

**council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conseil**

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

**consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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PLENARIA

**Rome, 17-28 June 1985**

**VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES 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'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/1

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Eighty-seventh Session  
PLENARY

Quatre-vingt-septième session  
PLÉNIÈRE

87° período de sesiones  
PLENARIA

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

(17 June 1985)

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.30 hours,  
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 30 sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.30 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: May I call the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council to order. Mr Director-General, distinguished members of the Council, observers, ladies and gentlemen: May I extend to each and every one of you a very warm welcome to this Eighty-seventh Session of the Council. Since we last met in November 1984 nine of our members who were with us have been re-elected to the Council. They are Ecuador, Egypt, France, India, Italy, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom,. I welcome all of them again in our midst and I am happy that we will continue to have their guidance and assistance in the work of the Council.

I would also like to extend a particularly warm welcome to the new members in the Council. They are Afghanistan Australia, Denmark, Senegal, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. May I welcome them all to this meeting of the Council.

We are also particularly privileged to have in our midst two Honourable Ministers, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, His Excellency. Tomé Dias Da Costa of Sao Tomé and Príncipe and His Excellency, Lassaad Ben Osman, Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia. I want to extend a particularly warm welcome to these two Ministers who have spared time to join us.

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

May I also extend a welcome to Mr Giovanni Tedesco, our new Assistant-Secretary General, who is here on the podium. He has had a long, varied and distinguished career with FAO since 19 66 and has also served the Council earlier between 1974 and 19 77. His help and advice will therefore be of great help.

This is the month of Ramadan. Special arrangements for prayers have been made for our Islamic colleagues.

Distinguished Members of the Council, Mr Director-General, ladies and gentlemen: We have a rather heavy agenda before us. In particular we have to consider the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, 19 86/8 7, as well as the preparations for the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference. This year marks the fortieth anniversary of FAO and of the United Nations. You may also recall that at our meeting last November we decided to declare 1985 as the International Year of the Forest. Soon the World Forestry Congress will be held in Mexico.

This is also the United Nations International Youth Year. Soon there will be a World Conference in Nairobi to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations decade for women.

All these events are symbols of the continuing human quest for peace and for freedom from hunger. The famine of purchasing power among the world's poor is becoming a more important cause of hunger than the famine of food itself, and an unfortunate consequence of poverty is added damage to our basic life support systems, like land, water, flora and fauna.

Equity and ecology are therefore the twin foundations for sustainable agricultural development.

The different international activities planned for this year make 19 85 a year of equity and ecology, and soon we will hear from the Director-General an account of the world food situation to date.

I think these particular events of the year provide a rational backdrop for our discussion on the problems of agricultural rehabilitation of the drought-ravaged countries of Africa and on the development of an enduring food security system. I therefore hope, distinguished members of the Council, that these two weeks will prove to be memorable in terms of discussing problems of great importance.

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

I now turn to the Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable. You all have document CL 87/1 and also the Provisional Timetable, CL 87/INF/1 for consideration under Item 1 of the Agenda. I have a small correction to report. To those members who read the Spanish version I would like you to take note that document CL 87/1 carries a typographical mistake in the document reference for Item 12 of the Agenda. This document should read C 85/9 and not CL 8 5/9. All the other language versions are correct.

In addition there is one change to the Provisional Annotated Agenda. I refer to Item 17.1, Appointment of the External Auditor. This Item should be deleted from the Agenda, since it has not been examined by the Finance Committee at its Spring session. I am informed that the Finance

Committee will take up this Item at its next session in September. We will then consider it at the session preceding the Conference.

Turning to the Provisional Timetable, CL 87/INF/1, again Item 17.1 should of course be deleted from this as well.

I would like to propose that we meet promptly every day in the mornings from 9.30 till 12.30, and again from 34.30 to 37.00 hours in the afternoons.

May I now invite your concurrence to the adoption of the Agenda and Timetable, including the amendment which I indicated - that is, deletion of Item 17.1. Have I your concurrence to adopt the Agenda? I see nods around. Thank you very much. So we adopt both the Agenda and the Timetable. They are no longer provisional.

Before I take up Item 2 of the Agenda may I draw your attention, particularly Heads of Delegations, to Item 33.2, namely Nomination of the Chairman and other Officers of the Conference. You will find within brackets "(Heads of Delegation Members of the Council, in closed meeting, to select names of persons to be approached.)" Since this Item will come on the morning of Tuesday 25 June, may I suggest to Heads of Delegations that we meet on 25 June a little earlier at 9.30 and we will start the main session at about 10 o'clock. So on 25 June we will have a closed meeting at 9.30 first to decide on the names to be approached.

