55, destacando, sin embargo, que las mejoras deben realizarse sin aumentar el número de personal destinado a tales fines.

Al considerar que las recomendaciones que propone el Auditor Externo en el párrafo 72 se orientan al mejoramiento de los sistemas de evaluación y de vigilancia de los proyectos que ejecuta el PMA, la delegacion de México aprueba el documento C 85/7.

Mi delegación respalda la recomendación del párrafo 72 haciendo hincapié en el inciso cuarto del punto primero del mismo.

Por último, en lo que se refiere a la Resolución de la Conferencia sobre cuentas comprobadas igualmente mi delegación se reserva sus observaciones al respecto. Queremos, sin embargo, mencionar que los foros multilaterales como éste están basados en el respeto; el respeto es signo de buena voluntad; el respeto a las normas, el respeto a la equidad jurídica o a la igualdad jurídica entre los Estados y su representación.

Señor Presidente, esperamos que en las deliberaciones del grupo de trabajo prive ese respeto a las reglas de juego que nosotros hemos establecido. No podremos, por tanto, y desde ahora lo anticipamos, admitir ninguna violación a dichas normas.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je désire tout simplement appuyer la déclaration que vient de faire le délégué du Mexique.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea, en primer lugar, apoyar las declaraciones que han hecho nuestros colegas de México y Cabo Verde. En relación con la observación que planteo nuestro colega Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, acerca de la importancia de la evaluación y de la vigilancia sobre los proyectos de campo del PNUD, quisiera llamar la atención sobre el párrafo 2.36 del documento CL 86/6; allí se reconoce el hecho de que el Auditor externo ha indicado que está satisfecho con las medidas que está adoptando la Secretaría para poner en práctica la recomendación de ese Auditor. Respecto a esos puntos creemos que éstos deben constar en nuestro informe en sentido positivo y como aliento para que la Secretaría siga aún intensificando la aplicación de esas recomendaciones.

En relación con el Programa Ordinario nos complace también, como ya lo dijo el colega de México, reconocer la manera adecuada, seria, austera y ordenada como se manejan las cuentas de nuestro Programa Ordinario, lo cual, naturalmente, es de gran interés y de importancia para los Estados Miembros.

Unos breves comentarios sobre el documento C 85/6. Sabemos que más adelante habrá ocasión de referirnos a este documento, pero queremos por ahora solamente llamar la atención sobre los asuntos de personal que se tratan en los párrafos 11 y 12. Convendrá insistir ante los gobiernos en las recomendaciones que se hacen en estos párrafos a fin de que la selección de consultores particularmente y las visitas y misiones de esos consultores no sólo sean oportunas sino realmente eficaces y productivas para los gobiernos beneficiarios.

Igualmente concedemos mucha importancia a la capacitación, y ojalá que esto conste en nuestro informe; hay que tratar de intensificar los programas de capacitación para asistir a los gobiernos a fin de que puedan aumentar el número de candidatos posibles dotados de capacidad y conocimiento de idiomas que realmente puedan hacer uso de las becas y otros beneficios a que hacen referencia los párrafos 13 y 14 del documento C 85/6.

Con estas observaciones, señor Presidente, concluimos nuestra declaración.

A. BROTONS DIEZ (España): La delegación de España se felicita por el superávit que recoge el documento C 85/5 en el ejercicio del presupuesto del Programa Ordinario de la FAO, lo cual indica que en definitiva la buena liquidación y ejercicio de las cuotas ayudan perfectamente al Programa.

Consideramos también, y así lo hacemos patente, como muy buenas las observaciones que el Auditor Externo hace sobre los distintos presupuestos, del Ordinario, del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y del Programa de Ayuda al Desarrollo, y rogamos que sean tenidos en cuenta sus observaciones para la mejora constante del Programa y el Presupuesto de la FAO, del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We welcome the financial reports and the comments of the Finance Committee. At a time when it is important that the impact of all concessional finance should be optimized it is necessary to demonstrate beyond doubt that the funds available to FAO are used effectively, and the quality of financial stewardship within the Organization is that which can be expected by the public who ultimately provide the finance. This requires the highest standards of audit.

If I may, I will turn now to the three substantial documents before us, Regular Programme accounts document C 85/5. We endorse the comments in paragraphs 50 and 51. In particular we wish to draw attention to the comments in paragraph 50 (ii), which refers to an incident concerning counterpart funds under the fertilizer scheme in which 6.5 million US dollars was held in a country for, nearly two years[^] apparently without earning interest.

We also welcome the proposed review of FAO's monitoring and evaluation system referred to in paragraph 51 of C 85/5.

Turning now to the UNDP programme accounts in doc . C 85/6, I must express my Government's concern with the situation referred to in paragraphs 43, 45 and 46. If I may, Mr Chairman, I would like to read briefly from these paragraphs. Paragraph 43, the Auditor comments here "My staff noted however that, contrary to the UNDP Policy and Procedures Manual, the objectives set out in the project documents were often insufficiently precise or quantifiable to allow their achievement to be measured or monitored." I think this is a serious situation, Mr Chairman.

Next I would like to quote, if I may, very briefly from paragraph 45. "With regard to the manner in which monitoring operated in practice, my staff found evidence on Headquarters files of work plans for only 3 of the 26 projects examined;" - I will repeat that figure, Mr Chairman - only 3 of the 26 projects examined; and enquiry in the maior operating division suggested that there was frequently a lack of sufficiently detailed and standardized work plans."

Paragraph 46, "Although there were some exceptions, the progress reports on the projects examined were detailed and had been submitted in reasonable time; but in part due to either the lack of or inadequacies in project work plans in the cases reviewed, they tended to concentrate on activities actually carried out, with little or no comment on those which had failed to take place, and they seldom related the actual activities to those prescribed in the project document, or to the project's immediate objectives."

We would suggest, Mr Chairman, that relating the monitoring system to the project objectives and also examining activities which have not taken place are very vital parts of the monitoring procedure. We are aware that the Secretariat have pledged to remedy this, and we look forward to learning of improvements in the next report.

Turning to paragraph 50 of document C 85/6, we are surprised to learn that only 56 out of 925 projects - that is only 56 out of 925 projects - have been subject to evaluation. By comparison our figures lead us to believe that in most bilateral donors the figure is between 20 and 30 percent of the projects.

To conclude, Mr Chairman, I would turn to the report on WFP, document C 85/7, and here I would simply say that we endorse the comments of the Auditor and in particular the comments in paragraphs 14 and 15.

Finally I would like to add that on the question of the resolution, we must of course reserve our position on this until we see a text.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am grateful to the distinguished delegates who have spoken and made constructive comments, and also to those who have made not so constructive comments, because the whole purpose of the report on this subject by the External Auditor and the discussion by the Council is directed towards improving our performance, and we are paying continual attention to that. For us it is a daily problem and not one that is discussed once a year or once a biennium, but the contributions of Member Governments on these occasions is extremely important. As I say, it is a continuing preoccupation and it is something that results in the report to the Conference which is the fruit of two years of effort. The report is a one-time thing, every biennium, but it reflects continually the day-to-day efforts.

Improvement however in field programme for technical assistance, involving bodies, human expertise, resources, involving three parties, in this case let us say UNDP, FAO and the recipient government, is a very difficult process and improvements take some time to put into effect. It is therefore not easy to bring about those improvements in project formulation, monitoring and so forth, that are referred to in this report, but I would like to emphasize in this connection that the External Auditor's Report does little more than reflect what we ourselves have already said in two or three reports to the Council and the Conference. I would go so far as to say perhaps I do not see anything specifically new or original in what is in the paragraphs that were quoted a moment ago; they are little more than quotations from our own reports. However, if we need encouraging to do better according to our own confession of error, never mind, we will still try to do better.

I would also like to say in this connection that I find it a little odd that so much emphasis was just now placed on paragraph 50 where there is a very mild reference to the fact that it would be beneficial to evaluate a higher proportion of total projects, when in paragraph 42 it is said that this report is based on visits to eight countries in the course of an audit programme which was not a fully representative sample as nine of the projects were in an atypical country. So in 42 we are told this is not really a representative report, and in 50 we are told , we are not being fully representative either, or something like that - I do not know. But I found the emphasis of paragraphs 42 and 50 somewhat contradictory I must say. Neither one nor the other should have been picked on. I would have preferred it to be 42, but in this case 50 was picked on.

I am not making this point in a light way. I am making this point because we are discussing a very serious problem which the Director-General takes very seriously, to the extent that he has in fact asked me personally to go into problems concerning the control of the field programme, in particular formulation and monitoring, with a view to improving our performance as far as possible.

Now, on project formulation I think our own reports have emphasized that this is really probably the key issue. If the projects are well formulated you have a better chance of being able to implement them well, but also to monitor the implementation well and evaluate them.

So this is what we regard as the first priority - to improve our project formulation. In this we are conscious of the fact that we must not be too quick, too ready, to accept responsibility for projects which look attractive but may be extremely difficult to carry out, at least within the timeframe that the donor, whether it is the UNDP or a trust fund donor, thinks desirable. We might have to say to both the donor and the recipient, or to one of them, "No, I am sorry, we cannot possibly carry out such a project. With this amount of money it is not going to be enough", or "Within this timeframe the time is not going to be long enough." That is one lesson that we are in the process of learning and applying.

As regards paragraph 43, however, I would like to say that ever since I have been dealing with evaluation, which is at least 15 years now, I have found that there is a tendency among all the experts on evaluation, or those who are not so expert on evaluation, as I regard this paragraph 43 as representing, a tendency to be rather facile about evaluating technical assistance projects. When you are delivering capital aid for a construction, be it a bridge or a dam or whatever, you can measure precisely your objectives and how far you have carried them out economically and so on. When you are measuring training or some other form of development of human resources, or something which involves a combination of delivery of inputs, delivery of equipment, training of people, fellowships etc., creation of an effective institution, it is not so easy, and very often one is reduced to taking not the ultimate objective as an indicator of performance, but the intermediate indicators, which are: did you deliver the experts on time, were they effective in their job, did they give the advice which was accepted by the government, did you deliver the equipment on time, did it work, and so on. So I think this paragraph ignores the whole problem of defining indicators, intermediate and ultimate indicators.

On work plans and on evaluation I want to emphasize again that this is a tripartite question and that while inadequacies are regrettable and should be improved, there ought to be some tolerance for the feasibility of behaving exactly in accordance with manuals. Which is more important in these times of difficulty and shortage, to get on with the job or to observe the provisions of a manual which may not apply in this particular circumstance? The manual is a guide, it is not a law.

Then, finally, in paragraph 50 on the question of FAO's evaluation this refers to FAO's full-scale evaluation as reported in the Review of the Field Programme: it does not refer to all the evaluations which are done by FAO, whether on its own or in combination with others.

To come back to my beginning, none of the comments that I have made are intended to diminish the importance of the questions of formulation, monitoring and evaluation. I would have other opinions perhaps to express on another occasion about certain other aspects of this report, but I do not want to detain the Council now on it.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr West. I think your comments are very valuable. With this we come to the conclusion of item 14, except for item 14.2, on which the contact group will meet. I want to thank all of you and the Chairman and all the members of the Finance Committee for the very valuable report.

The meeting rose at 11:55 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.55 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/15

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86º período de sesiones
PLENARIA

FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
15ª SESION PLENARIA
(28 November 1984)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
L.E. Williams, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50 sous
la présidence de L.E Williams, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas, bajo la
Presidencia de L.E. Williams, 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. Progress Report on World Food Day Activities (Conference Resolution 7/81)
- 10. Rapport intérimaire sur les activités de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation (rés. 7/81 de la Conférence)
- 10. Informe sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación (Resolución 7/81 de la Conferencia)

R. MORENO ROJAS (Director, Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): Hace poco mas de un mes casi 150 países en todo el mundo celebraron el Día Mundial de la Alimentación el que, como es del conocimiento de los miembros de este Consejo y de los observadores, lo podemos afirmar con certeza, se ha convertido en un punto de referencia internacional de la máxima relevancia en la lucha contra el hambre. Tienen ustedes un breve informe bajo la denominación del documento CL 86/16, que contiene el Informe Provisional sobre las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación hasta agosto del presente año, y describe los esfuerzos que la FAO ha realizado y que continuará realizando para apoyar de la manera más efectiva posible la conmemoración de esta actividad tan importante para nosotros.

Quisiéramos a continuación mencionar algunos de los hechos más relevantes del Día Mundial de la Alimentación de este año, los que, como comprenderán ustedes, no fueron incluidos en el momento de la redacción del informe, dado que ellos tuvieron lugar con posterioridad a la fecha en la cual la documentación para el Consejo fue preparada.

En Roma la FAO tuvo el honor de recibir aquí, en nuestra sede central, el 16 de octubre a su Excelencia el Presidente de la República de Italia señor Sandro Pertini, al Presidente Abdou Diouf, de la Republica del Senegal, a la señora Ministro de Asuntos Femeninos y Sociales del Zaire, Sra. Ekila Liyonda, a los representantes permanentes ante la FAO y a varios otros distinguidos representantes de diversos países, así como del gobierno que nos hospeda, de la Republica de Italia.

El Director General fue invitado esa misma semana para hacer uso de la palabra en la ceremonia que fue organizada bajo los auspicios del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York el día 19 de octubre, en donde además de las intervenciones del Director General, del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, del Presidente de la Asamblea, hizo uso de la palabra el destacado economista y escritor John Kenneth Galbraith quien fue el que presentó el tópico principal para discusión respecto de este tema.

Ese mismo día en Nueva York se organizó como uno de los aspectos técnicos importantes del Día Mundial de la Alimentación en la tarde un taller sobre la mujer en el desarrollo en el que discutieron las modalidades y posibilidades para reforzar en este sector la cooperación entre la FAO, los gobiernos, las organizaciones no gubernamentales y otros sectores de la comunidad internacional.

Quiero reiterar en esta oportunidad que la vitalidad y la creatividad se han convertido en característica importante del Día Mundial de la Alimentación; se han demostrado claramente en las celebraciones de este evento a nivel nacional, una enorme cantidad de actividades casi imposible de resumirlas en una presentación de esta naturaleza que se viene realizando bajo los auspicios y la conducción de los gobiernos miembros, de organizaciones no gubernamentales, organizaciones religiosas, grupos estudiantiles y entidades morales y culturales que existen en los distintos países.

Las asociaciones de campesinos, mujeres, grupos académicos, para destacar algunos, señalan la forma como esta conmemoración ha sido insertada prácticamente no sólo a nivel gubernamental o intelectual, sino que gradualmente se va convirtiendo en una fecha en torno a la cual muchos sectores de las diversas comunidades nacionales pretenden también señalar su rol y su palabra dentro de sus propias estrategias nacionales.

Ya lo dijo en su discurso inaugural del actual período de sesiones del Consejo el Director General de la FAO cuando, al referirse a este tema, señaló: "El Día Mundial de la Alimentación se ha convertido en una demostración verdaderamente notable, basada en una solidaridad y una determinación mundiales en la lucha contra el hambre".

La justeza de esta decisión adoptada por la Conferencia de la FAO para establecer el Día Mundial de la Alimentación se ve confirmada por el grado de institucionalización, cada vez mayor, que año a año va logrando esta iniciativa.

Así, por ejemplo, en la Secretaría Mundial de la Alimentación hemos percibido por parte de quienes organizan estas actividades a nivel nacional, así como también por parte de muchas delegaciones aquí presentes, un creciente interés no solo para informar lo que ocurre en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación a nivel nacional, sino para conocer cuáles son las formas, modalidades, experiencias y resultados que se van alcanzando en diversos países por otros gobiernos, por otras organizaciones que se asocian a esta celebración.

Por este motivo, y recogiendo la inquietud planteada por muchos delegados, estamos preparando un proceso de recopilación y análisis, un informe y la documentación necesaria recibida de todos los países para ilustrar en un informe que publicaremos en el curso de las proximas semanas lo ocurrido país por país en torno a la conmemoración de este aniversario.

Uno de los elementos que debemos señalar como significativos en la celebración del año 1984 fue la notable contribución realizada por las organizaciones no gubernamentales. Entre muchos ejemplos podrían citarse, queremos destacar en esta introducción, el trabajo realizado por ANGOC, una coalición de organizaciones no gubernamentales en la región de Asia y Pacífico quien promovió activamente el Día Mundial de la Alimentación en toda la región y preparó diversos materiales de información sobre temas específicos referentes al tópico que nos ocupaba este año. En otros países, tales como en el Reino Unido, en Canadá, en los Estados Unidos, en Francia, para citar países del mundo industrializado, las organizaciones no gubernamentales jugaron igualmente un rol de primera importancia, ayudando con ello a movilizar la opinión pública en apoyo de esta celebración en sus respectivas capitales y en sus respectivos países. En Italia es digno de señalar la reciente constitución del Comité no Gubernamental Italiano para la conmemoración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, CIGMA, con sede en Milán, el cual lanzó en este año una campaña muy interesante denominada por ellos "La Semilla de la Esperanza" que consiste en un esfuerzo de largo plazo para aumentar la conciencia de la opinión pública sobre los problemas alimentarios mundiales y conseguir recursos financieros que les habiliten para poder proveerse de semillas que sean adaptables y utilizables en distintos países del mundo en desarrollo, con los cuales estas organizaciones no gubernamentales tienen contacto.

Es importante en esta introducción señalar cuál es la orientación que a esta altura se prevé para conmemorar esta fecha en el año próximo. Como ustedes bien saben, en 1985 el Día Mundial de la Alimentación coincidirá con la celebración del 40° aniversario de la fundación de la FAO. Esto representa una oportunidad muy especial para evaluar los cambios y avances que se han producido en la situación alimentaria y agrícola mundial en las últimas cuatro décadas; asimismo para analizar el rol, y en particular la contribución que nuestra institución, la FAO, ha realizado en el curso de este período.

El Día Mundial de la Alimentación constituye, por lo tanto, un instrumento muy útil para centrar a largo plazo las atenciones de la opinión pública mundial en uno de los desafíos más urgentes de nuestra etapa en el mundo moderno, cual es la lucha por erradicar la pobreza y el hambre que por desgracia inevitablemente nos acompañan en los últimos decenios. Es por ello que quisiéramos, por último, señalar y solicitarles la reiteración de vuestro apoyo y vuestro esfuerzo para continuar el excelente trabajo realizado por los diversos países hasta la fecha en la conmemoración de esta oportunidad histórica para nosotros, y pedirles que inicien a la brevedad posible la organización de los trabajos a nivel nacional para conmemorar el 40° aniversario de la fundación de nuestra organización.

Quizá ahora más que ningún otro momento o período de la posguerra haya quedado evidenciado a través de los distintos tópicos de la agenda que ustedes han discutido en este Consejo queda de manifiesto cual es el desafío y la necesidad que tenemos para enfrentarnos a los problemas básicos que hoy nos preocupan. No es la celebración del 40° aniversario de la FAO una fecha para retórica, una fecha para conmemorar la organización o la creación o el trabajo de una institución internacional importante y con la cual estamos tan comprometidos todos nosotros. Creemos que el problema es más profundo. Por lo tanto, esta oportunidad nos abre el camino para poder realmente realizar unas reflexiones sobre lo que han sido estas cuatro décadas pasadas y tener la claridad para identificar los problemas, los caminos y al mismo tiempo, si es posible, las soluciones que se nos presenten hacia el futuro.

Confiamos que la experiencia ya recogida en cuatro años de celebración de este aniversario permitirá tanto a los gobiernos miembros como a la Secretaría el poder dar el realce que esta fecha amerita de parte nuestra.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Moreno, for your clear introduction.

Item 10 is now before you for discussion.

R. MARTINEZ MUNOZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia se complace en destacar la importante y clara presentación que de este tema ha hecho el doctor Rafael Moreno, a quien deseamos felicitar por la manera acertada como cumple las funciones que en buena hora le ha encargado el Director General de la FAO en las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Junto con Hungría y otras delegaciones, Colombia fue copatrocinadora de la Resolución 7/1981 que en la Conferencia de la FAO decidió establecer esta efeméride. Por ello nos complace sobremanera que en las cuatro ocasiones en que hemos celebrado el Día Mundial de la Alimentación se puedan observar los progresos crecientes, el interés permanente y la eficacia de estos acontecimientos.

La delegación de Colombia quiere destacar la manera seria, positiva y bien orientada como la FAO está adelantando la preparación del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Pensamos que hay que alentar a la Secretaría de nuestra organización para que continúe con estas acertadas orientaciones que han constituido valiosos estímulos para la participación de los gobiernos y de las poblaciones.

Es evidente que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación ha contribuido a llamar la atención sobre los graves problemas agrícolas y alimentarios que afectan a los países en desarrollo. El Gobierno de Colombia ha sido muy fiel al cumplimiento de esta iniciativa. Cada año, en nuestro país, se celebra el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, y ahora en 1984, lo dedicamos a exaltar el valor y la importancia de la participación de la mujer campesina en las labores rurales.

Pensamos que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación de 1985, que va a coincidir con el 40º aniversario de la fundación de la FAO, debe revestir importancia particular. Será una ocasión propicia para que en esta oportunidad se exalte, una vez más, la manera como los bosques, la pesca, las aguas y los suelos, y todos los demás factores determinantes del sector agropecuario, puedan confluir en favor de la solución de los problemas de la agricultura.

De manera pues, que la delegación de Colombia reitera sus cordiales felicitaciones al Director General de la FAO, al doctor Rafael Moreno, y a todos a quienes aquí, en Roma y en nuestros países, siguen celebrando el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Mrs MARASEE SURAKUL (Thailand): First of all, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of my delegation to express our thanks to all the members of FAO Council in electing Thailand as a member of the CFA.

It is not an easy task to organize and celebrate a World Food Day in a developing food exporting country like Thailand. It needs a lot of cooperation and coordination on the part of the central Government of the country whose majority of the people are farmers. However, in response to the advice given by the Director-General of FAO, Thailand has followed and organized the World Food Day, the Third Anniversary of the World Food Day organized by the Thai Government.

The theme of World Food Day this year is "Women in Agriculture". This year Thailand has celebrated the Third World Food Day with the great seminar on the theme of "Women in Agriculture". Both government and non-government organizations and the Women Farmers Association, altogether about 200 delegates have attended that seminar. The Deputy Prime Minister delivered a speech emphasizing the role of women in agriculture. Thailand also organized a joint TV programme between the FAO Regional Office in Bangkok, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperations and the Thai Women Farmers Association on the topic of "The Role of Women in Agriculture".

This is really in line with reality. Women have long been participating in food production in the country. My country has also responded to the call from the International Women's Year by setting up the Women Farmers Association under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen of Thailand in 1976. At present, the Women Farmers Association has expanded its activities and its auxiliaries have been established throughout the country with the participation of local women farmers. The expansion of such activities augurs well the increasing role of women in food production at the small farmer level.

It is gratifying to note that Thai women farmers have been the pioneers in energy conservation technology through the development and modernization of fuel-efficient stoves. This activity is a good manifestation of energy conservation initiated and taken by our women for the benefit of the families and the country as a whole.

In organising the World Food Day in Thailand this year, the Government is in full recognition of the role of women in agriculture and grateful to their contributions in the field of food production. However, we are fully aware that the status of women in social and economic structures has not yet been fully recognised.

My delegation therefore fully supports the idea that rural development based on growth with equity will require the full integration of women.

Last, but not least, the status and role of women would certainly be elevated if they were stated in ILO's Declaration and Resolution in 1975 which aimed at promoting equality of opportunity and equality of treatment for women workers.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor. My delegation welcomes and congratulates the Director-General of FAO for his excellent efforts that have been made during the last four years in celebrating the World Food Day. Also I would like to congratulate Dr Moreno for his excellent report on the progress made so far on World Food Day activities.

My Government has been actively celebrating the World Food Day every year since it was established four years ago. I observe that the ceremonies on the World Food Day in the FAO Headquarters in Rome during the last four years were successful and excellently organized. My delegation feels that such ceremonies, as previously, should be continued and my delegation supports all efforts made by FAO. My delegation is in full agreement with Dr Moreno to start the preparations as early as possible for the celebrations of the World Food Day in 1985. In this context my delegation believes that the role of the forest in supporting food for the people will be a most appropriate sign for the World Food Day in 1985.

Finally I would like also to report that in Indonesia at the present time we are considering the declaration for World Food Day in 1985.

SRA. E. HERAZO de VIII (PANAMA): Antes de todo, deseamos agradecer al Sr. Rafael Moreno la excelente presentación del documento. Panamá fue uno de los copatrocinadores de la Resolución, por medio de la cual se creó el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, cuya primera celebración se realizó en 1981.

Este año, la FAO propuso como tema del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, la mujer en la agricultura. Consideramos que la mujer debe participar no sólo en la producción de alimentos sino en todos los aspectos de carácter social, económico, político y cultural de un país; participación que debe ser activa y despojada de todo tipo de discriminación.

Creemos que la importancia que tiene para el desarrollo de los países de América Latina y el Caribe el trabajo que realiza la mujer, es igual, en esencia, al de las mujeres de las otras regiones del mundo. Sólo cambian realmente las particularidades propias, fundamentalmente de tipo cultural, entre regiones y países, así como los niveles en que objetivamente se encuentra la participación de la mujer.

Es indudable que el trabajo de la mujer contribuye a mejorar la calidad de la vida, tanto del núcleo familiar como de la comunidad.

Para finalizar, la delegación de Panamá desea, dentro del contexto del tema escogido este año para la cuarta celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, rendir homenaje a la desaparecida Indira Gandhi, digna representante de nuestro mundo contemporáneo, donde la mujer juega definitivamente un papel importante. La recordaremos siempre con grande admiración y respeto.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr Moreno for his brilliant exposition.

We in Pakistan, in pursuance of the FAO Council's decision, celebrate the World Food Day in an elaborate manner every year. The theme for 1984 as we all know was Women in Agriculture, and the World Food Day was celebrated on the 16th October this year in Pakistan as usual. Arrangements for meetings, seminars, debates and food issues were made to which students, farmers, the general public and women were invited. The Pakistan Agriculture Research Council arranged a World Food Day function in which the importance of the Day was highlighted and the award to Dr. Borlang for Agricultural Research for the Year 1984 was confirmed by the Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture. On this occasion the messages of the President of Pakistan and the Director-General of FAO were also read out.

Exhibitions of food items, machinery, livestock, were also organised. Documentary films and some published material on the subject was also displayed in educational institutions. Competitions were held on the subject of the involvement of women in agriculture. Special programmes such as lectures in the preparation of food for mothers and children, with the help of slides and posters, were delivered underlining the need for a balanced diet. The women's organisations arranged functions, seminars, highlighting the women's role in agriculture. Special articles, newspapers on food issues, food security and the women's role in agriculture were published. Pakistan television and radio arranged special programmes. Meetings and debates were also arranged at various national centres throughout the country. Farmers organisations arranged farm open days and meetings to discuss hunger, malnutrition and women's role in agriculture. Trips of school children to agricultural development projects were arranged in order to demonstrate what is being done to increase national food production. Journalists and writers emphasized the importance of women's participation in agriculture and the adoption of modern methods of cultivation to augment world food production. Food demonstrations were organised at various health centres, health nutrition talks were also arranged, especially for female audiences. Messages from the President of Pakistan, the Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture and Governors of the Provinces were also published in the newspapers on this occasion. Briefly, this is a resume of how we celebrate the World Food Day in Pakistan.

The World Food Day is playing a crucial role indeed in augmenting the awareness on the global level of the problems of hunger and malnutrition. We commend the pivotal role FAO is playing in this regard to highlight the increasing importance of this Day and the deep interest evinced by the Director-General in his crusade against hunger in various parts of the world, especially Africa.

In 1985, the World Food Day will coincide with the 40th Anniversary of FAO. We all hope to celebrate it in a fitting manner and assure FAO of our fullest cooperation in this regard.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the excellent report on the progress of the World Food Day celebrations, and Dr Moreno for his excellent presentation of the subject.

Since 1981, the World Food Day has been a very important annual event in the world community's crusade against hunger and malnutrition. The celebration of the World Food Day has helped to create public awareness of the world food problem and to mobilize public support for development assistance, and programmes for increasing food agricultural production.

Themes selected for the occasion, such as food security, food comes first, access to food by all, women in agriculture, etc., were most appropriately selected.

My country has celebrated the World Food Day since its inception in a befitting manner in close association with the school children, religious organizations, cultural associations, etc.

We congratulate the Director-General for his relentless attempt to bring food to the forefront of all subjects and matters, and creating public opinion to the fact that food comes first and food for all.

H. REDL (Austria): The Austrian delegation notes the statement in document CL 86/16 with interest, and the introduction presented to us by Mr Moreno.

As regards the 1984 World Food Day theme "Women in Agriculture" in the preparation of the general theme for 1985, the activities undertaken by FAO's Director-General were welcomed, in particular the decision that the World Food Day since 1984 and 1985 should be inter-related and complementary to each other.

The expansion of cultivating land at the expense of forest requires particular importance to be attached to the problem of soil conservation and forestry. In this context it may be referred to proposals made by Austria during the meeting of the world-wide Forestry Commission in May this year, and especially to the Fourteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe in September 1984 which led to the respective resolution of the European Regional Conference. From the Austrian standpoint it seems necessary to consider the particular regional conditions when organizing World Food Day activities, as suggested in paragraph 5 of the document, FAO's activities at both the worldwide and regional level should be used as information material.

The Fortieth Anniversary of FAO should, however, not only clearly point to the existing problems but mainly prescribe in a generally comprehensible way the measures taken under the auspices of FAO and the success achieved. The relevant press features, radio programmes, etc., should be timely prepared and made available to the individual institutions. Also the collaboration with the non-governmental organisations for the organisation of the World Food Day is welcomed.

Ms. G. LAPOINTE (Canada): Canada has been an enthusiastic supporter of the World Food Day ever since the concept was adopted at the Twentieth Session of the Conference of this Organization. Naturally we feel a special bond to this event as the date, October 16th, marks this Organization's founding conference in Canada at Quebec City.

World Food Day has been celebrated in all parts of Canada in a variety of ways. The planning for World Food Day has provided an opportunity for the Government sector, the private sector and the volunteer organizations in the country to work together to promote a better awareness of global food issues. As my delegation reported to the Twenty-second Session of the Conference last November, the responsibility for planning and organizing World Food Day has been turned over from the Federal Government to the non-governmental sector. The Minister of Agriculture remains a patron and a prominent member of the newly created World Food Day Association of Canada.

In Canada planning for World Food Day is an ongoing process. We have already begun to plan for World Food Day 1985, and while we very much appreciate the leadership and the resource material provided by FAO our experience has been that this assistance frequently arrives too late. For this reason we are pleased to note that the theme has already been chosen for 1986, which will emphasize the role of fisheries and fishery communities.

My delegation has also taken note of the various proposals for World Food Day 1985. Document CL 86/16 tells us that in 1985 emphasis will be placed on rural poverty as well as issues related to food and the environment, soil conservation, forestry, and the fuelwood problem.

We also noted with interest the comments of the Director-General in his opening address to this Council, in which he stated that World Food Day 1985 will also commemorate the 40th anniversary of the founding of FAO. We welcome the Director-General's commitment to consult with members of the Council on this matter, but would urge the Organization to reach a final decision on the theme for World Food Day 1985 and to communicate that decision to Member Nations at the earliest possible time.

A. EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. We are very glad to congratulate the Organization for the efforts which are being made in order to make us aware of the problem of food supplies to the world through the commemoration of World Food Day. We thank Mr Moreno for introducing document CL 86/16.

We would also like to address our thanks to the Organization for underlining the role of women, which has been decided upon as the theme for this year's celebration, because women have a key role in agricultural production. This is quite obvious. We have recognized the role of women since time immemorial in my country. The role has become much more important, and women now represent 60 to 80 per cent of the working force in agriculture. We have taken the necessary measures in Egypt in order to facilitate their work. We have adopted a programme in the interest of farm women with regard to all aspects of their activities and we have attached a particular importance to the role of women as artisans. We are also going to organise a seminar in December of this year in cooperation with FAO, a seminar which will be dealing with the role of women in agriculture.

Since 1981 my country has given particular importance to the celebration of World Food Day. This year we had the Minister of Health, the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister for Irrigation, the Minister of Social Affairs from Sudan present, and the representatives of Holland and the representatives of the various organizations of the United Nations family present at the celebration. Also we have given prizes to people who have been active in this field. We have done all that is necessary in order to make the public aware of the efforts which are being undertaken in order to increase food production and to get women to participate in this activity.

We are awaiting with impatience the celebration in 1985, which is going to coincide with the 40th anniversary of FAO.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): Please allow me to give you a briefing on the past World Food Day activities which took place in Japan. This year my Government appealed to the people on the importance of diet patterns and food security. Japan is one of the largest importers of food and agricultural commodities. Therefore the Japanese people are always very concerned about food programmes.

During the implementation of World Food Day activities the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries planned and promoted these activities with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, the Japan Broadcasting Association and the Japan FAO Association. The Japan FAO Association, which took the lead of the national committee of the World Food Day also implemented various activities, including a symposium and publication of a pamphlet celebrating the World Food Day.

My Government also utilized nation-wide, area-wide and local newspapers, television, radio and other media for its publicity activities. Our symposium entitled Diet Patterns and Food Security was held in Tokyo on 16 October.

My Government considers the World Food Day to be a very good opportunity to make people further aware of the food and agriculture programmes and is planning to strengthen further the World Food Day activities for the future.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Agradecemos al doctor Moreno su sintética y clara presentación.

La solución a los problemas del hambre y de la alimentación dependen en buena parte de la conciencia que sobre ellos tengan no sólo los gobiernos, sino también los pueblos. La voluntad política de los gobiernos es en su mayor parte respuesta al interés manifestado por los pueblos y ésta, a su vez, de la forma y profundidad de la información con que cuenten. Por encima de intereses económicos específicos, estamos seguros que todos los pueblos del mundo se sienten indignados por la extensión y perseverancia del hambre y por el lento avance de las soluciones alimentarias a nivel nacional y también internacional.

Por eso reconocemos y elogiamos el gran esfuerzo de la FAO por promover que en todos los países se celebre el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, y aplaudimos la labor de los gobiernos y de los particulares que la han hecho a fondo. La evaluación de los problemas nacionales e internacionales nos hace saber dónde nos encontramos y hacia dónde vamos y es crucial para determinar actividades futuras.

Afirmamos que plantearnos los problemas es buena parte de su solución en el sentido político y en el sentido técnico. El Día Mundial contribuye a ello y el Gobierno de México ha dado todo su apoyo a este importante evento, que ha sido punto de partida y base de importantes logros y medidas. Recordamos que México lanzó su programa nacional alimentario en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación del año pasado. La evaluación del avance de ese problema presenta ahora, año con año, el 16 de octubre, su importancia, porque abarca de manera integral todos los aspectos de la cadena alimentaria y se analiza también el desarrollo rural integral, así como la importante función de la mujer y de los jóvenes en el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario.

Para el próximo año México prepara un evento singular y reiteraremos la forma dramática en que está vinculada la pobreza y sus ciclos a las condiciones de la malnutrición y el hambre, así como a los avances en la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural, a la paz, al bosque y al medio ambiente. La función de la juventud en la nutrición merecerá, sin duda, una consideración especial.

Apoyamos, por último, al Director General en todos sus esfuerzos en favor de esa cruzada por la conciencia universal sobre los problemas del hambre y de la alimentación.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I would like to join in the praise for the very comprehensive opening statement from the Secretariat.

The United Kingdom Group for World Food Day continues actively to encourage wider public awareness of World Food Day and its role in spreading knowledge and understanding of world food problems. A series of events in the United Kingdom on 16 October was promoted by the Group. These included special displays in 160 public libraries, items on radio and television, and a special lunch at the Commonwealth Institute to demonstrate the unequal distribution of food in the world.

For the future we suggest that the Secretariat give consideration to making some of the publicity more specific and aiming it at particular target groups. In the case of World Food Day this could mean even more emphasis on reaching the public through action by local neighbourhood schools, church and other non-governmental organizations. While listing the activities in Member Countries is useful, we also suggest that thought might be given to some impact studies to assess the effect of FAO-funded information material on opinion formers in selected countries.

Finally, on a personal note I should mention that in talking to non-official groups about the problems of food and agriculture I have made extensive use of FAO material very kindly supplied by the Secretariat and the photo library. I can assure members of this Council of the excellence of this material and the strength of its impact.

J.-M. TRAVERS (France) : La délégation française souhaite adresser ses félicitations au Secrétariat de l'OAA et à son Directeur général pour la façon dont ils ont préparé la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation en 1984.

Conformément aux recommandations formulées par le Conseil, le Gouvernement français a veillé à ce que soit renforcée la participation des organisations non gouvernementales aux manifestations prévues au titre de la Journée. La coordination de ces manifestations a d'ailleurs été confiée à un comité présidé par le Secrétaire général de l'une des principales ONG françaises qui se consacrent à la lutte contre la faim dans le monde et à l'appui au développement agricole et alimentaire. Une vaste campagne de sensibilisation, orientée vers le grand public et mobilisant les médias et plus particulièrement la première chaîne de télévision, a eu lieu le 16 octobre. Le Ministre de l'agriculture et le Ministre de l'économie et des finances sont intervenus dans ce cadre pendant les journaux télévisés. Nous considérons que le thème retenu, celui des femmes dans le développement rural, était d'une importance primordiale. A l'initiative de l'Institut français des recherches scientifiques pour le développement en coopération, un réseau de recherche interorganismes a été créé sous la responsabilité de Mme Jeanne Bisilliat, Directeur de recherche dans cet Institut. Celle-ci a participé au Séminaire organisé à New York dans le cadre de la Journée mondiale afin d'assurer un prolongement national à ce Séminaire. Un colloque sera organisé à Paris du 14 au 19 Janvier 1985 sur la place des femmes dans l'autosuffisance et les stratégies alimentaires.

Nous ne doutons pas que grâce aux efforts de tous, et notamment du Secrétariat de l'OAA et de son Directeur général, la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation connaîtra à nouveau un très grand succès en 1985.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie) : Je voudrais d'abord féliciter M. Rafael Moreno pour l'exposition qu'il nous a faite du problème à l'ordre du jour. Je veux aussi me féliciter très vivement de l'activité qui a été déployée au plus haut niveau par le Secrétariat, personnellement par le Directeur général dans l'organisation de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation dans les années passées.

Je voudrais maintenant annoncer au Conseil que le Gouvernement italien, considérant que cette fois-ci la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation coïncide avec le quarantième anniversaire de l'Organisation, a décidé de créer un Comité gouvernemental pour célébrer cet événement. A ce Comité participeront les ministères intéressés aux problèmes de la faim et de l'alimentation dans le monde : le ministère des affaires étrangères, le ministère de l'agriculture, le ministère de l'éducation et le ministère de l'environnement.

Ce Comité naturellement travaillera en étroite liaison avec le Comité des ONG qui vient d'être créé à Milan et aussi et surtout avec le Secrétariat de l'Organisation.

Je pense que dans cette célébration de l'année 1985 les thèmes principaux seront d'abord la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté rurale; deuxièmement, le rôle de la femme dans le développement général et dans le développement de l'agriculture; aussi le rôle des femmes dans l'équilibre nécessaire entre population et ressources alimentaires et finalement le thème de l'équilibre entre le développement de la production agricole et la protection de l'environnement. Je crois que le rôle de la femme cette fois-ci sera particulièrement souligné dans le programme que l'Italie a l'intention de réaliser parce que le Président de ce Comité gouvernemental est une femme très connue en Italie, membre de la Chambre des députés, Mme Anselmi.

Je veux encore une fois remercier M. Rafael Moreno et le Directeur général pour leur activité dans cette initiative de mobiliser et de sensibiliser l'opinion publique universelle ainsi que les opinions nationales sur ce thème angoissant de la faim et de la pauvreté rurale.

B.H. DJIBRIL (Bénin) : La délégation du Bénin voudrait féliciter M. Moreno pour son introduction claire et concise et exprimer sa satisfaction sur la façon dont la FAO célèbre la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

Cette année mon pays a célébré la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation sur le thème de la femme dans l'agriculture. Les manifestations se sont déroulées avec la participation effective de l'Organisation des femmes révolutionnaires du Bénin qui ont organisé des tables rondes et des séminaires couverts par la presse, la radio et la télévision. Ces manifestations se sont déroulées dans tous les chefs-lieux de province ainsi que dans la capitale pour connaître un éclat particulier le 16 octobre avec la remise des prix aux enfants qui ont participé aux concours de dessins et de poèmes autour du thème de la nutrition et de l'alimentation.

Pour terminer, ma délégation voudrait rendre hommage à la FAO pour le concours qu'elle apporte à la réussite de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation dans mon pays.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation supports the establishment of World Food Day and welcomes the holding of such a day. We have always welcomed it, the last time being at the Twenty-second Session of the FAO Conference.

As in previous years, we have carefully prepared special events in 1984. Each year since 1981, the Federal Government has entrusted one of the German Federal States with the implementation of central celebrations - a regulation which we consider useful in view of the Federal constitution of our country. In this way, we meet with a growing interest and response of our citizens, of the Press, as well as of radio and television, all of which is welcomed by us.

This was also the case this year on the occasion of our central celebrations held in the smallest German Federal State, the Land of Bremen. The purpose of that celebration was to make the population aware of the greater extent of world-wide problems relating to food and agriculture and to call upon them for greater solidarity and more effective action in the fight against hunger and poverty. This purpose was fulfilled.

The Federal Government made its final report on the World Food Day activities available in German and English to the FAO Secretariat, and also some information material which was prepared in German. I think I should refrain from going into detail, but if fellow delegates wish to share our experience, we are prepared to give them the report which we presented to the Secretariat. We have it here in English and German; if anyone wishes to have a copy, please approach us. We were successful in creating a stamp which is being used now in all of these activities.

Having said this, there remains little to say, though I would like to add a few remarks. First of all, we feel that the policy of selecting one central theme for World Food Day activities has proved a correct one. Taking into account that next year will be the 40th Anniversary of FAO, World Food Day will have a special impact. We hope very much that together with the 40th Anniversary, the forestry issue can be taken up as a central theme which would be, of course, in accordance with the decision we have taken earlier that next year forestry should become a global concern.

One further point, of which we hope that the Secretariat will take it constructively. We have ourselves prepared a lot of information papers for public distribution. We found that from among the useful papers we received from the Secretariat, we were missing one short paper which could be called "the current world food situation in brief", a small leaflet with the latest figures as they appear in the food outlook monthly, but perhaps put together in a more understandable way for the public. This would have been very useful as a background information paper.

Another point - in the two papers we had received about farmers and women, the missing link in the chain of developing programmes, the information was somewhat overlapping. So for public distribution, we would like to see in future such overlapping avoided.

I have already mentioned that we found the Harare Declaration of that importance that we have translated it into German, and have distributed it to the public.

One last point. Unfortunately, the special Section on World Food Day of CERES reached us rather late, so we could not make use of that information. Therefore, this year we hope that the Secretariat will try to find a way of distributing in due time all material which Member States need who are actively celebrating World Food Day.

H.T. JENNINGS (United States of America): I will attempt to be brief. I shall say, first of all, that the delegation of the United States of America joins with those others who have spoken in expressing its appreciation for both the document and the introduction which we have had on this subject, which have been very informative.

The United States delegation is pleased to note the success of World Food Day activities in heightening public awareness of the food and agricultural needs of the world, and the measures being taken to address those needs. We have listened with interest to the reports of other delegations as to the activities carried out in furtherance of World Food Day. We appreciate the kind reference made by Dr. Moreno to United States' support for World Food Day, and would like briefly to give the Council a little more information on what has been done last year in the United States in commemoration of the event.

Again this year, the United States Congress passed a joint resolution on World Food Day, and the President issued a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the Day with appropriate activities. The Governors of all 50 of the United States issues similar proclamations. We were quite pleased that the North American Representative of FAO participated in the governmental observance of World Food Day at our Department of Agriculture.

It is certainly of equal, if not greater, importance that there was also widespread participation in observing World Food Day by private individuals and groups within the United States. A nongovernmental national committee for World Food Day chaired by Miss Patricia Young, including representatives of more than 330 organizations, organized quite a number of observances of the occasion.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation supports the establishment of World Food Day and welcomes the holding of such a day. We have always welcomed it, the last time being at the 22nd Conference of FAO.

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I might also state that we were quite proud that Miss Young received a citation from the North American Representative for her activities. We are happy to report that the 1984 World Food Day activities in the United States of America involved possibly millions of people, and we look forward to more widespread participation in the future.