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

I would like to proceed to Item 2 on the Agenda. I am informed that consultations are still in progress with regard to the election of three Vice-Chairmen, and designation of the Chairman and members of the Drafting Committee. If I may have your approval, we will take this up first thing in the afternoon. So shall we postpone Item 2 until after lunch? Is that agreed? Thank you very much.

- V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
- V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
- V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS
20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including:
20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment:
20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular:
- 20.1 Applications for Membership in the Organization
- 20.1 Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation
- 20.1 Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Les membres du Conseil se souviendront sans doute qu'à la dernière session ils avaient pris note de la demande d'admission à l'Organisation des Iles Salomon.

Depuis cette date, une seule demande d'admission nouvelle nous est parvenue, celle des Iles Cook. Tous les Etats Membres ont été informés de cette candidature le 18 avril 1985, et la demande sera bien entendu soumise à l'approbation de la Conférence en 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, aussi bien qu'à l'Article XXV.11 du Règlement général, 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 présentant de l'intérêt pour cette nation.

CHAIRMAN: In the light of what we have heard, may I ask for your approval that the Representative of the Cook Islands be invited to attend in an Observer capacity as appropriate?

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): Australia supports the proposal for Observer status for the Cook Islands pending consideration of their application in November.

As the Representative of the Southwest Pacific Region we have been in close consultation with members of the Region prior to this Council, and are fully aware of the interest of the Cook Islands in FAO, its activities and, indeed, in membership.

My country supports the membership of the Cook Islands, and will be doing so at Conference later this year. However, in view of the close relationship between New Zealand and the Cook Islands, it may be appropriate for the Observer from New Zealand to comment on the application at this stage.

J.D.L. RICHARDS (Observer for New Zealand): I am grateful to the Council for agreeing to let me make this statement. I should like to join Australia in welcoming the application for membership submitted by the Cook Islands. It is appropriate for me to make these remarks because of the long standing constitutional relationship between my country and the Cook Islands.

For a number of years the Cook Islands were a dependency of New Zealand. Progress toward self-government culminated in a United Nations-supervised election to the Cook's Legislative Assembly on 20 April 1965. This led, later that year, to the Cook Islands being removed by General Assembly Resolution 2064 from the United Nations list of non-self-governing territories, and becoming a fully self-governing state in free association with New Zealand.

New Zealand retains power to enter into international obligations for the Cook Islands only when specifically asked to do so by the Cook Islands authorities. The Cook Islands can change their constitution without reference to New Zealand; they have the capacity to conduct their own external relations and to enter directly into international arrangements. In practice, they have participated on an equal basis with other South Pacific States in regional organizations and political consultations. The Cook Islands are party to international agreements such as those establishing the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation, the Forum Fisheries Agency and the South Pacific Regional Trade Agreement. They signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; they have ratified a maritime boundary treaty with the United States and have concluded a fisheries agreement with the Republic of Korea. The Cook Islands are a member of the Asian Development Bank and last year became a member of the World Health Organization.

As the Observer for New Zealand, I make these remarks to illustrate the ability of the Cook Islands to fulfil the requirements of our Organization only because of the longstanding ties between New Zealand and the Cook Islands- it is not my business to go further. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Cook Islands has very properly made the necessary undertakings in support of his country's application on his own behalf as set out in the documents already distributed.

I should like briefly to note that primary production is the mainstay of the economy of the Cook Islands chiefly in copra, bananas, citrus fruit, and fish drawn from the vast area of ocean over which the islands are scattered. It is a country to which this Organization can give advice and assistance. It is a country which, in its own way, will enrich FAO. I hope the Council, in passing this application on to the Conference, will lend its warm support.

THE CHAIRMAN: I take it that we all welcome the Cook Island's Representative as an Observer.

It was so agreed.

Il en est ainsi décide.

Así se acuerda.

I. INTRODUCTION - PROCEDURE OF THE SESSION (Continued)

I. INTRODUCTION - QUESTIONS DE PROCEDURE

I. INTRODUCCION - CUESTIONES DE PROCEDIMIENTO

3. Statement by the Director-General

3. Declaration du Directeur general

3. Declaracion del Director General

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, j'ai une fois encore le plaisir de vous souhaiter la bienvenue, ainsi qu'à tous les représentants des Etats Membres, à cette très importante session du Conseil.

Votre ordre du jour est extrêmement chargé, plus même qu'à l'ordinaire. Je serai donc bref. Si je m'abstiens d'évoquer certaines des questions inscrites à votre ordre du jour, cela ne veut pas dire que je les considère sans importance. Ainsi, contrairement à mon habitude, je ne commencerai pas par faire le point de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation. De toute façon, nous allons avoir bientôt l'occasion d'en parler puisque c'est la première question que vous allez aborder: le point 4.