I. DIAZ YUBERO (España): En España también se ha celebrado, como en todos los demás países, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación que ha tenido como objeto fundamental sensibilizar la opinión pública sobre la importancia que la mujer tiene en la agricultura y en la alimentación, especialmente rural.

Durante este día se celebró una sesión técnica con presencia del Ministro de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación y se fallaron unos premios escolares y periodísticos que cada año venimos estableciendo en este sentido. Este día, tradicionalmente, en España se ponen en cultivo una serie de parcelas en distintos colegios cuyos productos posteriormente se donan a la UNICEF.

España, sin embargo, desea mantener cambio de opiniones con las delegaciones de otros países para hacer algo más eficaz y más productivo en el futuro y propone, además, que el óptimo aprovechamiento de los recursos propios, o alimentos propios, debería ser un tema a considerar en el futuro de la FAO. Esto quiere decir que los alimentos que naturalmente se producen en cada uno de los países puedan ser objeto de difusión en la alimentación de cada uno de los pueblos.

B. MARTIN (Observer for Australia): Reflecting the importance my Government attaches to World Food Day, Australia's principal activity this year was a televised address to the nation by the Governor General, Sir Ninian Steven, on world food problems and the role of women in agriculture. The address was carried by all major Australian television networks.

To mark the occasion of World Food Day 1984, the Australian Government has also established a special post-graduate scholarship which will enable the successful applicant to proceed to a Masters degree by thesis on the topic of the role of women in agriculture in developing countries.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): I would not like to give the impression that Cyprus does not celebrate World Food Day. That is why I have decided to speak. Every year we report in detail to the FAO Secretariat our activities during World Food Day. From its inception, Cyprus has celebrated the Day by issuing commemorative stamps and coins, by special publications and by using all the media at our disposal to emphasize the problem of food security as the paramount goal of agriculture. Special ceremonies take place in schools calling the children's attention to the problem of world hunger, and there are all kinds of other ceremonies. I would also like to stress the importance of selecting a particular theme to be celebrated each year. So far as 1985 is concerned, I think a special programme could be planned on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of FAO.

Finally, I wish to thank Mr Moreno for his succinct and clear document.

J.E. MENDES FERRAO (Observateur pour Portugal): Je serai très bref. J'aimerais féliciter M. Moreno pour son travail et pour l'enthousiasme qu'il donne et qu'il imprime à la réalisation de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

Au Portugal, nous avons fait la commémoration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation conjointement à des activités semblables à celles des années passées. Je n'en ferai pas référence. J'aimerais seulement faire une petite référence à quelques nouvelles choses que nous avons réalisées.

La préoccupation centrale de la campagne de cette année, c'était d'appeler l'attention sur les erreurs de l'alimentation et de la santé et l'utilisation des aliments de production locale. Par cela les principales activités, coordonnées par la Commission nationale de la FAO ont été réalisées par des centres régionaux de santé qui, pendant l'année, ont appelé l'attention sur les problèmes déjà existants au moyen de conférences, radio, presse nationale et régionale, campagne, au niveau national et terminé avec le Jour mondial de l'alimentation, avec la réalisation de nombreuses réunions au niveau régional, où se faisait la condensation de tout ce qui s'était passé pendant l'année au niveau de l'alimentation.

La Journée mondiale de l'alimentation au niveau national a été une journée de radio, ouverte, où pendant toute la journée la population présentait des questions sur l'alimentation rationnelle avec des réponses données par des médecins nutritionnistes.

Des restaurants ont aussi collaboré à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, en offrant un certain nombre de repas gratuits, préparés avec la collaboration des médecins nutritionnistes.

Je voudrais vous dire que mon pays porte aujourd'hui un grand intérêt à la jeunesse, pour les problèmes de l'alimentation et le manque d'aliments au niveau mondial. Je pense que c'est l'effet des actions que nous avons faites au niveau des professeurs pendant ces deux dernières années. Au niveau des écoles primaires et secondaires, il est aujourd'hui une règle presque obligatoire de présenter des travaux préparés par des groupes d'étudiants, suivis d'une discussion avec leurs professeurs.

La Commission portugaise de la FAO a préparé un ensemble de textes dont les étudiants s'inspirent pour leurs travaux.

R. MORENO ROJAS Director, Dirección de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria): En primer término, quisiéramos expresar nuestras palabras de gratitud por los comentarios, así como por las sugerencias que se han hecho tanto el Director General, la Secretaría, como la Organización, para mejorar aún incluso más de lo que ya se ha logrado, la Organización y realización de las ceremonias y actividades en torno al Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Se ha hecho por distintas delegaciones referencia a la importancia que tiene el seleccionar oportunamente un tópico central que sirva como idea movilizadora de las acciones del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. La Secretaría toma nota de los distintos comentarios que aquí se han realizado. Compartimos el criterio señalado por las distintas intervenciones en que esto no sólo unifica el material o la temática, sino que también sirve para crear una conciencia colectiva internacional en torno al tema.

Teniendo en cuenta que el año 1985 coincide con el 40 aniversario de la fundación de la FAO, obviamente la selección de un tema central deberá ser cuidadosamente escogido. Sabemos y hemos seguido con preciso interés, los distintos debates no sólo durante este Consejo, sino que en otros foros, tal como aquí se ha mencionado, Conferencias Regionales, Comisiones Especializadas, en las cuales distintas delegaciones han hecho valiosas sugerencias respecto de cuál debería ser la temática central para el año 1985.

En particular, se ha mencionado el tema de los bosques, la relación entre los recursos naturales, los habitantes, el problema de la pobreza, el problema de la conservación de alimentos, el problema de la mujer, que no obstante haya sido el año 1984 el tema central, obviamente no puede ser dejada de lado dentro de lo que es esa percepción importante de lo que sea la celebración del año próximo.

Por lo tanto, el tema será comunicado oportunamente. Pero vuelvo a insistir en lo que aquí algunas delegaciones también han hecho referencia: cada país tiene una manera como enfrenta la celebración del día, y gradualmente, a través de los tiempos han ido, no sólo a través de los comités nacionales o puntos específicos de contactos que se han designado al interior de los gobiernos o las organizaciones no gubernamentales, creando una cierta manera de aproximarse al punto.

Por lo tanto, el material si bien es cierto, es preparado con un tema central que sugiere una idea global para su tratamiento, debe dejar también abierta la posibilidad a la flexibilidad y a la peculiaridad que, al igual como se ha mencionado, a nivel nacional, existe en algunas regiones.

Por lo tanto, nuestro primer esfuerzo es que el tema sea seleccionado dentro de las características que señalan que el año 1985 es un año especial para el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Por lo tanto, al señalar que es la coincidencia del 40° aniversario, la relación con los recursos naturales, el bosque, la pobreza, el rol de la mujer y otros tópicos que se interrelacionan, serán cubiertos dentro del material a preparar. Lo que no quiere decir que va a ser esto un caleidoscopio, o sea un tema tan global que no permita concentrarse en nada.

Hay indicaciones precisas, y la Secretaría procederá en torno a ellas. Acogemos igualmente con humildad, y procuraremos mejorar nuestra eficiencia para que todo el material, no sólo uno, dos o tres elementos, lleguen oportunamente. Obviamente, la logística cuando se relaciona con 150 o 160 países no siempre trabaja, y obviamente no siempre también es responsabilidad del correo el que las cosas no lleguen. Es parte también responsabilidad nuestra. Acogemos con humildad la cuota que nos corresponde y haremos lo que esté a nuestro alcance para superarnos. Finalmente, acogemos con mucho entusiasmo también, los anuncios que distintos países han hecho de la designación de comités nacionales; en particular el del país hospedante, Italia, quienes han hecho el anuncio a través del distinguido Embajador, de la forma como desean jerarquizar la ceremonia y las distintas actividades que se realizarán con motivo del 40° aniversario. E igualmente, tomamos nota de los interesantes e importantes desarrollos que en distintos países, a través de estos Comités, se vienen realizando.

Creo que hemos establecido, a lo largo de estos cuatro años, una estrecha asociación entre la FAO, el Director General, Representantes de los Gobiernos ante el Consejo y ante la Conferencia. Por lo tanto, en un clima de gran sinceridad y cooperación, podemos no sólo en estos debates sino también a través de una relación directa, recibir vuestras sugerencias, y sobre todo ver cómo podemos reforzar las fiestas, o las celebraciones, o las actividades que estén organizando para el año 1985 los respectivos países.

CHAIRMAN: This brings us to the conclusion of the discussion on Item 10. Mr Moreno has just given you a very wide range of summation which does not make it necessary for me to say very much. It has, however, been a very positive debate, all delegates have expressed their agreement on the importance of World Food Day to their respective countries, have indicated what they have been doing at the national level, have encouraged FAO to continue the good work it has been doing in this regard. As you have heard, all your comments, comments of praise and comments where you drew certain minor deficiencies to the attention of the Council, will be taken into consideration by the Secretariat.

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

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

12. First Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1984-85 Biennium

12. Premier rapport sur les réunions hors programme et les réunions annulées pendant l'exercice 1984-85

12. Primer informe sobre reuniones no previstas y anuladas en el bienio 1984-85

CHAIRMAN: Mr Shah will introduce this item.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): This item is before you with document CL 86/13, "First Report on Unscheduled and Cancelled Sessions in the 1984-85 Biennium".

The sessions approved for each biennium form part of the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization, which is approved by the Conference, and it is approved normally in the form of a list of sessions, which is a document supplementary to the main document with which the delegates are familiar, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85. The item is for the information of the Council, and I hope that the document is clear enough with the explanations which we felt were necessary, but it might assist the Council if, with your permission, I were to give a few additional clarifications.

Firstly, you can well imagine that a list of sessions which is prepared several months before it is approved by the Conference cannot remain intact during the course of a whole biennium. This was recognized by the Conference itself earlier enough, and in fact, it was in 1967 at the Fourteenth Session of the Conference that a Resolution was passed by which the Director-General was authorized to convene unscheduled sessions and to report on them at the next session of the Council. The present practice of reporting has been in effect since 1968. The Council established that information on approved sessions, reasons for convening unscheduled sessions, and reasons for cancelling or postponing approved sessions should be reported to the Council in two reports in each biennium.

As it may be noted by the delegates, this time we report on 22 unscheduled sessions with the reasons for holding them, and we report on 17 sessions which have been cancelled, likewise the reasons for that. It may interest you to recall, first of all, what this represents in terms of the total number of sessions. The total number of sessions approved by the Conference for this biennium is over 300-307, to be precise - so my first point is that the number of unscheduled and cancelled sessions is a rather small part of the total number of sessions which have been scheduled to be held in this biennium.

Secondly, you may wish to note how these numbers compare with earlier years. I should point out here that one should not look for any trend from year to year because after all, the reason for holding an unscheduled session or the reason for cancelling a session is either because of programme justification or because of needs and developments which become evident in the course of the year. Nevertheless, the numbers which we report this time compare with the following for the last two years, if I may give an example.

The number of unscheduled sessions which have been approved for 1984 are 22. In 1983, they were 24; in 1982 there were 13. The number of cancelled sessions this year is 17; in 1983 there were 48; in 1982, there were 16.

The important thing, if I may draw it to the Council's attention, is that the proportion between unscheduled and cancelled sessions is not out of the ordinary. I would not wish to take the time of the Council by repeating the explanations which are contained in the document. Normally, the Council is satisfied only to take note of this document. If it so wishes to do so this time, we shall be satisfied with the knowledge that we have given the information which we are expected to give, but if there are any questions, I will be glad to answer them to the best of my ability.

CHAIRMAN: I thank you very much, Mr Shah. Distinguished delegates, document CL 86/13 is now before you. As you have heard, normally this document is placed before you for information and for you to note. Is it the view of the Council that we should proceed as is normally the case? We shall so proceed.

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS

- 17. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters including:
- 17. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:
- 17. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos en particular:

- 17.1 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions
- 17.1 Invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des Etats non Membres
- 17.1 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para asistir a reuniones de la FAO

Le SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il s'agit là aussi de deux questions qui figurent à l'ordre du jour du Conseil pour information et non pas pour décision, ni même peut-être pour discussion, sauf si vous avez des points à soulever.

Le premier des deux points a trait aux invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO qui ont été adressées à des Etats non Membres. Vous êtes saisis à ce sujet du document CL 86/INF/8 qui rappelle dans quelles conditions des Etats qui ne font pas partie de l'Organisation peuvent être invités à participer à des réunions de l'Organisation en tant qu'observateurs, et dans quelles conditions, en particulier, des invitations peuvent être émises par le Directeur général sans avoir à en référer au Conseil, pour des raisons d'urgence.

Il n'y a eu, vous le noterez, qu'une seule invitation qui entre dans cette catégorie depuis la 84^{ème} session du Conseil. Il s'agit d'une invitation adressée à la République démocratique allemande pour la Consultation spéciale sur l'amélioration de la coordination des mesures zoosanitaires en Europe, qui s'est tenue à Budapest les 28 et 29 juin 1984.

Peut-être souhaiteriez-vous, M. le Président, demander aux membres du Conseil s'ils désirent poser des questions à ce sujet.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, as you have heard, document CL 86/INF/8 is before you for information. The Secretary-General has just introduced the document. Does anyone have any questions to ask of the Secretary-General on this document? No questions? Thank you very much.

- 17.3 Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and/or Finance Committees
- 17.3 Modifications dans la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et/ou Comité financier
- 17.3 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en el Comité del Programa y/o en el de Finanzas

Le SECRETAIRE GENERAL. Je passe au point 17.3: modifications dans la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier. Ces modifications éventuelles font l'objet de l'art. XXVI-4(a) du Règlement général de l'Organisation qui stipule qu'en cas de changement le Conseil est informé des qualités et des compétences du remplaçant.

Il y a deux cas à signaler, l'un au Comité du Programme, le Gouvernement du Pakistan ayant désigné M. Qureshi pour remplacer M. Ahmad au Comité du Programme.

Le document CL 86/INF/9 donne les renseignements sur les qualifications et l'expérience de M. Qureshi. Je tiens à signaler que, dans l'annexe au document où est indiqué le curriculum vitae de M. Qureshi, il a lieu de supprimer les deux premières lignes de la rubrique se rapportant à la participation à des réunions ou activités des Nations Unies et de leurs institutions spécialisées pour 1976 et 1977.

Le second cas a trait au Comité financier et fait l'objet du document CL 86/INF/9-Sup.1. L'ambassadeur de Madagascar a informé le Directeur général au nom de son Gouvernement que M. Rabe, qui est maintenant représentant permanent suppléant de Madagascar auprès de la FAO, a remplacé M. Rajaona comme représentant de Madagascar au Comité financier. En annexe, page 2 du document, vous trouverez un bref curriculum vitae de M. Rabe.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, here again there are two documents for information, document CL 86/INF/9 and CL 86/INF/9-Sup.1. Does any delegate have any questions on this item?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Tal vez conviene, señor Presidente, interrumpir un poco la monotonía de esta tarde, aquí en la Sala Roja; por ello, la delegación de Colombia desea intervenir sobre este tema para manifestar nuestro deseo de que el informe al respecto se haga constar la complacencia del Consejo por las decisiones adoptadas por los Gobiernos de Pakistán y Madagascar en relación con el uso de las atribuciones de esos Gobiernos en cuanto a quienes deban representar en esos dos importantes Comités. Decimos esto, particularmente, porque tenemos el honor de ser amigos personales durante muchos años y, el señor Qureshi, de Pakistán, ahora nos acompaña en el Consejo, y nos causa placer su vinculación al Comité del Programa. También con el amigo de Madagascar, quien hace poco dejó Roma, a quien apreciamos y nos unen vínculos de amistad y simpatía, que nos han inducido a hacer esta breve declaración.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia. The Secretariat will take due note of your comments.

17.4 Abolition of the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East

17.4 Suppression de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations en Asie et en Extrême-Orient

17.4 Supresión de la Comisión Regional de la FAO sobre Administración Rural para Asia y el Lejano Oriente

A.L. MOLLE (Assistant du Sous-Directeur général et inspecteur hors siège) : Les activités de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations agricoles en Asie et en Extrême-Orient a déjà retenu l'attention du Conseil à sa 82ème session. En effet, en novembre 1982 le Conseil a examiné la proposition du Directeur général tendant à supprimer la Commission en raison de son faible niveau de performance. Le Conseil a cependant conclu qu'en raison de la proposition essentielle de la gestion des exploitations au développement rural, une décision concernant la suppression de la Commission ne devrait être prise en considération qu'après que la prochaine conférence régionale ait pu examiner cette question dans le cadre d'un examen des commissions opérant dans la région.

Un document passant en revue les commissions régionales de la FAO opérant dans la région a donc été présenté à la 17ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Asie et le Pacifique qui, comme vous le savez, s'est tenue à Islamabad du 24 avril au 3 mai 1984. Il faut noter au passage que le document en question n'a pas procédé à un examen de toutes les commissions régionales de cette région. En effet il a tout d'abord omis la Commission régionale de la sécurité alimentaire qui avait été créée par une décision précisément du Conseil en sa 82ème session et du fait que la date récente de la création de cette commission ne lui permettait pas d'avoir des performances qui soient en quoi que ce soit comparables aux autres commissions existantes.

De même il existe pour l'Asie et le Pacifique deux commissions régionales des pêches maritimes dont les activités devraient être traitées dans le cadre de la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches en juin et juillet 84. Il apparaît donc inopportun de préjuger des conséquences de cette Conférence mondiale et on a écarté de l'examen et de l'établissement des performances des autres commissions régionales ces deux commissions.

De plus il y a lieu de remarquer que les commissions des pêches en général débordent largement, du point de vue de la compétence propre, les conférences régionales correspondantes et s'attachent généralement à deux conférences régionales différentes.

Au total l'examen qui a été fait donc au cours de la Conférence régionale a porté sur cinq commissions dont celle relative à la gestion des exploitations agricoles. Le présent Conseil a à sa disposition, en annexe au document CL 86/17, l'extrait du rapport de la 17ème Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Asie et le Pacifique qui rend compte de l'examen et des discussions auxquels le bilan de l'oeuvre accompli par certaines commissions a donné lieu.

Il semble à première vue incontestable que la Commission sur la gestion des exploitations agricoles n'a pas fonctionné d'une manière aussi satisfaisante que les autres. Tout en reconnaissant ce point le débat, au cours de la Conférence régionale, a montré qu'il était difficile de dégager un consensus sur la question de la suppression de la Commission. Simultanément le Secrétariat a été chargé de relancer les activités de cette Commission et les Etats Membres ont été instamment priés de s'y intéresser concrètement.

Par ailleurs la Conférence régionale a exprimé le désir qu'il soit rendu compte à sa dix-huitième session de l'ampleur de la participation aux prochaines réunions de la Commission.

Etant donné les recommandations décrites ci-dessus, le Conseil souhaitera peut-être remettre à plus tard toute décision au sujet de la suppression de la Commission régionale sur la gestion des exploitations agricoles sur l'Asie et le Pacifique et laisser la question en suspens jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait fait l'objet d'un nouvel examen à la dix-huitième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Asie et le Pacifique.

E.W. DENNEY (United States of America): The United States agrees with the Secretariat that the Council should defer action on the future of the Farm Management Commission until after the 1986 Asian Regional Conference. Although the United States was strongly opposed to retaining the Commission during the 1984 Regional Conference, in our view the Council might allow for another session in case it proves to be more useful in the future.

As was mentioned in the introduction, the Director-General's review of the five existing Asian Commissions resulted in an FAO recommendation which was presented at the 1984 Regional Conference in Islamabad that the Farm Management Commission be abolished. Despite the considerable evidence that the Farm Management Commission has not been a useful body in recent years, several Member Countries led by the ASEAN Group, persuasively argued that the Commission should be revitalized. We look forward to the Secretariat's report on this revitalization effort at the 1986 Regional Conference.

While the United States still questions the role of the Farm Management Commission in FAO's overall programme in Asia, we firmly believe that the Asian Region, to which we belong, should be given an opportunity to reassess the Commission's value. Therefore, the United States supports the recommendation that the question of abolishing the Commission be postponed until it has been discussed at the 1986 FAO Regional Conference.

DATO' ALNI JANTAN (Malaysia): First of all I should like to thank Mr Molle for his very clear introduction to this Item. On behalf of the delegations of the four Member Nations of the Association of South-East Asia, namely Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia which are members of the Council, I would like to convey our position with regard to this item.

We fully support the proposal as contained in paragraph 5 of document CL 86/17, that is to defer any decision on this matter until it has been further considered by the Eighteenth Regional Conference of Asia and the Pacific. In our part of the world farm management is a very important issue as we are more and more going into modernization and commercialization of farming.

We regard the Farm Management Commission, therefore, as a very useful forum for the exchanges of information and ideas. Indeed, we would request the Secretariat to do the necessary follow-up to the recommendations of the last meeting of the Commission held in Korea, and also to draw up specific programmes of assistance and cooperation in this area for the consideration of the next meeting of the Commission to be held in Sri Lanka. In short, we fully agree with the distinguished representative of the United States that this Commission should be revitalised.

R.C. GUPTA (India): While thanking Mr Molle for his introduction I would also like to express our appreciation for the pragmatic attitude of the United States delegation. It is heartening that there is a feeling that we should not judge the performance of this Commission prematurely. There could be various reasons why this Commission has not been active, why it has not played the useful role which it was expected to play.

We would strongly urge the Organization to strive to activate this Commission because, as our distinguished friend from Malaysia said, the agriculture scenario in our part of the world is fast changing - modernisation of agriculture, more irrigation, high use of inputs, and various questions arise about the substitution of labour by machinery and all those things which need detailed study and analysis, and farm management holds a key to greater productivity, because in our part of the world the land frontiers have more or less been reached and it is necessary to increase per unit area yield rather than bring more areas under agriculture. If we do so we will only be encroaching upon permanent woods, permanent vegetative cover, which would be extremely disastrous.

So this Commission has a very important role to play and we would like the Organization to make efforts to revive its activity. We agree with the recommendations contained in paragraph 5 of this document, namely CL 86/17, that the matter may be further discussed in the 1986 FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, and the Council may therefore make no decision on this issue for the time being.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Molle for his clear presentation of the matter regarding the proposal to revitalise the Regional Commission on Farm Management for Asia and the Far East. If I recall, the matter was discussed at length in the Regional Conference which was recently held in my country in April/May 1984.

Farm management indeed is essential to rural development. Agriculture is the major industry, an industry without a roof in the Asia and the Pacific region which affords sustenance to the majority of the populace, and my delegation more than whole-heartedly endorses the proposal of the distinguished delegate of the United States that the proposal given in paragraph 5 of document CL 86/17 should be supported by this Council, so that we could hear from the Secretariat the efforts that it has undertaken in the meantime to revitalise the activities of the Regional Commission until the Eighteenth Regional Conference to be held in Sri Lanka in 1986.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): The question of the abolition of this Farm Management Commission for Asia and the Far East and its implication and importance have been discussed and explained by all the distinguished delegates who have spoken before me. Instead of repeating those matters, I agree with all the distinguished delegates and with the recommendation that this Commission should be revitalised instead of thinking of abolition, because once we think of abolition the course of revitalisation takes a second place. So we should first try to revitalise the Commission, because it is very important in our area as explained by our distinguished delegates from India, Pakistan and Malaysia because we have less land and more people, and farm management is very important to get more yield from the limited amount of land.

So, I am in entire agreement that the positive step should be taken to revitalise this Commission, and a report on the steps taken to revitalise this organization should be submitted along with the report to the Eighteenth Session of the Regional Conference.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): I wish to thank Mr Molle for the introduction on the item under discussion. First of all my delegation associates itself with the other delegations in supporting the continuation of the Regional Farm Management Commission for Asia and the Far East and stresses the need to reactivate the work of the Commission, especially to deal with farming systems development. Since the development of agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region is concentrated on the rural poor with the limit of land as well as other resources, the development of farming systems in the Region is absolutely important in order to help the rural poor to increase their income from the agriculture sector and to improve their living conditions.

Finally, my delegation supports the Malaysian delegation's position on this item.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): First, I would like to thank Mr Molle for his explanation and introduction of the Item. I think it goes without saying that New Zealand attaches considerable importance to the question of farm management, not only in Asia and the Far East but in the world generally.

We agree very much with the previous speakers on this Item that adequate farm management practices, particularly as emphasized by the delegate from Malaysia, are an essential prerequisite for any long-term successful agricultural development programme, particularly, as has been said, in the region for which the Commission is responsible.

I think it should be said that New Zealand was disappointed that when the Commission met last, I think it was in Seoul in 1983, attendance was not all that satisfactory. I think something like a third of Member Nations were able to attend. I think if that were taken in isolation one would arrive at the conclusion that the activities of the Commission, certainly at that time, might have been of less importance than before to members in the region.

My delegation notes, however, that at the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific held in Islamabad, it was decided to leave over the question of the Commission's fate until the extent of participation at its next meeting can be determined. As has been said by previous speakers, we are confident that a clear indication of the ongoing need for the Commission will emerge from its next session, and I am sure will reflect the support expressed by a number of delegations, both at the Regional Conference in Islamabad and just now in our debate on the Item.

We therefore agree, as is recommended in the paper, that the Council defer a decision on the matter until after the 1986 Regional Conference and we hope that the expressions of support can be reflected in the run-up by the Secretariat to the Commission's next meeting so that it is well attended and can be set on a positive course for further development.

A.L. MOLLE (Assistant du Sous-Directeur général et inspecteur hors siège): Je pense pouvoir dire que les opinions qui ont été exprimées ici par les Membres du Conseil sont pratiquement unanimes à reconnaître qu'il serait sage d'attendre une nouvelle épreuve de cette Commission qui serait ainsi capable de montrer qu'elle a une raison d'être importante dans la région. Je note donc cette recommandation du Conseil, cette orientation déterminée et j'en ferai part, bien sûr, aux Membres du Secrétariat qui sont responsables du fonctionnement de cette Commission, en particulier, du fait que certaines des interventions ont indiqué les voies dans lesquelles le Conseil souhaiterait avoir un rapport après la prochaine conférence sur les activités et sur les efforts déployés par le Secrétariat pour encourager une performance meilleure et une tendance supérieure à cette Commission.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Molle. That concludes the discussion under Item 17.4. As you heard, the consensus is that recommendation 5 be accepted and this is the decision of the Council. This brings us to the end of our work for this evening.

The meeting rose at 16.50 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.50 horas

council

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conseil

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

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/16

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING SEIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE

16ª SESION PLENARIA
(29 November 1984)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40, sous la présidence
de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 16ª sesión plenaria a las 09.40 horas, bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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

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

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

14. Financial Matters, including: (continued)

14. Questions financières, notamment: (suite)

14. Asuntos financieros, en particular: (continuación)

14.2 Audited Accounts (continued)

14.2 Comptes vérifiés (suite)

14.2 Cuentas comprobadas (continuación)

a) Regular Programme, 1982-83 (continued)

a) Programme ordinaire, 1982-83 (suite)

a) Programa Ordinario, 1982-83 (continuación)

b) UNDP, 1982-83 (continued)

b) PNUD, 1982-83 (suite)

b) PNUD, 1982-83 (continuación)

c) World Food Programme, 1982-83 (continued)

c) Programme alimentaire mondial, 1982-83 (suite)

c) Programa Mundial de Alimentos, 1982-83 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We may recall that when we considered Item 14.2 yesterday, we had completed the discussion on all aspects of this item except the limited issue of considering the draft Conference resolution contained in paragraph 2.44 of the report of the Fifty-fourth Session of the Finance Committee, document CL 86/6. While considering this draft Conference resolution, we agreed to set up a contact group with the following membership: Canada, Colombia, Congo, Federal Republic of Germany, India, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America. We requested this nine-member contact group to recommend to us this morning an agreed draft Conference resolution.

I give the floor to India, who kindly served as the Chairman of this contact group.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have a very pleasant announcement to make and a very pleasant duty to perform. As a result of your setting up this contact group and giving me the privilege of being its Chairman, thanks to the spirit of cooperation and accommodation shown by all members, we were able to arrive at unanimity and a consensus in our deliberations in a comparatively short time, as a result of which there will be no necessity for any further discussion on Item 14.2 by the statement which I will be reading immediately for the acceptance of the House and which has been accepted by members from all sides who helped me so much in arriving at this happy solution. I will read now the statement which we have prepared for the acceptance of the Council.

"The Conference, having considered the Report of the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council, having examined the following audited accounts and the External Auditors report thereon, Regular Programme 1982/83(C 85/5,) UNDP 1982-83(C 85/6,) World Food Programme 1982-83(C 85/7,) noting the issues raised in the representation of financial statements of WFP, by the Director of the Financial Services Division and the External Auditors comments thereon, and the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ACABQ, and the Eighteenth Session of the Committee on Food Aid, Policies and Programmes noting further that the External Auditors have drawn attention to matters affecting the WFP accounts, adopts the above audited accounts."

This is the statement which we have unanimously arrived at and I reiterate my thanks for the cooperation and spirit of accommodation shown by all members in arriving at this happy solution which one and all the members of the contact group have completely agreed to, as a result of which I feel, there will be no necessity for any further discussion on this point.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Ambassador of India. You have heard the draft resolution proposed by the contact group.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): It was at the suggestion of Pakistan that the formation of the contact group was established yesterday, and my delegation feels a deep sense of satisfaction that the tradition of universal consensus of this house has been upheld. I would like to congratulate all those who worked very hard on the contact group, and I think I would like to congratulate this house because we have really done very well.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, distinguished delegate of Pakistan, both for suggesting this solution which has worked out as the best one under the circumstances, and also for your statement.

I see universal nods of approval to the recommendation of the contact group so I take it we will unanimously approve it, and the Drafting Committee will incorporate it in our report. May I thank once again all the members of the contact group and its chairman, and we are very grateful to all the members of the Council and the distinguished delegate of Pakistan who proposed the setting up of the contact group.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I thank you very much for your kind indulgence. May I take this happy augury to make another happy statement. It will be recalled that Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India and Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, issued an appeal to the world community last week urging all nations to go to the aid of the famine stricken people of Africa. He had referred movingly to the colossal human suffering on the continent and particularly to the hard lot of the aged and the young.

He had also said that he was in touch with other non-aligned countries in order to plan for short and long-term assistance to the affected countries, and had said that India would be willing to send grain, medicine and teams of doctors to assist the suffering people of the affected countries. The Prime Minister added that India had always believed that hunger knows no political or geographical barriers, and as Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi always used to say, India has always traditionally shared the skills with the people of fellow developing countries. In this spirit Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, has announced, I am very happy to say, a contribution of 100 000 tons of wheat free of cost to help needy African countries, and has authorized me this morning to make this statement in the Council of the FAO today.

I am desired to add that this donation is a token of India's sympathy and fraternity with the people of Africa, and our readiness always to assist to the extent that we can the countries which are in such dire distress.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much distinguished Ambassador of India for this announcement of an additional 100 000 tons to the affected people. We are very grateful to you for this statement.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: First I think it would be right for me to say on behalf of the Director-General that we are very happy to hear the announcement just made. It is not only worthy in itself, but also it is a source of encouragement that a country which, in the past when I first came to FAO, was a recipient of food aid is now a donor of food aid to other countries in dire need.

Before you pass on, I just wanted to obtain your guidance for the report stage. It is my understanding that part of the consensus which was just announced is also that there should be no discussion of differing views in the draft report. The Council will simply say in effect that it considered agenda item so and so and adopted the following resolution. I hope this is clear.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): Sorry for taking the floor again. Actually in regard to document CL 86/6 I thought I would like to put a little bit of the record straight. Shakespeare said "What is in a name", but there is something in a name I believe. I am neither Shakespeare nor Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, but if you refer to paragraph 1.2 my name has been spelled as "A.J. Qureshi". I would appreciate it if the Secretariat could put the record straight. I would be grateful.

S. AHMED (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme): I take this opportunity to say a few words, if you permit me to do so, on behalf of the World Food Programme and on behalf of the Executive Director. I most heartily welcome this very substantial offer of assistance by the Government of India to the famine stricken people in Africa. If called upon, the Programme will do its very best to assist the Government of India in carrying out this objective of assistance effectively and with spirit. As was said a little while ago by Mr West, the offer not only reflects the great achievements of India in achieving self-reliance in food, but also its abiding concern for fellow citizens elsewhere in the world.

13. Revised Calendar of 1984-85 Sessions of the Council and of those bodies which report to the Council
13. Calendrier révisé des sessions de 1984-85 du Conseil et des organes qui lui font rapport
13. Calendario revisado para 1984-85 de las reuniones del Consejo y de los órganos que le rinden informes

CHAIRMAN: Are there any delegations who want to speak on this item? Otherwise may I take this revised calendar of 1984-85 sessions of the Council as approved? According to this our next Council meeting will be from 17 to 28 June 1985 when the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium will be the most important item. Thank you very much for approving the revised calendar.

- VI. OTHER MATTERS
VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES
VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

18. Date and Place of the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council
18. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-septième session du Conseil
18. Fecha y lugar del 87º período de sesiones del Consejo

CHAIRMAN: The place is I suppose in FAO Headquarters in the Red Room and the dates are given here - 17 to 28 June, 1985.

19. Any Other Business, including:
19. Autres questions, notamment:
19. Otros asuntos, en particular:

- 19.1 Appointment of Representatives of Member Governments to the FAO Staff Pension Committee
19.1 Nomination des représentants des Etats Membres au Comité des pensions du personnel de la FAO
19.1 Nombramiento de representantes de los Estados Miembros en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal de la FAO

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: C'est une question tout à fait récurrente dans l'ordre du jour du Conseil et qui n'appelle pas une longue présentation d'autant plus que le document CL 86/18 explique fort bien la situation. Nous avons deux membres suppléants qui ont quitté Rome et qu'il faut donc remplacer pour la durée de leur mandat qui reste à accomplir, c'est-à-dire jusqu'à la fin de l'année 1985. Le Conseil doit maintenant procéder à ces nominations.

CHAIRMAN: Well you have heard the Secretary-General. Paragraph 4 mentions that His Excellency El-Huraibi of the Yemen Arab Republic and His Excellency A. Martosuwiryo of Indonesia, have both left Rome. Are there proposals?

J. GLISTRUP (Observer for Denmark): I was elected representative by a previous Council meeting and it appears that this extra load of work put on to us, nobody is very keen to take over, but I think it is a very important Committee and I would like to propose that the representatives of the governments of the alternate members who have taken over the duties from the people who have left Rome would take over that duty for the rest of this term of office.

CHAIRMAN: There is a proposal that we request Indonesia and the Yemen Arab Republic to continue on the Committee. Is this acceptable? Indonesia is willing.

Yemen Arab Republic, is there someone from there? Well then we request these two countries to continue on the Committee.

19.2 Amendment to Staff Regulations

19.2 Amendement au Statut du personnel

19.2 Enmienda al Estatuto del Personal

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Associate experts are an important part of the total expert force and FAO's field programme. However, due to rising costs their numbers in FAO have decreased from about 400 in 1980 and 1981 to slightly more than 300 at the present time. In order to accommodate the wishes of certain donors for a significant reduction in the cost of their associate experts, the UNDP in late 1983 agreed to changes in their conditions of employment. Following UNDP's decision, the donor countries requested other UN agencies to entertain similar reductions in entitlements as those accepted by the UNDP, so as not to have different schemes within the UN family. At the initiative of FAO an informal meeting among some of the major technical UN agencies was therefore organized. The agencies agreed in principle to reduce entitlements of associate experts. In April of this year the FAO donors met in Rome and it was agreed that associate experts would remain full staff members but that revised conditions with respect to certain entitlements would apply. In future they would be referred to as Associate Professional Officers.

We recommend this for the consideration of the Council. It is one of those items that must come up, before the appropriate changes can be made. We think it is an appropriate thing for the Council to consider, and the Director-General supports this.

CHAIRMAN: Does any delegation want to speak on this Item? Then I take it that we approve of the proposal contained in the last paragraph of the document. Thank you very much, Mr Crowther.

The meeting was suspended from 10.10 hours to 10.30 hours.

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 10 à 10 h 30.

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.10 a las 10.30 horas.

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME.

CHAIRMAN: The Council will recall that the Drafting Committee Chairman is the distinguished delegate of Pakistan, Mr Musharraf, but he has not arrived yet, so I will ask Mr Qureshi to fill in until the Chairman arrives. The members of the Drafting Committee are Argentina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Italy, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Phillipines, Sierra Leone and Tunisia.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): Since I am Chairman by proxy, I do not know what really happened in the Drafting Committee, so I would prefer to wait until the Chairman returns. When he comes in I am sure he will wish to make some introductory remarks.

CHAIRMAN: We are grateful to the Chairman and the Members of the Committee for the many hours of work that they have done.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): I have a general remark. I see that the word "agreed" in certain paragraphs is underlined and in other paragraphs is not underlined. Has it anything to do with the meaning, or is it a clerical typing error?

B. LINLEY (Secretary, Drafting Committee): The Committee worked very fast sometimes, and occasionally underlinings were omitted so sometimes those that should have been there were not, but the final Report will be cleaned up.

DRAFT REPORT - PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE I

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I

Paragraphs 1 and 2 approved

Les paragraphes 1 et 2 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 y 2 son aprobados

Paragraph 3 approved

Le paragraphe 3 est approuvé

El párrafo 3 es aprobado

Paragraphs 4 and 5 approved

Les paragraphes 4 et 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 4 y 5 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 6 to 10

PARAGRAPHERS 6 à 10

PARRAFOS 6 a 10

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Somos conscientes de que estos párrafos, como usted lo ha dicho, señor Presidente, se refieren a la declaración del Director General. No es nuestra intención tratar de cambiarlos; nos abstenemos siempre también de hacer correcciones de orden lingüístico que no tengan trascendencia, sin embargo quisiéramos llamar la atención particularmente al señor Linley, Secretario del Comité de Redacción, sobre el párrafo 7, la segunda frase del párrafo 7 que termina en español diciendo "y que sin embargo ahora debían llevarse a la práctica". En francés está bien, hemos comprobado el texto francés; y en inglés aparece ese "sin embargo" que en español debe suprimirse. O sea, que se suprima en español las palabras "sin embargo" y que quede "y que ahora debían llevarse a la práctica". Esto correspondería al texto francés y debería ajustarse al inglés.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): In the course of the deliberations which took place in the Council, many compliments and congratulations were paid to the Director-General for his Statement and for the work of FAO, but there appears to be no reference to that in the Draft Report and I do feel that a sentence or two should be added in appreciation of the work of FAO and the Director-General, as repeatedly stated by members who spoke, almost all of us who participated in the discussion. This is only a summary and, of course, the summary has to be short as to what the Director-General has said, but there should be some reference to the appreciation and the congratulatory references made to him for the work he has done and which FAO has done.

CHAIRMAN: I am happy to welcome the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. Referring to what has been said by the distinguished Ambassador of India, if I understand him correctly a sentence may be added after paragraph 10. Obviously it has to be a separate paragraph indicating the appreciation of the Council of the statement of the Director-General.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): We will accept that.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. A suitable sentence will be added at the end of this statement.

Paragraphs 6 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 6 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 29

PARAGRAPHERS 11 à 29

PARRAFOS 11 a 29

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I have a small suggestion. The word "generally" in the last sentence of paragraph 11 should be deleted because the Council endorsed the analysis and assessment of the situation, and I believe there was a unanimous endorsement of that, the echoes of which can be heard in paragraph 19 where "the Council expressed appreciation for the attention given in the document to a description and analysis of the food situation since the world food crisis of the early 1970s". So I thought the word "generally" could be deleted.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I wonder whether all delegations can endorse every word in the two important documents we have on the food and agricultural situation. I do not know whether this has been discussed in the Drafting Committee. Personally, I would prefer that it be left because maybe there were some diverging views on some of the issues in the document. I do not want to specify one or two of these issues, but if it does not make difficulties for other delegations, we would prefer that the word be kept and I hope very much that the distinguished delegate of Pakistan will have no problem.

I have another point on that paragraph. First of all my delegation wishes to commend the Drafting Committee on its good work and for the fact that it has worked so expeditiously. We have the results before us today. Having said that, I would like to say that the review of the food and agricultural situation and the analysis of it which went into the mini-SOFA and afterwards into the SOFA was one of the FAO documents most appreciated in my country, in particular the short analysis and description of the latest food situation. Therefore, we request the Council to consider moving the paragraphs in this part. We would prefer that the information given in paragraphs 16 and 19 should follow paragraph 11, so that at the beginning when the reader comes to that point he immediately sees what are the latest developments in food production and in the food situation. This would entail only a small change, with no change in what is already spelt out. We would be glad if this could be done because if the State of Food and Agriculture as described can immediately be seen, this would be most welcome; then one comes to the latest situation in production, and then one goes on with the other parts. But, of course, the Council may decide that once it has passed paragraphs 16 and 19, this would facilitate the work.

CHAIRMAN: On paragraph 11, the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany has proposed that paragraph 11 should follow paragraphs 16 and 19. We will take this up when we come to paragraphs 16 and 19.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have to say that I support the suggestion made by the distinguished delegate of Pakistan that the word "generally" in the third line should be omitted. There was no difference of opinion at all. "Generally" might mean there was some difference about the endorsement of the analysis and assessment of the situation, whereas in fact there was none at all. There was entire consensus about it; so I suggest that the sentence is retained as it stands without the word "generally".

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): Having heard what the distinguished Ambassador of India has said, I do not want to say anything more unless the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany has any problem because the word "generally" has a nuance and when you think of nuance, you think perhaps there have been some words which indicate that the assessment of the world food situation was not unanimous. There was unanimous endorsement of the state of the world food situation; that is what we understood, so here there is a kind of lukewarm support when in fact there was unanimous endorsement.

CHAIRMAN: There are two aspects of this analysis and assessment, as a study of the verbatim records will show. In the analytical part there were variations. I will leave this matter to the Council. The proposal is that the sentence reads "The Council endorsed the analysis and assessment of the situation". The distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany prefers the statement to stand as it is drafted by the Drafting Committee.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I do not want to be difficult, but I do recall, for example, that the delegation of Argentina and some others made some points referring to the analysis; another point has been the question of financial assistance given to agriculture, and yet another viewpoint arose on the subject of food security. I think there were some issues on which there was no complete agreement and perhaps it is not possible to have complete agreement on them, but we do not want to be difficult. Perhaps there are other views which delegations might have. We will not oppose a consensus, but feel that if we have the analysis as it is here, and the assessment, then perhaps we will have to divide these two issues, although we would prefer that the sentence be kept as is proposed by the Drafting Committee.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Just to make the observation that many delegations put in much congratulation to the Secretariat for what most of us regarded as an extremely professional and very good analysis. But having said that, obviously even amongst professionals there are nuances of interpretation and I think the two points should be kept separate. It was unambiguous that many delegations thought this was an extremely professional job, and they congratulated the Secretariat accordingly, but not necessarily endorsing 100 percent everything concluded from the analysis.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que hay que apoyar la propuesta de Pakistán que fue apoyada por India porque, en realidad, en este primer párrafo, que es el primer párrafo del tema, puede aparecer esta expresión y luego, como se puede observar, en los párrafos siguientes aparecen los matices, las diversas opiniones.

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): I merely want to make a brief remark which maybe will help us along, so that we do not have a long debate over one word. There was general agreement, as others will recall, and acceptance of the paper, but there were also a few points of difference on the qualification of the word "generally", these were expressed precisely without any innuendoes or any real difference. For that reason I support the representations made by the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany and suggest that we could speedily resolve this point by leaving the word "generally" as it is there. It is just one word, and I make the plea to the Council that we should not take too long on one word which does not make a very big difference to the meaning, but carries the general spirit of the Council.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I can only recall what we did in the Drafting Committee. We did not discuss this word "generally", because we basically accepted the inclusion of the word "generally" and I think everyone had noted this word in his own mind, and since there was no discussion, I assumed that we felt it should be retained for the reasons that have been stated.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation was amongst those which appreciated the analysis, and perhaps it could be helpful if we could say "The Council welcomed" because the analysis was welcomed by everybody "and generally endorsed the analysis" and so on. I wonder whether this would be helpful to other delegations.