Vous examinerez en particulier la situation alimentaire en Afrique. Elle reste si grave que je vais m'y arrêter un instant pour évoquer d'abord les besoins d'aide alimentaire d'urgence, puis notre programme de relance de la production vivrière.

Mais auparavant, je tiens, en mon nom et au nom de tous mes collègues du Secrétariat, à exprimer notre profonde sympathie au gouvernement du Bangladesh récemment dévasté par un raz-de-marée effroyablement meurtrier.

Chaque jour, hélas, nous apporte la preuve que le monde où nous vivons est un monde de violence. Violence de l'homme. Violence aussi de la nature, dont les forces primitives peuvent à tout moment semer partout la mort et la détresse. Certains Etats Membres semblent poursuivis par sa vindicte. C'est le cas du Bangladesh, si souvent victime d'inondations, comme d'autres le sont de la sécheresse. Dure épreuve pour un peuple et un gouvernement qui se battent de toutes leurs forces pour se libérer de la pauvreté. Dernièrement aussi, des inondations dévastatrices ont ravagé le nord comme le sud de l'hémisphère occidental. Nous compatissons à la douleur des survivants et des gouvernements en butte à ces nouvelles catastrophes.

Ces tragiques événements donnent plus de force encore à ce que j'ai si souvent répété: si des catastrophes s'abattent simultanément sur plusieurs régions en développement, la communauté internationale n'a pas les moyens de répondre comme il faudrait à tous les besoins d'aide d'urgence - alimentaire ou non alimentaire. Cela a été le cas aussi cette année.

Monsieur le Président, venons-en à la sécheresse en Afrique. Vous vous en souviendrez peut-être, c'était par là que j'avais commencé mon intervention à l'ouverture de votre dernière session, qui s'est tenue ici fin novembre-début décembre. J'avais parlé de ces millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants réduits au plus extrême dénuement et à la mendicité; j'avais rappelé ces images de corps décharnés qui ont bouleversé et indigné le monde entier.

Depuis lors, un énorme effort a été fait pour leur venir en aide. Rendons de nouveau hommage aux pays développés pour leur générosité, et aussi aux pays en développement, comme la Chine et l'Inde, qui n'ont pas hésité à faire des sacrifices pour secourir l'Afrique. Je tiens par ailleurs à réaffirmer mon appui aux initiatives du Secrétaire général de l'ONU, ainsi qu'aux efforts déployés par mes amis et collègues, MM. Bradford Morse et Maurice Strong, du Bureau des opérations d'urgence en Afrique, en vue d'une action concertée du Système des Nations Unies. J'ai le ferme espoir qu'ils réussiront à mobiliser, je l'espère, les fonds nécessaires pour répondre aux besoins d'urgence.

Depuis la dernière session du Conseil, il a plu en Afrique. Malgré cela, le calvaire de l'Afrique ne doit pas cesser de hanter notre cœur et notre esprit.

Un document spécial - cote CL 87/13 - est consacré à la crise de l'Afrique. Vous noterez que, malgré la hausse prévue des importations commerciales et les 5,7 millions de tonnes d'aide alimentaire promises par les donateurs, il manque encore plus d'un million de tonnes pour répondre aux besoins des 21 pays africains les plus gravement touchés.

Jamais l'Afrique ne s'est vu allouer autant d'aide alimentaire que l'année dernière. Malheureusement, elle n'est pas arrivée à temps pour empêcher la faim de faucher des milliers de vies humaines.

De même, cette année, plus de la moitié de l'aide alimentaire promise n'est pas encore arrivée à destination. Le cœur serré, nous regardons les sacs de grain s'entasser dans les ports alors que la faim continue ses ravages dans l'arrière-pays. Il y a le problème de l'engorgement des ports, mais il y a aussi celui de la distribution des vivres dans le pays. La situation est particulièrement grave au Mali, au Niger et au Tchad pour le Sahel, en Ethiopie et au Soudan pour l'Afrique de l'Est.

Dans ces pays, et aussi au Mozambique, seuls d'énormes efforts concertés au plan national et international permettront de parer à la catastrophe. D'autres pays restent dans une situation précaire. En Afrique du Nord, le Maroc est particulièrement exposé.

Pendant que nous parlons, le sort de milliers de personnes est en train de se décider puisque c'est le temps des semailles dans beaucoup de pays. La situation l'an prochain dépendra pour beaucoup du résultat de ces semailles. Au Sahel, les semailles ne commenceront que dans quelque temps. Là encore, nous ne pouvons qu'espérer une bonne récolte. Mais rien n'est moins sûr, et nous devons plus que jamais nous tenir prêts à livrer très vite l'aide d'urgence qui pourrait être nécessaire.

Très peu de pays africains s'estiment désormais à l'abri d'une crise alimentaire. Il faut les aider à se préparer à des lendemains difficiles et à relancer leur agriculture.

Heureusement, il y a dans toutes les sous-régions des pays où les perspectives sont bonnes, car des pluies abondantes sont tombées au bon moment. C'est encourageant, et cela nous rappelle aussi que, si les conditions s'y prêtent, l'Afrique peut et sait produire.

Parmi les causes directes de la crise alimentaire actuelle, la principale demeure les caprices du climat. Il serait simpliste d'y voir uniquement le résultat de politiques erronées. L'Afrique peut faire davantage pour s'aider elle-même, c'est vrai, mais elle a aussi besoin d'assistance. Et elle est capable d'en faire bon usage, à condition que cette assistance soit conçue rationnellement et dispensée avec libéralité.

C'est dans cette perspective que j'ai présenté, en janvier et en mars, des programmes de relance de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans 21 pays africains.

L'effort de relance doit marcher de pair avec l'aide alimentaire d'urgence. C'est seulement ainsi que les pays touchés pourront reconstruire leur capacité de production, surmonter la crise et éviter de dépendre de plus en plus de la charité d'autrui.

Le programme que j'ai présenté pour les pays les plus touchés est unique en son genre; en effet, il ne s'agit pas d'approximations mises bout à bout par des non-spécialistes, mais bien de projets concrets, élaborés avec les pays eux-mêmes.

La FAO a déjà financé certains de ces projets par ses ressources propres. Mon collègue, M. Lignon, vous donnera davantage de détails quand il présentera son rapport à ce sujet.

Nous avons des conversations suivies avec les donateurs. La communauté européenne a déjà financé certains projets en Ethiopie. Le Gouvernement de la Chine, la Belgique, l'Espagne et d'autres gouvernements sont en discussion avec nous. Ils ont déjà montré leur intérêt et leur engagement pour financer un certain nombre de projets. Le pays hôte, l'Italie, a pris en considération quelque 70 propositions en vue d'une sélection et assistance ultérieures. Nous sommes en discussion très active. Le montant des projets serait d'environ 52 millions de dollars. Je m'en réjouis, mais le déficit reste énorme alors que la campagne agricole est déjà en cours ou va s'ouvrir incessamment: en Ethiopie, on sème en mai-juin, mais en Afrique de l'Ouest on sème dans les prochaines semaines. Je tiendrai au courant le Conseil de la situation.

A ce sujet, je me félicite d'une décision prise par le Comité financier, appuyée avec force par le Comité du programme et dont l'application a déjà commencé. A concurrence de 15 millions de dollars, nous sommes autorisés à utiliser les économies réalisées, notamment sur les traitements du personnel, exclusivement pour financer des projets de notre programme de relance qui n'ont pas obtenu à temps de fonds bilatéraux.

Avancer l'idée - et prendre la décision - de financer directement une aide concrète et substantielle sur le budget ordinaire d'une organisation du Système des Nations Unies, voilà qui sort sans doute des sentiers battus. En tout cas, la proposition comme la décision sont parfaitement conformes aux canons de l'orthodoxie en matière de programme et de finances. Il s'agit simplement d'utiliser les économies disponibles pour une action urgente de relance dans les pays d'Afrique les plus éprouvés.

Certes, cela représentera un petit sacrifice pour tous les Etats Membres de la FAO - je dis bien tous - qui devront renoncer à une partie de l'excédent de trésorerie qui aurait pu leur revenir pour 1984-85; néanmoins, l'excédent distribué restera considérable. J'ai la conscience tranquille. Qui pourrait me reprocher d'avoir proposé de saisir cette occasion? Si certains sont inquiets, qu'ils se rassurent: cela ne change en rien la base du budget et n'aura pas d'effet sur le niveau de celui-ci pour le prochain exercice.

Monsieur le Président, d'habitude, c'est vers la fin de mon expose que j'aborde la question du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget. Mais, puisque j'ai commencé à en parler, venons-y tout de suite.

Il faut voir les choses en face: les besoins sont énormes, mais les contraintes aussi. Je suis donc obligé de demander une augmentation de programme pour 1986-87, mais il s'agit d'une augmentation minimale.

Ni le Conseil ni la Conférence ne se sont jusqu'ici ralliés à la doctrine simpliste et brutale de la croissance zéro dans toutes les organisations du Système des Nations Unies, quels que soient leur mission, la situation du secteur dont elles s'occupent, les appuis suscités par leurs politiques et programmes, leur efficacité et l'économie de leur gestion.