CHAIRMAN: Of course, we are talking about the report, it is just a reflection of our procedures here. The verbatim records have always mentioned, and my own suggestion would be let us leave it as recommended by the Drafting Committee and go on, because if one reads the verbatim reports you will find that is a much more correct statement of what happened.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I have a difficulty, because if you read this with paragraph 19, it has to be consistent with it. You see, if we say that "Council appreciated the analysis and assessment of the situation" which is reverberated in paragraph 19 and the following, in order to make it consistent, but if the majority is in agreement I have no objections, I mean we can move on.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Since it is your view, Mr Chairman, I am certainly fully prepared to respect it. I only wanted to point out that expression of suggestions of what should be done, does not mean that there was not a complete endorsement of the analysis and assessment of the situation. It does not deviate at all from what we want to express, that there was no doubt about it and there was unanimity and consensus about it. However, if it is your wish, by all means I will respect it.

CHAIRMAN: No, no, my wish is only that the report is a report of the Council which will just reflect what happened here in the House, that is all.

Shall we then omit the word "generally"? Is there any serious objection to omitting the word "generally", as proposed by Pakistan and seconded by India and supported by Colombia? We will then simply have it as "Council endorsed the analysis and assessment of the situation". The alternative proposal of Germany is "The Council welcomed and generally endorsed the analysis and assessment of the situation". Which formulation do you prefer?

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): We would like to accept the latter formulation if it is any help, but really, we believe that the word "generally" should not be left out. It is a true reflection by qualifying that adoption with the word "generally".

CHAIRMAN: Lesotho also feels that "The Council welcomed and generally endorsed the analysis and assessment of the situation" is more appropriate. Is this acceptable to all of you? We move on to paragraph 12.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): A very simple addition: I think in the last line of paragraph 12, we would like to insert the word "net" before "exporters", "which had turned them into net exporters of capital". I think the reasons are obvious.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Only a small phraseological change, not even a phraseological change, a change of one word in line 4: "While economic developments 'have had' a modest positive" instead of "had had"; presumably a typographical error.

J. THICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter le Comité de rédaction pour le travail qu'il a fait et que nous apprécions amplement.

Nous voudrions nous référer à la troisième phrase qui commence par "Ces tendances économiques..." et nous proposons que cette phrase soit modifiée de la façon suivante: "Ces tendances économiques, en raison de leur effet positif modeste sur les recettes d'exportation de quelques pays en développement, n'ont que très partiellement compensé les pertes antérieures".

CHAIRMAN: There are these three proposals before you: one, the Indian Ambassador proposed "While economic development have had"; then Bangladesh suggested the last sentence, "which had turned them into net exporters of capital to creditor industrialized countries", and the third, Congo has reformulated the sentence starting with "While economic developments" in order to say that they were able to compensate for earlier losses only to a very small extent, that is, the intent is to say it is a very small extent so he has reformulated the sentence.

Are these three changes acceptable to you? I see nods around.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo estoy de acuerdo con esas tres modificaciones, pero tengo dos pequeñas propuestas sobre el mismo párrafo 12. De manera que le ruego que usted termine primero con esas tres, y luego me conceda la palabra sobre el mismo párrafo.

Bien. Entonces en la quinta frase del párrafo 12, quinta frase que empieza por "El Consejo reiteró la necesidad de una mejor estructura", debería agregarse: "El Consejo reiteró la necesidad de una mejor y más justa estructura"; o sea, "mejor y más justa estructura".

Y ya que estoy en el uso de la palabra, si usted considera conveniente, puedo también presentar mi otra propuesta que espero no ofrezca ninguna dificultad. Se refiere a la última frase del párrafo 12, que hago notar empieza por las palabras "Muchos miembros"; dice en esa frase que "podía observarse en el gran endeudamiento exterior". Nosotros creemos que no es solamente el endeudamiento sino otros factores también. Entonces, proponemos que se diga, después de las palabras "lo que podía observarse", se diga "lo que podía observarse - entre otros hechos -". Añadir "- entre otros hechos -".

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the two proposals of the Ambassador of Congo and the Ambassador of Colombia, "The Council reiterated the need for a better structure of economic relations between developed and developing countries", add the "fairer" along with "better", "better and fairer structure".

Next is "this was seen" in the last sentence, "among other factors in the high level of foreign debt". I think the Ambassador's idea is to say not only the foreign debt but there are other factors involved

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos primero saludar y agradecer al Comité de Redacción, y especialmente a su Presidente y a todos los Miembros.

En este punto, específicamente nosotros queremos intervenir para apoyar las tres primeras soluciones, y en especial, estas dos, sobre todo la que hace referencia a la mas justa estructura, porque en ese sentido se intervino con bastante insistencia aquí en el Consejo. Creo que es necesario mantener eso.

CHAIRMAN: Has the Chairman of the Drafting Committee any comments on these suggestions?

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I can only add my personal comments, but the Drafting Committee did not find it necessary to discuss this particular phrase, we accepted it as it is. When we say "better", it includes "fairer". "Better" means anything which is an improvement of the situation and "fairer" is covered by the term "better". But this was not discussed in our Committee and we accepted this draft as it is without much discussion.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): There is a difference between "better" and "fairer". It can be better without necessarily being fairer, and so I am sure the Chairman of the Drafting Committee will agree to the suggestion it could be both better and fairer in the interests of the countries concerned. Something could be better and it may not necessarily be equitable or sufficiently fair, and that is why I am appealing to him if he could kindly see his way to agree to it. I support the proposal of Colombia.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): Muy rápidamente. En primer lugar, para felicitar a la Secretaría y al Comité de Redacción por el magnífico trabajo que realizaron. Y en segundo lugar, para expresarle que estamos totalmente de acuerdo con las cinco modificaciones propuestas, en particular con que se incluya el término "mas justa estructura", porque así lo recalcamos varias delegaciones. Esperemos que con esto, podamos seguir adelante.

Mrs. M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would just like to say a word in the defence of the Chairman. When the day comes that we can say it is better but more unjust, we are really troubling with language. "Better" has got to include some sense of justice and equity, and I think to say it can be better and still more unjust is simply a contradiction in terms.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As far as words go, I would agree with India, that something may be better without being fairer, but when something is fairer it would be better, whereas I have said "better" includes "fairer". "Fairer" does not include "better". However, as I said, I am in no position to argue this point, as the Drafting Committee has always only to reflect what in fact had transpired in the Council. The Council in its wisdom now can override us, say no, this is what we have said or in fact can modify what we have said. I am in no position really to have the authority to choose the word but I wanted to say that in the Drafting Committee, this is what we have felt the Council thought. That is all.

CHAIRMAN: If there are no serious objections, can we keep it as suggested by Colombia, although according to some, it is better and fairer. Thank you very much, it is very kind of you.

Shall we move on to paragraph 13.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Je n'ai pas de modifications majeures à proposer en ce qui concerne ce paragraphe 13 mais je pense sincèrement, compte tenu des débats qui ont eu lieu ici, à moins que ce ne soit le texte français qui soit mal libellé, qu'aux deuxième et troisième phrases on devrait plutôt mettre "il" parce que je crois savoir que c'est le Conseil qui "a appelé l'attention sur la persistance paradoxale ..." et que c'est le Conseil qui "a noté en particulier la crise alimentaire qui frappe de vastes zones d'Afrique ...". En français on a mis "on a", "on a". Je pense qu'il est mieux de reporter le texte en mettant "le Conseil" ou, comme nous avons déjà "le Conseil" en début de paragraphe, "il" et "il".

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have a suggestion for the second last line: "The food emergency in large portions". I would prefer those two words to be changed from "large portions" to "many areas of Africa". That would read better. To my mind, "portions" gives the impression as if it is a piece of steak or something like that.

CHAIRMAN: There were two suggestions. One is the methodology of presentation, the other was a replacement. Are they acceptable to you?

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I just want to clarify. In fact, I apologize that I was not in time because I would have liked to say certain things in clarification.

Coming to the point, I entirely agree that these would be improvements. I certainly feel so because if the first sentence is in the active voice, placing the second sentence in the passive voice is an unnecessary deviation, so I would agree that if the paragraph starts in the active voice, let it continue in the active voice as well.

As regards the word "portions", of course I entirely agree "portions" is not the appropriate word, it can be "parts" or "areas" or whatever.

The point of clarification I want to make is that any suggestions for improvements in the draft are most welcome to us, because unfortunately - and that is what I wanted to say if I had come earlier - because of the shortage of time we really unfortunately did not go into language improvements except in a few places. We made the conscious decision while we were meeting that we had no time, and let us finish the substantive modifications first and if later on we have time, we will come to the improvements in language. Unfortunately, in many of the drafts we could not do that, so that we ourselves are absolutely unsatisfied or not very satisfied with the words in some of the paragraphs and would accept some modifications.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Shall we go on to paragraph 14? Anybody wanting to intervene on paragraph 14? Paragraph 14 is approved.

Shall we go to paragraph 15?

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am concerned with the second sentence: "It was agreed that the decrease in financing for development" or rather with the first sentence to which I object even more, "the value of development assistance for agriculture". Now, in paragraph 171 of the Report, document CL 86/2, it speaks very clearly of the increase of the multinational lending institutions to agriculture going up from \$ 4. 8 to \$ 7.1 billion. Now, that is lending institutions, and in the first sentence where it says "the value of development assistance for agriculture", we are talking about agriculture, as indeed was paragraph 171, specifically lending institutions to agriculture, but in addition to these lending institutions, there has been from one country three billion, three thousand million, from one country for agricultural aid and development.

Now, this is not a drop. There have been increases from two other countries, and I can mention those because they are not my own but I mention Canada and Australia which have increased their bilateral donations to agriculture, so I think to speak of concern over the decline in funding of development assistance is a mistake. It has not declined, it has increased both by multilateral lending institutions and by the bilateral countries, and when I mentioned Canada and Australia with some soft loans of US \$ 3 billion, I am leaving out a number of countries, Norway, Belgium, Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, one after another, with bilateral assistance to agriculture. I have not those figures to hand but we cannot say that it has decreased, and I think that it is not encouraging to go on talking like this as though everything were in decline. We are not apparently doing exactly the right things with all this money, but the money has come in and it is not decreasing in volume of aid. I really hope very much that we could clean that up and reflect more what is accurate according to the report of FAO itself, as I say in paragraph 171, and to what I know about my own country's contributions and those of other countries.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I was wondering whether we could have the facts straight. I was wondering whether the Secretariat could help us out in this regard, because certainly if we refer to document CL 86/2 we can find here the conclusions of the decrease in all the aid to agriculture which is very clearly stated. You can find this in paragraph 18 but I would request the Secretariat to give us further clarification in this regard.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): In paragraph 15 the first sentence refers to the recent years, 1981, 1982 and 1983, and this is a fact for the last two years; there is a decline in the volume of development assistance for agriculture. The distinguished representative for the United States was referring to a longer period, for the whole decade, but this particular paragraph refers to the recent last two years, and it is a fact that there has been a decline in all countries taken together, not for one or two countries; - the total volume of development assistance of donor countries to the agriculture sector, and the hardening of the terms refer to a rising ratio of non-concessional assistance to concessional assistance, so both these are facts as indicated in the document.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Après les éclaircissements de M. Islam nous sommes tentés d'abandonner la parole parce que nous estimons qu'il vient d'apporter des éclaircissements importants. Je crois que ce n'est pas seulement ce qu'il vient de dire mais cela se voit à travers les institutions de financement du développement agricole qui existent, nous voyons cela au niveau du FIDA, et je crois que cela se passe de commentaires, pour reconnaître qu'il y a effectivement un fléchissement. C'est

donc pour cette raison que pour notre part, nous pensons que la phrase telle qu'elle est libellée devrait être maintenue parce qu'il s'agit là de faits, et nous ne pouvons pas aller contre les faits. En même temps nous voudrions rendre hommage, s'il y a des pays qui ont développé leur aide et qui l'ont accrue; cela est une bonne chose mais malheureusement, dans l'ensemble nous constatons qu'il y a eu fléchissement au cours des dix dernières années.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Like our colleagues in the United States we too have difficulties with this paragraph and the first and second sentences thereon. After what we have heard from the Secretariat I would suggest initially that the first sentence is modified to make it clear exactly which period it is referring to and to make the circumstances clearer.

As regards the second sentence, this does cause some difficulties for my delegation with the language that has been used. The second sentence begins "It was agreed that the decrease in financing for development was one of the factors". I am afraid that we do not recall it being agreed, and I have checked back as far as I can in the verbatim record and again I cannot place where this was agreed, so may I suggest to avoid difficulties with this that we just change one word here and say "It was observed." I think this perhaps makes it clearer.

Mrs M. FENWICK:(United States of America): I am grateful to our distinguished colleague for bringing to my attention page 5 of document CL 86/2, in which the years are compared. Now we take it total multilateral sources have gone up from \$ 7 billion to \$ 7.3 billion. The bilateral sources for 1982 are not mentioned. The bilateral sources go up from \$4.9 to \$5.083.

The only thing where I can see at all a drop is in the bilateral sources of official concessional commitments. But then we get to official non-concessional commitments and we go up from 3.5 to 4 for 1982, and for 1980/81 it goes from 417 in bilateral to 466. In other words it depends which column you are reading I suppose, but all I know is that when we look at the report, it is quite clear what has happened, and we are not considering what is being also given by those countries that make grants as well as concessional loans themselves.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): As a member of the Drafting Committee I of course stand by the text as we have agreed it here. We have under our Chairman been very careful, as careful as we could, to reflect what took place in the Council. We had guiding instructions from the Chairman the whole time before us and tried to give a faithful rendering of this body's reflections.

I am a little disturbed about the discussion that is now taking place. The facts are one thing. I do not think there should be any quarrelling about the facts but also, at the same time, we are now giving the Council's expression upon the facts, it could of course be that the Drafting Committee in spite of trying its hardest to express the members' points of view and recalling what was said on points - could have made a mistake. That is possible; it was late nights, late hours, hard work. If members here clearly do not put that interpretation on the facts that we thought they did, then of course it must be their right to say so, and then it would be difficult to say that the Council expressed it, but could it be right to say "concern was expressed" without stating it was the Council's.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Since there is some uncertainty about the facts maybe I should repeat and clarify. If you look at this Supplement to the original document, Supplement 1, CL 86/2 the divisions of total assistance by bilateral and multilateral resources is given there. The table on page 5 of the main document does not give year to year figures; it gives three years moving averages. So this is not the reflection of what is happening from year to year. The more relevant table will be in the Supplement, page 14.

Secondly, the total commitments in this table are given for 1983 compared to 1982 and 1981 for multilateral sources. For bilateral sources there is no figure, but if you look at the multilateral figures they have declined in 1983 compared to 1982 total commitments, and whatever figures we have until now for bilateral assistance, it leads us to believe that the bilateral assistance combined with multilateral would not be higher than in 1982.

That was the reason for this statement that there is a decline in 1983 compared to 1982 in total commitments of official assistance.

We have given here the figures for 1983 only for multilateral sources. For bilateral we did not have the final figure when this document was prepared. Now as of now, what figures we have, they are not still finalized, but what it shows is that the bilateral sources would not more than offset the decline in multilateral sources.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): But surely if the United States - and now I will be less modest - provided \$ 3 billion in bilateral, then you would have to add that for 1983, and then you would count the enormously generous gifts of Canada and Australia and all the other countries. How we would not get above \$3.1 I cannot see, because \$3 billion is right there with the United States 1983, so you only have \$154 million to go.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Policy Department): We do not have a figure for 1984, we only have a figure for 1983. Is the distinguished Ambassador referring to 1983 figures?

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I asked for that information from my mission and that is the information I have been given. Now all I can say is it is discouraging if countries have made efforts. Certainly they fall short of the estimates that might be needed, and if you look carefully you will find that is where it is. IDA did not go down; it did not go up to 12 as it was hoped but it went from \$8.1 to \$ 9 billion. Now that is a rise. It is not, according to the estimate, as to what might be needed, but that is very different if you are planning on what other people are going to give and call that falling short when they do not meet it. The question is we are talking about a rise or not a rise.

I would just like to say that I can only operate on the basis of the information that I get, and from these documents it does not seem to be entirely carried out, because the document where it speaks here of "the internationally agreed estimate of annual requirements", yes, perhaps there is, a fall, but that is an estimate of what may be required, as indeed they had hoped with IDA that you would get \$12 billion instead of \$ 8.1. It went up to \$9 billion.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Aquí lo que estamos reflejando, señor Presidente, son los debates que tuvieron lugar en la Plenaria y en la Plenaria se recogieron las interpretaciones de las delegaciones que nos pronunciamos al respecto. Insistimos en que lamentamos que hubiera habido esta reducción en el financiamiento internacional. Nadie nos aclara que las cifras fueran distintas y tampoco hemos comprobado que así lo sean. Nuestros análisis se basaron en ello y en cuanto debatimos, y no hubo oposición a que así se interpretara.

Esperamos que nos ahorremos tiempo y dejemos este tema ya que esta discusión sobre si este financiamiento ha disminuido o se ha incrementado y en qué sentido ha disminuido o incrementado, sería cuestión de estudiarla en una próxima ocasión. Lo que se discutió en la Plenaria, y como dijo el representante de Noruega, es lo que se debe respetar, y si la delegación de Estados Unidos o cualquier otra, tiene alguna declaración que hacer que la haga en una próxima ocasión, cuando las cifras y su interpretación estén a la mano.

Sugerimos cerrar este punto y que el párrafo se quede tal cual y pasar al 16.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Después de oír, señor Presidente, a nuestro colega y amigo el Embajador López Portillo, de México, casi es innecesaria nuestra intervención. Sin embargo queremos observar que hemos escuchado con mucha atención la referencia entusiasta y emocionada que se ha hecho sobre el aumento de las ayudas, justamente cuando se considera este párrafo 15, en el cual figuran dos ejemplos, el FIDA y la AIF. De manera que en realidad no sabemos que esas referencias puedan corresponder exactamente a estos dos ejemplos.

Yo creo que el procedimiento es sencillo, la Secretaría elaboró el documento con los datos conocidos, el Consejo se pronunció al respecto y por eso aparece allí esta redacción. Corresponde a la Secretaría tomar nota de las referencias que se han hecho a la contribución, comprobarlas e incluirlas en el próximo estado mundial de la agricultura, que el Consejo estudiaría el año entrante.

Tampoco podemos observar, o aceptar la modificación que se propone para la segunda frase; o sea cambiar el término "convino", por "observó", porque aquí no venimos a observar, aquí los miembros del Consejo hemos participado activamente y hemos llegado a conclusiones. De manera que apoyamos plenamente la actitud de México.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I hesitate to take part in this deliberation on paragraph 15 but I think we should be quite clear. One point is the availability of the volume available to official and bilateral assistance. Another point is how much of that overall volume is being used for food and agriculture.

The last point depends entirely on the countries who wish to be assisted by the international agencies. Of course there is one exception and that is IFAD. IFAD is explicitly giving assistance only to agriculture and I think we should be quite clear on that, that it is not a question only that refers to what the so-called donor countries offer but it is also a reflection of what the recipient countries wish to get from such official assistance. So I think we should try to be as unbiased as possible.

I wonder if it could be helpful if we could say in the third line "both the decline 1981 and 1982". I think this is what the Secretariat referred to in the use of development assistance for agriculture and the hardening in its terms.

Having said this, I would like to say that in the second sentence my delegation would also prefer to have "observed" instead of "agreed".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Our intervention was designed to achieve a very similar effect to the intervention of the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany. We would suggest deleting in that sentence from "continuing concern over both the decline in the volume of development assistance", to delete from "over both the decline in the volume" and to substitute "inadequate". It would then read, "the Council expressed continuing concern over the inadequate volume of development assistance for agriculture". I put this as an alternative suggestion to the suggestion made by Germany. I can now say that we should be equally happy to accept his proposed text.

CHAIRMAN: May I offer a suggestion, because it is a question of interpretation of facts here. What is being questioned is about data and its interpretation. Perhaps you would like these two sentences referred back to the Drafting Committee to sit with the Secretariat and analyse the facts and come forward with the formulations. Otherwise we may formulate it now and get a statement with which some people differ. We have not been working in that way. We have been trying to develop agreed formulations. In that spirit I would like to suggest to you that on these two sentences of this paragraph we ask the Drafting Committee to work with Professor Islam.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros, en vista de la forma en que se ha desarrollado esta discusión en estos momentos, queramos volver a felicitar al Comité de Redacción, volverlo a felicitar porque creemos que este párrafo fue un ejemplo de búsqueda de suavizar los conceptos que se expresaron aquí en la sala. Este párrafo tiene una serie de palabras, sobre todo en español, que son muy musicales, que nos demuestran que hicieron un esfuerzo extraordinario por no reflejar exactamente lo que se dijo aquí, porque si nosotros vamos a repetir lo que se dijo sobre esta situación aquí, creemos que este párrafo no podríamos aceptarlo pero lo aceptamos en todas sus partes porque creemos que fue un esfuerzo sobrehumano el que hicieron.

Nosotros nos preguntamos por qué se quiere esconder la verdad. Estas fueron verdades expresadas aquí. ¿Con qué intención se trata de esconder la realidad?. ¿Se olvida la discusión que tuvimos sobre África, se olvida que nos hemos convertido en exportadores netos de capitales por esa ayuda bilateral que han dado? ¿Y las tasas de intereses?. Aquí no se dijo nada y en la Plenaria se expresó nuestro criterio sobre estas altas tasas de interés y no se habla nada de eso; se dice el carácter oneroso, para no decir injusto, de las condiciones. Sin embargo, creemos que ese párrafo si se vuelve a mandar al Comité de Redacción puede desencadenar una discusión de otra índole porque es un párrafo largo, párrafo que pudo haberse dividido en dos etapas, pero es un párrafo que al final exhorta, después de una discusión difícil, a que no se puede negar que en estos momentos la coyuntura económica y financiera es dramática para muchos países, y lo hemos reconocido en dos o tres ocasiones dentro de este Consejo y al final, sencillamente, humildemente, lo que hacemos es exhortar a que se proporcione una asistencia mayor. ¿Qué se quiere entonces?; ¿qué no exhortemos?. Entonces vamos a proponer otra palabra cuando se discuta el párrafo.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have a great personal regard for the charming Ambassador of the United States, Mrs Fenwick, but I cannot be tempted on this occasion to agree with her observations, particularly in the light of the facts pointed out by the Ambassador of Mexico and the facts which have been pointed out and stated by the Assistant Director-General, Professor Islam. I do not think it leaves any room for doubt. To try to redraft it might lead to further complications. I am sure that Ambassador Fenwick can be persuaded to agree to let it stand as it is in the light of the documents to which Professor Islam has referred and which are beyond question. He pointed out how the 1983/84 figures show a decline. What was a statement of fact and what was discussed in the Plenary has been reflected in the Drafting Committee report, supported by what the Secretariat has stated.

As I am on paragraph 15, I would like to make one addition. In the third line from the bottom I would like to be more specific. I propose the addition of this sentence there, because it is a precarious situation for IDA and IFAD, particularly IFAD, which is in danger of collapse if a solution is not found. I propose after the word "replenishment" should be added "These replenishments require to be brought up to their targets immediately with the cooperation of all concerned if their planned programmes of assistance to developing countries are to be sustained, even in 1985." They are in great danger of being curtailed by the great shortage of funds to which they are subjected. I mentioned this in the Plenary, which does not appear to have been reflected here. I consider this to be a very serious and vital point. May I therefore crave the indulgence of the Council to have this sentence incorporated in the draft of paragraph 15?

J. POSIER (France): La délégation française n'est pas tout à fait d'accord elle non plus sur le libellé du paragraphe 15. Elle pourrait contester la terminologie employée concernant la réduction du volume de l'aide au développement; et il lui serait très difficile d'accepter la seconde phrase qui commence par "on s'est accordé à reconnaître"; elle préfère de beaucoup la formule: "on a observé".

La délégation française voudrait se rendre à la suggestion que vous avez formulée de reporter ce problème, cette difficulté, devant le Comité de rédaction pour qu'il puisse réfléchir à une nouvelle formulation.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je voudrais moi-même abonder dans le même sens que l'ambassadeur de l'Inde. Nous ne voulons pas dire qu'un effort n'a pas été fait pour aider; nous voulons dire quelle est la situation réelle, et tout simplement qu'il y a des efforts supplémentaires à faire. Par conséquent, nous appuyons ce qui a été dit par le Mexique: il est inutile d'envoyer cela à nouveau devant le Comité de rédaction.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I would like to say something as Chairman of the Drafting Committee and then as the delegate of Pakistan.

As Chairman of the Drafting Committee I would like to record that this is a paragraph over which we spent quite a lot of time in our discussions. In fact, the second sentence, which is now the subject of discussion, was not in the original draft; we added it after long discussion between the representatives of the various countries. As Chairman, I want to record that fact. We have gone through each and every item in this paragraph in some detail and come to this agreement. This is how we saw the sense of the Council. However, if the Council wishes us to redraft it, it is entirely for the Council.

As delegate of Pakistan I would like to say that here two types of fact have to be verified, first the fact of whether there was an increase or a decrease in assistance. That is a question for economic statistics and that is a fact to be verified from the data with the Secretariat. The second point is what happened on the floor of the Council. That can be verified from the verbatim records. But perhaps at this stage we cannot open that second fact, it is for the adoption of the draft report and not for the Council opening the debate. So I agree with Mexico that that second fact we are not in a position to verify.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): J'avoue que les délégations qui m'ont précédé ont déjà dit ce que je voulais dire, notamment le Mexique, Cuba et le Président du Comité de rédaction lui-même.

Je pense sincèrement que compte tenu de la déclaration que vient de faire le Président du Comité de rédaction, à savoir que ce paragraphe a occupé assez largement le temps des membres du Comité de rédaction, je pense que dans ces conditions il n'est pas logique de leur redonner à nouveau ce paragraphe. Ils risquent de s'éterniser dessus et compte tenu du fait qu'ils ont encore assez de travail à faire, nous estimons qu'il n'est pas possible de renvoyer ceci au Comité de rédaction. Nous pensons donc, comme nous l'avons toujours fait lorsqu'un paragraphe de ce genre a nécessité beaucoup de temps, nous pensons donc que son aboutissement est un compromis, un consensus et que pour cette raison il ne faudrait pas en changer un seul mot mais l'adopter tel quel. Nous estimons qu'il ne faut pas perdre de temps parce que ce qui est reflété dans le paragraphe est ce qui a été dit ici, et avec les informations dont nous disposons. Il est clair que les autres informations qui viennent après ne peuvent pas être prises en compte dans la mesure où effectivement nous ne pouvons pas les vérifier. Pour cette raison, je pense moi aussi qu'il convient d'adopter ce paragraphe tel qu'il est.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I am in full agreement with the delegate of Congo that what we want to take home here is to reflect what has taken place in our session. But it is always a question of how we express it. Here I very much hope that members of the Council should not have great difficulties. A little change in the first sentence could read in the second part "expressed continuing concern over the inadequate development assistance for agriculture and the hardening of its terms." This says almost the same as is in that sentence but it is a little different because it leaves it open whether according to what the recipient wishes to get out of the overall offer for development assistance or whether in a given place it was because there was not enough given by a donor. Perhaps this new formulation could be considered as enabling us to go ahead. I will repeat: "over the inadequate development assistance for agriculture and the hardening of its terms." Then in the second sentence I feel that what was proposed by the United Kingdom, the change from "agreed" to "observed" and supported by Conference would still reflect what has been said in the Council.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Just to echo the words of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee that the Drafting Committee did obtain clarification from the Secretariat as to the perspective that should be put on these words as was explained in the first sentence. The perspective was the point of time 1983 relative to 1982 and 1981. Therefore I suggest that we keep the words in the existing sentence and simply add "in 1983 relative to 1982 and 1981".

CHAIRMAN: Canada has proposed that we leave the draft as it is, except that we add "in 1983 relative to 1982 and 1981".

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): La aclaración que está proponiendo Canadá quizá contribuya a resolver los problemas planteados. Sí queremos, sin embargo, afirmar que no podemos estar de acuerdo con la propuesta de la delegación de Alemania porque no solamente hace un pequeño sino un gran cambio en el concepto. No nos estábamos refiriendo cuando aludimos a ese tema si la asistencia internacional era adecuada o no era adecuada, sino nada más lo que tiene que ver con la cantidad, con la forma, los objetivos, etc.

Aquí lo que atestiguamos fue que se había reducido el volumen de la asistencia y eso fue lo que afirmamos, pero la aclaración de Canadá nos parece pertinente y podríamos estar de acuerdo con ella siempre y cuando quede el resto del párrafo tal como está escrito.

CHAIRMAN: May I request subsequent speakers specifically to comment whether they agree or not that we leave paragraph 15 as it is? The Chairman of the Drafting Committee has explained that they debated all these points. The delegate of Norway and the delegate of Canada have said that they accept, since we are only dealing with facts, "hardening of its terms in 1983 as compared with 1982". Perhaps Professor Islam considers that is a correct statement of fact.

The Indian Ambassador has suggested another sentence for insertion before the last but one sentence. Do you insist that it should be added? What is the feeling of other members? Would you like to read that sentence out once again?

H. J. H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have suggested that after the sentence in the third line from the bottom ending with the word "replenishment" the following should be added "These replenishments require to be brought up to their targets immediately with the cooperation of all concerned if their planned programmes of assistance to developing countries are to be sustained, even in 1985".

CHAIRMAN: Has the Chairman of the Drafting Committee any comments?

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I think as Chairman I have no right to comment on this. Personally I would agree that this sort of thing should be included. That is my own individual view.

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Nosotros reconocemos la buena voluntad que siempre ha confirmado el distinguido Embajador de la India. Lo hemos reconocido en cada una de sus intervenciones. Nos ha permitido armonizar nuestras posiciones y conciliar contrapuntos.

En este caso, la afirmación puede ser útil. Varias delegaciones insistimos en que los problemas relativos a la segunda reposición debían resolverse a la brevedad. La oración, en sí misma, no crea confusión al respecto. Podría incluirse; es un buen propósito. Estaríamos de acuerdo.

CHAIRMAN: Unless I hear views to the contrary, shall we incorporate the last but one sentence with the addition proposed by the distinguished Ambassador of India, and the modification proposed by the distinguished delegate of Canada? Can we accept this paragraph?

J. POSIER (France): Je voudrais demander un éclaircissement sur la phrase qui commence dans le texte français, au paragraphe 15, par "On s'est accordé à reconnaître ..." où nous avons proposé de substituer "accordé" par le mot "observé"; je voudrais savoir ce qu'il en est. Est-ce le mot "accordé" qui est maintenu dans le texte ou lui a-t-on substitué le mot "observé"?

CHAIRMAN: My understanding is that it stands as it is, and it is agreed.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estamos de acuerdo con usted, Señor Presidente. El colega de México aclaró muy bien que aceptaba la propuesta de Canadá a condición de que el resto del párrafo permaneciera tal como está.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): If I may return to this point, it causes some difficulty if we use the word "agreed", when the whole discussion about this paragraph has been to try to restrict it to factual statements of agreement. Certainly in the English text I think it does not cover the factual situation as it evolved in the discussions, and therefore I am afraid I must return to my original point about preferring language nearer to the events as they actually occurred, and again, I would put the idea of "observed" before you.

J. POSIER (France): Je crois que dans la phrase qui retient actuellement notre attention il y a deux propositions, deux affirmations. Il y a l'affirmation, c'est la diminution des fonds affectés au développement. C'est un fait qui peut être vérifié et, effectivement, en 1983 il y a eu diminution des fonds affectés. S'il ne s'agissait que de cette proposition, de cette affirmation, je serais d'accord pour dire que "on s'est accordé à reconnaître". Effectivement tout le monde reconnaît qu'il y a diminution en 1983 des fonds affectés au développement, mais il y a le deuxième membre de la phrase, en français "et que la paix ainsi que la sécurité internationale s'en trouvaient compromises". Là je pose la question, est-ce que vraiment il y a eu un accord de toutes les délégations pour reconnaître que la paix était compromise par cette diminution? Je ne le pense pas. On s'est accordé sur le point de la diminution des fonds mais je ne pense pas qu'on puisse dire qu'on s'est accordé pour dire que la paix est menacée.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am sorry to do this, but the amendment to this paragraph 15 we feel is unfortunate. But if the amendment concerning IDA and IFAD as suggested by the distinguished Ambassador of India, with whom I so rarely disagree, is included, the United States will have to take a reservation on this paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to seek your comments on the issues which have been made.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar, voy a referirme a la última declaración del distinguido Embajador de Francia. Ha sido relativamente positiva esa declaración en el sentido de que aceptaría la primera parte de la segunda frase del párrafo 15. Yo me permito hacer notar que en esa segunda frase se dice "era uno de los factores que contribuían"; "que contribuían". Luego entonces, para atender un poco la inquietud del colega de Francia, podríamos, al final de esa frase, después de las palabras "existente entre Norte y Sur", poner una coma, y decir ", que podría afectar así a la paz y seguridad internacionales", "que podría afectar así". Espero que esto pueda acoger la inquietud de Francia, y en esa forma, la segunda frase podría merecer el consenso del Consejo.

No puedo evitar referirme a la reciente declaración de la distinguida Embajadora de los Estados Unidos. Yo creo sinceramente que la reserva que ella acaba de manifestar contrasta con lo que había dicho ella hace poco, hacia el contenido del mismo párrafo quince. ¿Y cómo es posible que haya algún país que se oponga a un deseo, a una buena intención de que se repongan los recursos del FIDA, y que luego, en Plenaria, en el tema 4, justamente sobre este tema hayan dicho que están complacidos de los progresos, y que ahora se opongan a esa propuesta de la India que es lo mínimo al respecto?

CHAIRMAN: If I might just recapitulate what the distinguished Ambassador of Colombia said, "existing imbalance between North and South, which might affect peace and international security".

J. POSIER (France): Je remercie vivement le délégué de la Colombie qui, comme toujours, s'efforce de proposer des solutions constructives et je considère, encore que cela ne me satisfait pas entièrement, que la formule qu'il a bien voulu proposer est acceptable en ce qui me concerne.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I thought the additional sentence which I proposed had already been accepted by the Council, so the question of any further reservations does not arise. I am sure the distinguished Ambassador of the United States of America will appreciate it in the light of what the distinguished delegate of Colombia quite rightly argued, and I do not see that there is any bone of contention in this very necessary sentence being added. I consider on a point not exactly of order but of clarification that has already been accepted by your own declaration when you consulted the Council. As to the wording suggested by the distinguished delegate of France, "which might affect peace", I would only like to suggest but not insist that the word "may" might be substituted.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Yo no sé si hemos leído la segunda oración a profundidad. Por lo menos, en español, después de leerla varias veces, vuelvo a coincidir en que el Comité de Redacción hizo un magnífico trabajo. La afirmación que se está haciendo aquí no se refiere necesariamente a lo que ha ocurrido en estos tres últimos años.

La oración simple y llanamente dice que "Se convino en que la disminución de la financiación para el desarrollo era uno de los factores...", cualquiera que sea cuando ocurra esa disminución, "... era uno de los factores que contribuían al aumento del desequilibrio existente entre Norte y Sur". No se estaba diciendo que la disminución entre tales y tales años estaba contribuyendo a un desequilibrio mayor entre el Norte y el Sur. Fue una afirmación general, que es válida ahora, dentro de cinco años, dentro de veinte años, o cuando sea; y que efectivamente esto afecta la paz y la seguridad internacionales. Evidentemente, toda disminución del desarrollo genera problemas tanto sociales como políticos, que lo hemos comprobado una y otra vez a lo largo de la historia de la humanidad, atentan contra la paz y la seguridad internacional. Eso es una afirmación general. Ujalá leamos la oración y permitamos quede tal cual, porque no se está haciendo una afirmación en contra de lo que ocurrió en estos últimos años. Es una expresión, casi lo podemos decir así, de buena voluntad.

Respecto de la oración que propuso la delegación de la India, tampoco creo que afecte en nada a las negociaciones que se estén llevando ahora a cabo para el incremento de la reposición al FIDA y a otras instituciones. Al contrario, son buenos deseos que han sido expresados por todos. No vemos por qué alguna delegación puede observar reservas al respecto, por lo que recomendamos otra vez que, releyendo la segunda oración, se deje tal cual, y se acepte el párrafo con la inclusión realizada por la India y la propuesta hecha originalmente por Canadá.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): J'avoue que je suis un peu embarrassé après l'intervention du représentant de la Colombie. Je crois moi aussi, comme vient de le dire l'Ambassadeur du Mexique, que nous ne voyons pas très bien ce qui peut prêter à équivoque dans cette phrase. Je crois effectivement que nous étions d'accord, ce n'est pas sur les faits actuels, mais nous pensons que la phrase telle qu'elle est libellée parle du général et, par conséquent, je ne vois pas pourquoi on pourrait changer, je crois que ce qu'a proposé mon collègue de Colombie n'est pas bienvenu, sa proposition est sincère mais, pour moi, la phrase est bien équilibrée et le Comité de rédaction a très bien fait son travail. Je demande une nouvelle fois que nous puissions vraiment revenir sur ce paragraphe en disant que c'est un paragraphe bien étudié, bien équilibré et que nous pourrions l'adopter tel quel, évidemment avec l'adjonction que vient de proposer notre ami de l'Inde. Nous pensons que cette adjonction est bienvenue et ne comprenons pas pourquoi nous pourrions émettre des réserves étant donné que je crois que la bonne volonté anime toutes les délégations ici présentes, qui sont membres du FIDA et souhaitent que celui-ci puisse reconstituer le plus vite possible ses ressources.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I will simply address myself to the point of the second sentence and, like our distinguished colleague from France, confirm that we also can accept the formulation proposed by the distinguished delegate of Colombia.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Will it assist if we find a compromise, such as, "may well affect peace and international security", if not the original? Personally, I would be in favour of the original, but if a compromise is to be found between the original and what the distinguished delegate of Colombia has suggested, can we not say, "may well affect peace and international security"? I propose that.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): As a member of the Drafting Committee, I am a little diffident in departing from the text that the Committee agreed upon. I think it is a fairly important principle that where possible members of the Drafting Committee should stand with the text, but nevertheless I think the suggestion by the distinguished delegate of Canada at the end of the third line for me takes care of the problem there. As usual, the distinguished delegate of Colombia is trying to find a formulation which takes care of the problems which one or two members are facing, so I tend also to support that.

I think that grammatically the sentence could be split after the word "south", and we could put in another sentence to take care of the thought suggested by the distinguished delegate of Colombia. Perhaps the Secretariat can look at a form of words which can be read back to us to see if it is generally acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: There will not be very much time for that, so I think we should agree on a formulation here. We have before us a proposal by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, supported by the distinguished delegates of Mexico and Congo. Can I ask everyone to accept the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Colombia so that we can get on?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je crois que nous n'avons pas l'habitude de nous opposer à notre collègue de Colombie et généralement nous avons les mêmes points de vue, mais je crois qu'en ce qui concerne cette phrase j'ai sincèrement beaucoup de difficulté à accepter sa proposition. Je crois que la phrase, telle qu'elle est libellée, nous convient parfaitement et je voulais dire ce que j'ai dit tout à l'heure, qu'il fallait adopter le paragraphe 15 tel qu'il est. Mais j'avoue que la proposition faite tout à l'heure par le Canada nous satisfait entièrement. En ajoutant cette précision, nous n'avons aucune peine à pouvoir l'accepter mais je crois que la phrase qui commence par "On s'est accordé" devrait rester en l'état.

J. POSIER (France): Je ne voudrais pas éterniser les débats et voudrais simplement faire remarquer que l'obstination de certains à vouloir maintenir la phrase telle qu'elle est montre bien que ce n'est pas une phrase innocente, une phrase gratuite, qu'elle a une signification précise et que certains Etats sont divisés. Quand on me dit qu'il faut replacer cela dans un contexte général, je ne suis pas tout à fait d'accord. Il y a là une signification précise. Je ne veux pas éterniser les débats mais exprimer clairement la position française. Ou bien on change le mot "accordé" par "observé" et à ce moment là c'est une solution parfaitement acceptable pour la France, ou bien on indique, comme l'a proposé S.E. l'Ambassadeur de l'Inde, la formule "que la paix pourrait bien s'en trouver compromise". Si une de ces deux solutions n'était pas approuvée la délégation française serait obligée d'émettre une réserve sur ce paragraphe.

CHAIRMAN: I request that we accept the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Colombia supported by others; otherwise it appears that some delegations will have to express their reservations.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Solamente para pedirle que la vuelva a leer, por favor.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Canada to add "1983 relative to 1982 and 1981", and then the second sentence should read, "It was agreed that the decrease in financing for development was one of the factors which contributed to a deterioration in the existing imbalance between North and South, which may well affect peace and international security". I ask Council Members if this is the formulation which has wide acceptance.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I give up.

CHAIRMAN: Then the other question remains about India's additional sentence starting with "these replenishments require to be brought up to the target level immediately" and so on, to which the United States had taken exception.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): The United States retains its reservation if the Indian sentence is adopted.

CHAIRMAN: May I then ask the sense of the House, shall we leave the Drafting Committee's report as it is with these two small changes?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): May I make one renewed appeal to the delegate of the United States, that this is quite an unexpected reservation from her when she has always been so expressive in her constructive suggestions and creative formulations, and as she has expressed no particular reason for the reservation, I am sure I may be able to persuade her not to insist on her reservation in the light of the fact that the entire Council has given consent to its inclusion.

It is only what she herself mentioned the other day, that America's own contribution to IFAD would be as much as \$150 million, and this shows USA's desire to assist in the fulfilment of the target of replenishment of IFAD.

So I would suggest that in the light of what she herself has maintained and the consideration she has always shown for the necessities and requirements of developing countries, she would be good enough to reconsider the position and withdraw this reservation, because as Mexico has stated and also Colombia, Cuba and Congo, that this is merely an expression of goodwill and good heart towards the desire of one and all of us irrespective from what side we come to assist in this Programme.

Mrs M.FENWICK (United States of America): It is very difficult to resist our distinguished colleague from India, but this whole paragraph, I think, leads in a direction which is dangerous. Enormous sums have been poured out and the cry is only it is not enough. There are many highly concerned and dedicated people who are beginning to worry that this is not always wise, that some of this is doing harm rather than good, and I am not alone, there have been articles, some indeed by Africans.

The whole paragraph leads in a direction to suggest that if only we had more, everything would be all right. You could set a target, it could have been 15 instead of 12 and then require that the target be met. How do you require? How do we adopt such language? We can hope if we have good plans for using it properly, if it can be shown that these Programmes do something, but you read the Club du Sahel's Report of a year ago, and in many cases it is worse.

We are not on the right track and we will not admit it, and all we want is more money to keep on faster and faster on a track that is not working. There is the root of my concern. If we really care about these people, we ought to listen to somebody like President Kountche the other day. There is where the hope and the wisdom lie in what he says; we are not interested in these big programmes, what we need are small things in the village, echoed by Sierra Leone, Mr Palmer, who was here last year, a wonderful man. What we need is a vivid demonstration in the village of something that works.

So all of this comes together in my objection to this paragraph. It is pushing us in the same direction with more power, more full steam ahead, and I think we must consider what we are doing to human beings if we really care about them. I think that the reservation that I am expressing is a mild expression of what I have felt. I do not always speak and I can see I made a mistake in not speaking in the Plenaries far more often than I did, but I do not like to impose my voice too often on my colleagues who are so patient.

But we really are going to have to concern ourselves a little differently here in this great Organization which has such an important role in the world, so I am afraid I will have to keep my reservation and I regret it, dear colleagues.

CHAIRMAN: I have many speakers on my list, but I would request that you only confine yourselves to this one question of the sentence proposed by India.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The section on recent developments within the United Nations system which we are going to have to take up at a later stage does, if I am not wrong, contain a sentence which asks or urges for replenishment for IFAD, or something like that. Therefore, I wonder whether we need to have it here, and I wonder whether it would be helpful to both delegations which have shown so much interest in that issue whether we would perhaps consider not putting that in here and just wait until we have seen that proposal, and this perhaps would cover the interest of both delegations.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos solamente salir de una duda. No entendemos la expresión que ha hecho la Sra. Embajadora de los Estados Unidos. Nos dicen en este momento que la reserva era sobre el párrafo completo; yo creía que había hecho una reserva a lo propuesto específicamente por el representante de la India en cuanto al FIDA.

Ouisiera saber si es sobre el párrafo completo o es sobre el FIDA. Unicamente quería hacer esa pregunta.