Parlons net: après avoir mûrement pesé ces exigences contradictoires, je suis sûr d'avoir fait le bon choix en proposant une nouvelle réduction d'environ 3,75 millions de dollars des frais administratifs et de soutien de façon à pouvoir relever de 9,4 millions de dollars, c'est-à-dire de 3,8 pour cent, les ressources consacrées aux programmes techniques.

Ces propositions s'inspirent des recommandations des Conférences régionales, des grands comités du Conseil et des organes consultatifs techniques. Je me félicite que tous les principaux comités intergouvernementaux de la FAO, le Comité de l'agriculture, le Comité des pêches et le Comité du programme aient appuyé avec force les priorités que je propose. Dans certains cas, on m'a même pressé d'aller plus loin. Je suis heureux et fier que les priorités de la FAO continuent à faire l'unanimité.

Il n'y a aucun programme que le Secrétariat a proposé qui n'ait été adopté par les gouvernements. Il n'y a aucun programme que l'on ait demandé de couper ou de ne plus continuer à réaliser.

En réduisant les frais administratifs et autres dépenses de soutien, j'ai réussi à limiter à moins de 1,5 pour cent l'augmentation nette de programme en termes réels: 1,4 pour cent et ceci pendant deux années environ, soit moins de 1 pour cent par an.

Loin de moi l'idée de minimiser les difficultés que cette augmentation, aussi modeste soit-elle, risque d'entraîner pour tous les Etats Membres sans exception.

Bien au contraire. C'est après avoir évalué minutieusement le cadre financier dont dépendra le montant net de leurs contributions que j'ai mis la dernière main à mes propositions. Je ne me suis pas contenté de réduire au minimum les augmentations de coûts, mais j'ai tablé sur une augmentation sans risque des recettes accessoires qui, comme toujours, seront déduites des contributions mises en recouvrement pour financer le programme. J'ai aussi pris en compte l'évolution probable de la situation monétaire.

En conséquence, comme vous le montre la version définitive du Programme de travail et budget qui sera présentée à la Conférence et sous réserve du taux de change dollar/lire qu'elle approuvera, le montant global des contributions sera, en dollars, égal ou même inférieur à celui de l'exercice en cours.

Monsieur le Président, est-ce qu'une croissance zéro des contributions en dollars ne vaut pas mieux qu'une croissance zéro du programme, qui serait aussi artificielle que néfaste?

Je ne m'étendrai pas davantage sur cette question, si ce n'est pour vous renvoyer à ce que disait le Président de la Banque mondiale dans son dernier discours au Conseil des Gouverneurs: "Il faut accroître le volume et l'efficacité des flux d'aide libérale, d'origine multilatérale aussi bien que bilatérale si l'on veut s'attaquer avec la moindre chance de succès aux problèmes gigantesques des pays les plus pauvres". Je suis fermement convaincu qu'il en va de même de toutes les formes d'assistance fournie au titre du Programme ordinaire de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, le Programme de travail et budget figure tous les deux ans à votre ordre du jour. Celui-ci comporte aujourd'hui deux autres questions très importantes.

La première concerne le projet de code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Nous nous sommes dépensés sans compter pour vous présenter un projet qui puisse être transmis à la Conférence et y obtenir un consensus et un appui sans réserve. Ce projet constitue inévitablement un compromis entre des intérêts bien légitimes et même des revendications extrêmes.

Il est le fruit de négociations intenses: nous en sommes à sa huitième rédaction. Il a reçu l'appui de principe du Comité de l'agriculture, mais, à l'issue d'un long et difficile débat, on m'a demandé de continuer à y travailler afin d'obtenir un accord plus large encore.

J'ai donc examiné avec soin les suggestions de toutes les parties intéressées, et je vous présente, sous la cote CL 87/9 Sup.1, un nouveau projet où sont indiqués les changements proposés.

Il ne satisfera pleinement ni les partisans les plus acharnés de la libre entreprise ni les fanatiques de l'écologie. Hélas, rien n'est parfait ici-bas. Nous avons fait de notre mieux.

Au Sommet de Bonn, on a évoqué la nécessité d'associer les mécanismes de la vigilance publique et les disciplines du marché pour résoudre les problèmes écologiques, par exemple le contrôle des produits chimiques toxiques et la protection des sols, des eaux douces et des espaces maritimes.

J'en appelle donc au bon sens et à l'esprit de coopération du Conseil, et je lui demande de tout faire pour que ce projet puisse être adopté par consensus, ici et à la Conférence.

L'autre problème inédit dont vous êtes saisis concerne le projet de pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire qui a suscité des controverses et même des discussions passionnées au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Comment le rappel d'un certain nombre de principes moraux sans aucun caractère contraignant peut-il déclencher autant de passions? Parce que, dès l'aube de la civilisation, c'est justement en s'attachant à des principes moraux et religieux que l'homme a cherché à garantir sa présence, sa domination, son avenir dans l'univers.