CHAIRMAN: Will the United States Ambassador clarify.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): Yes, the question is would we keep a reservation if the Indian sentence were removed, and with some regret but with respect for my colleagues I will say yes. I think the Indian sentence increases the thrust and pressure which I have described at too great length I am afraid, I feel, but if that is deleted, we will not keep to our reservation.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): The Ambassador of the United States has referred to an over-funding, inclination of over-funding. May I point out that she is slightly mistaken. For example, IFAD's original target was US\$ one thousand million for the Second Replenishment. It got reduced to US\$ 800 million as the target. At least that has got to be fulfilled. IFAD has not even got US\$ 100 million left for its Programmes for 1985, and they have got a targeted programme and projects of over US\$.400 million for 1985, so unless the Replenishment is forth-coming with immediate effect, it will have an adverse effect on its programme. It is in great and precarious danger, this Organization which has rendered excellent service.

I do hate to defer from Ambassador Fenwick, but there can be no denial of the fact that IFAD has proved by its years of service to developing countries, by the projects which it has promoted, that it has succeeded well, so there should be no apprehension or anxiety in her mind that the funds do not go the proper way.

I would agree that certainly, there should be proper checking, proper monitoring of the progress of the projects, and all I have stated merely is as will be agreed by one and all, that this Replenishment requires to be brought up to the target proposed. It has been pointed out in the report of the draft, that IDA, has received US \$ 90.0 instead of US \$ 1 200 million, and there is no amount arrived at whatsoever for IFAD, no agreement at all so far in spite of repeated efforts made in Rome as well as in Paris and which will have to be renewed here. This will further strengthen its hands, and in which I am sure the United States would also like to contribute along with other donor countries to try and see that the target is reached. So I see no difficulty at all, and I am sure my colleagues will appreciate my insistence on the retention of the sentence in the interests of developing countries, which I feel the donor countries may also like to support.

A.M. OURESHI (Pakistan): I am just trying to suggest a way out of the woods. With great deference to the proposal of India, I believe what he is trying to say with this additional sentence is already implied in the last sentence: "The Council urged that increased and more dependable support be provided to the multilateral agencies which were placing priority on concessional financing to assist low-income countries in increasing food production".

So if we would request him, and if he does not insist on it, we could proceed on to the next paragraph by adopting the paragraph with the Canadian amendment. I just wanted to suggest that if there is no serious objection to that.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar queremos referirnos al punto planteado por el colega Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania. Entendemos que el Comité de Redacción todavía no se ha ocupado de la parte referente al tema 9 y que sólo lo hará esta tarde. De manera que la decisión que el Comité de Redacción tome más adelante debe estar en relación con lo que se decida aquí.

Nos llama la atención el hecho de que la Delegación que expresa reservas sea la misma que haya hablado justamente en la discusión del tema 4, que haya concluido esa frase expresando el deseo de que todo llegue a buen fin, y que luego anuncie la contribución de 150 millones de dólares y que ahora asuma esa actitud; pero con todo respeto por el Derecho Soberano de cada país, queremos ayudar a la representación de este país y podríamos aceptar su reserva en una frase al final del párrafo 15 que dijera como sigue:

"Un país expresó su reserva a este párrafo y confirmó la intención de mantener su actitud negativa sobre el FIDA".

CHAIRMAN: May I call your attention, as Germany said, to paragraph 49 on page 12 of our draft report, which has a very specific recommendation in relation to IFAD. I will read it out, paragraph 49: "In this connection, the Council urged the timely and adequate replenishment of the resources of the international financial institutions, especially IFAD."

So a point has been made, whether one wants to make the same point twice in two different places.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Nous pensons pour notre part, qu'avec l'intervention de l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis, nous nous voyons un peu obligés de parler de ce problème. Nous estimons effectivement que l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis est très attachée aux petits projets, et nous partageons son point de vue avec elle, nous aussi. Nous pensons effectivement que le développement devra se faire à partir des paysans et que c'est cela que nous visons tous. Mais je crois que même s'il s'agit des petits paysans, justement, il faut un minimum d'investissements et on ne peut pas accroître la production au niveau des petits paysans sans investir. Lorsque nous parlons du FIDA qui est une institution, qui n'a pour but que d'aider ces petits paysans, nous ne comprenons pas l'hostilité quelque peu paradoxale des Etats-Unis à l'égard du FIDA. Nous estimons que ce serait une bonne chose, compte tenu de la politique des Etats-Unis (ou l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis) de tout mettre en oeuvre pour renforcer cette institution qui a pour mandat principal d'aider les petits paysans pauvres (les plus pauvres des pauvres). Je pense pour ma part qu'en ce qui concerne ce qui est dit dans le paragraphe nous ne voyons pas d'inconvénient à ce que l'on puisse retirer, au niveau du paragraphe 15, l'adjonction de l'Ambassadeur de l'Inde, mais nous tenons à repréciser cet aspect des choses pour que l'on ne nous rabâche pas tout le temps cet aspect du problème : "qu'en fait on donne suffisamment de moyens et que ce sont ces moyens qui ne sont pas bien utilisés." Je crois que cela n'est pas juste.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have very much sympathy with what has been stated so far on this issue. The only question I raise is: do we really want to say the same thing three times in our Final Report, all the sections of which, of course, we have not seen, but you yourself, Mr Chairman, have drawn our attention that in paragraph 49 there is one section, and I was told that in the part which has not been dealt with, also in the United Nations System Recent Developments there is already another issue which talks about the timely and the necessary replenishment of IFAD. If it is the feeling that this had to be said three times in our report, of course then I will not oppose it, but I think that if we talk about efficiency of the Organization's work, I think we must also try to be efficient here in our dealings. I have no problem as to where it is put, whether it is here or whether it is in some other place, but perhaps I think it would be better if we just had it once.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I really only want to say that I really share the views of Germany that no one doubts the good intention of India in asking for an amplified reference to the IFAD problem. However, his wording frankly would give just a little problem even to my delegation in its specific reference to targetry.

But the point really in my recollection is that the item under which most discussion took place was under item 9, and as you, Mr Chairman, have said, there is now a reference also in the text before us to IFAD under paragraph 49. I would hope that we would not in reading this Report in this very important section on the State of Food and Agriculture have to find a reservation expressed on anything, and I believe the United States has indicated that if we could leave out the sentence of amplification on IFAD in this paragraph, she would withdraw the reservation, and I believe that would be the right way to proceed, and through you, Mr Chairman, perhaps I could appeal to our colleagues to adopt that course.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Having been in the Drafting Committee, I would just like to say that we spent a long time adopting this paragraph and we are repeating the same discussions in many ways that we had in the Drafting Committee, so I fully respect the views of the various delegations in trying to improve this paragraph, but probably, we will end up with the same paragraph as it is written down here, because I think this is a good compromise of the discussion which took place during the debate.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I hope that my dear colleague's remarks about my country were more in humor and not serious. If they are serious, if everybody would express their feeling about IFAD as clearly and unmistakably as the United States, I think it is one of the most important programmes that we do, and insofar as its funds and resources do go to the poorest of the poor there is nothing that could be more desirable, and the 150 million US dollars which the United States has pledged if those conditions are accepted, is certainly an evidence that we are not behind. We are far from hostility. I wish that those who had hostility would express their support in the same terms in relation of course to the size of their country. I tried to feel this was laughable but maybe my colleagues are serious, and maybe they really think there is some hostility when you offer 150 million US dollars, and then are troubled by ever-increasing targets and the requirement that those targets be met. It is that that bothers me.

Also I may say we have had repeated appeals that this paragraph be adopted as drafted, and now I find that that is not the sense of the Plenary when other things arise. I would restate this, not entirely with happiness but I would certainly withdraw the reservation if the paragraph remains as it was with those small changes that have been agreed to, and so I state my case for my country.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I think we are sympathetic to the point that has been raised by the representative of India in suggesting this amendment. There is clearly reference to increase of the replenishment in other paragraphs, but as we take it, the point raised by the Indian Ambassador is that the levels should be reached to sustain and maintain the planned programmes already undertaken which would be cut back as a result of the levels not being reached. I think this is the point that attracts us, that a programme was undertaken in the expectation of levels being reached, and those programmes will be seriously affected.

Now I think the point is to some extent covered in the last sentence of paragraph 15 which says "The Council urged that increased and more dependable support be given". I think if at the end of that sentence we added "and in particular to sustain the planned programmes already made by them" or something to that effect. I think that point could be brought in, but I agree with the reference to increased replenishment already taken in another paragraph, and here the point is that simply some of the programmes which had already been made would lapse as a result of the lack of funds.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to repeat what the Bangladesh delegate has suggested before I give the floor to the distinguished Ambassador of India. He has suggested that the last sentence be "The Council urged that increased and more dependable support be provided to the multilateral agencies which were placing priority on concessional financing to assist low-income countries in increasing food production in order to enable them to implement their already planned programmes."

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I reiterate what I said in the beginning, before this renewal of the debate, that the inclusion of the sentence was already agreed upon, and you were about to pass on to the next item when the question of the reservation came up. Secondly, with reference to what the distinguished delegate from Bangladesh suggested, it surprises me because the last sentence is only by implication, as he himself has admitted. I began my observation, when introducing this sentence, by saying that I wanted to be specific, and this is the right place where it could be made specific as all the distinguished Ambassadors from Mexico, Colombia, Congo and Cuba have also asserted, and this would be the place where, if at all, it should come.

In paragraph 49, to which reference has been made, it is only very mildly stated in the words "especially IFAD". Nothing beyond that, just the last two words. Here we want to be quite positive that the contributions which the various countries have made have to reach their targets, otherwise there would be no necessity for having another meeting for reaching the targets of IFAD at all. Since it has come to a deadlock and a stalemate I think my amendment in the paragraph is very necessary. And I see no objection, because in my informal discussions with the Ambassador of the United States she has certainly shown great sympathy with this. She has rightly pointed out that USA has pledged to contribute US\$ 150 million, to the IFAD Second Replenishment. So there is no question of any difference of opinion and I would once again appeal that this should not be the point for any resentment. What the Ambassador of Bangladesh has suggested is to water down the whole effect. It does not help to express the feeling which we have for the work which IFAD has been doing.

As one of the Ambassadors mentioned, the concentration should be on small and marginal farmers. I have been involved with them all my life, but for all this you require some funds, not just the fund of goodwill which we have all round expressed. Along with that we must have the fund in hand. The target has not been increased if I may point this out to Ambassador Fenwick. It has been reduced from \$1 000 to \$ 800 millions. It might even go further down, and it will require voluntary donations and some contributions even from Category III countries in order to be able to reach the target in the next five years. So I see absolutely nothing wrong with the retention of my proposal. I very rarely insist, Mr Chairman, as you know, but here I feel that along with many other delegates from developing and other countries, it just reflects the feelings of one and all including the developed countries, that the amounts which have been fixed upon, even at reduced targets, require to be reached.

CHAIRMAN: We are about to finish our morning session without much progress.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I would not mind at all if the last two words referenced in paragraph 49 were omitted, provided this is retained here: "especially IFAD" - nothing beyond that. So it may be omitted in paragraph 49. That paragraph would then end with "financial institutions".

CHAIRMAN: I think that the distinguished delegate from India feels this sentence proposed is very important and should be retained, which has been supported by several other delegations. The delegate from the United States has repeated her reservation in case the sentence is included. That is the position. The Council supports the Indian Ambassador's additional sentence in the paragraph with a footnote that the United States has expressed its reservations? I think there is no point in going round and round the mulberry bush; we have to come to hard facts.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, una aclaración: no estamos discutiendo el párrafo 49, no estaríamos de acuerdo en hacer modificaciones en el artículo 49.

CHAIRMAN: We are only on paragraph 15 now. I think we will adjourn at this level. We have accepted this paragraph and the only question is the additional sentence proposed. We will take it up for consideration immediately when we meet again.

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 29 - not concluded

PARAGRAPHE 11 à 29 - sont en suspens

PARRAFOS 11 a 29 - quedan pendientes

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'AUMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/17

Eighty-sixth Session

Quatre-vingt-sixième session

86º período de sesiones

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE PLENIERE 17ª SESION PLENARIA

(30 November 1984)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40 sous la présidence
de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 17ª sesión plenaria a las 09.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: You have seen from the Order of the Day that our Drafting Committee was able to complete its work yesterday, and I hope all of you have gathered in addition to CL 86/REP/1, CL 86/REP 1-Sup.1, CL 86/REP/2, also CL 86/REP/3 and CL 86/REP/4, so we have to consider all these, and as I requested yesterday I hope members will take the floor to offer substantive comments. If there are slight improvements in language, in all the languages, without changing the meaning that we are dealing with, kindly send your suggestions to the Secretary or to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

The usual procedure is that after the Council approves such amendments as the Council Members decide, then the Secretary and the Chairman of the Drafting Committee will incorporate those changes and it will come to me for final approval, and I shall ensure that all the changes which we have accepted here, or any editorial changes, fully reflect what the Council decided, because some people asked me what would be the procedure and I wanted to explain that after the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has incorporated the changes I shall approve the final report on your behalf, ensuring that nothing is done to change anything that the Council decided.

DRAFT REPORT - PART I (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT- PARTIE I (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME- PARTE I (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 29 (continued)

PARAGRAPHEs 11 à 29 (suite)

PARRAFOS 11 a 29 (continuación)

Now we will take up para. 15 of CL 86/REP/1 where we had two changes suggested and accepted, one by Canada and the other by Colombia, but the Ambassador of India had proposed a sentence which did not meet with approval, particularly with the delegate of the United States.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I am glad to say that since then we have had informal discussions with the distinguished Ambassador of the United States and it has been agreed that the sentence shall remain with the change that instead of the word "targets", it will be substituted with the words "adequate levels".

I will read out the whole sentence: "These replenishments should be brought up to adequate levels immediately with the cooperation of all concerned if their planned programmes of assistance to developing countries were to be sustained even in 1985". As a result, Sir, of this happy agreement between us, the Ambassador has assured me she will withdraw her reservation.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the United States.

A.E. GUROFF (United States of America): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Could we have it once more slowly, please.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I may repeat that this was entirely agreed to with the Ambassador Fenwick but I will certainly read it again.

"These replenishments should be brought up to adequate levels immediately with the cooperation of all concerned if their planned programmes of assistance to developing countries were to be sustained even in 1985".

A.E. GUROFF (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, that is acceptable to the United States and we can remove our reservation. Could I ask that you reiterate what has been done with rest of the paragraph before we go on?

CHAIRMAN: The changes which were accepted today were the addition of "in 1983 relative to 1982" at the end of the first sentence of this paragraph. The second amendment proposed by Colombia which was accepted, reads: "It was agreed that the decrease in financing for development was one of the factors which contributed to a deterioration in the existing imbalance between North and South, which might well affect peace and international security".

Shall we move on to the next paragraph, 16?

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je désire intervenir sur le paragraphe 16. La dernière phrase dit: "Le Conseil a constaté avec une vive préoccupation que la situation restait sombre dans une grande partie de l'Afrique". Nous ne comprenons pas bien. Je crois que nous avons dit que la situation est préoccupante, mais "sombre", à mon avis, n'est pas clair. Je propose qu'on écrive "préoccupante" ou "difficile" mais "sombre," cela ne veut rien dire.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): We did not debate the propriety of the word "grim" in our meeting, but I would agree with the remark here because it is only a part of Africa. Could it be "disturbing" or something or the other. We can think of an appropriate word later.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we use the words "continuing critical situation" - critical or grave. "Critical situation? would that be acceptable?

I. DIAZ YUBERO (España): En español, desde luego, la palabra "sombria" es para nosotros un reflejo mucho más perfecto. "Preocupante" es menos que "sombria". Yo creo que la situación es sombria, y en español queda muy bien como está.

CHAIRMAN: Well, I have the formulation which we accepted "the Council expressed grave concern over the continuing critical situation confronting much of Africa". Perhaps that can be put in the other languages properly.

Can we move on to paragraph 17?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): May I suggest the ending in the last sentence which reads as follows: "It particularly called upon developed countries to refrain from protectionist measures especially against export products from developing countries" and therefore to add "and to liberalize their import policies". I would also agree to "to consider to liberalize their import policies". I would accept that also.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Si se está tratando el párrafo 17, quisiera tener la oportunidad de hablar. Nosotros tenemos un problema en este párrafo que quisiéramos expresar. Nos parece que el examen de los verbatim reflejan lo que se expresó sobre la situación de medidas proteccionistas, y las medidas se referían específicamente y con fuerza a las actuales barreras proteccionistas y no solamente a que se abstuvieran de las futuras medidas. En estos momentos las futuras medidas no son las que nos afectan. Consideramos que el párrafo podría mejorar con una ligera modificación. Proponemos lo siguiente:

En la quinta línea del párrafo 17, donde dice: "y en particular que los países desarrollados", decir: "eliminen las barreras actuales y se abstengan de imponer nuevas medidas proteccionistas". Porque son las medidas actuales las que nos afectan ahora, las que nos están asfixiando.

P. ELMANOVSKY (France): Je ferai simplement remarquer que la phrase précédente qui correspond exactement à ce qui est la politique générale préconisée par les organisations compétentes, le dit sous une autre forme. Le Conseil évoquant les résolutions a reconnu qu'il importe que les exportations se développent librement et a demandé à tous les pays d'oeuvrer en faveur de la libération des échanges; cela recouvre le démantèlement des mesures actuelles existantes et en même temps cela recouvre l'idée de s'abstenir de prendre des mesures protectionnistes. Je crois donc que le texte tel qu'il est, est amplement suffisant.

G.E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): He escuchado con mucha atención las palabras del representante de Francia y podría mi delegación estar de acuerdo con él si en la traducción española, en lugar de utilizar la palabra "colaborara", se dijese lo que aparentemente significa en francés; es decir, que los países desarrollados adopten las medidas necesarias para la liberalización del comercio. En este caso podríamos llegar a un acuerdo, sino mi delegación estaría de acuerdo con la representación de Cuba en que se aclare que no se trata exclusivamente de que los países desarrollados se abstengan de imponer en el futuro nuevas medidas proteccionistas, sino de lo que se trata es de liberalizar el comercio, y ello exige dejar de lado las políticas proteccionistas que hoy nos afectan a todos los países en desarrollo.

P.S. Mc LEAN (United Kingdom): I merely wish to say that I agree absolutely with the comments that have been made by the delegate of France on this issue and I support his view that the text should remain as drafted before us.

G.BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Este es un punto importante sobre el cual se expresaron numerosas delegaciones. Yo creo que la propuesta que ha hecho el colega de Cuba aclara perfectamente la intención de quienes intervenimos a ese respecto y, en realidad, presenta mucho mejor la situación de lo que esperamos nosotros en materia de liberalización del comercio.

CHAIRMAN: Will the delegate of Cuba read out his proposal once again?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La propuesta nuestra es incluir en el quinto renglón del párrafo 17, versión española, después de la frase: "y en particular que los países desarrollados" poner "eliminen las barreras actuales y se abstengan de imponer nuevas medidas proteccionistas".

Solamente esas pequeñas modificaciones.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I hesitate to take part, but first I would like to flag to the Council that they have no proposal for an amendment for the whole of REP/1, so once we do something it will react. Here I am in full agreement with the delegate of Argentina who saw the difference in the meaning of the English and the Spanish versions. The English version is acceptable "to work for" and that is different from "que colaboren para". I think if the Spanish text could be brought in line with what is meant by the English text we could easily overcome that little difficulty and adopt the paragraph as it stands and go ahead.

CHAIRMAN: That is one aspect of the problem. The delegate of Cuba has suggested a particular point: "It particularly called on developed countries to abolish existing barriers and to refrain from further protectionist measures." Therefore it will not meet Argentina's point exactly as far as this last sentence is concerned. Colombia, do you want to speak on this aspect?

G.BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Vamos a tratar de conciliar la posición de Argentina y Francia. Tal vez pudiéramos aceptar la siguiente redacción: "se pidió a todos los países, en particular a los países desarrollados, que adopten las medidas necesarias".

Esperamos que esta redacción pueda satisfacer las dos tendencias.

Lo demás sigue igual.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Si se llega a aceptar la proposición de Argentina y la modificación que ha propuesto Colombia, Cuba estaría de acuerdo en que el párrafo siguiera diciendo: "que se adopten las medidas para la liberalización del comercio".

CHAIRMAN: Will the Ambassador of Colombia repeat exactly how that sentence will read now?

G.BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Diría: "y pidió a todos los países, en particular los desarrollados, que adopten las medidas necesarias para la liberalización del comercio" y que se abstengan de imponer medidas proteccionistas. Habría que modificar "que se abstengan de imponer medidas proteccionistas, especialmente sobre productos de exportación de países en desarrollo". Lo demás seguiría igual.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I think that perhaps this proposal would meet the points of Argentina, Cuba and Colombia by adding, "consider liberalizing their import policies". This would make it more specific as Cuba pointed out, "It particularly called on developed countries to refrain from protectionist measures". This will combine both points of view.

CHAIRMAN: May I once again say that the Drafting Committee is not a Committee-of-the-Whole, and I am afraid we could be here another week. There is always scope for improvement here and there. We cannot be doing formulation and reformulation here at this level. So will subsequent speakers make a clean suggestion which will solve the problem of how to get on?

P.ELMANOWSKY (France): Il y a deux textes qui me paraissent possibles: soit le premier qui avait été proposé par la délégation de l'Inde consistant à ajouter à la fin de la dernière phrase "et d'envisager de libéraliser leur politique d'importation", c'est je crois ce que le délégué de l'Inde avait proposé. Pas d'objection. Une seconde formule avait été proposée par M. Bula Hoyos, notre collègue de la Colombie, qui propose (pour tenir compte de ce que disait l'Argentine), dans la fin de la seconde phrase, "et a demandé à tous les pays, et particulièrement aux pays développés", je dirais quant à moi la formule telle qu'elle est actuellement dans le texte, "d'oeuvrer en faveur de la libération des échanges et a demandé à tous les pays et en particulier aux pays développés d'oeuvrer en faveur de la libération des échanges". En ce qui me concerne, cette phrase recouvre tout, si on oeuvre pour la libération des échanges, cela vise aussi bien la situation actuelle que l'avenir et en outre cela correspond bien à ce qui semble maintenant se dessiner au GATT, où d'après les dernières informations recueillies, il semble que l'on se dirige vers une nouvelle période de négociations. Donc, ou la formule indienne, "on envisage de libéraliser les politiques d'importations", à la fin de la phrase, ou alors, la phrase colombienne et argentine, qui correspond à la seconde proposition, "et a demandé à tous les pays, et en particulier aux pays développés, d'oeuvrer en faveur de la libération des échanges".

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the two proposals, the delegate of India's proposal, to add a few words at the end of the present sentence, and the proposal of Cuba, Colombia and Argentina, modified by France. I will read it out:" and called upon the countries, especially developed ones, to work for a liberalization of trade and to refrain from further protectionist measures especially against export products from developing countries." Is this acceptable to everyone? Thank you very much.

Sra. E. HERAZO de VITI (Panama): Solamente para señalar que en la página 7, en el texto español, la tercera línea, donde dice: "a causa de la negativa del principal país exportador" debe decir: "principal país importador". Tengo entendido que los textos en francés e inglés son correctos, únicamente en español no está bien.

CHAIRMAN: I am very grateful. Such discrepancies among languages, if you would be good enough to give them to us we will ensure that they are properly represented.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I have a small correction which has implications. "The Council was of the view that the varying degrees of recovery of economic demand, combined with fluctuating supply patterns and the emergence of some new substitutes..." They are not only new but are increasing in volume and quality. Here I want to make one insertion "and the increasing emergence of substitutes: "some new" should be deleted. This will cover both new and old.

CHAIRMAN: Is this suggestion of Bangladesh acceptable- "The Council was of the view that the varying degrees of recovery of economic demand, combined with fluctuating supply patterns and increasing emergence of substitutes, were affecting commodity prices..."

Paragraph 19? Paragraph 20?

G.BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En la tercera frase del párrafo 20, deseo agregar solo una palabra. Empieza diciendo: "El Consejo tomó nota de que", luego dice "cinco países en desarrollo habían utilizado el Servicio".

Yo creo que habría que agregar: "sólo cinco países". Esto aparece después del párrafo 48 sobre la seguridad alimentaria.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais d'abord apporter mon appui au mot qui vient d'être ajouté par mon collègue de Colombie. Je pense qu'il faut effectivement mettre "seuls cinq pays en développeraient", mais toujours dans cette phrase, je pense qu'on devrait plutôt la renforcer en disant "le Conseil a noté avec regret" et non "a noté" simplement. Donc "a noté avec regret" que depuis, seuls cinq pays en développement ont bénéficié de cela". Bon. Cela dit après la phrase suivante, toujours dans ce paragraphe, on lit "on a exprimé l'espoir que l'examen du mécanisme prévu pour 1985 permettra de l'améliorer". Je crois donc qu'il convient d'ajouter ceci: "plusieurs délégations ont exprimé le vœu que lors de cet examen l'on prévoit l'extension de ce mécanisme aux importations de produits alimentaires agricoles". Ensuite, on continue, "on a déploré le fait que le FMI ait accordé avec autant de facilité un important crédit à l'Afrique du Sud lui permettant de renforcer son potentiel militaire et multiplier ainsi ses agressions v regard des Etats de la ligne de front, ce qui constitue un obstacle majeur à la réalisation des objectifs de production alimentaire de ce pays". Je voudrais ajouter que ceci a été dit au cours des discussions de ce point de notre ordre du jour et qu'aucune délégation n'a contesté cela.

A.E. GUROFF (United States of America): Can we have that read again, please?

CHAIRMAN: I will try to mention what has been said. There are two proposals here, the first in the middle of the paragraph: "The Council noted with regret that since the inception of the food financing facility some three and a half years ago, the facility had been utilized by five developing countries to an amount of...", and so on. Let us get that out of the way. I would like your decision as to whether you agree with those changes. Everybody seems to agree, so the sentence will begin, "The Council noted with regret that since the inception of the food financing facility...", and so on.

The next item is the additional suggestion of the distinguished delegate of Congo to add the following sentence after "It was hoped that the projected review of the facility in 1985 would provide the opportunity for its improvement". We should then add the following sentence: "Some delegations expressed the wish that in the course of this review the expansion of this facility to the imports of all food commodities and agricultural inputs be provided for." That is the first sentence. Is this sentence acceptable to everybody?

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): In this report, are we reporting on what has been done, or are we now saying what we are hoping to do? In other words, are we trying to say what happened before? Is this Report supposed to tell us what has already been said in another place, or are we now putting things a novo, so to speak?

CHAIRMAN: The Report should be a true reflection of what has happened here. Its roots are derived from the verbatim reports.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): So what is now being proposed should be found in the verbatim reports?

CHAIRMAN: Will the distinguished delegate of the Congo confirm what the distinguished Ambassador of the United States has asked for? Were these points made on the floor of this house?

J.TCHICAYA (Congo): Ce point a été évoqué par ma délégation et d'autres délégations à plusieurs reprises au cours de nos débats. Je voudrais confirmer à ma collègue des Etats-Unis qu'il a bel et bien été évoqué ici; et nous souhaitons pour cette raison qu'il figure au rapport.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): Can the distinguished colleague of Congo tell me in which verbatim report we find this, because I cannot take shorthand.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This is a new point which did not come before the Drafting Committee, but if it is in the verbatim record...

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Esa cuestión efectivamente fue tratada por varias delegaciones en nuestras exposiciones; se puede encontrar claramente esta propuesta y esta esperanza; no solamente ello, se ha venido insistiendo en que el propio Consejo de Seguridad Alimentaria incluya no solamente a los productos alimentarios, sino inclusive los insumos agrícolas porque la estrategia de seguridad alimentaria no puede tener éxito en la medida en que esos insumos sean prohibitivos para nuestros países. De ahí que hayamos insistido y, repito, en los verbatim relativos a nuestras intervenciones se puede encontrar, así como la del representante del Congo y otras delegaciones, en que solicitamos la expansión del servicio financiero del Fondo Monetario Internacional para incluir insumos agrícolas y la totalidad de los productos agrícolas.

CHAIRMAN: Will this satisfy the distinguished delegate of the United States?

Mrs. M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am sure that these will be in the verbatim reports, and I would like to get hold of the verbatim reports in which these proposals appear. I am sure they are excellent proposals, and what the distinguished delegate of Mexico has said is eminently sensible, and he has provided me with it.

CHAIRMAN: Meanwhile, shall we accept this sentence, subject to your taking it up again if necessary?

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I agree.

CHAIRMAN: So we can accept the first proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Congo. Then the last sentence proposed by him reads somewhat like this- and perhaps he may correct it if I have noted it down wrongly, because I was writing rather fast- "It was regretted that IMF had granted so easily a large loan to South Africa enabling that country to strengthen its military potential and to multiply its aggressive attitude against the Front Line States, thus creating a major obstacle to the achievement of their food production targets." The distinguished delegate of Congo agrees with what I have written. Is it clear, Mrs. Fenwick?

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I will still be grateful for the verbatim report if I can have it.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos expresar nuestro apoyo total a lo expresado por el distinguido embajador del Congo y además garantizar que en nuestra intervencion, y aparece en el verbatim, planteamos la necesidad de que el Fondo Monetario Internacional se ocupara también de Africa como lo había hecho con créditos especiales a Sudáfrica. Lo dijimos textualmente así.

CHAIRMAN: Depending on a study of the verbatim report, the United States will reserve its position, but we must proceed to the next paragraphs 21, 22 and 23.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I was wondering whether instead of the first three words of the second sentence, we could put, "The Council agreed that more emphasis needed to be placed..." This is my amendment.

CHAIRMAN: Will the distinguished delegate of the Philippines read out in full the reformulated sentence.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I would like the second sentence of paragraph 23 to read: "The Council agreed that more emphasis needed to be placed on the development of integrated plant nutrient systems and improvement of biomass utilization and conversion in the priorities of FAO."

CHAIRMAN: we go on to paragraphs 24 and 25.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): En ce qui concerne le point 24 et la seconde phrase, j'aurais préféré que l'on dise: "à ce propos la protection des cultures, particulièrement la lutte contre les insectes et les maladies, a été évoquée". Le Cap-Vert avait dit cela: "la protection des cultures en general, particulièrement la lutte contre les insectes et la maladie", a été évoquée.

CHAIRMAN: "Plant protection" includes all pests - that is the triangular, unholy , alliance of pests, diseases and weeds, so if you want to replace it with "plant protection", there is no need to put plant protection or control, you can just say "special protection was given" or "special protection of land and water". "Plant protection" includes weeds also: it is a wider term. If you agree, we will substitute the words "plant protection".

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): My understanding is that when you change "disease control" into "plant protection", you are actually excluding livestock diseases, whereas if you leave it like this, it remains broad and includes livestock diseases.

CHAIRMAN: As it reads here, it can involve both livestock and crops, otherwise I have no objection. We can add "plant protection" or "disease control" if you wish, but I suggest that we leave it as it is. The distinguished delegate of Cape Verde agrees, so the sentence remains as it is. Paragraphs 25, 26.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have two suggestions. The draft reads, "The Council welcomed the attention given to urbanization." - that is precisely what we were discussing. So may I suggest that that sentence should read "The Council welcomed the attention given to the problems of urbanization". I have added the word "problem" in the sentence. That is all. My second suggestion is that the second line from the bottom should read, "It was observed that many of the rural-urban migrants were entire families coming from rural areas, including youths", or possibly for "youths" we could retain the phrase "young adults".

CHAIRMAN: As far as I can see, as on the question of rural migrants specific attention was given to the young, it does not exclude the movement of families, but it picks out several others. The first suggestion by the distinguished delegate of India was that we are just adding the words "problem of urbanization".

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No tengo ninguna objeción a lo expuesto por el distinguido representante de la India ni al párrafo en general; quisiera, sin embargo, hacer una adición a este párrafo, una adición que la consideró muy personal porque quiero que se exprese lo siguiente: "un miembro consideró que de las causas y efectos del urbanismo y de la explosión demográfica no se puede responsabilizar a los países en desarrollo, aceptando la necesidad de estudiar y considerar su evolución para evitar sus incidencias negativas en el desarrollo económico y especialmente en la agrícola"

Decimos esto porque lo expresamos en estos términos y creemos que es necesario estudiar esos dos fenómenos con la profundidad y los detalles que nos expresó el profesor Islam, pero creemos que es necesario delimitar que en los documentos esto surja como una espada de Damocles sobre los estados en desarrollo que no son responsables de estos dos fenómenos.

CHAIRMAN: Can you repeat the sentence slowly, please, because the interpreters could not pick it up as you were speaking so fast. Please repeat it slowly.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): "Un miembro consideró que de las causas y efectos del urbanismo y de la explosión demográfica no se puede responsabilizar a los países en desarrollo, aceptando la necesidad de estudiar y analizar su evolución para evitar sus incidencias negativas en el desarrollo económico y especialmente la agrícola"

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the inclusion of the sentence starting with "one member considered"?

Mrs. M. FENWICK (United States of America): I just wonder if it is possible to say that a developing country has no share in the increase in population. I mean what other country can be held responsible for a larger increase in population if it is not a country where the people live? I think the question of analysing economic development is a very cogent one, because no economy of any nation in the world lives alone in a capsule, so it is perfectly clear that the responsibility goes further, but I do not see how the responsibility for an increasing population can extend beyond the borders of the country where the population is being produced.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): Mexico hizo igualmente referencia al problema demográfico, y no tanto porque el problema demográfico es una cuestión importante per se, y porque tiene consecuencias dramáticas sobre el desarrollo sino porque la concepción misma de sobrepoblación no está ligada al crecimiento demográfico, sino igualmente al crecimiento económico, al bienestar social en general.

Lo que dijimos, y quizás podríamos adecuar esta oración propuesta por la delegación de Cuba para incluir también a México, es que el crecimiento demográfico debe evaluarse en función y en razón del desarrollo económico, y que en este sentido, deben interpretarse los criterios de sobrepoblación y de urbanización exagerada, de explosión demográfica o como se le quiera llamar.

Porque el punto aquí no reside en la explosión demográfica sino en su vinculación con el desarrollo. Es eso lo que se debe estudiar. El desarrollo se ve castigado por un orden internacional injusto. Esa es básicamente la tesis que hemos expresado varias delegaciones; o sea que si podemos encontrar otra redacción para la propuesta de la delegación de Cuba, podríamos incluirnos nosotros también en ello. Podríamos, en consecuencia, buscar una fórmula y lo dejamos pendiente y mientras tanto pasamos a otros párrafos.

CHAIRMAN: Cuba and Mexico could get together and suggest. Congo?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) Comme vient de le dire mon collègue du Mexique - et nous-mêmes sommes intervenus sur cette question de croissance démographique - nous pensons que c'est une notion tout à fait relative et qu'il faut la considérer au regard du développement économique et c'est pour cette raison que le Congo croit qu'il ne faut pas parler "d'un seul membre" mais plutôt "d'un certain nombre de membres" qui ont pensé qu'il fallait nuancer toutes ces questions et qu'on devait les étudier plus à fond pour en connaître les causes et les conséquences. C'est pour cette raison que le Congo s'associe également à cette adjonction.

CHAIRMAN: All right; Cuba, Congo and Mexico will kindly get together and formulate a sentence.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queríamos exponer el párrafo que estaba pendiente, 26 y 27, sobre urbanización y explosión demográfica que se nos había encomendado buscar una redacción común entre Mexico y el Congo y después se nos unió la distinguida representación de Lesotho dando también su criterio. Si me lo permite leamos el párrafo que proponemos. Es el 26.

Bien. "Varios países expresaron sin embargo que la explosión demográfica y la sobrepoblación eran términos que tenían sentido solamente en función del desarrollo económico de cada país, que ha sido castigado sistemáticamente en los países en desarrollo bajo un orden económico internacional injusto, y que el proceso de urbanización inconveniente era en consecuencia de las influencias indeseables de tal orden y no un producto y responsabilidad de los países en desarrollo, aceptando por tanto la realización de estudios sobre las causas de la migración campo/ciudad y sus implicaciones alimentarias."

Este sería el párrafo hecho en conjunto con Mexico, Congo, Cuba y una adición sobre los estudios propuesta por Lesotho.

Mrs. M. FENWICK (United States of America): I have only a Spanish text here and I am wrestling with it, but I do not see here any mention. There are undoubtedly economic reasons for the migration of the people from the country to the towns, but there is another problem which is not mentioned at all and that is the overall increase in the population. Now if you take a country where the population has gone up - and I can mention more than doubled in the past 20 years - you are going to have problems of urbanization which have to do with the numbers of people quite irrespective of the economic situation, and if the economic situation has not increased as rapidly - and there are many examples from which I could cite the figures - industrial production in one country down 29 percent, agriculture down 7.6 percent again year after year, and the population up from 8 to 20 million. Now the industrialization that had existed was failing, it was not popular; the agricultural production did not keep pace. You have got problems to do with the numbers of people, and that I do not see mentioned here even as part of the consideration - unless I have misunderstood the Spanish. My Spanish is not perfect, as my dear Mexican friend knows.

J. POSIER (France): A ce stade je voudrais poser deux questions. D'une part, serait-il possible d'avoir le texte de la proposition faite par l'Ambassadeur de Cuba parce que c'est quand même assez long et assez complexe, et je n'en ai pas très bien réalisé la teneur. J'en ai compris le sens général; je l'ai fort bien compris.

D'autre part, je voudrais savoir si ce texte s'ajoute au par. 26 tel que nous l'avons sous les yeux, tel qu'il a été prévu par le Comité de rédaction, ou s'il se substitue à ce texte.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): Solamente para aclarar que, efectivamente, al principio del párrafo que estamos sugiriendo se habla de sobrepoblación y de explosión demográfica y que éstos son términos necesariamente relativos al desarrollo; de otra manera tendríamos que concluir que Europa está sobrepoblada mientras que África está subpoblada. Si solo tomamos el término territorial así será.

Nuestra tesis es precisamente que ni la sobrepoblación ni la explosión demográfica son términos que se pueden evaluar independientemente del grado de desarrollo y de las posibilidades de desarrollo y

que éstas están sujetas a las condiciones económicas internacionales en muy buena parte. Pero si estas condiciones restringen el desarrollo de los países en desarrollo habrá siempre sobrepoblación; si Africa pudiera tener la expectativa en el futuro de encontrar los niveles de desarrollo de algunos países europeos sin duda ahora podríamos decir que el crecimiento demográfico pensado a largo plazo no implicaría sobrepoblación, pero dadas las condiciones efectivamente cualquier cantidad adicional de población es excesiva en el crecimiento cero porque los países africanos están decreciendo en productos.

Esto es básicamente la tesis. Igualmente con respecto del proceso de utilización ésta no se debe exclusivamente a una responsabilidad de los gobiernos de intensificar o favorecer el crecimiento urbano, sino que el proceso económico internacional nos obliga por las inversiones extranjeras, por la ayuda alimentaria, por muchas otras influencias, a favorecer un crecimiento urbano y ese crecimiento urbano ha desequilibrado las relaciones campo/ciudad desfavorablemente.

El fenómeno es muy complejo, por eso estamos solicitando un estudio al respecto porque la responsabilidad no se les puede imputar primordialmente a los gobiernos, sino que esto forma parte de un problema mundial mucho más complicado que queremos ver clarificado o por lo menos avanzado en su estudio a través de un análisis que pueda proporcionar la FAO.

S.J.KAO (Lesotho): Thank you Mr Chairman. My little contribution is an attempt to try and make a formulation starting with "agreeing", and our proposal is: "agreeing to the need to study and analyse rural/urban migration to avoid negative effects on social economic development, particularly on agriculture, and to formulate population management policies". Just to try and get that idea of population management and studies together. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is if Lesotho could also join Cuba, Congo, Mexico and France, because we do not have the full formulation and an alternative formulation has been suggested now by Lesotho. If you can get together and see if you can get the correct sentence and the Cuban Ambassador will read it out. Paragraph 27. India has the floor.

H.J.TALEYARKHAN (India): I was endeavouring to seek a clarification from the Chairman of the Drafting Committee about this whole paragraph. It does not appear to me to be very clear. "In this regard, the relationship between urbanization in the developing world and the undesirable effects of agricultural modernization". This is surprising. We are all striving for modernizing agriculture. If we qualify it by saying there are undesirable effects of agricultural modernization, it will be totally misunderstood. We are trying to modernize it to the extent that it is possible to do, and I would like to know how the Drafting Committee decided on such wording.

CHAIRMAN: I thought "mechanization" is the word, because "modernization" means improved seeds, improved everything.

H.J.TALEYARKHAN (India): Exactly, that is exactly what I thought.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): First I would say that the wording is not really happy and it could be improved, but the idea behind it, first I will say that this was added by us, I mean by the Committee, it was not in the initial draft, it was added on the suggestion of Argentina and the draft was prepared. There, was some confusion in the draft, and it was translated from Spanish to English and it was re-done etc., but the idea behind it was not challenged by everyone in our Committee. I also feel that there is some truth in it. The word "modernization" itself is now somewhat controversial. There is a view that the modernization process is at fault in agriculture and has certain negative effects.

What is being referred to here is perhaps the whole mix of technology, the new technology which is mechanization, but modernization is not confined to mechanization, the interaction of agri-business

for example, production for the market as opposed to what was then the subsistence sector, increasing exports - the whole, the entire modernization process including mechanization is a process which has certain harmful effects, and that is what the harmful effect in terms marginalization of the small farmer in terms of urbanization, etc., is, so the idea is sound, the question is putting it in the right words. Argentina had suggested this and we could perhaps - I would suggest that we could perhaps put it like this: "In this regard, the undesirable effects" - we will delete the word "urbanization" at the beginning, we will delete this phrase "relationship between urbanization", etc. We say: "In this regard, the undesirable effects of agricultural modernization process was highlighted".

CHAIRMAN: I would like to suggest "the undesirable effects of inappropriate technology", because appropriate technology again is a word; in Argentina it may be one thing, in Pakistan it may be another; "inappropriate" because I think, as one who has worked for 40 years in agriculture, I must warn the developing countries in accepting this sentence of undesirable effects of agricultural modernization, because this is like Humpty Dumpty, you know the word will mean different things. This will be condemning developing countries in perpetuity to hunger and starvation if you are not going to take up new technology. Therefore, one could say "inappropriate technology", because that is what we understood, appropriate technologies and inappropriate technologies, and it will vary from country to country, what is appropriate and what is inappropriate. Chairman of the Drafting Committee?

J. MUSHARRAF (chairman, Drafting Committee): I will be quite happy with this, this was not my sentence, it was only Argentina who proposed it. I do not know whether they have any strong feelings about saying something of the modernization process itself as being harmful, but it is entirely up to the Plenary to decide.

CHAIRMAN: Do you accept the words "undesirable effects of inappropriate technology"? Thank you very much.

Mrs A. DELLA CROCE DI DOJOLA (Italy): I wonder whether this slight change could in fact help, adding instead of "the undesirable effects of agricultural modernization" as it was, and "the developing world and certain undesirable effects" or "some undesirable effects".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Paragraph 28.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Un detail sur le paragraphe 27. Au lieu du mot "délétères" qui a un sens très particulier en français - on parle d'émanations délétères d'un produit - il vaudrait peut-être mieux parler des effets négatifs de techniques mal adaptées. Mais c'est uniquement une question de traduction. Le mot "délétère" s'applique à des gaz délétères, c'est tout.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The suggestion is "the consequences of inappropriate technologies". I hope a suitable French and Spanish term could be found. Paragraph 28? Paragraph 29?.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Quiero que me disculpe pero paso muy rápido el párrafo 28. Tengo una pequeña observación en este párrafo. La observación es la siguiente. En el quinto renglón de la versión española, aparece una frase que consideramos debe completarse. En esta frase la palabra "atractivas" solo para vivir y trabajar, nos parece un poco peligroso el que solo veamos la atracción que puede inducimos a llevar a las pequeñas ciudades cosas atractivas nada más. No quiero señalar cuáles pueden ser, como casas de juego, prostitución, etc. Todo eso es atractivo hoy, y quisiéramos que esta frase dijera lo siguiente. Es nada más incluir aquí, después de "no agrícolas", "en tareas no agrícolas y mejorar en términos generales las condiciones económico-sociales y de vida en las pequeñas ciudades y las zonas rurales...", como sigue, "...afin de hacerlas más atractivas para vivir y trabajar". Seguiría igual; solamente incluir "mejorar en términos generales las condiciones económico-sociales y de vida", y en otro párrafo, "a fin de hacerlas". Creo que esto define un poco más la palabra "atractivas".

CHAIRMAN: I hope you heard what Cuba suggested in the first sentence after "off-farm occupational needs" and add "improve the economic, social and living conditions of small towns and rural areas so as to make them more attractive places in which to live and work".

H.J.H.TALEYARKHAN (India): I had made a positive suggestion as a possible remedy for the problem of urbanization, so I would like it to be added, perhaps at the end of paragraph 28, "A possible remedy to the problem of urbanization is to encourage the starting of satellite towns within the periphery of rural areas". I think Mr Islam will recall that I had made a specific mention about this, what I would like to consider an important suggestion.

G.BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creemos que este tema es muy importante. Es uno de los asuntos de fondo que tratamos siempre, y por ello consideramos que sería conveniente tener, al final de la parte de nuestro informe sobre este tema, un párrafo que refleje la conclusión de nuestros debates y que contenga algo a lo cual hicimos referencia numerosas delegaciones y que no aparece en el texto. Hemos entregado el texto al Sr. Henderson, pero vamos a modificarlo un poco para evitar controversias.

Lo voy a leer, suprimiendo una parte del texto que le había entregado al Sr. Henderson. Se dice: "El Consejo concluyó que la situación alimentaria y agrícola es muy desfavorable para los países en desarrollo. Se pidió mayor y más decidida voluntad política por parte de algunos países desarrollados". Creemos que eso fue dicho aquí por numerosas delegaciones y que es un hecho, y que ojalá esto no ofrezca dificultades.

CHAIRMAN: No, the first sentence was clear: "the Council concluded that the food" - Colombia has proposed a paragraph in addition to number 30 as a concluding paragraph before we go to "The Food Situation in Africa". The first sentence reads: "The Council concluded that the food and agricultural situation is very unfavourable to developing countries"... the food and agricultural situation is very unfavourable to developing countries. Greater political will" - Can you read that sentence again, Colombia?

G.BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sí, la primera usted la ha leído muy bien, señor Presidente. La segunda es sencilla: "Se pidió mayor y más decisiva voluntad política por parte de algunos países desarrollados."

CHAIRMAN "Was requested" for what, for giving assistance or what - "greater and more decisive political will from some developed countries was requested". India has the floor.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Instead of the word "requested" we can say "was desirable", perhaps, instead of having to qualify what "requested" means.

CHAIRMAN: "Desirable" instead of "requested".

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I agree in substance. I know what my distinguished and so friendly colleague of Colombia is pointing to, but we ought to say "will" for what, not just say "will is desirable", and I think that all countries, we must have will to do something, we must urge them not just to have will to order other countries around, not just to have will to close their frontiers. I mean let them say what we mean, and I think we know what he means. Let us say it.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Cuando hicimos esta propuesta, tratamos de atenemos a sus sabios consejos en el sentido de no tratar de agregar demasiados textos al Proyecto del Informe. Sin embargo, en su brevedad, en sus dos miembros de esa frase, este párrafo es claro. En la primera frase decimos que la situación es desfavorable para los países en desarrollo, y en la segunda frase pedimos la mayor y más decidida voluntad política, justamente para mejorar esa situación. Pero no queremos alargar el texto, pero es claro. Es decir, mayor y más decidida voluntad política justamente para mejorar esa situación que es desfavorable.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): Would my distinguished colleague accept "greater and more decisive political will to bring about improvement" referring to the situation which has been described as unfavourable; "greater and more decisive political will to bring about improvement". Would that be satisfactory?

J.TCHICAYA (Congo): Je partage le point de vue de l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis et je crois qu'il convient effectivement de donner une précision. Je pense que ce que nous avons tous déclaré ici était suffisamment clair pour que cette précision soit apportée à cet amendement. Nous pensons qu'il convient de dire "une plus grande volonté politique afin de mobiliser davantage de ressources pour améliorer..." et je pense que l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis a dit "pour améliorer la situation".

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany Federal Republic of): Thank you Mr Chairman. Again, with hesitance we would go along with the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Colombia and amended by the distinguished delegate of the United States, but we should also see the issue in a broader context and we would propose to say "from all countries, particularly developed countries". I think this is an issue which comprises the whole international community and not just some countries.

CHAIRMAN: Colombia agrees. "A greater and more decisive political will is needed from all countries, particularly developed countries, to bring about an improvement in the situation". Cuba has the floor.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Era para apoyar lo propuesto por el Sr. Grabisch. Estamos totalmente de acuerdo en que todos tenemos que participar en esa voluntad política.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we move on to paragraph 30 ? Ambassador of Congo, do you still want the floor?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je désire intervenir car je ne connais pas le sort qui a été réservé à ce que j'ai ajouté.

CHAIRMAN: You wanted to add "the mobilization of resources". That is the only difference I find. Congo, if I got it correctly, wants to say "A greater and more decisive political will is needed from all countries, particularly developed countries, to mobilize additional resources to bring about improvement in the situation".

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr Chairman, I do not think the issue should be just limited to resources. It is a question also of policies that are being adopted by countries. So it is not just only the question of resources, and I think if the distinguished delegate of Congo could kindly take this into consideration, I think it would be, at least in the view of my delegation, rather more convenient.

J.TCHICAYA (Congo): Quand je parle de mobilisation de ressources, je crois qu'il s'agit bien là de politique. Ce n'est pas autre chose et j'ai partagé le point de vue de mon ami de la République fédérale d'Allemagne en disant que cette mobilisation des ressources ne concerne pas uniquement les pays développés mais également les pays en développement eux-mêmes. C'est une politique et une volonté politique que de vouloir mobiliser les ressources, même intérieures. C'est important, et je pense qu'il convient d'insérer ce que je venais d'ajouter.

CHAIRMAN: I think it can be said "to mobilize additional resources and develop appropriate government policies". I think the German Ambassador is concerned about input and output pricing policies. There are so many government policies which are needed to bring about an improvement. Resources is only one aspect of the measures needed to bring about, so I would suggest that instead of continuing the discussion we say "to mobilize additional resources and introduce appropriate government policies to bring about an improvement in the situation".

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr Chairman, I was wondering whether you could also include the removal of general constraints, because there was a lot of debate on this.

CHAIRMAN: I would request you not to press. I think "mobilize additional resources and introduce appropriate government policies" is all-comprehensive. Thank you very much; that was in the previous paragraph, yes, that has all been approved.

So we will have a new paragraph 30 at the end of 27, as proposed by Colombia and modified by the United States and others, and that is a good suggestion, and I thank you, Ambassador of Colombia. We go to the food situation in Africa. The paragraphs will all be renumbered later so do not bother about them. Cape Verde has the floor.

Paragraphs 11 to 29 not concluded

Les paragraphes 11 à 29 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 11 a 29 quedan pendientes

PARAGRAPHS 30 to 44

PARAGRAPHES 30 à 44

PARRAFOS 30 a 44

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Au paragraphe 31 on dit, "s'est déclaré sérieusement préoccupé de la situation alimentaire très critique en Afrique, notamment en Ethiopie". Je voudrais ajouter "et dans les pays au sud du Sahara"; "où il y a déjà eu de nombreuses pertes de vies humaines, et dans les pays du Sahara". Parce qu'il n'y a pas simplement que l'Ethiopie et que la situation est très grave. Dans mon intervention j'ai parlé des pays sahéliens, du Niger, de Burkina Faso et des zones dont la situation est assez grave en Ethiopie.

CHAIRMAN: I think that is acceptable, particularly to India?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Certainly acceptable. I am only pointing out one more thing. Would it be acceptable to you Sir, to include here "the general assistance given by donor as well as by developing countries in grain, cash consultancy and other services were appreciated." It was mentioned elsewhere.

CHAIRMAN: There is the sequence there. This only deals with the situation.

Paragraph 32? Paragraph 33? Paragraph 34? Paragraph 35? Paragraph 36?

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): There is a typing error in paragraph 36 which might cause confusion. This refers only to the English text. The other languages are correct. Only in the English text the last sentence of paragraph 36 should read "The Council noted with appreciation the decision of one donor government", and here we should add the following phrase: "to preposition food stocks in vulnerable areas. Many members urged other governments", and then we can continue as printed-"to consider similar action etc."

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Mr Chairman, I would like to make one entirely, and I am quite sure acceptable addition to the end of the paragraph. I have little doubt in my mind that it will be appreciated. It would read as follows: "The Council further noted with appreciation the decision of the Government of India to provide 100,000 tonnes of wheat to the drought-affected countries of Africa. It is a fitting tribute to the memory of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who always had the interests of suffering humanity anywhere in the world so much at heart." May I recommend the inclusion of these unanimously agreed sentences at the end of this para?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, queremos expresar nuestra complacencia no sólo por la adición de la frase que ha propuesto el representante de India, sino por la actitud tan positiva de ese importante país.

Queremos referirnos a las dos últimas frases del párrafo 36. Nos alegramos de hacerlo en el sentido positivo y consideramos que la frase a la cual se refirió el señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción es muy importante e, inclusive, hubiéramos querido redactar aún con mayor énfasis, para destacar esa actitud positiva de los Estados Unidos. Nos abstenemos de hacerlo para no distraer su proceso de acuerdo; pero sí pensamos que la frase siguiente, o sea, la última frase actual, antes de la que agregó el representante de India, debería decir: en vez de "muchos miembros", "el Consejo" instó a otros Gobiernos, porque el Comité de Redacción reflejó lo que dijeron muchos miembros, pero todo el Consejo estaba de acuerdo en reconocer esa actitud positiva y en instar a que todos los Gobiernos hagan lo mismo.

CHAIRMAN: Well, shall I read it out for your benefit, other than the sentences proposed by India, as modified by the Drafting Committee Chairman and the delegate of Colombia. "The Council noted with appreciation the decision of one donor government to preposition food stocks in vulnerable areas. The Council urged other governments to consider similar action to ensure that urgently needed food aid was delivered to the affected population without delay." Then follow the two sentences proposed by India.

Well, thank you very much. Paragraph 37? Paragraph 38?

P.S.McLEAN(United Kingdom): Just a small point on paragraph 38. I think the sense of the discussion on the Director-General's proposal and the Council's reaction to it would be perhaps better reflected if the first sentence could have at the end added just the words "in cooperation with other donors". I trust that would be acceptable, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Can you read it out, please, Mr McLean

P.S.McLEAN (United Kingdom): From the point where it says "to refocus some of FAO's Regular Programme resources during the current biennium up to an amount of US\$5 million to support the rehabilitation efforts of the affected countries in cooperation with other donors".

H.CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr Chairman, I just wanted to find out the objective of this amendment, because if I understand the procedures in FAO, what it really means is that the Director-General makes a proposal to refocus the amount indicated there. He will submit it to the Finance Committee and later to the Council. Therefore, the consultation goes not only to donors but to all the members of the said Committees and of the Council. I want to be clarified therefore on what is the objective of the amendment just made.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): J'avais moi-même les mêmes préoccupations que mon collègue des Philippines. Je ne comprends pas très bien la signification de l'adjonction qui est proposée. Lorsque je regarde le texte de la seconde phrase, je constate que l'on parle d'organiser une mission multidonateurs en Ethiopie. Je pense qu'il y a déjà cette volonté de coopération avec les donateurs; c'est pour cette raison que je ne comprends pas cette adjonction et pour ma part je ne trouve pas qu'elle soit la bienvenue ici.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: There are two points I want to make, Mr Chairman. One is a grammatical one rather than anything else. The proposed amendments refer to other donors but I do not see a reference in the sentence at the moment to donors, and I think it would be inappropriate to refer to FAO as if it were a donor. I do not think that anybody would want that. What is involved here is refocussing FAO's regular programme resources. My second point in that regard is that this will be done within the Director-General's existing authorities, but if and when it is necessary to go to the Finance Committee and Council under the financial rules and regulations to report transfers and so forth, that of course will be done, but it may not be necessary to do that. We will have to see whether the refocussing involves any such formal procedure or not. So what we are talking about is simply refocussing some of the existing programmes and activities, most of which will already have been directed towards Africa, but refocussing them towards this rehabilitation aspect, so perhaps some publications with a longer term bearing will be replaced with something more direct and more short-term on rehabilitation. That is all.

I do not really think the question of the donors as such comes into this part. As regards the general aspect of cooperation with donors, well that is referred to in the following sentence. It would certainly be the case, in respect of other countries on which we shall bring our rehabilitation efforts to bear, and we hope that the response will be very widespread. So far the response has been rather narrow in this case, possibly because of the shortage of time, but it is certainly our hope and our wish there will be the widest cooperation with donors in all our habilitation efforts. In particular we shall need them to supply the large quantities which will no doubt be required of seeds and inputs and so forth, whether bilaterally or by other means.

P.S. Mc LEAN (United Kingdom): Thank you Mr Chairman. I take Mr West's point about the phraseology in the actual words I used in reference to other donors. The point was a very simple, practical, one, and an indication I had hoped and thought that it would be sensible for the Council to take note of whatever FAO might be doing could be in cooperation with others, but I am not going to insist, Mr Chairman; I withdraw the proposal.

CHAIRMAN: So paragraph 38 stands as it is. We move on to paragraph 39.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): On dit: "les représentants de pays africains ont indiqué que leurs Gouvernements prenaient actuellement un certain nombre de mesures"; cela veut dire que dans le passé ils n'ont rien fait, si je comprends bien; c'est ce qu'on veut dire; j'aurais préféré que l'on mette: prenaient un certain nombre de mesures" et que l'on biffe le mot "actuellement". En effet, cela peut prêter à confusion. "Prenaient actuellement un certain nombre de mesures": cela veut dire que dans le passé on n'a rien fait.

CHAIRMAN: Is this all right? "many members from African countries indicated that their governments had taken a number of measures..."

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): I think it would be better to say "are taking" which means they are doing it from the past to the future, a continuous programme.

CHAIRMAN: Lesotho has proposed "are taking".

There is a problem in the French text, which has added the words "at present". So I think if we adopt Lesotho's point and properly translate it in French it will be all right.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Is the proposal to change the verb into the present tense, "are taking"?

CHAIRMAN: That is the proposal.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I was wondering whether it was correct, because the procedure in reporting is always in the past tense. There is a concordance of tenses here. The mere fact that it is reported in the past does not mean they are not taking action right now. It is a question of convention.

CHAIRMAN: So you prefer "had taken" if Lesotho has no objection.

S.J. KAO (Lesotho): In that case the better English is "were taking". The original would be better.

CHAIRMAN: I think the French translation is correct. Cape Verde agrees. So we leave it as it is.

A.RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): C'est une intervention de fond; en tout cas, mon pays ne peut pas accepter "que leurs Gouvernements prenaient actuellement...". Est-ce que dans le passé ils n'ont rien fait? C'est une intervention de fond. Je n'accepte pas que le mot "actuellement" soit maintenu.

CHAIRMAN: "At present" is to be omitted from the French text. Congo?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je pense que l'on pourrait concilier les points de vue exprimés par tout le monde en disant: "que leurs Gouvernements continuent à prendre un certain nombre de mesures". Est-ce que eel a pourra satisfaire mon collègue du Cap-Vert?

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. So the sentence will say "the governments continue taking a number of measures". Paragraph 40? 41? 42?

L.ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): en el párrafo 42 en la línea número 8 de la versión española quisiéramos incluir, porque consideramos que le damos la secuencia necesaria a lo aprobado en el párrafo 41 al definir el problema básico estructural que obstaculiza el crecimiento del sector alimentario, quisiéramos incluir en esta línea, después de "atención a los problemas" la palabra "estructurales" y continúa "y de los pequeños agricultores" no dejar solo lo de "pequeños agricultores".

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the suggestion of Cuba to add "The need to pay special attention to structural problems and to the problems of small farmers was emphasized".

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I had not expected to ask for time, but it makes me feel, remembering what President Kountché said to us the other day, we have to emphasize talking to, and above all listening to small farmers. "Structural is fine, but that is another world from where the small farmer is trying to live at the end of a dirt track. I do not know where there is sufficient warmth of concentration on small farmers. Who is going to listen to them? So I regret the weakening by the inclusion of the word "structural" because I was hoping that we could have even greater emphasis on listening to small farmers.

CHAIRMAN: The Ambassador of the United States has suggested that we should not dilute the emphasis, the sole emphasis on small farmers. If necessary^the structural problems could be included in another appropriate place.

J.TCHICAYA (Congo): Le délégué de Cuba vient de renforcer le texte en ajoutant ce terme "structurel". Nous pensons qu'il convient de le renforcer effectivement et non pas de le diluer en laissant "les problèmes des petits agriculteurs". Quels sont ces problèmes? Ce sont des problèmes structurels; les petits agriculteurs ont besoin d'être aidés; il faut des structures de crédit, ceci est très important; je crois que le terme qu'il vient d'ajouter apporte vraiment plus de clarté et nous pensons qu'il faut que le Conseil appuie ce terme.

H.J.H.TALEYARKHAN (India): I could not agree more with the Ambassador of the United States, and I could not agree less with the Ambassador of Cuba either, because the stress on the small and marginal farmers certainly requires to be paid to the maximum extent. I would make only a small amendment which may satisfy the Ambassador of the United States as well as the Ambassador of Cuba. That is|that we say "structural and other". That would cover everything. I hope it will be acceptable to Ambassador Fenwick as well as to the Ambassador of Cuba.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I thank my colleagues from Cuba and India. I think we could put "improvement of distribution and transport facilities and other structural problems" right together where they are with the big more macro-economic stuff, leaving the small farmers with their problems in one emphasized sentence. We could put "credit", which certainly is important, "and other structural problems".

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): This suggestion which has been made would not give a full picture of what is necessary. The full picture was given by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. There we have a whole range of issues which have to be taken into consideration. We have the action programmes which have been adopted in '79. Is it really necessary to change the text if we already have guidance on what problems should be taken up with regard to improvements in the situation of the small farmers? But if the majority of the Member States wishes to change the text I have no problem, but I do not think it is necessary.

CHAIRMAN: May I just say what is now being discussed? The Ambassador of the United States has suggested "improvement of distribution and transport facilities and other structural problems" and the delegate of Germany would like to say "identified by WCARRD". Then that sentence ends there, "and other structural problems identified by WCARRD. The need to pay special attention to problems of small farmers." The United States delegate wants to add "credit" in the previous sentence, - "credit and other structural problems identified by WCARRD. The need to pay special attention..."

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Sí, señor Presidente; no pensábamos que una frase iba a traer una discusión. Me parece que si leemos con cuidado, que fue lo que hicimos antes de proponer esto, vemos que el párrafo 42 nos indica varias medidas de acción prioritarias en las cuales está el transporte, servicios, distribución, alimentos, erradicación de plagas, una gama muy amplia de medidas, pero en el centro del párrafo se puso de relieve la necesidad de prestar especial atención a los problemas estructurales y de los pequeños agricultores. Nosotros estaríamos de acuerdo con aceptar la proposición de la distinguida representación de la India de "estructurales y otros y de los pequeños agricultores". La frase de "los pequeños agricultores" no hemos propuesto quitarla, creemos realmente que los problemas de los agricultores son de estructura y estamos también de acuerdo en que la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y sus planes de acción analizó esto, pero como no estamos analizando la adopción de la Conferencia sino el párrafo 42 creíamos que con la palabra "estructurales" y la proposición de India "y otros" quedaba completa la visión general que debe dar el párrafo de medidas prioritarias.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous aussi nous serions plutôt tentés d'accepter la proposition faite par l'Inde. Nous croyons sincèrement qu'en adoptant cette condition nous tenons justement compte du programme d'action de la CMRADR; par conséquent, je crois que le problème structurel pour les petits agriculteurs est un problème très important et nous ne pouvons pas le négliger; par conséquent, je voudrais appuyer la proposition faite par l'Inde pour que nous puissions avancer.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I do not know how many people have spoken to small farmers, but when you talk to small farmers what are they really worried about? Structural problems—they do not even know what you are talking about. They are worried about the larger grain-borers, the mealy bug that eats up all their cassava. These are their real problems. I do not know what is meant by structural problems, and I do not think the small farmers does. If you are putting that with credit distribution, transport, pricing policies, that is structural. But I think somewhere the small farmer needs to be singled out as the person to whom we are addressing ourselves, to whom we are listening with the greatest concern and the utmost respect. I do not know why throw in structural in the same sentence as small farmers as though they were part of some big macroeconomic stuff. We have small farmers that need to be listened to. I do not know why we cannot put "structural" in with transport, distribution, credit, and all other such things.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous insistons là-dessus par ce que nous aussi nous avons parlé aux agriculteurs et pendant assez longtemps. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous insistons sur ce mot "structurel". C'est important. On ne peut pas négliger cet aspect des choses; les agriculteurs, quand ils n'ont pas assez de terre pour cultiver, par exemple, savent que ça leur pose des problèmes. Nous avons, à certaines époques, nous aussi dirigé l'agriculture de notre pays et nous pensons que nous avons à ce sujet un certain nombre d'expériences que nous pouvons faire valoir ici; c'est pour cette raison que je continue à appuyer la proposition faite par l'Inde parce qu'elle reflète les aspects du problème que l'on rencontre en Afrique; originaires de cette région, nous connaissons les quelques problèmes qui se posent à tous, bien entendu; nous en connaissons un certain nombre.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos expresar exclusivamente lo siguiente: comprendemos a quien necesite hablar con pequeños agricultores porque no tienen pequeños agricultores, eso lo comprendemos, que tenga que salir de su país para hablar con ellos, pero nosotros somos un país de pequeños agricultores a los cuales les dimos la propiedad en una reforma agraria integral, completa, y están haciendo su desarrollo sobre la base individual y cooperativa. Nosotros comprendemos que ésa es la estructura que consideramos que hay que analizar junto con precios, transporte, crédito. Nosotros si tenemos pequeños agricultores, no tenemos grandes consorcios, ni grandes compañías, ni grandes sociedades con acciones en grandes territorios, ni grandes maquinarias, tenemos pequeños agricultores en tabaco, café, etc.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): May I make a compromise suggestion which may perhaps be acceptable to our friends from Cuba and Congo, that we retain what they were good enough to accept, "structural and other areas" in order also to accommodate the Ambassador of the United States, inclusion of "transport, credit" etc.

CHAIRMAN: Transport has come in the previous sentence.

H.J.K. TALEYARKHAN (India): Ambassador Fenwick has indicated it might come here instead.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): No. In some countries we have now one big landowner, not 500, and I do not think the little farmer likes that any better than he did when he had 500 big landowners and he could not get his hands on his own piece of land. But leaving that aside, if that is what is meant by "structural" I am against it, because I do not think the little farmer likes it. This is beyond patience. Let us be serious about what we are doing. I would like to put "structural" in with distribution, credit, transport, pricing and all the other places where "structural" belongs. But I would like to have one little sentence in all this for the poor people at the end of the line. And I may say I have gotten a note from a representative of an African country who profoundly and passionately agrees with me. We must be serious about what we really mean here. One big landowner is not any better than 50 - it is worse.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I fully appreciate the great anxiety of the Ambassador of the United States, but the knowledge and experience of small and marginal farmers is also very well known to all of us from India, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, Congo and other countries. She has not denied it, but she has stressed necessarily that the two cannot be interconnected. What the Ambassadors of Mexico, Cuba, Congo and Colombia have suggested is quite simple, and I am sure that it might be acceptable to Ambassador Fenwick, that "structural" can be retained without any detriment to the significance to what she wants to have imparted and incorporated in the text of this paragraph. Supposing, as you just mentioned, Mr Chairman, transport has already been included in that, we need not include it at this stage. We can say "distribution, credit" etc. I think that may be acceptable, without disturbing "structural" in other areas. I am only trying to find a compromise solution which would be acceptable to both sides. If the United States would also accept this and if transport has come elsewhere then "distribution, credit" could be included in "structural and other areas".

H.HØSTMARK (Norway): If a compromise solution is arrived at, all right, but I will come back if not.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of the distinguished delegate of India is "The need to pay special attention to structural and other problems including credit and other problems of small farmers was emphasized".

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): Would the distinguished delegate of India allow the mention of "structural" in the previous sentence? I am not against considering "structural". Would he support "structural" going into the preceding sentence, leaving the needs of small farmers emphasized by themselves.

CHAIRMAN: If it is agreeable to the distinguished delegates of Cuba and Congo, may we have a separate sentence on structural problems reading, "The need to pay special attention to the problems of small farmers was emphasized. In this context, attention to structural problems was specifically mentioned", so we have two sentences; leave the existing sentence as it is and then add, "In this context, the need to pay special attention to structural problems was also emphasized".

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No vamos a entrar en discusión; no vamos a entrar en ningún tipo de discusión sobre seriedad porque la seriedad nosotros no la discutimos ahora. Creo, en función de no hacer de esto un problema insoluble y no retrasar la discusión de este Consejo, creo que lo propuesto por la India podemos aceptarlo. Y podemos además dejar el párrafo de los pequeños agricultores totalmente como un párrafo aparte. Y el punto que termina en transporte, si lo convertimos en coma para que quede "transporte, precios, créditos y en especial los problemas estructurales". Y dejamos eso así, y después sigue "Se puso de relieve la necesidad de prestar especial atención", puesto que sería otro párrafo.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of the United States has accepted this addition. Everybody has accepted.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je suis plutôt tenté d'accepter la formule de l'Inde qui nous a été proposée et que vous avez relue tout à l'heure, dire que "dans ce contexte on a souligné la nécessité d'accorder (disons) une place de choix aux problèmes structurels". Après la phrase "les petits agriculteurs" on dirait "dans ce contexte". J'accepte cette rédaction plutôt que celle proposée par Cuba.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of Cuba agrees with you, so we have a separate sentence after the sentence ending, "...problems of small farmers was emphasized", we add, "In this context, the need to pay attention to structural problems was emphasized". Otherwise, the paragraph is exactly the same. We have only added one additional sentence. Paragraph 43?

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Au paragraphe 43 on cite toutes les difficultés qui gênent "la mise en œuvre de leurs programmes de développement agricole" mais on oublie ce qui a été dit ici par la plupart des orateurs africains, c'est-à-dire les moyens de production comme les semences, les inputs, c'est très important et par conséquent je voudrais suggérer qu'après les "insuffisances de l'infrastructure" on ajoute "particulièrement le manque d'intrants, de moyens de production" et on continue "risques sanitaires, etc.". Je répète, je voudrais que le manque de matériel, les intrants, les moyens de production, tout cela soit très bien mis en évidence parce que c'est un facteur limitatif en Afrique et partout.

CHAIRMAN: I think everyone will agree that we add after "... and other infrastructural deficiencies", the words "in particular the shortage of production inputs".

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je suis d'accord, bien entendu, avec mon collègue du Cap-Vert pour qu'on ajoute les intrants agricoles après "infrastructure", mais auparavant je voudrais également, à la troisième ligne du texte français, après les deux points de "contraintes matérielles", qu'on ajoute "entre autres". Je pense qu'en dehors de ce qui est cité il y a d'autres contraintes matérielles et il suffit de mettre simplement "entre autres précipitations incertaines et sécheresses fréquentes". Je veux dire que la liste ici n'est pas exhaustive et qu'il convient de nuancer le texte.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of the Congo has suggested that the first sentence of paragraph 43 should begin as follows, "The Council noted with concern that African countries were hampered in implementing agricultural development programmes by a number of physical constraints such as uncertain rains and frequent drought", so this is illustrative and not a list of constraints. Paragraph 44 ?

Paragraphs 30 to 44, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 30 à 44, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 30 a 44, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 45, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 45, Y COMPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 45, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As Council will notice, paragraph 45 as it stands is incomplete. The complete text of paragraph 45 is given in the one page supplement, CL 86/REP/1-Sup.1, which gives the text of the Resolution, so I do not have to read it out. However, there is one typographical omission in this document, one word left out in all the languages. It is in the last paragraph, 1(b), and it is the word "improved" which should come before the word "seeds". It is in the last line of the paragraph, which will now read, "... and on expanded use of inputs such as improved seeds and fertilizers".

CHAIRMAN: Shall we adopt the Resolution unanimously

K, SHIOZAWA (Japan): My delegation is of the opinion that in order to assist the present food and agricultural programme in Africa the African countries should give priority to the food and agricultural sector and improve their own self-help effort. We fully recognize that the international community should assist that self-help effort by giving assistance, and we feel the result before us is in line with the decision of my country, and deserves our full support.

Taking full advantage of my opportunity to speak, I would like to mention briefly that the Japanese Foreign Minister who has recently returned from a visit to the drought-affected areas in Africa addressed an appeal to the international community, in which he mentioned the Japanese additional assistance of approximately 50 million US dollars to Africa, and stressed the importance of not only emergency assistance but also possibly carrying out agricultural and food related assistance based on an immediate and long-term point of view of supporting their self-reliant effort. He also stressed the importance of exchange of information and ideas among donor countries, and between donor and

recipient countries, for the effective implementation of such assistance activities. He concluded by saying that relief is urgently required for those African peoples suffering from starvation and malnutrition, and to provide a future for the African children. For those delegations who are interested in the appeal, copies of it are available at the entrance of this room.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Japan for his strong support of the resolution, and for his statement.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I just want to say that we whole-heartedly support this and the one word addition. We would like to mention in regard to self-help that in the first paragraph mention is made of the Harare Declaration. I was there, and I am sure we have all read carefully the very sober, dignified and extensively argued portions of the Harare Declaration which refer specifically to self-help. I think that is covered, since we did mention that Declaration, and brought attention to it.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of Japan said he was happy to see that emphasis.

Paragraph 45, including Resolution as amended, adopted.

Le paragraphe 45, y compris la résolution, ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 45, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 46 to 62

PARAGRAPHEs 46 à 62

PARRAFOS 46 a 62

CHAIRMAN: Paragraphs 46, 47, 48, 49, 50?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Solo para adicionar una línea en las dos primeras, por considerar que esto fue reiteradamente planteado en este Consejo. La frase dice: "El Consejo puso de relieve que la seguridad alimentaria dependía no solo de la producción interior, sino también de un aumento de la capacidad de importación." Yo propongo adicionar "la cual se encuentra gravemente afectada en la actualidad por la falta de divisas".

CHAIRMAN: I hope the addition suggested by the distinguished delegate of Cuba is acceptable -... but also on an expanded capacity to import which is seriously affected at present because of lack of foreign exchange".

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): J'appuie l'adjonction faite par l'Ambassadeur de Cuba mais je voudrais apporter un léger ajout à la dernière phrase. Je voudrais qu'on ajoute, là où l'on parle "d'instaurer un nouvel ordre économique international", "plus juste afin de promouvoir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale".

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of Congo has suggested, "the establishment of a more equitable International Economic Order".

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Estamos por supuesto de acuerdo con esa inclusión "Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional mas justo". Y solicitamos igualmente que se agregue una frase, al final de la primera oración del párrafo 50, donde se habla del "aumento de la capacidad de importación". Para ser consecuentes con lo que muchas delegaciones hemos insistido, es decir, "capacidad de importación no sólo de los productos sino también de los insumos agrícolas y alimentarios".

Nuestra delegación inclusive ha hecho referencia en varias ocasiones a que el concepto de seguridad alimentaria debe ser muy claro en este sentido, e incluir no solamente a los productos sino también a los insumos. Pero para no causar turbulencias en este momento, al respecto, sí solicitamos que por lo menos en este párrafo se hable de los insumos agrícolas y la capacidad de importación que debemos tener para lograr la seguridad alimentaria.

CHAIRMAN: The sentence, as amended by both the distinguished delegates of Mexico and Cuba, reads as follows: "The Council emphasized that food security depended not only on domestic production but also on an expanded capacity to import both commodities and essential agricultural inputs which were seriously affected at present by a lack of foreign exchange". Thank you for accepting these two amendments.

Paragraph 51, paragraph 52, paragraph 53?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): In the third sentence I suggest that "buffer stocks" be put into brackets after "the useful role of reserves".

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): "Reserves" are wider than "buffer stocks", so I wonder whether the equation of buffer stocks and reserves does not dilute the meaning of the paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: Let us leave it as it is. Paragraphs 54, 55, 56, 57, 58?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I consider this World Food Security Compact to be an extremely good project and perhaps a little more stress is required to be given to it. It is stated here that "The Council was informed that the Director-General planned to submit to the next session of the CFS a draft of the World Food Security Compact which would not contain any new or binding commitments, but would aim at giving a moral boost to all concerned and provide a basis for promotion action" - There is a mistake there - "for promoting action by governments, international organizations, Non Governmental Organizations and individuals." Here, I would like to insert instead of "individuals", "and involvement of wholehearted people's participation". The paragraph continues, "The Committee was encouraged to give full and careful consideration to the draft World Food Security Compact." People's participation is of the utmost importance. "Individual" does not carry the same significance, it is weak. So, "people's participation" must be there.

CHAIRMAN: India has suggested the addition of "people's participation"; NGOs, "people's participation and individuals", "people's participation" means - it will not read well here; "international organizations and NGOs" and India would like to add "people's" -

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): "People's participation as a whole". Instead of "individuals", we can say "people's participation as a whole". What is meant by "individuals" as such, individual by individual? It will be much more comprehensive to say "people's participation as a whole".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: One cannot anticipate who the individuals would be, but to take an example, let us say something like the Brandt Commission. They are not an international organization, they are not an NGO, they are not people's participation, they are individuals but very important individuals.

That is what I think was in mind here. "People's participation" on the other hand is a phrase that was used rather to describe the participation of small farmers and rural people in their own development efforts. It has a different connotation, so with respect, I would suggest that NGOs and individuals cover the participation of all people. To add "people's participation" would add nothing but a little bit of confusion I think.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I disagree with Mr West, I hate to do so, but I have a very strong feeling about the involvement of the people in all these projects. The example he gave of the Brandt Commission does not consider an individual. It's an institutional involvement.

CHAIRMAN: We can make another sentence here: "The need for people's participation was also stressed", so that is it agreeable to you, before the last sentence, "The need for people's participation was also stressed"? Thank you. Paragraphs 59, 60, 61, 62?

Paragraphs 46 to 62, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 46 à 62, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 46 a 62, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 63 to 75

PARAGRAPHES 63 à 75

PARRAFOS 63 a 75

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseo referirme, señor Presidente, a la última frase del párrafo 66. He hecho llegar a la Secretaría una redacción para esta segunda frase, basada en esa redacción, en tres puntos que estoy seguro no son controvertidos. El primero es para que aparezca aquí, en realidad, el cargo exacto del Presidente de la Conferencia del Gobierno de su país; para que aparezca el nombre de México, que no aparece, y para registrar el reconocimiento que todos hemos hecho a la manera como se presidió esa Conferencia Mundial sobre Pesca.

Diría simplemente así la segunda frase, repito que la he entregado a la Secretaría: "El Presidente de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca, Excelentísimo Secretario de Pesca de México, Licenciado Pedro Ojeda Paullada, cuya excelente labor fue destacada por el Consejo, hizo una evaluación de los resultados, etc. etc.". Es decir, en vez de agregar un nuevo párrafo, he preferido esta redacción más sencilla.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Henderson, have you got the draft, because otherwise people will not know what we are approving. I suggest as the member has given a draft, the Secretary or the Chairman will read it out to help others. I would also be grateful if the members concerned could also pass on a draft to me.

J.D.M. HENDERSON (Ayudante del Secretario-General): El texto dice: "El Presidente de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca, Excelentísimo Señor Secretario de Pesca de México, Licenciado Pedro Ojeda Paullada, cuya excelente labor fue destacada por el Consejo, hizo una evaluación... (y continúa lo mismo).

CHAIRMAN: Is that agreeable to Members? I do not hear any objection. Thank you, Colombia for the suggestion.

Paragraphs 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75? Thank you very much, to Fisheries. Thanks also to the Drafting Committee for their excellent drafting.

Paragraphs 63 to 75, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 63 à 75, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 63 a 75, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 76 to 77 approved

Les paragraphes 76 et 77 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 76 a 77 son aprobados

DRAFT REPORT - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE II

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 7

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 7

PÁRRAFOS 1 a 7

H.J.H. TALEYARKHARAN (India): May I suggest that at the end of paragraph 4 ending with "social concern", we add on a sentence. "It was asserted that development could take place without destruction". Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Is that agreeable to you? I think that "asserted" is not appropriate. "It was pointed out that development could take place without destruction". Paragraph 4 in Forestry, Item 7.1, India has proposed "The Council also stressed the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to land use planning involving forestry, agriculture and other areas of social concern". He suggested, "It was pointed out that development could take place without destruction". That is the purpose of the multidisciplinary approach. Thank you. Paragraphs 5, 6, 7.

Paragraphs 1 to 7, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 7, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 7, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 8 to 11

PARAGRAPHERS 8 à 11

PÁRRAFOS 8 a 11

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I was only suggesting whether somewhere in 8, 9 or 10 could be mentioned, in order to make the International Year of the Forest more effective, the entire Programme could be placed before the Members as soon as possible before the Forest Year, so that we would know in advance what is proposed and make suggestions of what we might want to do for supplementing it. Just the declaration will not help. I know FAO is doing its best, but if we could have the programme, it could be incorporated somewhere in the body of this draft. It would be helpful.

CHAIRMAN: Exactly what we would like, because in the resolution the last item says "Requests the Director-General" and so on "to respond to requests from FAO Member Nations".

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Excuse my intervention at this moment, but if I understood correctly, FAO should present the programme for the Year of the Forest to the Members of the Council.

Now, the Council is going to meet next year sometime in June. We have to act as of January 1st, so I do not see when FAO can present it to the Council. I would suggest, Mr Chairman, that this is a decision for the Director-General and the management of the Organization. Eventually, of course, the Director-General will report on the actions taken lack to the Council and to the governing body of FAO.

CHAIRMAN: I think what the delegate of India has in mind is that it should send the programme to the Member Governments and not wait for the Council, in June. He wanted a complete package of proposals or suggestions to be forwarded to all Member Nations of FAO.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I entirely agree with what we have indicated, especially for the reason that the Council is not going to meet till mid-next year and the programme is beginning in January. It is necessary for us to know the entire programme arrangements which FAO will be undertaking so painstakingly. So we can start doing as much as we can in our respective countries.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Of course, basically the action of the International Year of the Forest is going to take place in the countries themselves, and it is up to the countries to do their own programming and their own action directly, but we could of course write to all the Member Countries suggesting the celebrations and suggesting ideas in general, but not specific programmes. Perhaps I have not understood correctly the suggestion by India.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I am not suggesting a day-to-day programme, I am only asking for the particular outline of the programme for the Year, so that along with our national programmes, the very valuable, expert suggestions of the FAO could also be considered and incorporated. That is all I am suggesting, and it will be helpful from their point of view as well in order to make the International Year of the Forest more effective so that we can be out of the woods when we are dealing with the question of the woods!

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not think we should delay too much on this, because I think there is no real problem. I think what has to be clear is that when we are talking about programme, we are talking about everybody's programme, and we are not talking about a new FAO programme that we are going to put into effect now. We can make suggestions to countries, but it will be their programmes, that's all.

CHAIRMAN: Any other suggestions? Otherwise shall we adopt this resolution? There is apparently no broad outline of a programme. What I think the FAO Assistant Director-General says is essentially that the countries should develop their own programmes, as mentioned in the operative part of the resolution. However, India has requested FAO to share its vast knowledge on appropriate methods. That is what I gather, so if Members agree, we could add one sentence: "The Council agreed that 1985 be declared by FAO as the International Year of the Forest and requested FAO to forward to Member Nations suitable suggestions".

Is this agreeable to you, Mr West?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would suggest at the end of paragraph 9, "The Council agreed that 1985 be declared by FAO as the International Year of the Forest requesting the Director-General so to notify Member Nations, including suggestions for national activities". The end of paragraph 9 adding the words "and requested the Director-General so to inform Member Nations, including suggestions for appropriate national activities".

CHAIRMAN: I hope this is agreeable to you. Mr West's proposal is a good one. Thank you very much, Mr West.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Perdóneme, señor Presidente, pero usted pasó muy rápido la aprobación, comprendo su prisa pero necesito hacer una observación sobre la Resolución. Quiero dejar claro nuestra preocupación sobre el "Expresando" y el "Estimando". En los párrafos seis y siete, en que se expresa la falta de conciencia política y en el "Estimando" donde se dice tomar las "medidas posibles para acelerar el proceso de intensificación de la conciencia política". Esta Resolución, en el marco de este Consejo que ha tenido como divisa buscar acciones prácticas reales, prácticas posibles, no resoluciones imposibles de cumplir, esto se discutió en el COFO, y creo que se repitió la situación de preguntar a quién se va a concientizar, ¿posiblemente a los dirigentes, dueños de tierras, a los gobernantes de los países? ¿O a los pobladores de las montañas que son los que deforestan, porque no tienen otro lugar donde vivir, porque sus problemas no los tienen resueltos, ya que es un

problema estructural porque nadie les da casas donde vivir? Si no se resuelve el problema económico la concientización política de un medio rural cuyo 80 ó 90 por ciento de sus habitantes son analfabetos, la palabra "conciencia política" en estos párrafos, es un poco formal para no decir un poco retórica.

CHAIRMAN: What is your concrete proposal, Cuba?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La propuesta concreta es considerar que no es un problema de conciencia política. Creo que es un problema estructural, de resolver los problemas socio-económicos que tienen los habitantes de las montañas que son los que deforestan, los que no se concientizan políticamente.

La propuesta sería demasiado grande, pero quiero llamar la atención de la palabra "conciencia política", a la que habría que buscar un sucedáneo que aclarara si esto va para los gobernantes, pues si es así, esto es posible, se puede hacer una labor de concientización política; pero en la Resolución no vemos que estos conceptos sean muy factibles. Si es a los gobernantes, repito, sí; pero si es a los que habitan en las montañas no lo veo claro.

J. POSIER (France): La délégation française est en faveur du maintien du paragraphe qui commence par "profondément préoccupé par". La prise de conscience me paraît un élément indispensable du problème, dont il doit être tenu compte; il doit en être tenu compte à tous les niveaux. Pour prendre en considération les remarques faites par l'Ambassadeur de Cuba, on pourrait peut-être modifier légèrement le texte de ce paragraphe et indiquer, par exemple, "profondément préoccupé par l'absence de prise de conscience à tous les niveaux". On ne mentionnerait pas expressément le niveau politique, mais c'est un problème qui se pose effectivement à tous les niveaux, ce qui inclurait implicitement le niveau politique; mais cela ne serait pas mentionné explicitement et la délégation française est en faveur du maintien de ce paragraphe.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous aussi nous sommes en faveur du maintien du texte. Après avoir écouté l'Ambassadeur de Cuba, il me semble qu'il est d'accord pour le maintien du texte; mais je crois savoir que le texte, en espagnol, est mal libellé parce qu'on parle de conscience politique alors qu'ici dans le texte français on parle de l'absence de conscience au niveau politique; c'est assez différent et je pense que nous appuyons cela, mais le texte espagnol parle de conscience politique; là je crois que c'est un peu différent; il convient d'ajuster le texte espagnol au texte français. Je vous remercie.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Creo que tal como lo dijo el Congo, la palabra "conciencia" no cabe en el párrafo en español. Debería ser "sensibilidad política". A esto creo que es a lo que se refería específicamente el Embajador de Cuba.

CHAIRMAN: So if the proposal of Franch is agreeable to you, expressing deep concern at the lack of political awareness at all levels of the social, economic and environmental consequences? Agreed.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): This is acceptable. I would only mention after "national activities" could we add that the programmes to be undertaken by various governments through the year may also be conveyed to FAO with a view to sharing knowledge and experience between governments through FAO, so that our experiences could be shared by others.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department): Thank you, Mr Chairman. May I suggest to avoid increasing the thing, if normally all the activities of the Forestry Department and FAO in the Forestry Programmes are reported back to the COFO, which is the Committee on Forestry, as you know. These activities certainly will be in the Agenda reporting back to COFO. This is one point.

The second point is that all countries on the occasion of COFO also report back on their own activities during the previous biennium, so this will accomplish exactly what the distinguished Ambassador of India is suggesting.

Paragraphs 8 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 11, including Resolution as amended, adopted

Le paragraphe 11, y compris la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

El párrafo 11, incluida la Resolución así enmendada, es aprobado

Paragraphs 12 to 19 approved

Les paragraphes 12 à 19 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 12 a 19 son aprobados

Paragraphs 20 to 23 approved

Les paragraphes 20 à 23 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 20 a 23 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 24, INCLUDING RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 24, Y COHPRIS LA RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 24, INCLUIDA LA RESOLUCION

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): Thank you Mr Chairman. In paragraph 5 of the Resolution which says "Invites the Host Government to approve the plan and to take all the necessary measures to implement it as urgently as possible;" I would like to add the following sentence to this paragraph 5: "so that cost increases and inflation should not have a bearing on the planned costs for this project".

Mrs A. DELLA CROCE di DOJOLA (Italy): I was just asking to have the sentence read again because I do not have the whole of it.