Ce pacte ne va pas changer la face de la terre. Il vise un objectif beaucoup plus modeste. Mais je tiens à insister sur sa valeur morale qui n'est le monopole de personne - ni individu ni nation - et sur sa portée universelle.

Dans le monde où nous vivons et compte tenu plus particulièrement des questions dont s'occupent le Conseil et la Conférence, on ne saurait nier l'importance absolue du principe de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et de l'idéal qu'elle représente.

A l'heure où les catastrophes et la famine s'abattent sur l'Afrique, où les privations et la malnutrition font des ravages dans d'autres parties du monde, le moindre signe, le moindre geste, le moindre mot qui nous rapproche de cet idéal est précieux: une inspiration, un encouragement, un stimulant pour les gouvernements de toute idéologie, pour les organisations gouvernementales ou non gouvernementales et pour les simples citoyens.

Je suis donc fermement convaincu que ce pacte s'impose et qu'il vient à point nommé. Nous ne pouvons évidemment donner suite à tous les desiderata de chacun de nos 156 Etats Membres. Je ne crois pas que nous puissions, dans la pratique, résoudre les différends en transformant le Conseil et la Conférence en comités de rédaction.

Je ne pense pas non plus que nous puissions faire fi des préoccupations suscitées par le texte présenté au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, si un changement ici ou là peut permettre le consensus.

Et quelle meilleure occasion que le quarantième anniversaire de la FAO pour adopter par consensus un pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire?

Ainsi donc, bien que le CSA ne me l'ait pas expressément demandé, j'ai pris sur moi de revoir une fois de plus le projet de pacte et de vous présenter, sous la cote CL 87/10 Sup.1, une nouvelle version où sont indiqués les changements que je suggère.

A ce sujet, je voudrais demander à tous de suivre l'exemple de la Suisse, qui a retiré les réserves qu'elle avait formulées, et de travailler de concert sur cette nouvelle version avec la volonté d'aboutir à un consensus qui permette à la Conférence d'adopter ce pacte en toute sérénité et de marquer ainsi sa détermination d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale dans les années qui viennent.

Monsieur le Président, votre ordre du jour comporte plusieurs autres questions importantes qui découlent des sessions de la Commission des engrais, du Comité de l'agriculture, du Comité des pêches, du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale ou concernent nos relations avec le Gouvernement de notre pays hôte et avec le Programme alimentaire mondial.

Nous avons en outre des décisions importantes à prendre pour l'organisation de la Conférence.

Mes représentants et moi-même vous présenterons ces questions à mesure que vous les aborderez.



En vous parlant tout à l'heure du Pacte mondial, j'évoquais l'atmosphère exceptionnelle qui s'attache pour nous à cette année 1985, et c'est là-dessus que je voudrais terminer.

Nous allons célébrer cette année le quarantième anniversaire de notre Organisation. Le 16 octobre, nous serons honorés de la présence des plus hautes autorités italiennes qui participeront à des cérémonies spéciales à notre Siège, y compris la pose de la première pierre de nos nouveaux bâtiments. Notre pays hôte, et plus précisément le Comité national placé sous l'éminente présidence de Mme Tina Anselmi, organisera de nombreuses autres activités pour commémorer cet anniversaire de façon éclatante à Rome et dans toute l'Italie.

Nous espérons aussi qu'à cette occasion du quarantième anniversaire de la FAO, Sa Sainteté le Pape Jean-Paul II célébrera une messe pontificale à Saint-Pierre, à laquelle les participants à la Conférence seront invités.

Au cours de la Conférence, le 14 novembre, nous espérons recevoir la visite de deux Chefs d'Etat, le Président de la République française et le Président de la République d'Indonésie, qui prendront la parole à l'occasion d'une cérémonie spéciale.

Tout cela témoigne de l'extrême importance que revêt la mission de notre organisation et l'intérêt que lui portent nos Etats Membres - j'oubliais encore de mentionner qu'un Président de la République sera aussi présent pour la Conférence. Son nom sera décidé par vous-même la semaine prochaine. Cela témoigne aussi de leur volonté inébranlable de rester fidèles à leurs engagements après 40 ans de lutte pour un monde meilleur, 40 ans de succès et d'échecs, de réalisations fructueuses et de plans avortés, d'espoirs comblés ou déçus, de foi dans l'idéal international et dans la coopération entre toutes les nations souveraines.

Nous devons nous battre de toutes nos forces pour cet idéal. Cela exige des convictions inébranlables, une honnêteté et une franchise totales dans notre dialogue, une grande ouverture d'esprit, de la tolérance, de la compréhension, le sens du compromis et du consensus, car tel est le fondement indispensable de la concorde internationale.

La session de la Conférence qui coïncidera avec le quarantième anniversaire de la FAO doit être l'expression suprême de toutes ces qualités. La maison de la communauté internationale doit être unie et non divisée contre elle-même. Le goût des joutes oratoires, la passion de la controverse nous font parfois oublier que ce qui nous unit est plus fort que ce qui nous sépare.

Pour notre quarantième anniversaire, puissions-nous montrer, dans les débats du Conseil et de la Conférence, que tous nos efforts tendent vers cet idéal de l'unité. L'occasion exaltante s'offre à nous de donner le plus haut exemple de l'esprit de coopération, du consensus, de la collaboration véritablement fraternelle et de la concorde internationale.

Nous ne pouvons moins faire pour tous ceux qui sont en fin de compte notre unique raison d'être: les millions de pauvres, de faibles et d'affamés du monde entier.

Je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Director-General, for that very clear, comprehensive statement, which was both realistic and a statement of hope for the future. As Council members we are aware that normally we do not have a discussion immediately following the presentation of the Director-General's report, because many of the points to which he referred will come up for discussion under different items of the agenda. However, I have been requested by the Chairman, Group of 77, to now give the floor to the Ambassador of Libya, the Chairman of the Group of 77.

B. SAID (Chairman, Group of 77)(Original Language Arabic): On behalf of the Group of 77 I am happy, first of all, to welcome you back here to this room for our Eighty-seventh session. We are very glad to see you once again sitting up there (and keeping us in order). We are also very happy to extend the most hearty welcome to the heads of all delegations, and to each and every individual delegate attending the session.

The Group of 77 would like first of all to express its gratitude to the Director-General for his very deep, thorough-going and exhaustive statement on the complex problems before us in the field of food and agriculture in the middle of this troubled decade. We have all been moved, and we have all felt some concern - growing concern - on listening to his very clear and lucid presentation of the situation in which certain parts of the world enjoy abundance of agricultural products, whereas in other parts of the world - especially Africa - hunger and malnutrition are rife. No-one can challenge the fundamental idea of the Director-General's statement - namely, that we cannot live together as a society, as a community, upholding civilized values, if hunger prevails in certain areas whilst certain others have their silos full of grains or have mountains of butter. The Report on the Current World Food Situation highlighted this paradox which must not be condoned.

The Group of 77, of course, realises quite clearly that we are holding this Session at a time which is of particular significance to our Organization. The Twenty-third session of the Conference, which will be held next November, coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of FAO and our debates will be of great importance, because they will help the Conference to map the way for the next two years and thus guide us both as regards the programme and budget level. We will have an opportunity in the course of the debates to discuss in detail the matters raised by the Director-General in his statement, as well as the various proposals which are contained in that statement and in the reports of all our Committees, and so on. The detailed preparatory work performed by the Secretariat (for the actual session), the careful documentation which it has put before us, and the analytical studies done by the Programme and Finance Committee, as well as the governments themselves, give us very practical proposals from the technical points of view which are in line with the priorities and concerns of Member Nations. This exercise in which many parties have worked ensures that we will follow the right way on a balanced basis. I am confident that this will ensure that a climate of consensus on basic measures will prevail in our Council discussions.

The Group of 77 would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation for the special efforts of the Secretariat, especially in the weeks which have preceded this session - to intensify the process of consultation and provide a balanced approach to various trends in these documents. We believe therefore that, the chances for early agreement on the various proposals have greatly improved, as well as agreement on the Code of Conduct on the Production and Use of Pesticides and on World Food Security Compact. These are all matters which have already been considered in depth.

The Group of 77 prompted by the spirit of consultation and consensus will cooperate with everyone so that a consensus might be reached on all these measures proposed to us, so that we may make a contribution towards the building of a better and more humane world.

The substantive issues which are put before us in the session are witness of the fact that FAO is at the present time a mature organization, with a great deal of experience; yet it is always evolving and developing. Although it has its share of problems it strives hard to achieve the ideals set by those dreamers, the founding fathers - who got together forty years ago. We all recall that the founding fathers met shortly after the end of the second world war and realised that hunger could defeat man and create wars and knew through bitter experience how malnutrition could erode people's trust in the future. The Organization ever since has made a great contribution to alleviate the scourge of hunger in many parts of the world.

The Organization is called upon today more than ever to redouble its efforts in Africa and elsewhere in order to achieve the old dream of a world which will be free from hunger and thus create trust in a common future. We are all invited to contribute in a constructive and enlightened spirit to deal with these complex issues in the field of food and agriculture. We have no time for argument while millions die of hunger. It is a great honour for the Group of 77 to cooperate with all in this humane task.