CHAIRMAN: May I try to read it so that you can. The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia suggested in the Resolution under the operative part 5, "Invites the Host Government to approve the plan and to take all the necessary measures to implement it as urgently as possible so that cost increases and inflation do not have a bearing on the estimated cost of the project".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I appreciate the sense of this, but I think it needs a little redrafting so as to avoid misunderstanding. It could be read as meaning that if cost increases and inflation do occur they will not be taken into account, whereas I think the opposite is intended. So I would say "so as to avoid as far as possible the impact of cost increases and inflation." I hope that is acceptable to the Ambassador.

CHAIRMAN: Mr West has shown how to express it in a clear way - "so as to avoid as far as possible the impact of cost increases and inflation". Would this be agreeable to you? Yes, Italy has agreed. So shall we then adopt this Resolution with the amendment suggested by Saudi Arabia and the wording suggested by Mr West, "so as to avoid as far as possible the impact of cost increases and inflation" at the end of 5.

Paragraph 24 including resolution, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 24, y compris la résolution, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 24, incluida la resolución, así enmendado, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, Partie II, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte II, así enmendado, es aprobado

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'AUMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

consejo

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

CL

CL 86/PV/18

Eighty-sixth Session
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-sixième session
PLENIERE

86° período de sesiones
PLENARIA

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE PLENIERE
18ª SESION PLENARIA
(30 November 1984)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours,
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40 sous la présidence
de M. S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 18ª sesión plenaria a las 14.40 horas bajo la presidencia
de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT - PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE III

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

CHAIRMAN: We go on to CL 86/REP/3, starting with the World Food Programme, item 8 on the agenda, the Ninth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15

PARAGRAPHEs 1 à 15

PARRAFOS 1 a 15

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): The last sentence of paragraph 3, "It expressed the hope that the pledging target for the biennium 1985/86 would be reached as soon as possible", my suggestion is that it should be "reached soon".

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to replacing "as soon as possible" with "soon"? Then we accept the Bangladesh proposal. So it will read "soon". Paragraph 4?

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): In the last sentence of paragraph 4 we wish to add the word "clear", so that it would read, "A number of members expressed the wish that the Annual Report of the CFA should, in the future, be more clear policy-oriented in order to allow a substantive debate on important policy issues."

CHAIRMAN: I think correctly it should be "more clear and policy-oriented". Is there any objection to that?

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): No, it is not an objection, but I am not quite clear about what is proposed. Is it "clear and" or is it "clearly"?

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): It should be "clear and".

CHAIRMAN: It is "more clear and more policy-oriented." That is the proposal. Shall we go on to paragraph 5? Approved. Paragraph 6?

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Para unos cuantos cambios. Se dice en la primera oración que "El Consejo puso de relieve el reconocimiento de la ayuda alimentaria...". Nos parece que es una fórmula demasiado complicada. Podemos ir directamente diciendo: "El Consejo reconoció que la ayuda alimentaria.", y ahí diríamos "debía ser" y sigue "como parte integrante y constante" que debiera quedar "debía ser parte integrante y constante de la asistencia para el desarrollo, y que habría que incluirla", por lo menos en la versión en español esa redacción tendría que imponerse, "y que habría que incluirla, en la medida de lo posible en los planes de desarrollo de los países receptores." Luego, en la última oración, en la última línea dice "que contribuyera al desarrollo nacional general, y en definitiva," nos parece que es excesivo. Basta con que se diga "que contribuya al desarrollo nacional y a la autosuficiencia", incluso pudiera ser "autosuficiencia alimentaria". Pero ya se habló de la ayuda alimentaria, o sea que quizá aquí pudiera quedar "que contribuyera al desarrollo nacional y a la autosuficiencia". Creo que eso simplificaría el párrafo y lo haría más claro y al punto.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the two proposals, a slight restructuring of the first sentence, instead of saying "The Council laid emphasis on the recognition of food aid" saying "recognized that food aid; secondly "national development and self-reliance", instead of "ultimate self-reliance".

G.BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Apoyamos la propuesta de México, pero si intervenimos es para proponer que en la primera frase del párrafo 6, en la segunda línea se supriman las dos palabras "y constante", o sea que se deje "parte integrante", porque si dejamos "y constante", esto quiere decir que los países deberán recibir ayuda al infinito.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on these changes? So people agree to them. We will suitably reformulate the first sentence. Paragraph 7?

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): No entendemos por qué el párrafo 7 empieza con "Algunos Miembros", cuando la referencia al 88,5 por ciento de los productos es parte del Informe del propio CPA. De manera que debería decirse "El Consejo señaló que en 1983 los cereales y productos lácteos habían representado el 88,5 por ciento de los productos suministrados por el PMA". Esto está en el Informe, fue dicho y de ninguna manera rebatido.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) Je souhaite également appuyer la proposition que vient de faire mon collègue du Mexique. Je pense aussi qu'il s'agit là d'une donnée que personne ne peut contester. Je crois qu'il est mieux de mettre "le Conseil" et il faudra en conséquence modifier le sens de la phrase du paragraphe en disant, pour la deuxième phrase, "il a souligné" et "il a donc invité le programme". En dehors de cela je voudrais ajouter à la fin du paragraphe, après "sur les habitudes alimentaires", "et la production locale". Je pense que cela a aussi des effets sur la production locale.

W.A.F. GRABISH (Germany Federal Republic of): Perhaps it would be better at the beginning to say, "The Council noted that in 1983...", but I have no problems; it could also be left as it is, but I do think that "The Council noted..." would be even better.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I think I prefer the sentence as it originally reads for the reason that even if the word "excessive" is there, it can be interpreted in many ways. There are quite a lot of underlying issues here. It also depends on what commodities are available at the time. I really think I must stick to the original sentence.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Volvemos a reiterar que lo que se dice en la primera oración es un dato que está incluido en el Reporte del CPA y que varios miembros del Consejo lo recordaron. De manera que no sólo fuimos informados de eso sino que fue corroborado.

Posteriormente si lo que le estorba al delegado de Noruega es la palabra "excesiva", quizá se puede decir: insistió en la necesidad de evitar la dependencia de productos que no pudieran producirse.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): Like my colleague from Mexico, I agree with him about the first sentence. This is a statement of fact which it is quite appropriate for the Council to note or to be informed of. However, whereas that is a statement of fact, the second sentence is a statement of a view expressed by some members, and my own inclination is to feel that the second sentence should indeed start with the words "A number of members". That again would reflect more accurately the view expressed in the debate in Council.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): As in the first sentence, I have no problem with changing it to "The Council noted" - it is a statement of fact. But the second sentence concerns me a little. Like the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom I think it must start with "Some members"; but to avoid or to strike out the word "excessive" would make it more difficult for me to accept. It is exactly what is contained in the word "excessive". This is such a word as is not always clear; it can be interpreted in many ways. But one must have something there. If this could be constructed in a very different way I could probably then accept it, but as it stands, I prefer to have the sentence starting with "Some members".

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Si je comprends bien, nous sommes d'accord sur la première phrase, avec la modification à apporter. Au lieu de dire "un certain nombre de membres", on dirait "le Conseil". Bon, je suis prêt à accepter ceci et je pense que ce n'est pas important.

Mais je crois également qu'il est difficile pour nous de dire seulement "un certain nombre de membres ont souligné qu'il faudrait éviter de faire une trop grande place"; je crois qu'il s'agit du Conseil. Enfin, à moins que l'on nous montre dans le Verbatim qu'il y a des pays qui se sont montrés hostiles à ce qu'un certain nombre de délégations ont dit à ce sujet, mais, s'il n'en est pas ainsi, je pense qu'il convient de mettre "le Conseil", s'il n'y a pas eu de contestations pour refléter exactement les débats.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Over the past couple of weeks I have learned some rather useful lessons from our Indian colleague who attempts to be positive in most of his suggestions. It might be that here we can say, "The Council" or "A number of members stressed the need to increase the availability of commodities which are produced in the recipient countries". Of course, we have a dilemma. On the one hand we attempt to increase food aid products for regular programmes and IEF, and on the other we are saying we want to decrease our reliance on commodities like cereals, so perhaps these could be put in a positive way and encourage the programme when possible to attempt to obtain more of the products produced in the countries themselves.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of Canada has suggested that we should say, "The Council stressed the need to provide to the extent possible commodities which had been produced in recipient countries"; in other words, the negative form becomes a positive one. So will subsequent speakers please say if they agree with this; I find nothing from Norway.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je ne connaissais pas la proposition canadienne. Après l'avoir entendue, je n'ai pas d'objections à formuler. Si toutefois, certains ne sont pas d'accord avec cette proposition,

alors, à mon tour, j'aurais une proposition de rechange, qui tiendrait compte à la fois de la position britannique, norvégienne et congolaise. Les uns disent "un certain nombre de membres", l'Ambassadeur du Congo dit "C'est le Conseil". Alors, compte tenu de ma vieille expérience, je dis simplement "on a souligné". C'est plus neutre que le "Conseil" et plus large "qu'un certain nombre".

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Podríamos coincidir en que en lugar de hacer referencia al Consejo se diga: se insistió en la necesidad de evitar unos productos que no pudieran producirse; ahora bien, si se sigue insistiendo en que eso de la "dependencia excesiva", no queda claro, se puede invertir simplemente el término de la oración diciendo: "Se insistió en que los países receptores deben producir aquellos productos que les permitan reducir la dependencia excesiva de los mismos."

Decir esto o algo parecido. No lo he terminado de redactar, pero hago esta sugerencia. Sería: "se insistió en la necesidad de evitar una excesiva dependencia de productos."

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I think the second suggestion by the distinguished delegate of Mexico, with the deletion, is an elegant and positive way of stating what we really want.

CHAIRMAN: So may we accept the proposals of the distinguished delegates of France and Mexico as follows: "The need was stressed to avoid excessive reliance on commodities which cannot be produced in recipient countries", and so on, and the only other addition is, "The Council requested the Programme to consider the best ways and means to appropriately diversify the food basket in order to avoid a possible adverse effect on local food habits and local production". That addition was suggested by Colombia "and local production".

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I am sorry, I did not make myself clear. It was the other suggestion made by the distinguished delegate of Mexico that I approve so wholeheartedly. Perhaps we could ask Mexico to repeat his second proposal.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Aunque no lo he redactado debidamente, podría rehacerla. Diría: Insistió en que los países receptores produjeran aquellos productos que les permitieran reducir su dependencia. O algo parecido, como digo, no lo tengo redactado, pero estoy intentando, si me permiten dos minutos para hacer una propuesta mas firme.

CHAIRMAN: The meaning of these two are very different because one of them means that the country is to produce commodities, and the other is for the donors as far as possible to make their food basket in such a way that these are commodities which can be produced.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I was just about to say what you have observed, Mr Chairman. What we are talking about here is completely different from what the Mexican delegation is suggesting. We are talking about something by way of request or exhortation, whichever way you put it, to the donor countries, and the meaning is completely different when you are talking of what the donor countries should do. That does not make sense to us.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Moi aussi je pense que l'on n'a pas besoin de parler des pays bénéficiaires. C'est pour cela que je pense que si le délégué du Canada pouvait nous répéter sa phrase, peut-être cette phrase pourrait être acceptée, ou acceptable, par tout le monde. Je voudrais que l'on nous relise la phrase du Canada.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I thank the distinguished delegate of Congo. The sentence will read something like, "The need was stressed to increase the availability of commodities which are" or "which could be produced in recipient countries" -something like that.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je crois que dans ces conditions il faut mettre "le Conseil a souligné" c'est bien cela.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, Is it clear? -"The Council stressed the need to increase the availability of commodities which can be produced in recipient countries". It is a straight forward sentence.

R.C. GUPTA (India): May I suggest we say, "The Council stressed the need for increasing the availability of food aid commodities which are produced in the recipient countries", because if you say "availability", that would mean local production as well as food aid help, but here we are talking essentially about food aid.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I think I shall have to be very clear about this. The fact is, that most of what we provide as food aid is dried fish and hard marine fat. Those are generally very acceptable commodities. They are not produced in the recipient countries, and it is very difficult for me to join in here with a statement saying that we should decrease these commodities which are actually the ones we do deliver. It would mean decreasing commodities aid from us. That is why I have difficulty in accepting "The Council" saying something, which would include me.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): Given that we are opening up the issue again, I just wonder whether we might perhaps go back to the original amendment of the Mexican delegation, "The Council was informed" or "It was pointed out and the need was stressed" and leave it at that, with the three words at the end of the paragraph suggested by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, otherwise we are back where we were a week ago.

CHAIRMAN: Is it acceptable that we keep the Drafting Committee report practically as it is, except that we have to make a consequential change saying, "Therefore, the need was expressed.... to avoid excessive reliance..." If we start a drafting exercise we will endlessly go on, so let us leave it there. Paragraph 8?

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I believe it would be difficult, in fact illogical, for us to leave paragraph 8 ending with such a formulation without referring to what the CFA urged participating countries in the Programme to do, that is to say, to pay a percentage of not less than one-third in cash. Therefore, at the end of this paragraph we suggest the following: after the words "... commodities which are required" we should add "by participating countries paying no less than one-third of their participation in cash as was called for by the CFA for many years."

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, apoyamos la propuesta de nuestro colega y amigo el Embajador Bukhari, de Arabia Saudita, y como atribuimos mucha importancia a este asunto, quisiéramos proponer que las dos primeras frases del párrafo ocho se unieran de una manera muy sencilla que dijera: El Consejo subrayó la importancia de las transacciones triangulares e instó al Programa, etc, etc.

Naturalmente habría que ser congruentes, como dice usted señor Presidente, y cambiar donde dice "pidieron", poner "pidió". En la última frase donde dice: "Destacaron", debiera decirse "Se destacó".

R. SALLERY (Canada): We can accept the Colombian proposal just made. I have some concern about the addition which has been made to the last sentence, I believe by the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia -"by participating countries paying no less...". I think it would be wiser to put something like "paying if possible no less". If we issue an instruction which clearly says one-third of the contribution must be in cash then, of course, we have the potential effect of reducing the total volume if governments just do not have the cash to make available.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): The proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Colombia, and with your indulgence, Mr Chairman, may we have it repeated? I did not get it down and it is possible I may have some comment on it.

CHAIRMAN: "The Council stressed the importance of triangular transactions and urged the Programme to increase as far as possible..." -is the amendment of the Canadian delegation acceptable to you, Saudi Arabia?

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): In fact, Mr Sallery knows very well what was stated by the CFA. What did the CFA actually say? Did the CFA mention "if possible" or anything of that kind? I know, and we have been members of the CFA for many years. We know that the CFA urged participating countries to pay a percentage not less than a third. The CFA urged participating countries to do so for many years. Now, if this is incorrect, then we may state the matter differently, but we are quite sure of what we are stating right now.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Ambassador Bukhari, of course, is correct. I had heard in his original suggestion, and he will forgive me, that the word "urge" was left out. Of course, we urge all donors to do that, yes. If that is included, there is no problem.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): The main part of Saudi Arabia's sentence I can accept, but I would suggest a small addition to it: "of the regular participation". Thank you. "Regular" ought to be inserted: "one-third of the regular participation in cash".

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am concerned about the implications, if I understand them correctly, of the amendment to the final sentence of paragraph 8. Each country has to contribute what it can. Those countries which have no relevant supplies of commodities to give certainly should be encouraged to give cash. Those countries that have commodities rather than cash should be encouraged to give commodities and cash if they can manage. In other words, I can see the overall need for increased cash, and certainly I am a great believer in the TCDC and all the interchange of goods between developing countries, but I think it would be a mistake to insist that we have every country required to provide two-thirds commodities and one-third cash. Come, people are simply not going to be able to meet that requirement.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Ce que vient de dire la représentante des Etats-Unis correspond à ce que je pensais, à ce que je m'apprêtais à dire. En effet, je crains que s'il apparaissait une véritable obligation de payer un tiers en espèces, cela risquerait de réduire les efforts des uns et des autres; et ce serait peut-être contre-productif.

C'est une recommandation qu'il faut respecter dans toute la mesure possible, mais il ne faut pas la transformer en une obligation absolue.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I do not know what the CFA urged in this matter. Did the CFA mention that the richer food-producing countries had to pay all their participation in kind, in food commodities, even if the beneficiary countries did not need it, and that other developing countries were to pay in cash? Or if it were the opposite -- I do not know. The Committee did not insist and did not request and insist that countries had to pay no less than one-third. There is no insistence. Even participation in the Programme is not compulsory. Participation in the Programme is voluntary. We all know that very well. Participation is a voluntary one, be it in cash or in kind or in commodities or any other form of aid. This is a voluntary form of aid, not a compulsory one, but the CFA, as we all know very well, urged the countries to pay no less than one-third of their participation. The CFA said this for many years. I have been hearing this kind of talk for six years in the CFA. There is no insistence, so to speak, or no compulsion, but there is a sort of request or appeal in urging, which I believe should be mentioned in this paragraph.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne comprends pas très bien pourquoi les discussions se prolongent à ce sujet. C'est une question qui revient pratiquement à chaque session du CPA. Nous discutons au regard des instructions que nous donnons au Secrétariat du PAM, en ce qui concerne notamment les achats dans les pays en développement. Le Secrétariat du PAM est toujours confronté au manque de ressources financières lui permettant de mener à bien ce que nous demandons. C'est pour cela que chaque fois nous lançons des appels aux pays donateurs pour qu'ils puissent se conformer aux dispositions qui existent en la matière: c'est-à-dire deux tiers, un tiers. C'est un appel que nous lançons chaque fois; et je ne comprends pas pourquoi l'on peut s'opposer à quelque chose qui est déjà pratiquement accepté au niveau du CPA, au niveau du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire.

Pour cette raison, je pense qu'avec l'atténuation de la formule "invité instamment les pays à s'efforcer d'atteindre justement les objectifs tels qu'ils sont définis, à savoir un tiers deux tiers", je pense que cela ne peut gêner personne.

Il va de soi que ce n'est pas obligatoire, que c'est bénévole; nous demandons que dans toute la mesure possible, les gens puissent se conformer à ces dispositions.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): L'Ambassadeur du Congo a dit exactement ce que je voulais dire.

CHAIRMAN: Can I try to say what is at issue? The last sentence of this paragraph, the reformulation suggested by Saudi Arabia and supported by several; "The Council stressed the need for the Programme to have the necessary cash resources to buy the commodities which were required with participating countries paying not less than one-third of their contribution in cash, as the CFA had been seeking for many years".

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I had suggested and I thought it was accepted by Saudi Arabia that you place the word "regular" in front of "for contributions".

CHAIRMAN: Is it all right, the addition of "regular"? So we adopt the suggestion of Saudi Arabia and Norway and go on to paragraph 9.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, deseo intervenir en el párrafo 9; tal vez he estado un poco distraído.

He enviado a la Secretaría, espero que el señor Henderson tenga el texto, una nueva redacción para las dos primeras frases que puedo asegurarle están reelaboradas con ánimo muy positivo y para hacer justicia también a la situación actual de la RAIE.

Las dos primeras frases del párrafo 9 que en esta nueva redacción reflejan solamente cambios muy pequeños dirían así: "Con respecto a la actual situación de urgencia en Africa se subrayó la insuficiencia de los recursos puestos a disposición del Programa. El Consejo tomó nota de que gracias al generoso apoyo de los donantes en 1984 la reserva alimentaria internacional de emergencia, RAIE, había superado la meta de 500 mil toneladas, pero aún así no había dispuesto de alimentos ni de dinero suficiente para obtener la gran cantidad de solicitudes fundadas que se recibían".

Casi el mismo texto pero haciendo un reconocimiento positivo al aclarar que en 1984 superó la meta pero aun así no fue suficiente. Esto creemos que es mas positivo.

CHAIRMAN: Is there support for this formulation? I see Venezuela support it. We accept the Colombian proposal.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Can we have a repeat of the suggestion by Colombia?

J.D.M. HENDERSON (Ayudante del Secretario General): "Con respecto a la actual situación de urgencia en Africa se subrayó la insuficiencia de los recursos puestos a disposición del Programa. El Consejo tomó nota de que gracias al generoso apoyo de los donantes en 1984 la reserva alimentaria internacional de emergencia, RAIE, había superado la meta de 500 mil toneladas pero aún así no había dispuesto de alimentos ni de dinero suficientes para atender la gran cantidad de solicitudes fundadas que se recibían".

R. SALLERY (Canada): I think my delegation would be happier if in the first sentence we left in "some members". I am trying to get a formulation here. The original sentence, "some members underlined the inadequacy of the resources", that was true. Other members did not raise questions about it. The implication with the revision now is that the Council is making a statement about the inadequacy of the resources. I do not believe that that is a universal statement made by the Council. It certainly was not from my delegation.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Muy cordialmente quiero llamar la atención al colega Sallery, del Canadá, sobre la intención de compromiso que animó a la delegación de Colombia cuando hizo esta propuesta. Yo creo que nadie pueda negar el hecho de que han sido insuficientes los recursos puestos a disposición del Programa tal como aparece en los documentos y como todos lo hemos dicho, y al incluir yo al Consejo en esta primera frase lo hice para compensar esa intención mía, reconocer el hecho de que la RAIE había superado la meta, como se dice también en los documentos, de manera que una situación está com-pensada con la otra; es una redacción de compromiso que .yo creo sinceramente es positiva, y ojalá que el colega del Canadá pueda aceptarla.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I support what Colombia has amended. I would only like to add after "500 000 tons", "has actually reached now over 720 000 tons", taking into account my announcement of 100 000 tons of wheat from India according to the decision of our Prime Minister.

CHAIRMAN: Is this acceptable to you, Canada?

R. SALLERY (Canada): That is fine. There is, of course, in a total calculation of the resources available not only those made available by WFP or to WFP but other emergency resources, but given the current situation in Africa, I think most of us do accept the fact that the Programme does need more resources. That is all. We will accept it.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shall we move on to paragraph 10?

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Si nous acceptons la dernière proposition du distingué Ambassadeur de l'Inde, il faut vérifier le chiffre. Je ne crois pas que la Réserve ait jamais atteint 750 000 tonnes; je crois qu'elle reste en dessous de 600 000 tonnes; le chiffre précis pourrait être vérifié et inclus dans le rapport final.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Mr Regnier has perhaps omitted to take into consideration the 100 000 tons which were announced from India yesterday. That brings the total to 727 966. Actually speaking, it would be, taking round figures, 728 000 tons.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we say simply over 700 000 tons instead of giving a precise figure?

A.I. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): It is very hard to say that. We do not have the exact figure now. I do not know whether the 100 000 tons from India will be through WFP or not.

CHAIRMAN: Anyway, we will pick up the correct figure because we should not put the wrong figure here. Shall we go on paragraph 10.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I suggest prefacing para 10 by "since expeditious delivery at destinations is most vital, a number of members etc, etc.". The rest can stand. That is the sense of it, "expeditious delivery at destinations". I will repeat it. "Since expeditious delivery at destinations is most vital a number of members expressed concern about the increase in the lead time, etc".

CHAIRMAN: I hope that it is acceptable that the preambular statement "Since expeditious delivery at destinations is most vital a number of members expressed concern". Thank you. Paragraph 11? Paragraph 12?

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I wonder whether in paragraph 12 it might be more appropriate if we said "the Council expressed its appreciation etc". There was some discussion in the Drafting Committee which I think, if the Chairman agrees, was around whether it was all staff or just head office staff, and we came up with the "dedicated work of WFP staff", but I think the feeling as I interpret it was that the Council expressed the appreciation and not just some of us.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, we will make "the Council express its appreciation". Paragraph 13?

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): In paragraph 13, Mr Chairman, we would like to see reflected a very important point. At the end of this paragraph if we add the following phrase - that is if this addition is accepted - "The next annual report should reflect more clarifications regarding all the points raised related to this particular subject".

CHAIRMAN: An additional sentence has been proposed by Saudi Arabia in paragraph 13 at the end. "The next annual report should reflect... I think should contain.. more clarifications regarding all the points raised concerning this subject". "The next annual report should contain clarifications regarding all the points raised on the this subject". Any objections?

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je voudrais intervenir dans le même sens que mon collègue de l'Arabie saoudite car la phrase telle qu'elle est ne reflète pas la préoccupation du Comité. Etant donné la proposition faite par l'Arabie saoudite et avec laquelle je suis d'accord, je n'interviendrai plus.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Es para aclarar la oración de este párrafo porque se dice aquí que "Varios Miembros tomaron nota", y no es nada más que tomamos nota sino que lamentamos la información contenida en el Informe del noveno período de sesiones del CPA acerca de la escasa utilización de barcos de países en desarrollo. Por tanto, lo que estamos solicitándole es que se incluya "Varios Miembros lamentaron la información contenida en el noveno informe anual del CPA acerca de la escasa utilización de barcos de países en desarrollo", porque no es la forma en que se utilizan sino precisamente que no se utilizan, por lo menos con suficiencia. Entonces, esas dos enmiendas, haciendo ver que estamos desde ahora conformes son la propuesta del delegado de Arabia Saudita.

CHAIRMAN: "A number of members regretted the information contained" - this is the Mexican proposal. Paragraph 14?

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En este párrafo 14, no se refleja adecuadamente lo que hemos dicho nosotros y otras delegaciones sobre el personal en el PMA. Sin embargo, no vamos ahora a complicarle la vida a usted, señor Presidente, y a los miembros del Consejo proponiendo las modificaciones que, a nuestro juicio, deberían introducirse en este párrafo, especialmente en la parte final.

Vamos a limitarnos simplemente a completar la primera frase del párrafo 14, que hago notar que empieza por "Algunos miembros" para que esto no ofrezca dificultad a algunos colegas. En realidad no solo nos referimos a la distribución geográfica sino a la deficiente representación de los países en desarrollo. Por eso, proponemos que se diga "Algunos miembros hicieron referencia a la distribución geográfica de la plantilla actual y prevista del PMA, con relación a la necesidad de mayor representación de funcionarios de países en desarrollo". Aun así, es sumamente débil este párrafo porque hablamos de altos grados y de otras cosas, pero es lo mínimo que podríamos proponer ahora.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Es muy coincidente nuestra propuesta con la de Colombia. Lo que queríamos enfatizar es que cuando se dice "Algunos miembros hicieron referencia a la distribución geográfica de la plantilla actual y prevista del PMA", insistimos en que era inequitativa y que el término tiene que incorporarse. Es decir "a la inequitativa distribución geográfica de la plantilla actual y prevista del PMA, con relación a la necesidad de mayor representación de funcionarios de países en desarrollo". Por tanto, nuestra propuesta es que se incluya la palabra "inequitativa distribución geográfica".

CHAIRMAN: What are you suggesting, unbalanced or unfair?

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Eso podría ser. "Desbalanceada" o "desequilibrada".

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion here is: "reference was made by some members to the unbalanced geographical distribution of existing and envisaged WFP staff members, in relation to the need to have greater representation of staff members from developing countries."

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Just on a question of clarification, I do not believe that it has been shown to us that it is envisaged staff positions in the World Food Programme will be unbalanced.

CHAIRMAN: Since you are also a member of the Drafting Committee I had thought you may have some data to make this statement. Chairman of the Drafting Committee, will you say how you envisaged staff members

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As far as I recall we somehow missed this point altogether in the Drafting Committee. No one ever raised this issue of whether "envisaged" is the right word here or not. It is really up to the Council at this stage.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Muy cordialmente quiero hacerle notar al colega de Noruega que, como ya dije antes, el párrafo 14 empieza por "Algunos miembros", y fueron muchos los miembros que nos referimos a ese problema de personal, inclusive yo hice una segunda intervención final, y le pedí

al Sr. Ingram que enviara a las Embajadas los datos respectivos. Estos son hechos, y estamos diciendo "Algunos miembros". No estamos implicando a todo el Consejo.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Pour dire uniquement que nous appuyons les amendements qui ont été faits ici concernant le paragraphe 14. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là aussi d'un vieux problème dont nous avons l'habitude de débattre, y compris au CPA et, par conséquent, nous ne voyons pas, comme l'a dit mon collègue de la Colombie, pourquoi on ne met que "quelques membres". Je pense qu'on ne devrait pas mettre "quelques" parce que "quelques" sous-entend que certains seraient opposés à cette idée. Or je crois que personne n'a été contre et que cela a été recorinu d'une manière plus ou moins unanime. Au CPA nous avons exigé qu'on nous donne des chiffres, on nous en a donné sur les derniers recrutements et il a semblé nettement qu'il y avait encore un déséquilibre. C'est pour cette raison que nous appuyons fermement ce paragraphe 14 tel qu'il a été amendé.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): Mr Chairman, in fact everybody knows that it is unbalanced, and everybody knows this, and we have seen this in the document and we discussed it. I would like to put my voice with the Ambassador of Colombia and the Ambassador of Mexico for this modification. At the same time, I do not know, we can stop this paragraph but I would like in the last two or three lines if we can say: "In this connection the Executive Director stated that"- we take out "while"- "every effort would be made to redress the geographical imbalance in the WFP staff structure".

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I merely wanted to say that the value, judgment which is introduced by the insertion of the word "unbalanced" does give me a little difficulty because there are of course other very important considerations in the question of the employment of staff by any organization. However, I am not going to argue about the issue since it is, I think, quite clear that the interpretation that can be put on this paragraph, whatever it says, it will be the views of the members who made it.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Este párrafo se refiere a nuestras opiniones, pero para atender a la preocupación lógica del delegado de Noruega, podríamos decir "Algunos miembros hicieron referencia a la desequilibrada distribución geográfica de la plantilla del PMA", suprimiendo "actual y prevista".

O sea "a la desequilibrada distribución geográfica de la plantilla del PMA e insistieron en la necesidad de una mayor representación de funcionarios de países en desarrollo". Repito, "e insistieron en la necesidad de una mayor representación de funcionarios de países en desarrollo".

H.HØSTMARK (Norway): The amendment proposed by Mexico is perfectly acceptable to me. However, the second amendment proposed by Saudi Arabia does not concern a statement made by the same members. That is the Executive Director's statement, and I think in all fairness it should be given in full as it tries also to give in a short form a few of the reasons why it is difficult. So I would propose that the rest of the sentence stays as it is.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): May I ask the Secretary to take the trouble of reading out this opening amendment.

CHAIRMAN: The last amendment of Mexico, if adopted, will read, along with the earlier amendment suggested: "Reference was made by a few members to the unbalanced geographical distribution of the WFP staff members, and they insisted on the need for greater representation of staff members from developing countries."

Mrs.M. FENWICK (United States of America): I think everybody knows that every government is pressing for a larger number of their people to be employed in all these agencies of the United Nations, and my own government is equally guilty. I think we should all take as a model what Canada said at the meeting and that is that every government wants more of its people employed in these great agencies, but I beg you to take people of quality, whether it is from Canada or any other country of the world. There has got to be some intelligence and heart as the major reason for employing people, and I think Canada led the way to a higher conception because my own Government is equally guilty of pressure of this kind, so I am not saying that we are immune. I am saying what I hope will happen.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I think also developing countries have intelligent people, and the people have capacities and they can take part in the job in most of the organizations if not all. This is not the point actually. The point is "unbalanced" and that is it. Actually I would like to refer to my last proposal. Yes, I know, I heard what the Executive Director exactly said, and I know that is what he said, Yes, correct, but does it mean that we have to accept it, does it mean we have to take it just like that? Where is the hope in this? There is no hope, there is nothing. It means we have to shut our mouth, it means we have to accept this situation. That is what it means in this paragraph. How can we accept it. We have to modify this, at least to modify this, or to take out the three lines like I suggest.

CHAIRMAN: A large number of speakers are going to speak. You see, we will not have time for individual members --other people contradicting or expanding. Let us confine ourselves only to the documents here and the amendments proposed, because if we want to add personal views on this matter it is going to be very easy. I request you that the comments which members wish to make be restricted to the amendments proposed and the finalization of this paragraph which will be helpful.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Lamentablemente para atender su petición de que no hablemos sobre la declaración de la delegada de Estados Unidos, teníamos que haber oído que usted la detuviera en una ofensiva expresión hacia usted, señor Presidente, que es inteligente, que es doctorado, y que es Presidente de este Consejo. Ella no concibe que los subdesarrollados o los en desarrollo podamos tener técnicos inteligentes para ser miembros del PMA. Usted debió haberla detenido para pedirnos a nosotros que no interviniéramos en ese concepto.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je vous ai dit tout à l'heure que j'étais d'accord avec les amendements qui avaient été proposés au sujet de ce paragraphe, mais je tiens également à m'associer à la protestation qui vient d'être faite par le délégué de Cuba pour dire que nous ne partageons pas le point de vue exprimé ici par la déléguée des Etats-Unis qui pense qu'ils ont l'apanage des hommes intelligents et que les pays en développement n'ont guère de gens capables de travailler dans les organisations internationales. Je pense que c'est là une interprétation dangereuse et nous tenons à réitérer ici notre protestation.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estamos perfectamente de acuerdo con lo que han dicho los colegas de Arabia Saudita, Cuba y Congo, pero queremos agregar algo mas, En el futuro seguramente tendremos ocasión de seguir los buenos ejemplos de nobleza que nos han indicado, pero ahora estamos discutiendo el Informe, es decir, el resultado de lo que dijimos durante los debates. Y esto se dijo. De manera que ha sido desafortunada esa declaración.

L. GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Je voudrais joindre la voix de ma délégation à ce que viennent de dire les délégués de Cuba, de la Colombie et du Cap-Vert. Malgré toute l'estime et la considération que nous avons pour la représentante des Etats-Unis, nous ne pouvons pas accepter les propos qu'elle vient de tenir et nous estimons que de tels propos ne peuvent pas assurer un climat serein à nos travaux, et j'espère qu'à l'avenir vous tiendrez compte de tels propos.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Mon collègue du Burkina Faso a exactement dit ce que je voulais dire et j'appuie ainsi les autres délégués; malgré le respect et l'amitié que j'ai pour la représentante des Etats-Unis, j'appuie ce qu'ont dit les autres délégués.

H.HØSTMARK (Norway): I am coming back to the second sentence. That we reflect somebody's views does not mean, the way I understand it and the way I understand the proceedings here, that we endorse them, that we agree with them. It just means that we reflect them. There are a lot of things said by "some members" and "groups of members" that I am not completely agreed upon, but they have the right to have their views reflected. This is exactly the point where the views are of importance to those who read the Report to have some explanation of the existing state. The Executive Director has expressed his regrets implicitly and tried to give a short explanation of the reasons. Though we do reflect that, that statement does not in any way indicate that the Council agrees with that statement. They might agree strongly. They might disagree strongly. There may be all sorts of personal impressions of that, but I think it is our duty to reflect it when we can, and we have done so here.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I also felt that it was unfortunate, the way in which Ambassador Fenwick was understood in what she said. I would like to think that she did not mean it at all, because she is a sincere and fair minded person. The umbrage which my colleagues have taken could be overcome by a short statement from her either that it was misunderstood or she did not mean it, because I know she has great respect for the talent in developing countries. In that regard I would like to suggest to her that we should have: "a fair and equitable recruiting system should be ensured with an adequate weightage given to developing countries; otherwise with all the talent and ability, qualifications and experience which members of the developing countries have they would not be given the opportunities they deserve to serve in the Organization".

CHAIRMAN: Are you adding the sentence at the end of this paragraph?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: After "the Executive Director stated"?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Yes

CHAIRMAN: India, could you read that slowly once again?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): "A fair and equitable recruiting system should be ensured with adequate weightage given to developing countries, as otherwise with all the talent and ability, quality and integrity, qualifications and experience at their command they would not be able to get the chance they deserve to serve in such international organizations."

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am distressed by the interpretation that has been put. I cannot believe that my colleagues, some of whom I have been working with for a year, would have put this interpretation. There is nothing to say that ability cannot be considered when you are having a geographical distribution of least developed countries. There are representatives in this room from

what are called least developed countries who have ten times the education that I have and qualifications far higher than any that I might possess. Why do we take it for granted that when we say we must have ability we are denying a chance to the less developed? What an extraordinary interpretation! I would willingly accept where it says in relation to geographical and less developed countries. We must make an effort in that direction and we will find them. Ability is not lacking. It is lack of respect to say that any time we talk of ability you are ruling out the less developed in the geographical distribution. I think that is offensive. I am surprised that any such interpretation would have been put upon it. Many of the great scientists of the world, in physics for example, where did they come from? They came from Arabian countries. Where did the decimal point come from? It came from India. Because you are talking of ability you are not wiping out a whole area of the world. What an extraordinary idea, my colleagues.

WIDAJAT EDDYPRANOTO (Indonesia): My delegation supports the proposal of the delegation of Saudi Arabia.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I had not planned to speak on this item. I usually find that I can get into enough trouble on my own. However, my good friend and colleague from the United States referred to this as a Canadian idea. It is not. It is shared by all of us and I am sure that her recent intervention explains that to us. Everyone is concerned about quality. I had not objected to this sentence in the first place because, as has been said by several delegations -Cuba, Colombia and Congo- it clearly says "Reference was made by a few members", and I would support one hundred percent the right of a few members to insist on wording that they wish to have for a particular idea. My understanding is -and correct me if I am wrong- it read as follows: "Reference was made by a few members to unbalanced geographical distribution of existing and envisaged WFP staff members and they insisted on the need to have greater representation from LDCs." Is that correct, Mr Chairman?

CHAIRMAN: A proposal just of WFP staff members. Is there any comment on the Indian proposal for an additional sentence? Mr West pointed out that it may have to come as sentence two in the logical sequence here.

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I think that the proposal by the Ambassador of India makes a lot of sense because it brings home the concern of many delegations. The second point, I was not here when Mr Ingram addressed the meeting, but his reported remarks simply say that because of the small number of staff there are physical limitations. I do not think he used any hint that there was any discrimination. But I think the suggestion of the Ambassador of India would fill the bill, maybe modified grammatically

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Agradecemos las intervenciones que se han hecho y, en particular, agradecemos la de Estados Unidos porque, en efecto, todos los hombres somos iguales biológica, intelectual y moralmente y, quizá, lo unico que puede distinguimos es el grado de oportunidad con que contamos que, en última instancia, para los países en desarrollo estarían derivadas de unas condiciones his-tóricas y de una situación prevaleciente que nosotros calificamos como injustas.

Pero, en fin, volviendo al párrafo 14, e interpretando lo que se ha dicho, pensamos que la primera oración queda como había sugerido Colombia y completado México, si mal no he entendido.

Respecto de la segunda parte y de las declaraciones que ha hecho la Delegación de Arabia Saudita y otras delegaciones, nosotros pensamos que es un tanto inconveniente que quede una referencia a lo que contestó el Director Ejecutivo, porque se podría hacer igual sobre otras contestaciones a preguntas planteadas. Nos resulta un tanto irregular esa situación, pero si se insiste que quede así, aceptamos, aunque llamo la atención a que esto no le hace ningún favor al Director Ejecutivo, porque precisamente está aquí indicándose una incapacidad para reflejar una situación. No sé si hay otra alternativa, pero si es así estamos un poco condenados a una frustración permanente. Repito, no creo que aquellos países que insisten en que quede como está, pretendan que es conveniente para la imagen del Director Ejecutivo, pero si quieren que quede así, pues bien, aceptamos.

Respecto de lo que ha sugerido la delegación de la India, estaríamos de acuerdo, pero no estamos seguros de que esto se haya afirmado a lo largo de los debates. De cualquier manera no nos opondríamos a ello.

RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Excusez-moi encore une fois de prendre la parole. Je pense que la proposition qui a été faite par l'Arabie saoudite est bonne et que l'on devrait arrêter la phrase... "Le déséquilibre géographique des effectifs du PAM". Il faudrait mettre un point après PAM. Le Secrétaire exécutif a tellement dit de choses pendant le CPA que ou bien l'on inscrit les choses qu'il a dites, ou bien on ne les inscrit pas. Il ne faut pas inscrire les choses qui conviennent à certaines délégations. Cette phrase est péjorative. En tout cas la proposition est très correcte, très équilibrée. Il faut arrêter à: "déséquilibre géographique des effectifs du PAM." Ou alors sauter le para-graphe.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Après les éclaircissements des Etats-Unis, nous ne pouvons qu'accepter l'amendement proposé par l'Arabie saoudite et l'amendement proposé par l'Inde. Il est temps d'adopter ce paragraphe, chose qui aurait dû être faite depuis longtemps, afin que nous puissions avancer dans nos travaux.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): The speaker before the last one made a direct reference to my delegation, since my delegation is the one which is insisting on this point, and I wish to protest. It is not a statement that suits me. It is a statement that was made that requires explanation of why it is in there. It is a statement made in direct response to what this paragraph is about. That is why this particular bit of it is in there. I have not myself said anything about it. I was just saying that it was made as an explanation to a direct question, and it is an interesting point and a point which my delegation supports wholeheartedly, that we should have more equitable geographical distribution in the total UN System. But I think it is also of interest to hear the explanations given in this connection and the right of people to speak and to have their statements recorded.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je crois que nous avons insisté afin d'être positifs dans ce compte rendu et c'est pour cette raison que je crois sincèrement, surtout en ce qui concerne les explications données par le Secrétariat, que nous pouvons faire le choix de ce que nous souhaitons mettre dans le rapport. C'est pour cette question que je pense sincèrement que si on inscrit toute la phrase, à nos yeux, le Directeur exécutif ne sortirait pas forcément grandi de cette affirmation-là. Nous souhaitons que le Directeur exécutif fasse tous ses efforts pour pouvoir corriger cet état de choses, et c'est cela qui est important, qui est une réponse aux questions qui ont été posées. Le reste est négatif et, à mon avis, ne devrait pas figurer dans ce paragraphe.

Il s'est engagé à faire davantage, d'ailleurs ce n'est pas seulement au Conseil qu'il l'a dit; il a dit également au CPA qu'il s'efforcerait de faire en sorte que ce déséquilibre ne puisse pas exister dans le futur. "Je crois que nous devons nous arrêter là. Pour cette raison je souhaite que le Conseil puisse appuyer la proposition sage faite par mon collègue de l'Arabie saoudite en arrêtant la réponse du Directeur exécutif aux "effectifs du PAM." Le reste, à mon avis, n'est pas nécessaire. Quant à la proposition faite par l'Inde, je ne vois aucun inconvénient à ce qu'elle figure ici. Je crois que cela ne nous gênera pas du tout; au contraire, cela apportera une clarté au paragraphe.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je suis désolé de reprendre la parole mais, si j'ai bien compris l'honorable distingué collègue de la Norvège, il a cité l'avant-dernière délégation, en l'occurrence le Cap-Vert. Je fais pleinement confiance à l'interprète de la FAO. Je n'ai fait référence à aucun pays. Mon pays, ma délégation, nous aurions souhaité et nous souhaitons que la phrase s'arrête à "des effectifs du PAM", ou il faut carrément barrer et éliminer le paragraphe. Je n'ai ni parlé ni accusé aucune délégation quelle qu'elle soit.

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): En ce qui concerne cette dernière phrase, je suis un peu surpris du tour pris par le débat. Habituellement, dans le cas d'une organisation internationale s'exprimant par son Directeur, on reflète simplement les positions qu'il a exprimées.

Il est proposé de supprimer la seconde partie de cette déclaration. La moindre des choses pour éviter tout débat prolongé aurait été de demander au Directeur du PAM s'il a une objection à ce que l'on supprime cette partie de sa déclaration. Car, sans cela, il apparaît que nous censurons nous-mêmes ce qu'il a dit, ce qui n'est pas courant dans une organisation Internationale.

Je ne prends donc pas une position de principe; je pense simplement qu'il serait courtois de lui demander, à lui ou à un membre de son organisation s'exprimant en son nom, de préciser sa position à l'égard de sa propre déclaration.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I would just say something in response to the distinguished delegate of Cape Verde since he addressed the point specifically to me. Possibly I may have been wrong in my attributing it to him - I believe it was the second last speaker at the time I spoke; but the fact remains that someone implied, stated as a matter of fact, that the reason for this being deliberate and commented on here was that the statement suited some delegations. Since my delegation is the only one apparently who feels that everyone should have the right to have statements reflecting the plain facts, then it goes directly to my delegation and that is what I tried to correct.

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): I simply wanted briefly to support the view expressed by the distinguished representative of France. We must surely have some consistency in the matter of the Council's attention being drawn to paragraph 10, which we have just approved, in which concern was expressed, and the comment by the Executive Director was favourably recorded. I really do not understand why we make so much fuss over a similar issue in paragraph 14 where, as I recall it, the remarks attributed here to the Executive Director did factually represent his comments on the point being made. I simply appeal for some consistency in the presentation of our report.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This paragraph was not debated at length, and implicitly we accepted it as it stands.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I am approaching this paragraph and sentence with great hesitation. In spite of that, I am trying to come to a compromise. The Executive Director explained that he would make a note of the geographical imbalance and the remaining sentence is set out negatively. Instead of going into that, if we say that "The Executive Director stated that every effort would be made to redress the geographical imbalance... as quickly as possible", that alteration covers the context of what the Executive Director said. He has not denied that he should not make it. If we say "as quickly as possible", it takes care of the other wording.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): In fact, what led me to request this change in the paragraph is exactly what has just been said by our colleague from Bangladesh. The wording of this paragraph makes us feel that there is no evidence, or no desire expressed, as to the efforts to be made by the Programme to overcome the problem of redressing the imbalance in a proper manner. This is what led us to request a change in this paragraph. First of all, this Council has full authority, and I believe the authority that lies in the Council exceeds that of the Executive Director, and even that of the Director-General. I believe that this Council is equally a democratic one, and it is an excellent thing.

So we have to consider matters in a factual manner, and realistically. We must not consider them in an inconsiderate manner or in a passionate way, or anything of that kind. I believed that the request made about this paragraph had been accepted by a number of distinguished members. Two or three refused the matter, but the majority of those who have spoken in fact approved the proposal made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, namely, the proposal to amend the paragraph. The matter now rests in your hands.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I wish to go back to the points raised by the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh to try and turn this into a more positive thing. Maybe this could be done by quoting more directly the Executive Director himself, who, according to the provisional record, is saying that this is being slowly overcome. He is saying that even if the number of staff were small and turnover limited, the problem was being slowly overcome. Would not that give it a more positive turn? And also, of course, that all efforts will continue to be made in that direction.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of Norway suggested in this connection that the Executive Director stated that the imbalance is slowly being overcome and every effort will be made to redress the imbalance in the WFP staff structure...". In this connection - and he is quoting from the verbatim records - this imbalance is being slowly overcome and every effort will be made to redress the geographical imbalance in the WFP's staff structure.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Then perhaps I should not intervene at all, but I have looked at this in a positive manner. The Drafting Committee and those who prepared the report must have thought something. I took it in a positive way that it would serve as a reference point at a later stage to find out what had been done to remedy that situation and therefore, I have no problem whatsoever with the text as it stands here, though I would have preferred it as it stood. If it is going to be changed I have looked through the verbatim records in order to get the matter clear from the verbatim records. I read there that there is an imbalance not only in relation to developing countries, but also in relation to the developed countries and that this programme has a relatively small staff. It will take time to overcome this problem, but efforts will continue to be made in these directions, if these were to be helpful.

CHAIRMAN: I think we can accept the Saudi Arabia/Norway wording. Thank you. The additional sentence means that this point is dealt with, because this report only reflects what happened in our plenary sessions.

The Indian Ambassador has an amendment, that a fair and equitable recruiting system should be ensured so that adequate consideration be given to developing countries -and there were several other parts which I could not note down.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): "A fair and equitable recruiting system should be ensured with adequate weightage given to developing countries as otherwise, with all their talent, ability, quality, integrity, qualifications and experience they would not get the opportunity of serving in such international organizations". This was said time and time again in different words.

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt): Can we put "The Council requests" in front of the excellent sentence?

CHAIRMAN: Are there any objections to that inclusion?

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): For clarification, what is meant by the word "weightage"?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): It is quite clear we are much larger in population. In India, we have the third largest number of scientists and engineers, and a number of other developing countries also have large numbers of skilled and qualified people, that is why the word "weightage" is there. No other significance is attached to it.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I may be slow this afternoon, but if I understand that explanation which is in part of the records, to imply that the size of population of a country should form part of the weighting system for implementation of the United Nations system -that is a bit difficult to accept. There are many small countries both in the developed and in the developing world who might also have suitable personnel.

CHAIRMAN: I see the problem here, because if the word "weightage" is used by the Council, people will ask what are the indices of weightage. I suggest we do not use words like this. We could put "a suitable system" because "weightage" in recruitment is a point in the United Nations system.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): My meaning is crystal clear and certainly transparent in sincerity. I mean all developing countries, not just one, whatever the size of their population. I draw the attention of the distinguished delegate of Norway to the fact that I was not necessarily referring to the size of the population, but to the experience and qualifications of which there has been ample proof in contemporary history as to how much the developing countries have gone ahead with their talent and ability. That is why I have thought of including this.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): With great respect to my colleague of India, is this addition actually clear? Before we adjust this paragraph, perhaps it would help to know about the proposal of Norway and my own country. I think it is clear enough, and has been accepted, and I would appeal to my colleague not to add this sentence, but to take it out. There is no need for it. That is my feeling.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Avec tout le respect que j'ai pour mon collègue de l'Inde, je pense sincèrement que cette dernière phrase n'est pas indispensable. D'abord, parce que, si j'ai bien suivi le débat, il me semble que cela n'a pas été dit en plénière, et il est difficile de pouvoir accepter ce qui n'a pas été dit en plénière ici, et c'est pour cela que j'avais dit que si cela avait été dit effectivement en plénière nous ne voyions aucun inconvénient; mais si cela n'a pas été dit, nous pensons qu'il est préférable que l'Anibassadeur de l'Inde puisse retirer cet amendement. Nous ne voulons pas créer de précédents qui risquent d'être préjudiciables à notre Conseil.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I repeat that this was generally said in various ways in our debate, not in so many words, I would agree. But if you do not want to use "weightage", although I find nothing wrong with it, perhaps we could use the words "an adequate system of recruiting". This is essential in order to give an equitable opportunity for people from developing countries, to which the distinguished Ambassador of the United States also referred -and she certainly included them in the quality and ability that they have.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would like to join the distinguished delegate of India and suggest that we end by saying that we urge that a diligent search be made for staff from among the developing countries in order to achieve an equitable representation - a diligent search, that is what it requires to establish an equitable system.

CHAIRMAN: It needs some redrafting.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have revised this sentence and I think it should be acceptable to all. It will come at the end of the paragraph. "A fair and equitable recruiting system should be ensured for giving adequate opportunities to candidates from developing countries, many of whom possess the talent and ability, quality and integrity, qualifications and experience, to serve on such international organizations". That is all, Sir. I am sure it will be acceptable to all sides.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the Indian Ambassadors reformulated sentence.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): Could we just add "the Council urged" before the sentence?

CHAIRMAN: Pakistan has proposed that the sentence should start with: "The Council urged that a fair and equitable recruitment system should be ensured for giving adequate opportunities to candidates from developing countries, many of whom possess the talent and ability, quality and integrity, qualifications and experience, to serve on such international organizations".

Paragraph 14 is approved.Paragraph 15? Approved.

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 16 approved

Le paragraphe 16 est approuvé

El párrafo 16 es aprobado

Paragraphs 17 to 20 approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 20 son aprobados

Paragraphs 21 to 27 approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 27 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 27 son aprobados

Paragraphs 28 and 29 approved

Les paragraphes 28 et 29 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 28 y 29 son aprobados

Paragraphs 30 and 31 approved

Les paragraphes 30 et 31 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 30 y 31 son aprobados

Paragraph 32 approved

Le paragraphe 32 est approuvé

El párrafo 32 es aprobado

Paragraphs 33 to 39 approved

Les paragraphes 33 à 39 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 33 a 39 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 40 to 47

PARAGRAPHES 40 à 47

PÁRRAFOS 40 a 47

Paragraphs 40 to 47 approved

Les paragraphes 40 à 47 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 40 a 47 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 48 to 58

PARAGRAPHES 48 à 58

PÁRRAFOS 48 a 58

Mrs A.DELLA CROCE di DOJOLA (Italy): I am not asking for any change in the substance since, as you know, we agreed with the Secretariat on this wording. The only thing I would like to ask is possibly to divide paragraph 54 into separate phrases. Starting with the third sentence starting with "The Council noted with appreciation the efforts of the Host Government etc..." does make it a new paragraph because in fact it is not that much related to what is said in the first sentence.

CHAIRMAN: We will have a separate paragraph, that will become here: "The Council noted with appreciation". The present paragraph will just end on the Appendix

Paragraphs 48 to 58, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 48 à 58, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 48 a 58, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 59 to 63 approved

Les paragraphes 59 à 63 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 59 a 63 son aprobados

Paragraphs 64 to 66 approved

Les paragraphes 64 à 66 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 64 a 66 son aprobados

Paragraph 67, including Resolution, adopted

Le paragraphe 67, y compris la résolution, est adopté

El párrafo 67, incluida la Resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de rapport de la plénière, partie III, 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 19
PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 19
PARRAFOS 1 a 19

No comments on paragraphs 1 and 2? They are approved. Paragraph 3?

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Para hacer una aclaración y es que en español, en vez de en la primera línea "negociaciones mundiales" son "negociaciones globales". No sé si en los otros idiomas sea así. En todo caso habrá que corregirlo.

CHAIRMAN: Would you kindly work with the Secretariat and get the Spanish version corrected. Thank you. Any comments on paragraphs 4 and 5? They are approved. Paragraph 6

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): En el párrafo 6, en el último renglón, se dice "para apoyar programas de reforma política en los países africanos afectados". Aquí no nos estamos metiendo con su sistema político. Por lo tanto, debe hacerse relación a la agricultura. Quizá podría decir "para apoyar programas de reforma política relativos a la agricultura o aplicables a la agricultura", o algo parecido, "en los países africanos afectados". Incluso "agropecuarios".

CHAIRMAN: Mexico has suggested the last sentence in paragraph 6: "Hope was expressed that additional funding of US \$2000 million, proposed by the World Bank, would be forthcoming to support agricultural policy reform programmes in the agricultural sector in the affected African countries".

I see everybody agrees. Any comments on the paragraphs 1- 19? Approved.

Paragraphs 1 to 19, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 19, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 19, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 20 to 25 approved
Les paragraphes 20 à 25 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 20 a 25 son aprobados

Paragraphs 26 to 28 approved with Appendix
Les paragraphes 26 à 28 sont approuvés avec Annexe
Los párrafos 26 a 28 son aprobados con Apéndice

Paragraph 29 approved
Le paragraphe 29 est approuvé
El párrafo 29 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 30 to 32
PARAGRAPHERS 30 à 32
PARRAFOS 30 a 32

P.S. McLEAN (United Kingdom): Could I propose a small insertion in the third line of paragraph 32, that is where it talks about improvements in project execution, could we say "project formulation, execution, monitoring and evaluation". I think the Council will recall that in the answer which the Director- General gave to this discussion on this item, he pointed out that FAO's first priority was to improve project formulation, and I am sure this is a matter with which the Council agrees, so the suggestion would be simply to add the words "project formulation" in that sentence. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: We will add the word "formulation", "in particular the suggestions for improvements in project formulation, execution, monitoring and evaluation". Thank you, United Kingdom, for the suggestion.

Paragraphs 30 to 32, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 30 à 32, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 30 a 32, así enmendados, son aprobados
Paragraph 33, including draft resolution, approved
Le paragraphe 33, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé
El párrafo 33, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Paragraph 34 approved

Le paragraphe 34 est approuvé

El párrafo 34 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 35 to 37

PARAGRAPHES 35 à 37

PARRAFOS 35 a 37

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Cuando consideramos este tema 17.3, estaba en la Presidencia nuestro distinguido Vicepresidente, el Embajador Williams, de Trinidad y Tabago, y la delegación de Colombia hizo una propuesta desde luego muy flexible, acerca de incluir un párrafo de referencia a los miembros salientes y entrantes del Comité del Programa. Sé muy bien que es necesario conservar la austeridad y la seriedad con que procedemos, pero en algunos casos podremos hacer reconocimiento a algunos de nuestros colegas, como usted señor Presidente lo ha hecho muy merecidamente con el Embajador Elmanowsky de Francia. De manera que proponemos simplemente que el párrafo 37 diga como sigue: "El Consejo agradeció los servicios de los señores Tanwir Ahmad de Pakistán y Therre Clément Rajaona de Madagascar y apreció las calificaciones y la experiencia de los dos nuevos miembros del Comité del Programa".

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): I fully endorse the proposal made by the distinguished Ambassador from Colombia. This, to say the least, is an expression of our appreciation for the efforts exerted by these two members of the Finance and Programme Committees. I think that the Council should express its transparent, so to speak, appreciation to them.

There is a point I would like to mention now, I have noticed in the Arabic documents submitted to us that there are numerous mistakes, numerous unacceptable mistakes which could have induced me to be completely astray from the substance of the report had I not consulted the documents in English, and I think before we adopt the report in Arabic these mistakes should be corrected.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Pendant le Comité de rédaction j'ai moi-même corrigé la plupart des fautes et j'ai soumis mes corrections au Secrétariat. Malheureusement le Secrétariat n'a pas pris mes corrections en considération et c'est donc la raison pour laquelle Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Royaume d'Arabie saoudite a fait la remarque que j'avais moi-même faite précédemment.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A ese respecto quiero agregar algo que considero importante, y es que la Secretaría debe rectificar esta Sección. Se trata de un miembro del Comité del Programa y uno de Finanzas.

Digo esto solo para que la Secretaría corrija el texto.

CHAIRMAN: The Council expressed its sincere thanks for the service of Mr. Tanwir Ahmad of Pakistan and Mr. Therre Clément Rajaona of Madagascar.

I put it as para. 37 and then we say "and took note of the qualifications and experience of their replacements".

Paragraphs 35 to 37, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 35 à 37, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 35 a 37, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 38 to 40

PARAGRAPHES 38 à 40

PARRAFOS 38 a 40

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Sur le paragraphe 39, je lis dans le texte français "la Conférence régionale a noté la participation aux réunions de la Commission, a demandé au Secrétariat de s'efforcer de relancer les activités de la Commission et a instamment prié les Etats Membres de s'intéresser plus activement à ses travaux". Je crois que si le texte doit être véritablement compréhensif, il faut dire "la Conférence régionale a noté la faible participation aux réunions de la Commission"... car si elle n'était pas faible, si elle était normale, on ne demanderait pas de relancer les activités et on ne demanderait pas aux Etats Membres de s'y intéresser plus activement.

CHAIRMAN: France has noted the poor attendance of the Commission, that is why we wanted to revitalize it. So we will add "poor attendance at the Commission", so the rest of the sentence makes some meaning. Thank you very much for pointing that out.

Any comments on paragraph 40? Approved.

Paragraphs 38 to 40, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 38 à 40, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 38 a 40, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 41 approved

Le paragraphe 41 est approuvé

El párrafo 41 es apròbado

PARAGRAPHS 42 to 46

PARAGRAPHEs 42 à 46

PARRAFOS 42 a 46

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Republic of) (Original language Arabic): With regards to paragraph 42, Mr Hassan El-Huraibi from Yemen Arab Republic is no longer a member of the FAO staff Pension Committee. I have consulted with the Near East group members, and being the president of this group, I have the honour of presenting the candidature of Mr Hamid Reza Nikkar Isfahani.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we accept this recommendation? Well, thank you very much.

Any comments on paragraphs 42 - 46. They are approved

Paragraphs 42 to 46, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 42 à 46, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 42 a 26, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, partie IV, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART I (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE I (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I (continuación)

PARAGRAPH 26

PARAGRAPHE 26

PARRAFO 26

CHAIRMAN: Now we have to take up the pending paragraph 26 of Draft Report - Part I. Distinguished Ambassador of Cuba, would you read out slowly your sentence.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Como usted sabe, señor Presidente, esta mañana cuando hicimos el comentario habíamos hecho la formulación en cuanto a varias delegaciones. Sin embargo, junto con la delegación del Congo y Mexico hemos dado una redacción que vamos a leer y que puede ser aceptada por el Consejo, de no ser así podríamos volver a nuestra propuesta de varias delegaciones. Esto puede ir al final del párrafo 26, o si lo considera el Consejo un párrafo aparte a continuación del 26. Comienzo a leer:

El Consejo consideró que no solo se puede responsabilizar a los países en desarrollo de las causas y efectos de la explosión demográfica y del proceso de urbanización, inconveniente debido a que era en parte producto del orden económico internacional prevaleciente.

Eliminamos "injusto".

Asimismo, indicó la necesidad de estudiar la evolución de estos fenómenos para evitar sus incidencias negativas en el desarrollo y especialmente en la agricultura y en la alimentación, Fin de la propuesta.

Queremos expresar que cuando leímos incluimos tres frases, que consideramos pueden ser aceptadas por el Consejo: el "que no solo", "era en parte producto", y "orden prevaleciente".

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I would just like to associate myself with this sentence I think it is excellent. I hope it passes in either form, the Council or whichever is decided upon by the assembled body. I think it is excellent.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shall we then say "the Council"? So we will say "the Council considered..."

Paragraph 26 is approved.

Paragraph 26, as amended, approved

Le paragraphe 26, ainsi amendé, est approuvé

El párrafo 26, así enmendado, es aprobado

PARAGRAPH 20
PARAGRAPHE 20
PARRAFO 20

P. TCHICAYA (Congo): Ce matin, lorsque nous avons examiné le paragraphe 20 du document CL 86/REP/1, nous avons nous-mêmes fait une proposition afin d'ajouter deux ou trois phrases. Il me semble que l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis n'était pas tout à fait d'accord et exige que l'on présente le procès-verbal où cela avait été déclaré. Je ne sais pas si le Secrétariat a fait des recherches à ce sujet, mais s'il n'en a pas fait, je voudrais dire que moi-même j'en ai fait, et que j'ai trouvé exactement ce que j'ai déclaré dans le document CL 86/PV/8 page 16, et je crois que cela est suffisamment clair pour ne pas susciter d'autres commentaires.

CHAIRMAN: I hope this is satisfactory to the Ambassador of the United States.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I cannot get that document PV/8. I am very much in favour of the sentence of the Ambassador of India, in which he speaks of the search for ability. I am trying to find this document, which I do not seem to have to hand.

CHAIRMAN: I hope a copy can be given to the Ambassador of the United States.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended, was adopted.

Le projet de rapport de la plénière, partie I, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: Then I request the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to make a few concluding remarks on behalf of the Drafting Committee.

J. MUSHARRAF (Chairman, Drafting Committee): At the end of these long days of work of the Drafting Committee I think it would be appropriate to say a few words of appreciation for those who made contributions in it. The Drafting Committee worked for more than 20 hours, on many occasions up to midnight, and straight after the long Plenary Session of the day. So we will not say we are not tired.

The product of our efforts has been this Draft which for us is pleasing in some respects but less pleasing in others. It is pleasing that we were able to arrive at unanimous agreement on all points, sometimes after prolonged discussion, and we finally have an agreed Draft. The somewhat less pleasing aspect is that the Draft purely is a Draft - that is, the quality of the language and the style could have been better. But, as I mentioned yesterday, we could not go into this aspect as we were involved in the substantive aspects of the Draft.

I want to congratulate all our colleagues on the Drafting Committee for the high expertise and experience that they brought to the deliberations, and especially the spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation with which we worked throughout. I do not recall anyone banging his shoe on the table or hitting his neighbour on the head, neither was the Chairman hit by a chair or any other flying object.

My special thanks are due to the Secretary, Bernard Linley, for his friendliness, his tact and his unobtrusive efficiency, and to the Assistant Secretary Annie Le Clainche, who has a great fund of experience of many years of working with Drafting Committees, and to all the others, on and behind the scenes, the several secretaries hurrying to and fro, the charming lady messengers flitting up and down and of course the interpreters for their efficiency and their astonishing ability and quickness of mind.

Finally, I would also like to express the Committee's appreciation of the officers of FAO, the ADGs and the Directors, and the others who were dutifully attending the sessions to answer any of our queries and offer clarification and assistance.

In particular I would like to express our appreciation to Professor Nurul Islam, who is not here at the moment, the ADG for the Economic and Social Policy Department. Even before joining FAO Professor Islam was a well-known and highly regarded Professor of Economics, and I would like to place on record here that due to his professional competence, along with some charming personal characteristics, Professor Islam exerted a great influence on our proceedings.

For example, on the very first day our meeting started almost half-an-hour late because of this worthy Professor of Economics' high imaginative propensity to lose himself in the corridors of these buildings. Unluckily that day the Chairman of the Drafting Committee -that is me- while hurrying to the Mexico Room for a meeting came across the worthy Professor in one of the corridors, who was heading towards the Mexico Room, and the Professor thereafter led the Chairman round and round in search of the Mexico Room from Building A to Building B to Building C to Building D and then back to B, C, D, and A. We are told that the Professor has been around these buildings for the last

ten years. Nowhere in the world must A, B, C and D be so difficult to learn as here in FAO. If the worthy Professor could not learn this alphabet in 10 years what hope is there for newcomers like me and many others?

Anyhow, the meeting was able to start half-an hour-late. Throughout the proceedings Professor Islam continued to make his impact. At one stage of the proceedings there was utter confusion and pandemonium because the Chairman had lost his earphone and lost track of what was going on in the meeting, and the meeting fell into confusion. The Chairman's missing earphone was finally located firmly implanted on the ear of the Professor. The Professor had somehow managed to lose his own and had grabbed the Chairman's earphone, the Chairman had grabbed the Secretary's earphone, the Secretary grabbed the Assistant Secretary's earphone, who in turn being at the margin was left without any earphone. All this was not an accident. The Professor, who possesses the most noble desire to teach economic concepts to the world at every possible opportunity, had found this a good opportunity and had himself deliberately contrived the situation to make it crystal clear to all of us what the whole economic concept of high marginal rate of substitution means, while at the same time demonstrating through this chain of grabbing of earphones, resulting in the poor Assistant Secretary ending up with none, yet another economic concept, namely the thesis of some Latin-American economists and others, how through a chain of exploited relations the needs of the world, grabbing of the resources, leads to the deprivation and marginalization of the small man at the margin of the economy. Soon after the Professor took upon himself to teach us what in project analysis is a high rate of return. As soon as the deliberations on the Professor's item had ended the Chairman turned to offer the Professor some words and thank him for his presence and contribution, but the Professor had vanished, a brilliant demonstration of an extremely high rate of return.

Fortunately for us, the interpreters did not have such a high rate of return, otherwise we would have been in a fix, perhaps because they are not economists and they do not believe in a high rate of return. They laboured on with us and worked overtime with us for the rest of the night, for which we wish to express our appreciation to them.

Let me not burden you with further boring details of how we worked and the contributions of other ADGs to it. Let me just say that we all enjoyed working with each other and look forward to meeting once again at the next session of the Council.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Musharraf. We are very grateful to you and your members for your long hard hours of work.

DIRECTEUR GENERAL: M. le Président, Messieurs les distingués délégués et observateurs, vous venez de passer deux semaines d'intense activité et je ne souhaite pas vous faire endurer un nouveau discours. Je me limiterai donc à quelques mots seulement.

M. le président, je suis vos travaux de près et j'ai été frappé par la qualité et le sérieux qui ont prévalu lorsque le Conseil a abordé la discussion des vrais problèmes de fond du développement agricole et rural. Vous avez analysé la situation présente de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, en tenant compte de ses aspects positifs, mais aussi de ses nombreux points noirs. Vous avez souligné la persistance paradoxale de la pénurie au milieu de l'abondance, et le Conseil a réaffirmé la nécessité d'améliorer la structure des relations économiques entre pays développés et pays en développement.

Mais c'est certainement la crise alimentaire en Afrique qui a plus particulièrement retenu votre attention, et vous lui avez consacré une importante résolution. En effet, la situation y est effectivement tragique.

Je voudrais souligner, à l'appui de votre rapport, que les besoins d'aide alimentaire pour le continent africain en 1985 sont actuellement estimés à plus de 4 millions de tonnes, je dirais même 4, 5 millions. Mais j'ajouterai qu'à peine la moitié de ces quantités a été promise à ce jour. A cet égard, je voudrais exprimer toute ma satisfaction quant à l'annonce faite hier matin par le distingué Ambassadeur de l'Inde d'une allocation exceptionnelle de 100 000 tonnes d'aide alimentaire en céréales pour l'Afrique. Voici un pays qui était encore récemment receveur d'aide, et qui est aujourd'hui devenu donateur. Trouvez ici, M. l'Ambassadeur, l'expression de mes remerciements.

Il est impérieux d'augmenter les quantités octroyées et il est tout aussi impérieux d'accélérer les décisions car, pour ne prendre que l'exemple du Sahel, c'est dès le début de 1985 que ces décisions devraient être mises en oeuvre si l'on veut vraiment que l'aide arrive en temps utile, à la première de soudure. Le Président de la République du Niger, lors de sa visite dans nos murs, a insisté vivement sur la nécessité de respecter ce calendrier. Il nous a rappelé en privé qu'à partir des mois de mars et avril la pluie compromet toutes les voies de circulation; par conséquent, il est indispensable d'agir à temps.

En 1973, il y eut des largages de sacs de blé par avion dans la région du Sahel. Je crois que le Canada avait prêté un certain nombre d'avions à ce moment-là. J'espère que la crise ne se répétera pas en ce qui concerne le Sahel.

Le Conseil a reconnu ce problème et s'est félicité de ce que le CPA ait décidé, à ma demande, d'étudier lors de sa prochaine session comment accélérer la livraison des aides alimentaires d'urgence, car en cas de crise, les problèmes logistiques sont aussi importants que la disponibilité physique des denrées.

Il faut faire face à tous les goulots d'étranglement. Nous avons toujours pensé à la FAO qu'en cas de crise alimentaire en Afrique, ou dans d'autres continents, ce n'est pas la quantité de produits alimentaires qui fait défaut, c'est le transport de ces produits. Dès lors, la question logistique est de première importance. Je pense que le PAM dispose déjà d'un état détaillé et constamment mis à jour de la capacité de déchargement des principaux ports pouvant desservir les zones vulnérables. Cet état détaillé devrait être minutieusement suivi.

Je me rappelle qu'en 1962-63, lorsque je représentais la FAO en Inde, ce pays avait alors besoin d'une importante aide alimentaire (12 à 13 millions de tonnes), et le problème principal avait été celui de l'engorgement des ports, et l'incapacité des ports à recevoir des quantités importantes. Depuis, ce problème a été résolu par l'Inde.

On a également attribué à la déficience des transports une des raisons de la famine au Bengale du fait même que les produits alimentaires étaient disponibles dans certaines parties de l'Inde. J'espère qu'à l'avenir le CPA pourra se pencher davantage sur ces problèmes de logistique et de transport de produits alimentaires.

Aujourd'hui, tous les télégrammes que nous recevons font état de la capacité de réception du port d'Assad, du port de Djibouti, etc. Or, l'un des principaux noeuds à dénouer en Ethiopie est le suivant: Ce n'est pas au moment d'une crise qu'il faut s'attaquer à ces problèmes; ceux-ci doivent être résolus avant que ne survienne une crise alimentaire, surtout dans les pays à déficit alimentaire chronique.

En voici une illustration de plus: le Président du Niger nous a dit l'autre jour (je crois que Mme l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis était présente) qu'il y a une distance de 1 000 km de Cotonou à Niamey, "Cotonou étant le port le plus proche; mais il y a des régions au Niger qui sont encore à 1 000 km de Niamey, et donc de Cotonou, et pour atteindre d'autres régions du sud il faut parcourir 2 000 km. C'est pour cela d'ailleurs que les denrées alimentaires, quand elles sont importées, coûtent tellement cher dans les pays enclaves. Je sais que la Communauté européenne fait un effort remarquable pour contribuer précisément au développement des infrastructures, mais quand il s'agit d'un pays comme le Niger qui a 1 200 000 km de superficie, c'est un travail de très longue haleine.

Devant les besoins pressants de tant de pays, je persiste également à croire que la dotation de la Reserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence est insuffisante; elle devrait être relevée. Cette année nous en a donné la preuve. D'autres mesures doivent être prises, telles que le prépositionnement des stocks dans les zones vulnérables. Je ne cesserai de le répéter ici comme au CPA.

Le Conseil a insisté sur le besoin de relancer sans plus attendre l'agriculture des pays affectés. A cet égard, il a pris note avec intérêt de la mission multi-donateurs que j'ai envoyée en Ethiopie afin d'identifier les besoins de relance et de réhabilitation de l'agriculture dans diverses régions du pays, où je me rends d'ailleurs cette nuit même. Je voudrais remercier tous les pays donateurs qui ont, malgré des délais très courts de ma part, envoyé des délégués se joindre à cette mission; je cite en particulier la France, la Suisse, la Norvège; y participent également deux ou trois autres pays comme je l'ai déjà dit. Je me propose en outre de convoquer, à ce sujet, une réunion des donateurs le 20 décembre ici à Rome. J'enverrai ce soir les télégrammes d'invitation.

Je me félicite de ce que le Conseil ait accepté ma proposition de réorienter une partie des ressources ordinaires de la FAO jusqu'à concurrence de 5 millions de dollars pendant l'exercice en cours, pour la réhabilitation du secteur agricole des pays concernés. Ce n'est évidemment qu'une goutte dans l'océan des besoins. Mais je dois aussi vous dire qu'à cette petite contribution de la FAO, faite avant même la réunion des donateurs pour l'Ethiopie, vient s'ajouter la décision d'autres pays (je rends hommage ici à l'Italie) qui envisagent sérieusement de faire avec la FAO un effort exceptionnel pour la fourniture de semences destinées à certains pays du Sahel pour des sommes assez importantes. L'affaire est en cours. On la discute. Mais j'apprécie beaucoup cette initiative de la part de l'Italie. Je tiens à lui en rendre hommage.

Le Conseil a marqué son intérêt pour l'étude approfondie que j'ai décidé de soumettre à la prochaine conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique en 1986.

Cette étude portera sur les causes fondamentales de la crise alimentaire de l'Afrique et sur les mesures correctives requises. Une autre étude de plus, me direz-vous. Mais celle-ci sera beaucoup plus originale, elle traitera le fond des problèmes. Ce sera non pas une étude compliquée, mais une étude réaliste, et qui proposera certaines options qui seront discutées par les gouvernements.

Le Conseil a également mis en évidence la leçon à tirer de la crise: l'urgent besoin de ces pays de disposer des moyens de production indispensables pour la relance de l'agriculture.

Le Conseil a noté que les sorties net de capitaux des pays en développement, la faiblesse des prix d'exportation de produits agricoles, le fléchissement des prêts commerciaux officiels, le protectionnisme et d'autres facteurs liés à la situation financière internationale pesaient lourdement sur leur balance des paiements. Cet état de fait prive ces pays de la possibilité d'acheter les intrants nécessaires en quantité suffisante et avec la continuité voulue, ou encore d'investir pour les produire localement.

Je ne voudrais pas minimiser les aides déjà octroyées pour de tels intrants: semences sélectionnées, engrais, produits phytosanitaires, outils, etc. Mais je souhaite dire que, dans l'état actuel de délabrement des économies agricoles de certains pays, on ne peut se contenter d'injections sporadiques. Ce qu'il faut, c'est organiser à court terme un flux continu d'intrants et, à plus long terme, considérer des solutions permanentes, y compris la mise en place de capacités de production au niveau local ou régional.

C'est ce qu'a fait l'Inde, c'est aussi ce qu'a fait le Pakistan, et tous les pays d'Asie, qui ont fait des progrès remarquables dans l'autosuffisance alimentaire, en stockant des moyens de production d'intrants. Aujourd'hui, l'Inde n'achète pas de semences; elle en vend. Il en est de même pour le Pakistan, le Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, et la plupart des pays asiatiques, alors qu'en Afrique on continue à acheter les semences.

Il n'y a pas de semences au Niger; nous allons peut-être avec le Gouvernement italien acheter des graines de consommation de mil ou de sorgho que nous envisageons de trier à l'aide d'un trieur; ce ne sont pas des semences sélectionnées; je me demande pourquoi dans certains pays on n'a pas fait l'effort nécessaire depuis 20 ou 30 ans pour produire ses propres semences; je ne dis pas des semences sélectionnées mais des semences propres, qui germent, et sans impuretés; ce sont des choses simples et concrètes comme cela que je voudrais inclure dans l'étude pour l'Afrique, des mesures qui ne coûtent pas très cher et pour lesquelles je crois que la FAO peut faire un effort.

Voici un autre exemple significatif: je me suis entretenu avec le Président Nyerere de Tanzanie où je me trouvais en août dernier. Le Président Nyerere m'a dit: "Nous allons faire un effort considérable cette année en faveur de nos agriculteurs; nous voulons acheter 250 000 tonnes d'engrais, mais avec nos shillings tanzaniens nous ne pouvons rien acheter". Les autorités tanzaniennes se sont adressées aux pays nordiques qui ont accepté de fournir à la Tanzanie environ 100 000 et quelques tonnes d'engrais pendant trois ans. Mais, et après?... Ce n'est que la moitié et ils ne peuvent pas en acheter davantage.

Donc, si nous voulons que ces pays produisent, il faut leur en donner les moyens; l'aide alimentaire est utile pendant un certain temps, comme le signalait le délégué de la Colombie; mais le but de l'aide est qu'elle cesse un jour. Comme vous, en avez convenu, il ne faut pas qu'elle soit continue. Nous sommes d'accord. Mais nous sommes dans une période où elle est nécessaire, et pour qu'elle cesse il faut encore une fois que les pays aient les moyens de produire et, à cette fin, disposent des intrants dont ils ont besoin. J'insiste beaucoup sur ce point et notre programme de réhabilitation, qu'il s'applique à l'Ethiopie ou aux autres pays africains, sera à base d'intrants, et non pas de rapports de grands experts qui vont expliquer comment les choses doivent se passer.

La FAO entend donc étudier ce problème avec beaucoup d'attention. Nous le ferons d'ailleurs avec nos collègues de l'ONUDI et de la Banque mondiale avec qui nous sommes déjà en contact.

Le Conseil s'est penché sur de nombreuses autres questions et a pris des décisions que le Secrétariat, je peux vous l'assurer, s'efforcera d'appliquer de son mieux. Je me réfère notamment à la proclamation de 1985 comme Année internationale de la forêt ou encore aux décisions sur les suites à donner à la Conférence mondiale sur les pêches.

Je voudrais aussi rappeler un événement important qui s'est déroulé en dehors du Conseil mais auquel tous les délégués ont été associés. Je veux parler de la visite du Président de la République du Niger, Président du CILSS, et du Président du Conseil des Ministres de l'Italie, S.E. Bettino Craxi. J'ai déjà fait, référence au Président Kountche. Permettez-moi de dire un mot de la visite de S.E., Monsieur Bettino Craxi, Président du Conseil des Ministres italien. Son allocution est apparue à tous les participants, j'en ai la conviction, comme très positive et très encourageante. Je soulignerai en particulier son appel en faveur de l'adoption d'un pacte sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale à lancer lors du quarantième anniversaire de la FAO et à sa proposition de création d'un fonds spécial de la Banque mondiale pour le développement agricole et rural au Sud du Sahara.

Sa volonté clairement exprimée en vue de trouver une solution positive en ce qui concerne les installations du Siège fut aussi pour nous tous un grand encouragement, et cela s'applique aussi aux autres problèmes en suspens.

Enfin, j'en viens à la question de l'équipe spéciale ONU/FAO chargée d'étudier les questions du PAM; bien qu'elle ne fut pas à l'ordre du jour, cette question a beaucoup agité certains esprits durant le Conseil. Je me bornerai à rappeler ce que j'ai déjà dit dans mon discours préliminaire, à savoir que je rechercherai des solutions pratiques conformes aux documents de base et m'efforcerai d'aboutir le plus vite possible à une conclusion. J'ajouterai cependant, comme je l'ai déjà fait devant le CPA, qu'il ne faut pas gonfler cette affaire hors de toutes proportions. Le monde a aussi d'autres préoccupations.

Par ailleurs, j'ai pris note de la recommandation que vous avez adoptée concernant les comptes certifiés du PAM. Le rapport de l'auditeur externe reste à la disposition de tous. A ce propos, il n'est pas besoin pour moi d'exprimer ma totale confiance dans la bonne foi et la compétence professionnelle du personnel de l'OAA en question. En ce qui me concerne, je peux vous assurer que la transparence des comptes et l'efficacité du contrôle financier interne resteront toujours une de mes préoccupations majeures dans l'exercice des responsabilités qui m'ont été confiées par les Textes fondamentaux en ce qui concerne la FAO ou autres organisations.

Alors que l'année 1984 tire à sa finale Conseil a très justement souligné la précarité de la situation alimentaire mondiale. Peut-on, sans un pincement de coeur, constater que d'année en année le nombre des mal nourris dans le monde grandit et se propage comme une tumeur au coeur même de l'humanité. Serons-nous capables tous ensemble d'en arrêter l'insidieuse progression? Ce mal devrait être notre seul ennemi, notre seule obsession. L'Afrique, en particulier, restera au centre de nos préoccupations dans les prochaines années.

Dans de nombreux cas, il faudra recoudre avec patience le tissu social lacéré par tant de conflits - acculant des millions de réfugiés à une errance sans objet - et par tant d'autres misères et d'injustice.

La communauté des nations ne pourra indéfiniment remettre à plus tard l'établissement de relations internationales plus justes sur le plan financier, monétaire et surtout commercial, plus favorable à la grande masse des pays pauvres. Elle devra maintenir et accroître l'aide extérieure aux plus démunis, et assurer en priorité la première nécessité de tout être humain, le pain quotidien.

Je voudrais terminer par cette exhortation, venue de ma conviction profonde et sincère que la coopération internationale, notamment à travers les organisations multilatérales, est plus nécessaire que jamais.

L'homme se targue de maîtriser les éléments, de l'infiniment petit à l'infiniment grand. Il maîtrisera aussi la faim. Jamais nous ne déclarerons forfait.

Je remercie toutes les délégations pour leur participation active à nos débats. Je voudrais en particulier, si vous le permettez, rendre hommage à Monsieur Pierre Elmanowsky, Secrétaire général du Comité interministériel de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en France, qui nous quitte ce soir. Pendant des années il a représenté son pays à la plupart des réunions, sinon à toutes, de la FAO. Je l'ai vu aux conférences régionales, au Conseil, à la Conférence, au Comité de sécurité alimentaire, au Comité des produits, que sais-je encore? au Comité de l'agriculture. Il y a toujours participé d'une façon active, constructive. Il laisse ici beaucoup d'amis parmi les délégués mais aussi et surtout parmi le Secrétariat. Je voudrais sincèrement rendre hommage à l'oeuvre remarquable qu'il a accomplie pendant toutes ces années. Nous avons constamment apprécié ses interventions toujours bien étudiées ainsi que son esprit de conciliation.

J'espère que nous le reverrons en d'autres occasions et je lui souhaite plein succès dans ses futures activités. Mes meilleurs vœux à lui et à sa femme.

Je voudrais aussi dire tout le regret que nous éprouvons à voir certains pays quitter le Conseil: le Burkina Faso, l'Ethiopie, le Cap-Vert, le Lesotho, la Nouvelle-Zélande, la Norvège, le Soudan. Ils seront remplacés, comme c'est la règle par d'autres pays: l'Afghanistan, le Danemark, le Libéria, le Sénégal, la Tanzanie, le Zimbabwe; l'Australie remplacera la Nouvelle-Zélande.

A ceux qui repartent vers leurs capitales, je souhaite un retour sans problèmes. D'ores et déjà, j'adresse à vous tous et vos familles mes vœux les plus sincères pour 1985 et vous donne rendez-vous en juin prochain.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of France, Mr. Elmanowsky, has to leave shortly. As you know, he has been working with FAO for 24 years; 24 years of collaboration with FAO, so I thought on behalf of the Council I would thank the distinguished delegate of France, for his contribution, and wish him a safe journey back.

We are very grateful to you for all the help you have given to the work of the Council, and I hope members of the Council will join me in wishing him the best of health.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

P. ELMANOWSKY (France): Je tiens à vous remercier de ces paroles aimables à mon égard. J'avais table que les travaux se termineraient plus tôt que prévu; malheureusement, cela n'a pas été possible. J'ai donc indiqué au Secrétariat en leur disant au revoir, ainsi qu'à vous-même et à tous mes collègues, que je vais maintenant partir bientôt puisque, de toute façon, en Janvier prochain le couperet tombe: ce sont les 65 ans et la retraite; par conséquent, je ne ferai plus partie des délégations.

Vous pensez bien qu'après 24 ans de collaboration - ma première venue ici remonte à 1960 - j'ai beaucoup de souvenirs bons, d'autres moins bons. Je me souviens de comités de rédaction difficiles, de groupes de contact, de séances, de discussions comme nous venons de le faire. Mais enfin... le meilleur l'emporte sur le moins bon.

Alors je vous dis cette fois-ci au revoir, véritablement, aux uns et aux autres.

M. le Président, je m'adresse par votre intermédiaire à tous les délégués ici présents; il y en a que je connais depuis longtemps; je remercie aussi - parce que même parmi eux j'avais aussi des amis - le Secrétariat, les interprètes, le personnel de la salle. Encore une fois merci et au revoir.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, distinguidos delegados: Los nueve miembros del Consejo de America Latina y el Caribe nos han concedido el honroso encargo de hablar a su nombre.

Estamos complacidos por la forma como ha concluido este importante período de sesiones. Algunos debates fueron controvertidos, pero al final, todos llegamos al convencimiento de que es necesario e indispensable el aporte y la colaboración de todos los Estados Miembros de esta Organización, en favor del fortalecimiento de la cooperación internacional como 1^a acaba de decir el Director General.

Los latinoamericanos y del Caribe deseamos confirmar, una vez más, nuestro apoyo a la cooperación multilateral y reiterar el llamado a todos nuestros colegas para que sigan asociados con nosotros en el seno de la FAO, en este club de colegas y amigos, en el cual debe reinar siempre la más completa armonía y el más pleno entendimiento.

Pensamos que los representantes de todos los Estados Miembros, tenemos la obligación de contribuir a fortalecer el empeño generoso, eficaz y sin tregua en que está empeñado el Director General de la FAO, a fin de que esta Organización cumpla los objetivos para los cuales fue establecida, al servicio de todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente de aquellos en vías de desarrollo.

Sr. Presidente; usted merece especial reconocimiento de los latinoamericanos y del Caribe. Hemos admirado, una vez más, su tacto, su inteligencia, su capacidad y la prudencia con que usted nos ha dirigido. Gracias a usted, señor Presidente, este período de sesiones ha concluido satisfactoriamente con los mejores resultados.

Estamos igualmente agradecidos a los tres Vicepresidentes, el señor Embajador Williams, de Trinidad y Tabago, y los Sres. Baharsjah de Indonesia, y McLean del Reino Unido, porque ellos le asistieron eficazmente en sus trabajos.

Gracias también al Sr. Musharraf de Pakistán, quién presidió el Comité de Redacción y a los miembros que lo integraron, así como al Secretario de ese Comité, Sr. Linley y a la Secretaria Adjunta Sra. Le Clainche

Queremos expresar también nuestra gratitud a los Sres. Trkulja, Presidente del Comité del Programa, y Abeyagoonasekera, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, y al Embajador Ivo Alvarenga, Presidente del CAC J.

Como siempre, el Director General de la FAO Dr. Edouard Saouma ha confirmado sus dotes de estadista y de excelente administrador. Admiramos la declaración afirmativa y clara que acaba de hacer el

Director General, el Sr. West, Director General Adjunto así como todos los subdirectores generales, particularmente el Profesor Islam, el Sr. Crowther, el Sr. Flores-Rodas, el Sr. Carroz, así como todo el personal de la Organización, son merecedores de nuestro agradecimiento.

Los latinoamericanos y del Caribe estamos muy satisfechos con el resultado de la primera experiencia del Subdirector General encargado del Departamento de Asuntos Generales e Información, Sr. Savary, quien ha desempeñado sus funciones de Secretario del Consejo de manera muy positiva, asistido por los Sres. Henderson y Tedesco, y otros funcionarios cercanos de ese Departamento.

Mil gracias al Sr. Kamal Annabi, Jefe de los Intérpretes y a todos los amigos que detrás de las cabinas han facilitado nuestro entendimiento. Gracias también al grupo de damas de la derecha de la sala, que manejan tan hábilmente esas máquinas milagrosas que reflejan fielmente nuestras intervenciones.

Agradecemos igualmente los valiosos servicios de la Sra. Loreta Badolati y su grupo de mensajeras, chicas simpáticas que han llevado y traído nuestros mensajes.

A todos, quienes visible o invisiblemente, han contribuido al cumplimiento de nuestros trabajos, queremos transmitirles nuestro agradecimiento. A los colegas y amigos que regresan a sus países, les deseamos buen viaje con la esperanza de que encuentren a sus familiares en salud y alegría, y a sus Estados en prosperidad creciente.

Particularmente, a los amigos y colegas de Africa deseamos transmitirles la mas viva y sincera solidaridad de todos los Gobiernos y pueblos de America Latina y del Caribe, seguros de que los países africanos, nuestros hermanos en el Tercer Mundo, superarán la difícil crisis actual.

Quienes permanecemos en Roma, seguiremos aquí compartiendo nuestra actividades. Los latinoamericanos y el Caribe deseamos adherirnos con las manifestaciones hechas por el Director General y por el Sr. Presidente en relación con nuestro colega y amigo Sr. Elmanowsky de Francia, con él compartimos muchas actividades en diversos Foros. Tuvimos debates controvertidos, pero siempre nos impresionó su competencia y la gran dosis de argumentos y resoluciones que en todo momento llevaba consigo.

Que 1985 nos encuentre cada vez mas fuertes y decididos en nuestros trabajos en esta Organización, y que bajo la dinámica y competente dirección del Director General, Doctor Saouma, sigamos la llamada a cumplir sus objetivos nobles y humanos en el mejoramiento de la situación agrícola y alimentaria del mundo, como parte esencial para la construcción de un nuevo orden económico internacional mas justo y mas equitativo.

Los latinoamericanos y el Caribe deseamos a todos, en sus propias religiones, paz y serenidad en el período natalicio y toda la salud, alegría y ventura en el nuevo año que se aproxima.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

J. BELGRAVE (New Zealand): I would not like the opportunity to pass without being able to place on record on behalf of my delegation and the delegation of the Southwest Pacific Region, which we represent, our sincere thanks to you for the way in which you have guided our deliberations this session. As always I think we are coming to a satisfactory conclusion due in no small measure to your forbearance and sagacity.

Secondly, I would like to record the thanks of my delegation to the Drafting Committee Chairman. It was said the other night that people thought he had been here for years. I guess that was evidence of the way that he handled our work and my delegation would like to place on record our thanks for his most efficient way of operating. To the Director-General and the Secretariat we express our sincere thanks. Like most of these meetings we come to expect the impossible and when we do not get that we become unsatisfied, but I think, as usual, they have come up trumps.

Finally, New Zealand comes off the Council as of today and on behalf of the New Zealand delegation could I express our sincere thanks to you all for the way you have made your period of time on the Council interesting, absorbing, energetic and certainly, I think, overall satisfactory, and no doubt our successors on the Council will also enjoy membership of it. Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Belgrave. I would like to thank you on behalf of the Council, New Zealand and you personally, for your really very valuable contributions to the work of the Council. We have always appreciated your interventions and your wise statements and healing touch. We will miss you in the Council but I know you will come to other meetings here. We want to wish you well and may I request the Council members to join in expressing our gratitude and also our personal good wishes to Mr Belgrave in person for all the contributions of New Zealand.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

R. SALLERY (Canada): I understand that our good friend and colleague, Ambassador Fenwick is going to speak on behalf of the North American Group in a few moments, but before she does that, I would like to make a few comments which are particular to Canada.

First of all, may I state my own delegation's very sincere thanks to you for the wise and professional manner in which you have chaired our Council. We have held you, Sir, in high regard for many years. Your reputation for fairness, your deep concern for humanity, your open and democratic approach to problem-solving, your willingness to hear all views and so on are well known to all of us and have been demonstrated to us here again at this Council. We know that you have done your best, as always, and we appreciate that effort very much.

I would also like to make just a brief word of thanks to our three Vice-Chairmen. They have also executed their responsibilities with goodwill and with precision, and their task was not an easy one, and we are very grateful to them.

And for the record, I would also like to say how very much we appreciated the visits and words of the Norwegian Minister along with all the other distinguished guests mentioned by the Director-General.

Now, I think I would be failing in my responsibilities as a representative of my Government if I did not also indicate at the end of this Council that while we endorse the report and have joined in the congratulations, we have not been entirely satisfied with the results of this meeting. Many of my colleagues assembled here are well aware that my Government as well as several others here, some, a few, however it might have been worked, have tried to raise matters in this Council which were and which are of fundamental and substantial importance to us, important because their resolution would allow us to more effectively deal with the major issues which the Director-General has already referred to and which he is quite right are the proper tasks of this Council. However, that we were not able to do so and that we were not able to share our views and concerns and have these discussed here before this Council raises questions perhaps of even more fundamental importance than the issues themselves. We still view this Council as a body which provides guidance and direction to the Director-General and to the Secretariat. A ruling was made by the chair that we were not to refer to a particular subject, and we have accepted this ruling, and I think we can honestly say that we have abided by it. Under Rule XXV.7 (b) it clearly states that any member of the Council may request the Director-General not less than 30 days before the proposed date of any session to insert an item in the provisional agenda of that session. As a member of this Council I would like hereby to officially request that an item on the findings and recommendations of the Joint UN/FAO Task Force on the relationship between the FAO and the WFP appear on the next agenda of this Council, and that all the relevant documentation, including the CFA reports, be made available to Council members.

One final point: for our part we have tried to conduct ourselves here by internationally accepted standards of decorum, and we believe that we have been reasonable in our approach and in our requests. We are concerned that this attitude of mutual respect to each other's views has been violated once again by one of our colleagues here. We have been accused of bad faith, of being crazed, of employing pressure and blackmail and we of course reject these false accusations outright, and we sincerely regret that our colleagues felt it convenient to resort to these kinds of comments. We believe that comments of this kind are unbecoming of the country that made them, they are unbecoming to this Council and to its members.

I also of course would like to join the Director-General and Colombia in wishing every one of you peace and tranquillity and a very happy and safe and meaningful 1985. Thank you very much.

H. CARANDANG (Chairman, Group of 77): As any democratic gathering of civilized human beings, this Council is governed by rules of procedure, by parliamentary rules, as embodied in the FAO constitution and in the Basic Texts. Now we hear a complaint that the views of a minority have not been able to be discussed and recorded. This, according to some delegates, is unfair. According to them, their views should have been given a fairer hearing in this Council. Now, the honourable delegates are fully aware of the rules of procedure governing the deliberations of this august body. In order to add an item to the agenda, such an item must either be proposed 30 days before the Council or agreed upon by a two-thirds majority of the members, on this occasion, the first ruling has not been complied with, as everybody knows. On the application of the second, the minority was overruled by the majority when the request to formally circulate certain documents was rejected by a debate of an issue which is not on the agenda and for which no relevant documentation had been circulated, as required by the rules of procedure. My Group, the Group of 77, refused to discuss an agenda item for which they have not received instructions from their home government, because this item precisely was not on the agenda and the appropriate documentation had not been sent to the home governments.

Furthermore, it will be recalled that the Chairman had specifically ruled that there could be no discussion on an item not on the agenda and for which no relevant documentation had been circulated, as required by the rules, and that no reference to such an item should be included in the Report.

Honourable delegates, I do feel that any objection to the Chairman's ruling should have been made at that time. Some delegates are now claiming that they have not received fair treatment in this Council. I find this inappropriate. This, I believe, demonstrates a lack of sensibility and sensitivity to the rules of procedure which we have all approved. If there is anything unfair, it would be for the minority to force the discussion of an issue which they want discussed even if such is not foreseen by the rules of the game.

Thank you very much, and on behalf of my Group, I should like to express the most sincere appreciation for the way in which you have guided the deliberations of this meeting. In particular, we should like to express our appreciation for the way in which you have brought to bear the wealth of your scientific background and experience on the issues which have been discussed. We should like to thank the three Vice-chairmen, who held the fort when you had to absent yourself. They guided the proceedings of this session of the Council on some of the most thorny issues.

We should like to greatly acknowledge the work of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee relatively newcomer but who exercised his responsibilities with the great skill of a veteran. I should like to thank my colleagues in the Drafting Committee who worked long hours to faithfully reflect the conclusions and views of the Council in the report. I should like to pay particular tribute to the professionalism and painstaking care with which the Secretariat prepared the substantive issues and the documentation and the 101 details required for the smooth running of this meeting. We should like to pay tribute to the members of the Secretariat who we see on the podium and also those whom we do not see who work behind the scenes, to the interpreters, the secretaries and the messengers.

Finally, I should like to pay tribute to Mr Elmanowsky, who is now leaving us after having worked so many years with us. I have worked with him in many Drafting Committees and many sessions of the Council and other sessions of the FAO, and I have always appreciated his intellectual acumen and the seriousness with which he faced his work. I know we shall miss him, and thank you all on behalf of the Group.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): My delegation would like to extend its deep appreciation to you for the mature, balanced and just manner in which you so ably guided our deliberations. We passed through several difficult moments in the course of our discussions during the past two weeks, only to reach an amicable agreement at the end. I would not like to go into the details at this hour of parting where we generally exchange words of goodwill. It is indeed heartening that we always, all the time of our presence here, upheld the great tradition of universal consensus in this House.

I am returning home with a big sense of satisfaction and a renewed faith and hope in the future of FAO and international cooperation. It was indeed heartening to listen to the Director-General a while ago. My delegation would like to place on record our deepest appreciation to the Director-General and his other colleagues here in the FAO for the concerted efforts to eradicate hunger and malnutrition from the face of the world. We would also like to thank the Director-General for his kind mention of Pakistan as a country which has attained a target in food in his discourse a couple of minutes ago.

Also a well-deserved word of appreciation for all those, one and all, who helped to make this Council session a great success.

We also wish the distinguished Ambassador of France all the best. His contribution over the years has indeed been outstanding. We wish him great success; he is not here at the moment.

We would also like to say to those who have completed their terms how much we enjoyed working with them. We say good luck and goodbye and au revoir to everybody.

L.E. WILLIAMS (Trinidad and Tobago): I was quite taken aback a short while ago by the reference made to unfair treatment meted out by certain members of the council. Since I happen to have been in the chair when a ruling was made on one of the more controversial subjects discussed at this meeting, I think I should set the record straight by indicating that my ruling was based on a basic and fundamental premise that the majority always wields sway over the minority. In this particular instance, I feel quite sure that the records will bear me out that based on the discussions held on that subject, it will be clearly evident that the majority at the time favoured and supported the decision which I took. I took the decision rooted in a sense of fair play and I did the duty as I saw it to the best of my ability and according to the dictates of the Council and the direction of the Council then expressed. So much for that.

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation wishes to join with other speakers in paying tribute to you for the highly commendable and efficient manner in which you directed the affairs of the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council. Colombia has already spoken for the Latin American and Caribbean Group, and I wish sincerely and heartily to endorse everything he has said in his own inimitable style. I do wish, however, to add my personal thanks and appreciation to members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group for nominating us to office of the Council and for electing us to serve as Vice-Chairman for the period of November 1984 to June 1985.

Finally, I would like once again to thank members of the Council for their kind cooperation and collaboration during the period that I served as Chairman. I would be remiss if I did not extend my delegation's thanks and appreciation as well to the Director-General and members of the Secretariat for their arrangements for and their guidance throughout this meeting. Trinidad and Tobago look forward to making its contribution on the Council during this term and to working with all Council members to achieve the Council's laudable goals.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): I am sorry that a sad note has come into the deliberations of this Council. I would just like to say to my colleagues that there have been perhaps some misunderstandings and it reminds me of my days in the legislative bodies at home. In all my years in elected office in legislative bodies... I have seen this sort of thing repeated over and over. It is the affairs of human beings. It is the nature of man - and woman - I suppose too.

I would like to say a word to our dear Director-General who has led this enormous Organization with such persistence and such concern and such ability. I am honest in confessing it is his concern that most draws and keeps my attention and my affection, and the Secretariat too - able, helping us so much in all our deliberations, and our wonderful Chairman of the Programme Committee. And the Drafting Committee Chairman who has shown us again that a sense of humour is one of the marvellous characteristics of a brilliant mind. I think all of us were happy to hear you speak today and welcomed your remarks.

But finally I must say a word about our Chairman who is undoubtedly one of the world's greatest international public servants, not just for his scientific ability which is recognized world-wide in a number of earned and honoured degrees. Yes, he had to leave us for a day or so and I would like to say why. He had to go to receive another award in London of the R.B. Bennett Commonwealth Prize, the Council of the Royal Society of Arts with the approval of the President, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Advisory Committee, Dr Swaminathan received this twentieth - however many - award from so many different countries. And when we had finished our work here the other afternoon I went to hear this mind at work in recounting to a group of interested scientists here in Rome the whole panorama of what has happened with these grains that man eats, and of course predominantly rice. It was a moving and magnificent outline. How do we pay what we owe to such human beings? It is very difficult speaking of the ability and quality of mind and of the sense of service that this distinguished citizen of the world has exhibited. We are grateful indeed to have him as Chairman. Thank you very much for your patience as well as for all these other virtues.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General and distinguished colleagues, on behalf of the countries in Asia and on behalf of my own country I take this great opportunity to say a few words at the end of the closure of this session of the Council. We have dealt in this Session with a number of important issues and important decisions have been taken on all these subjects. We hope these decisions will help to improve the world food security situation of each and every country, particularly of the countries in Africa now facing a critical food situation. We hope that by the time we meet in the next session of this Council these African countries will be able to work out their critical situation with their own efforts and the support of the international community. We are confident that our Director-General will pass a restless time until this position improves.

Our fruitful discussions and decisions have been facilitated by the excellent documentation by the FAO Secretariat. The quality of the documents speaks of the high efficiency and dedication of the FAO officers and staff working under the dynamic and wise leadership of our Director-General, Dr Edouard Saouma.

We want to put on record our great appreciation to the Director-General for his relentless support and concrete action to improve the world food and agriculture situation and food security for all, individually and nationally.

We also thank the Chairman and the members of the Drafting Committee for their efforts to produce a brilliant report that has made our work so easy. I must also take this opportunity to thank the interpreters, the messengers and others who have worked behind the scenes for their immense contribution to make our work in this session successful.

Last but not least, Mr Chairman, let me express our sincere thanks to you for your unique contribution to make our difficult work in this session so easy and fruitful because of your unique personal quality of head and heart. Mr Chairman, we are also grateful to the three able Vice-Chairmen for the efficient way they conducted this session in your absence and made our work easier.

We sincerely wish all the best of health and happiness in the new year.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais au nom de ma délégation vous féliciter de la manière brillante avec laquelle vous avez conduit nos débats. Nous souhaitons également vous dire que nous sommes satisfaits du travail qu'ont mené en votre absence les vice-presidents qui vous ont si bien représenté.

Pour cette raison, je m'étonne de constater qu'au sein de notre Conseil il y a des membres ou un membre qui n'a pas été satisfait du déroulement de nos travaux.

Nous pensons également interpréter les sentiments des représentants de l'Afrique au sein de ce Conseil pour dire combien nous avons apprécié la manière dont vous avez mené les débats concernant l'Afrique. Nous sommes sensibles aux marques de sympathie dont nous avons bénéficié au sein de ce Conseil de la part de tous les délégués, je dis bien tous les délégués, c'est-à-dire aussi bien les pays développés que les pays en développement. Nous pensons que cette unanimité qui s'est manifestée au sein de ce Conseil saura se matérialiser dans les faits, bien que nous sachions que les uns et les autres font actuellement des efforts énormes pour arriver à surmonter la crise que nous connaissons en ce moment en Afrique. Encore une fois, nous voudrions réitérer notre gratitude aux membres de ce Conseil, et, en particulier, nous voudrions marquer toute notre reconnaissance au Directeur général qui a su lancer l'appel au moment où il l'a fait, et nous pensons qu'il continuera à tout mettre en oeuvre pour mobiliser toujours davantage l'aide internationale dont l'Afrique a besoin pour surmonter sa crise actuelle.

Nous voudrions également nous associer aux félicitations qui ont été adressées au Président du Comité de rédaction ainsi qu'aux interprètes et aux messagers, et à tous ceux qui dans les coulisses ont tout mis en oeuvre pour faire en sorte que les travaux de notre Conseil connaissent le succès dont nous avons déjà parlé.

Encore une fois, je souhaite à tout le monde bon retour et que tous les voeux accompagnent les délégués de notre Conseil.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): What impressed me the most in the career of this session of the Council was the spirit of camaraderie which prevailed throughout the deliberations, discussions, informal meetings that we had to have from time to time, and for which you showed indulgence so that we should come to conclusions. That was the best part of it. That is the lasting impression which will remain in my mind, because, whatever the differences, there was always deference shown by the members for each other; there was always a smile, a handshake, the warmth of heart, and ultimately the tact-fulness of the human mind prevailed to get the result. That is why we have been able to conclude a complicated agenda so quickly under the ability of your leadership as Chairman.

We were also given at the beginning, the benefit of the observations of the Director-General in his speeches and his closing remarks today have given us the comfort of assurance in the midst of difficulties, hardships, hurdles, obstacles through which the world has come to pass.

There is a light of hope which, so far as food is concerned, FAO has been able to shed. That light of hope, with the determination which one and all of us in this Council as well as in FAO as a whole and its associate bodies have shown, will ultimately prevail with the blessings of God and the sacrifices which people have to make. With the generosity of mind which we have to show, the removal of the meanness of spirit, the avoidance of exploitation of opportunities, goodwill prevail ultimately over evil. And then, even though Utopia may not be very near to reach, the concept of one world may not be insight, the stamina of unity will not eventually fail us.

Therefore we feel all that we have achieved in the course of this Council's discussions and deliberations with that great tactfulness and tolerance you showed throughout; will bear fruit. You never allowed your patience to come to a breaking point though sometimes you were strained to the utmost. This is no occasion, Mr Chairman, frany member, speaking or non-speaking, to carry any bitterness or bad taste in the mouth. There should be none.

There should be no element of controversy introduced at this stage by anyone. What should remain is what you and the Director-General have repeatedly stressed in other words, the awareness and oneness for this cause. That is what matters, that is what, really speaking, is our ideal, whether we reach it or not. It is not for us to judge, but for humanity at large in the gallery of the world which will be the witness of our deeds and our needs of our achievements, our shortcomings and our weaknesses, of our strength and our stamina.

That is where I feel that the entire Secretariat of FAO, from the top to the lowermost, have rendered exceptional services with dedication of purpose and efficiency, which is found in various international organizations. It is an unparalleled example of, where cordiality prevails, what can be achieved, and the difficulties which can be overcome.

The human touch is what matters the most, and the differences can be eliminated by not harbouring grudges, by not having any spirit of unhealthy competition. Healthy competition is desirable to get the results by all means, so that the cause of humanity can be better served, especially the terrible

suffering humanity of Africa. That is why India has had this contribution to which the Director-General was good enough to refer of one hundred thousand tonnes of wheat yesterday, thanks to our Prime Minister, who immediately declared this bounty of one hundred thousand tonnes.

Whatever we could have done, we have done like other countries within their respective limitations. It was our duty and that is why we hope and trust that ultimately in all parts of the world for causes like this, the only thing prevailing should be the spirit of sanity and sincerity and none other. That is what our Indira Gandhi stood for. She sacrificed so much during her lifetime and ultimately gave her life for it. Our leaders have been trying to do their best and that is why we hope and pray and trust that what we have left behind in the sands of time of this Council's work will make a bit of history.

Thanks to you, Mr Director-General for what you have done, along with your officers, for the creation of this spirit, this creation of the image of inspiration for poor people who are helpless, who cannot speak for themselves and to whose rescue, whether they ask for it or not, we have to rush. All of us here are totally united in the purpose. There is no doubt about it.

Therefore, I conclude by saying that no one should see any snakes and scorpions under the carpet. Remove them once and for all and let us be one, irrespective of the part of the world we come from, whether we come from the Western hemisphere or whether we come from the Eastern hemisphere. Whatever political learnings we have or to whatever political attitudes we belong, should be set aside for the one great cause to which humanity has to be dedicated.

That is why you, Mr Chairman, on the occasion of the great award which you have received - the twenty-third you have won, if I am not mistaken - so many recognitions you have had, and so many research papers you have submitted, - that you are the ideal person to chair this Council, as Ambassador Fenwick has rightly said.

We look forward to the fact that with such a concentration of genuine desire as we have here and of dedicated spirit supported by determination and aspiration, we will be able to serve humanity with a pristine purity of accord and with an international patriotic priority of unity for the cause.

S. ZAHARIEV (Bulgaria): On behalf of the countries in our area, I would like to express our deep satisfaction with the work of this very honourable Council which we have just completed. The Council had in front of it quite a number of very crucial important issues to solve, and I can say again with satisfaction that you have done this job very well and have tackled the problems of the food situation in Africa, which is one of the most important at the time being. We have been talking about the state of food and agriculture in the world, which I think is important for everybody, small and weak, and we have talked about food security. This question is of paramount importance for us. By this, I do not like to minimize the importance of other items to which I hope we have paid due attention, so that is the reason for giving me to say our Council has completed this job well.

Now it is a pleasant duty to join the other speakers before me and to thank you. Not being the first, of course I have a problem because all compliments have been exhausted before me, and in this case if you would just allow me on behalf of our people to repeat our admiration, our appreciation, our compliments for your wisdom, for your good leadership, for the work which has been performed by you and by your very able three Vice-Chairmen which we have elected.

I would like also again to repeat the deep thanks of the members of this Council to all staff who helped us during these days and nights of work, and I do not like to omit anybody but to repeat the Secretariat, the secretaries, the typists, the interpreters, the messengers and even the outside staff which this time have been smiling. It is a pleasure to be a member of this Council, and we hope that this is the way of one so highly organized, such an efficient organization like FAO have to have. This is the place to pay due tribute to the Director-General, Mr Saouma for his extremely able and dynamic leadership which makes this Organization one of a very high professional level to deal with the needs of the contemporary situation in the world.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, Peoples' Democratic Republic of: (original language Arabic): I would like to associate myself with what has just been said by the delegate of Bulgaria with regard to the difficulty in which I find myself, because I simply have to repeat what already has been said.

Nevertheless, I would like to express our thanks and our satisfaction for the positive results which we achieved after the two weeks of debate. We achieved this result thanks to the spirit which prevailed throughout this session in spite of the differences of opinion, since these differences were always settled with a great deal of mutual respect. Of course, you played a very important role in guiding this debate. You showed great wisdom and patience. We would also like to thank the Vice-Chairmen who shared this responsibility.

We would like to express our esteem to the Director-General for the excellent way in which he directs this Organization in a spirit of almost perfect administrative management which has been achieved precisely because of the experience that the Director-General has, the experience which has made it possible for us to be successful in our work.

The Finance Committee, the Programme Committee, the Drafting Committee, and their Chairmen, have played a very important role in the preparation and operation of the Council, and we would like, to express our admiration for their efforts.

We would like to thank all those who have participated in making our work successful. We are speaking about the interpreters and the entire staff which serviced this Council session.

We express our appreciation of the way in which the question of hunger in Africa was dealt with. We greatly admire the way in which the Director-General informed the world about what is happening in Africa and the proposed solutions to the problems arising there. We admire what has been said by all the members of the Council in order to find a solution to the problem of food security in developing countries.

I have participated in the work of the Council for the first time. Quite frankly, I would like to tell you that I had at the beginning certain comments on the way in which the Council operated. I was a bit disappointed at first. But I can assure you that during the second part of the Council session I was greatly impressed by the spirit of responsibility, of friendship, which predominated throughout the session. I am quite convinced that our forthcoming session in June will be even better. We will then have carried out all the decisions which were taken now. We can discuss their results in order to achieve even more positive results in future.

Mrs. A. DELLA CROCE di DOJOLA (Italy): On behalf of the ten Member Countries of the European Economic Community the Italian delegation wishes to express its deep regret of the fact that the representative of the European Economic Community has not been given the floor among the members, as he had asked for in line with the existing habit in the international organizations. This is an important issue for all of us, especially since the Community is one of the world's major donors. We do consider this an unfortunate fact and we hope that this will not constitute a precedent for our future meetings.

Having said this I associate my voice with that of those which have been given before by all my colleagues here on behalf of the ten Member Countries of the European Economic Community, and indeed on behalf of the Italian delegation, to thank all the members of the Secretariat, of course the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, the Chairman, the three Vice-Chairmen, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and all the people present and behind the scenes who have helped us in our hard work to complete in two weeks what was on the agenda, work which we have all done with a sincere sense of responsibility, and we hope for the benefit of the hungry and the poor in the world.

G. BULA BOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia comparte la inquietud expresada por la distinguida Embajadora Fenwick acerca de la nota desagradable que se ha producido ahora, al final de nuestras reuniones. Pero estábamos acostumbrados a esas sorpresas desleales. Porque justamente, la misma persona que acaba de asumir esa actitud es, quien durante las dos últimas semanas, me ha buscado permanentemente, y ha reconocido en privado mi cooperación para el entendimiento.

Sobre referencias a las actitudes de algunos países, no están sujetos a esas consideraciones aquellos representantes de Gobiernos que asumen actitudes serias, constructivas y que no amenazan a nadie.

Nos sorprende, señor Presidente, que se haya faltado al respeto al Consejo y a sus dignatarios, pero a esto no voy a referirme porque ya el distinguido Embajador Williams de Trinidad y Tabago respondió a esas acusaciones, con mucha dignidad y gran entereza.

Tampoco vamos a asumir una actitud de condena de esos colegas, porque durante los últimos tiempos tratamos de entenderles, y creemos sinceramente que están siendo víctimas de una obsesión, de una enfermedad, de un fanatismo religioso, que parece que les impulsara sin frenos a rendir pleitesía a algún dios desconocido, incognito, o a lo mejor bien conocido.

Esperamos, que el período natalicio que se aproxima sea propicio para que esos colegas se dediquen un poco a la meditación, para que recen algunas oraciones, para que analicen las injusticias en que han incurrido, y en el nuevo año se presenten de nuevo a estas reuniones curados de esos males.

Nosotros creemos, que no se puede pretender imponer los puntos de vista de ningún país a este Consejo porque se pierde el sentido democrático de nuestras deliberaciones. No podemos aceptar que el representante de ningún país, por importante que sea y por amigo que sea con el nuestro, se refiera a nuestras actuaciones en forma inaceptable que rechazamos.

El delegado del país que ha ofendido a este Consejo, y particularmente a nuestro Estado, puede estar seguro de que no nos atemoriza con sus comentarios que son inoportunos y son desafortunados.

Por el contrario, vamos a corresponder con el desprecio y con la indiferencia. Es lo que merecen. En efecto, habíamos pensado -esto lo digo muy seriamente- habíamos pensado contar aquí otra historia, de esas historias que tienen lugar allá en el pequeño pueblo de Colombia donde yo nací. Contamos una en la Sala Verde, y creo que todos los colegas tienen buen recuerdo de esa historia. Pero es muy tarde y además hay imposibilidad física. No pudimos comunicarnos con el Jefe de nuestra Comunidad, pero recordamos que él nos decía siempre: "Cuando se defiende una causa injusta, la soberbia, la arrogancia y los gritos prevalecen sobre el buen sentido, la educación y la cordura".

Sólo queremos concluir con otra frase que también usamos allá, en nuestra Comunidad, y que dice: "Los perros ladran a la luna".

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Not speaking on behalf of members of the Council but of the Nordic Group, because we are a group, we have been cooperating closely in all matters here and I know that my Nordic colleagues are fully with me when I express our appreciation to you, Mr Chairman, I think my colleagues have exhausted not only the small but also the enlarged version of the Webster International Dictionary. The French-speaking delegation have consulted the Grand Larousse. I would have to consult the Norwegian one to find new words. I cannot. It is not official. So I would associate myself with all those factual things which have been said about me and to me.

I would also place on record my thanks to everybody who has worked so hard during this Session of the Council, the Director-General, his staff, everybody from Directors to messengers, interpreters. I cannot list all the names, but they have all been pleasant to deal with. In spite of their very busy time everybody from messenger to Director has been pleasant, has been courteous, and has helped to provide the sort of atmosphere that has made our rather long days bearable, and I can say this as a member of the Drafting Committee. There have been other moments that have made this bearable and enlightened our days, and that is the cooperation that we have received from so many of our colleagues. Of the moments that are memorable I need only mention the Ambassador of India, who is a memorable member in himself. I would mention my friends, the delegates of Arabia. I cannot go through the whole list.

However, I would specially thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for his patience, his courtesy and his ability to get us through the long hard hours.

I also thank the other members of the Bureau that have helped you, Mr Chairman, in the deliberations of this Council Session.

Mr Chairman, as an outgoing member I cannot leave without assuring you of my Government's profound belief in the high aims in the purpose of this Organization, such as is evidenced in the preamble to our Cnnsriturinn.

J. LADÁN (Observer for Nigeria) (Chairman, Africa Group): May I first associate myself, as Chairman of the Africa Group and also on behalf of my delegation and other observers, with the statement made by the Ambassador of Congo who is a member of the Council. We should like to take his statement as deemed to be made on our behalf.

However, I would just add a few words. We were indeed helped by the sincerity of discussions on the agenda item on the critical food situation in Africa, and also by a practical demonstration of true solidarity to Africa, as demonstrated by India when they made a special announcement on the contribution that they intend to give to the Continent. I think this offer comes from a country which had the same traumatic experience that Africa is undergoing now.

We are also grateful to those countries that announced their increased contribution to emergency food aid to Africa, but particularly India and Japan, and the United States which has promised to preposition stock in Africa. There will be another donors' meeting and here we agree with the Director-General's observation that logistic problems are as important as availability of food. We share this view, and when the donors meet to consider giving further aid I think this question of logistics should be carefully planned. The supply line to the needy Africans should not be dry and external assistance should continue. Even where the affected people see another hope in the sky they should be helped, be it in the area of seeds, fertilizer, everything to help them get out of the traumatic condition.

So on behalf of the African Group we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the delegates and observers who supported our cause and we hope that this will continue until the problem has finally been overcome.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Just an important piece of information. Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has decided to have convene an extraordinary meeting of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations on the 14th of December to deal with the food situation, and the economic situation in Africa. I have asked the Secretary-General to postpone the meeting because he also invited me to address the General Assembly. In view of my visit to Ethiopia and other African countries, he agreed to postpone the meeting until the 17th December.

Our concern will be the survival of millions of children, mothers and men in Africa. This should be our concern. This problem is with us. Every one of you has a responsibility, whether it is Canada, Norway, New Zealand, Mexico, or wherever. I want to place on you the responsibility for the situation in Africa. My dear friends, at the next Council we are going to deal again with the food situation in Africa. When I go off to take the plane in a few hours, I will be going to a battlefield where people are fighting for survival, struggling against poverty and against hunger. I really do not understand the extraordinary preoccupation of some with subjects which were not before the Council, but which will come. This Council has been wasting time on subjects which have been unproductive. It is your right to include any item in the agenda; it is the right of any member to make such a request.

Next year, in the Council we shall be discussing our Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87. This is an important subject, which concerns the decision you are going to make on our activities in 1986-87, hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of activities all over the world, and of interest to all Member Countries. We are also going to discuss the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, because it is a subsidiary body which reports to this Council and meets before the Council. We will discuss the Report of the Committee on World Food Security here in the Council next year. We shall also discuss the reports of the Committee on Fisheries, of the First Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, of the CCLM, on the food situation in Africa and the food situation in the world. I have no problem to include on the Agenda this famous subject which is also being raised in New York by the same delegations as do so here, including the United States of America. But it will go first to the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee because they are subsidiary bodies of the Council, and no such subject should normally come to the Council directly. If needed, it will go to those two Committees. It will in any case be in the CFA. You will be wasting time in trying to change a situation which has existed for 22 years, just for the sake of making it appear that changes are necessary. Then this will cause hardship to the people in Africa and all over the world.

It was not my intention to put this subject on the Agenda for the next Council because it is possible to solve the problem to the satisfaction of those concerned without coming to the Council - and it is not in their interest - where they have been defeated, I am sorry to say, on procedural matters. Then we will be discussing the substance. I am very keen to have the substantive matters discussed by the Council, matters such as the progress in development. The Council is not interested in seeing whether FAO will delegate much authority to the WFP Secretariat. This is not an essential.

I think I am preaching now, but it is my responsibility to draw your attention to the fact that we are going to spoil the atmosphere of the Council with a subject which can be dealt with in the CFA without necessarily bringing it here. I want to repeat what Mr. Sallery has said, that the request should be in writing, because you have already adopted the Report of the Council. It will not be in the Report, but I have received your comments. It should be in writing. But I am warning you, and it will be on record, that bringing this question here next year during the session of the Council, which will have to make a thorough examination of the Programme of Work and Budget, will result in a great loss of time. Many of you are not aware of how much time was wasted, or how much bitterness was generated in the discussion in the Drafting Committee. By bringing this question automatically to the Council, you are causing harm to the work of the Council, to the developing countries, and to all countries. I am warning you, and I want this to be on record. It was not my intention automatically to put it before the Council. I hope it will not be necessary, but some of you are now insisting and saying that you do not want us to mention anything in the Report without coming to conclusions. But they are here. These are the results. So please be aware of this.

I will comply with the request of any government asking to have any subject put before the Council.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I also want to thank the Director-General for his very pragmatic, practical approach to this, and for his good humour. We have all been involved in this for many days now. I must say, though, that it is because of our concern with what is happening in Africa that the whole question came about. It is because members of this Council and other bodies are concerned over the effectiveness of the delivery mechanisms. It is as simple as that. If it could be resolved, Mr Director-General, in the CFA or the Council, all you have to do is tell us it is resolved and we will be happy. We are reasonable people. If an Agenda item is proposed, we can also take it up and the members can meet over the next few months and decide on that. We do not wish to impede the work of the Council, but make it more effective.

R. MARTIN (Observateur pour la Belgique): Qu'est-ce que la délégation de la Belgique pourrait encore dire après l'intervention pleine de sagesse, et tellement bien élaborée, de l'Ambassadeur de l'Inde? A cette déclaration se joint, ainsi qu'à celle de la représentante de la Communauté des dix, ma déclaration. Elle sera donc très brève. Je voudrais donc remercier le Directeur général et le Secrétariat pour les excellents documents qui ont été soumis au Conseil, le Président du Conseil pour la façon magistrale avec laquelle il a dirigé les débats, et le Comité de rédaction pour tout son travail et le résultat qui en a découlé.

La délégation beige n'exprimera pas un regret parce qu'elle veut croire que c'est par erreur et que cela ne se répétera plus, que la Communauté, contrairement à une procédure bien établie, n'ait pas pu exprimer son opinion parmi les autres délégations, après que cela ait été demandé par la délégation de l'Italie. Pour conclure, la délégation beige voudrait exprimer ses vœux pour vous tous, pour la Nouvelle Année et surtout pour que cette nouvelle année soit plus propice à l'Afrique que l'a été 1984.

CHAIRMAN: Since no other member of Council wishes to speak, it is my privilege to say a few words before closing. This afternoon, I mentioned that I expected that we would be able to close the session at 8 o'clock this evening. So may I first thank you all for saving me from reaching my target. We shall be able to close shortly. In life, philosophers tell us that pleasure and pain go together. In gatherings like this, there will always be a point when whoever is in the Chair has to give a ruling, otherwise there is no need for a chairman. A ruling always involves two sides, and therefore, the ruling will please some but not others. All I want to say on behalf of my distinguished Vice-Chairmen colleagues and myself is that if we have hurt any of you, I am sorry, and I apologize. We have tried to do whatever is in the best interest of the work of the Council.

Having said that, I want to remind you that on the opening day of this session of Council, the Director-General, Dr Saouma, told us and I quote "the real backdrop to our meeting is not the array of flags at the back of the hall, but the image of stark human tragedy which is taking place in Ethiopia and other parts of Africa - the appalling pictures of emaciated children, the victims of war, the columns of refugees trailing across a dusty landscape into urban squalor".

Just a little while ago you, Mr Director-General, indicated to us the quantitative and qualitative dimensions of the food aid and input requirements of African countries during 1985. As we adjourn I think this is a good reminder to us of the task ahead.

While speaking on how to alleviate human distress and hasten the pace of agricultural progress in the affected countries, all members of the Council spoke with one voice. This symphonic voice of the Eighty-sixth session of the Council in matters relating to Africa reminded me of what Swami Vivekananda in my country once described as an essential feature of the human spirit and character, and I quote "In this world, take always the position of the giver; give love, give help, give service, give any little thing you can, but keep out b,arter". This spirit was clear in the very many additional offers of food and money announced by members of the Council in this room during the last two weeks on behalf of their respective countries, culminating in the announcement made by the distinguished Ambassador of India yesterday that the Government of India will gift 100 000 tonnes of wheat to the drought affected countries of Africa and to the announcement made today by the distinguished delegate of Japan about an additional allocation of 50. million US dollars by his country. I wish to thank all members for their voice of sympathy and for their message of hope.

I wish also to thank the Director-General for giving us the privilege of listening to H.E. General Seyni Kountché, President of the Republic of Niger and H.E. Bettino Craxi, Prime Minister of our host country, Italy. Let us hope that President Seyni Kountché's appeal for an African Agricultural Transformation Plan of the breadth of the Marshall Plan which helped to reconstruct war-ravaged Europe will soon become a reality in drought-ravaged Africa. Revitalization and growth of the rural economies of Africa as well as of many other developing nations will obviously depend both on their own efforts and on international cooperation, help and understanding. We have to exploit the immense opportunities presented by science and technology for increasing production in hungry and thirsty soils. We need to train rural women and men on a massive scale in the new technologies. Above all, we need to foster the growth of the political, social and economic conditions which will allow new technologies to develop and flourish. Let us hope that the present stirring of the human conscience will lead to the emergence of such positive developments.

It has been said, "knowledge leads to unity; ignorance to diversity". We are grateful to FAO for giving us the data and the knowledge which have helped us to achieve such impressive unity during this session of the Council. At the same time, we must acknowledge with gratitude the catalytic role played by the mass media in stirring political and public awareness of the problems of Africa. Television, radio and newspapers have played a superb and timely role. In particular, we should acknowledge the role of the British Broadcasting Corporation which was honoured last year during the Conference by the Award in the name of the previous Director-General Dr Boerma, and other similar agencies in spreading knowledge of the extent of human suffering in parts of Ethiopia, Chad, Niger, Mozambique, Mauritania and other drought affected countries.

I am happy that in all other major issues also, we have reached agreed conclusions. We have declared 1985 as the International Year of the Forest in recognition of the role of ecological security in enduring food security and of youth in the greening of the earth. We have seen progress in the prospects for solving the problem of headquarters accommodation and in safeguarding the immunities and privileges of our organization. The accomplishment of so much work within a span of two weeks would not have been possible but for the untiring efforts of so many dedicated staff members of FAO, who remain unseen and anonymous, to whom justly the different Council members who have spoken have

paid rich tributes. On your behalf, I want to tell all of them through you, Mr Director-General, how much we appreciate their work. The interpreters, verbatim reporters, translators, printers and professional and secretarial staff have all been working generally out of our sight but in such a meaningful manner. To them I want to say "out of sight does not mean out of our mind" and that we will always remember their services with gratitude.

To the messengers and others whose smiling faces we see in this room and in other rooms where our committees work, who supply us with water - I drink a lot of water, so I remember with gratitude that there is always a supply of water. They also help us to communicate with each other through bits of paper, and to them I wish to say, "Thank you very much". I mention water because in many parts of the world children and women have to trek sometimes many kilometres to fetch a pail of water, and we do not appreciate what we have in front of us. To Mr West and to the numerous professional and administrative staff of FAO, both senior and junior, I wish to express our gratitude for their help and guidance. Their extremely professional and self-effacing work is a source of inspirations to us all. Similarly to Mr Ingram and his staff in the World Food Programme we owe a deep debt of gratitude. Finally, to you, Mr Director-General, may I say how much we admire all that you stand for and work for. You set the tone for this meeting in your inspiring and informative opening address and you have given your time throughout the Council sessions to help us to come to meaningful conclusions. We pray for the health and happiness of you and your family and for your success in making FAO the instrument of achieving "the goal of freedom from want of food, suitable and adequate for the health and strength of all peoples" - I am quoting from the Hot Springs Conference convened by President Roosevelt on food and agriculture 41 years ago. We wish the voyage to Africa that you are undertaking tonight success because it is a voyage of hope.

To you, distinguished members of the Council, I can only say "thank you very much" for making the Council the purposeful, serious and friendly body it is. I thank you for your patience, understanding and persistence in seeking agreed solutions to complex issues. There are occasionally differences of opinion, but what is important is that they are all dealt with in a spirit of cooperation because we do not want the peace of the grave, we want a peace which comes as a result of animated discussion and agreed conclusions.

The three Vice-Chairmen, Ambassador L.E. Williams of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr S. Baharsjah of Indonesia, and Mr P.S. McLean of the United Kingdom, have all provided outstanding leadership to the work of the Council and I am deeply indebted to them. I understand Mr McLean is also likely to leave Rome shortly and I want to also wish him and his family well.

To the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, whose sense of dedication and humour has already been commented upon by several delegates, Mr Javed Musharraf of Pakistan, and to the distinguished members of this Committee, from Argentina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Italy, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Sierra Leone and Tunisia, I say "thank you for your labour of love". We cannot thank them adequately for denying themselves the privilege of spending free evenings and for the extremely competent and cooperative manner in which they produced the Report. I also wish to join others in thanking Mr Linley and all the others in the Secretariat who assisted the Drafting Committee.

To our Secretary-General next to me, Mr Savary, we are extremely grateful. It has been a privilege for me to have had on my side here throughout these two weeks a person of his great human qualities, always courteous, always helpful and always smiling. We are equally indebted to Mr Henderson who has discharged the responsibility of Assistant Secretary-General in a quiet but very effective manner. I want to thank him personally for all the help he gave.

As I mentioned at the beginning of the Council meeting, seven members -- and as the Director General also mentioned -- are leaving us at the end of this year. They are Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Lesotho, New Zealand, Norway and Sudan. I want to thank all of them, these Country Representatives who have been attending the meetings of the Council and have helped the Council in its work.

I also wish to thank Professor Trkulja, the Chairman of the Programme Committee, and the members of the Programme Committee, Mr Abeyagoonasekera, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, and the members of the Finance Committee, and Ambassador Alvarenga, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, and members of his Committee, as well as the other Committees. We had also the Report of the Committee on World Food Security chaired by Mr Tanwir. Ahmad of Pakistan. We thank him and his colleagues; the Committee on Forestry, Mr George Holmes of the United Kingdom and his colleagues -- all these Committees which report to the Council, I want to thank them, the Chairmen and the members, because much of our agenda and material for our discussion" come from the excellent reports of these Committees.

Again, to you, all members of the Council and Observers, may I say how much we value your experience, mature counsel and your dedication to the causes which FAO stands and works for.

We live on this earth as guests of the green plants and of the farmers and fishermen who grow them harvest their primary or secondary products.

This week, our colleagues from the United States observed Thanksgiving Day which is a beautiful way of remembering what we owe to farmers and farming. Similar thanksgiving days are observed in all countries of the world on different dates and in different ways. They all have the same meaning, that we owe a debt of gratitude to the farmers for keeping us alive, and soon we will be entering a season which has been traditionally associated with peace and goodwill. The deliberations of this Council captured that spirit and reiterated that what we want is not the peace of the grave but the peace which can come from a satisfying life for all.

There was solidarity in our concern for the drought-affected people of Africa. There was determination that neither the hungry should become victims of politics nor hunger should become the vested interest of Organizations - whether national, bilateral or multilateral.

A publisher of English dictionaries selected a few years ago what he considered to be the ten most beautiful words in the English language. These words were selected by him not so much for their melodious sound but for their ability to motivate the listeners to a greater sense of purpose. The first word in this list is chime. The quiet tinkling of a bell or chime summons forth in the listener a sense of togetherness, a sense of purpose and a sense of peace. As I sat here listening to the distinguished members of the Council and Observers, most times I had the same feeling as I would experience while listening to the chiming of a bell.

The second in the list of the most beautiful words is dawn. Dawn represents the transition from darkness to light, from despair to hope. I hope 1985 will see such a transition in the lives of both poor farmers and hungry consumers. Such a transition will not come by mere wishful thinking or by rhetoric. But as Council members rightly stressed, it can come if there is a sense of priority, a sense of purpose and above all a sense of human solidarity and togetherness.

There is a saying when everything else dies on this earth, music and poetry alone will survive. And therefore I would like to conclude the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council with a poem:

The way is long,
Let us go together.
The way is difficult,
Let us help each other.
The way is joyful,
Let us share it.
The way opens before us,
Let us begin.

I wish you all a safe journey back home and to every one here in this room, everyone in this great building and many other places, a very happy New Year.

I declare the Eighty-sixth session of the FAO Council closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 19.15 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 15

Se levantó la sesión a las 19.15 horas