## II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION

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

### II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

#### 4. Current World Food Situation

#### 4. Situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale

#### 4. Situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, the documents for discussion under the "Current World Food Situation", are CL 87/2 and its supplement, CL 87/2 Sup.1. This latter document contains information available as of the third week of May. It also updates information on the current situation in Africa, which will be discussed as the next item on the Agenda.

Although, Mr Chairman, technically speaking, the economic recession is over, the economic environment is still conditioned by its aftermath. There is uncertainty about the durability and spread of the recovery, and what effect this will have on development prospects of developing countries. Growth of the U.S. economy slowed, even though it has accelerated a little in other industrialized economies. This has implications for growth prospects of developing countries.

At the same time, the patterns of merchandise trade, of which agricultural trade is an important component, are being distorted by pressures on different countries to expand their exports at a time when commodity markets are weak.

As a consequence of these various forces, agricultural commodities face rather weak demand, and as their production increased quite rapidly in 1984, commodity prices on world markets are low. In some cases, such as free-market price of sugar, they are at an all time low. With prospects of ample supplies of agricultural commodities, prices are being forced even lower.

This unstable situation has been worsened by various forms of protectionism and the increased use of subsidies to promote export sales. This situation accentuates the difficulties of exporting countries while it offers short-term advantages to importing countries -- not all of which are developing or low-income. It also adds a new measure of uncertainty to agricultural markets, which is aggravated by instability in exchange rates. Although the dangers of protectionism to the continued growth of trade are recognized, little has been done to reverse such measures. Only slow progress has been recorded in getting underway discussions to liberalize trade, under the auspices of GATT.

The debt burdens of some indebted countries have eased somewhat in recent months, but at the cost of a major compression of imports. For example, the volume of imports of non-oil developing countries fell by 10 percent during 1982 and 1983, and this setback was not recouped by the modest recovery of 1984. The volume of these countries' imports was back to the level of 1980. It is also uncertain whether these countries can expand their exports rapidly enough to service their debt, particularly in the face of protectionist pressures, more intense competition in agricultural markets, and rates of interest that remain high in relation to inflation.

Financial flows to developing countries including external assistance to agriculture were also affected by the recession and its aftermath.

In current prices, total bilateral and multilateral commitments to agriculture fell in 1983, between 2 percent and 3 percent, back to their 1980 level.

Concessional commitments fell by even more, 12 percent. Indeed, so severe was the decline in concessional commitments, both bilateral and multilateral, that even allowing for the strengthening of the United States dollar and a much lower rate of inflation, commitments to agriculture in constant prices declined by 8 percent. The fact that concessional commitments declined more than total commitments means that the terms on which development assistance to agriculture has been offered has hardened in 1983.

On the other hand, food aid has greatly increased and is approaching 12 million tons of cereals in 1984/85, the highest figures reached since the beginning of the 1970s. This of course largely reflects increased commitments of emergency assistance to Africa.

Against this uncertain and somewhat difficult economic background, the global food sector performed well in 1984. The increase in food production globally was more than 4 percent, and cereal supplies, to the middle of this year, increased by 100 million tons or by approximately 5 percent. Much of this increase was, however, due to greater production in North America and western Europe.

The developing countries did slightly better than in 1983 and their combined increase in food production was about 2.6 percent in 1984. The developing countries of Asia consolidated their large gains made in 1983, and food production in Latin America also recovered. However, the increase in Africa failed to offset the decline of 1983.

For the developing countries as a whole and considering the average performance over the periods during the years 1980-84, production during this period was about 3.7 percent per year. However, there are wide regional differences. China and India in particular have done well in expanding food production in the 1980s. In China, the increase during 1980 to 1984 has been more than 25 percent, and in India over 20 percent. But the other developing regions have done less well. In Latin America the average rate of increase in food production during 1980-84 was less than 2 percent.

The outlook for global food supplies in 1985/86 is reassuring in some respects. Current stocks of cereals are equivalent to about 18 percent of expected consumption in 1985/86 and prospects for cereal production remain favourable in both northern and southern hemispheres, including parts of Africa. However, it is still early in the main crop season in many countries, and much depends on local weather conditions in the coming months.

Offsetting this more favourable short-term view, there are underlying threats to the long-term stability of the world's food economy. It must be faced that Africa is confronted with a crisis in terms of its food supplies and prospects for economic growth.

Furthermore, on the side of the major food suppliers, new tensions have emerged. In the documents before you, we have drawn attention to the recent introduction of supply control measures affecting cereals and dairy products in major producing and exporting countries. As surpluses mount and competition for markets of a wider range of commodities increases, the possibilities for farmers to shift their resources into alternative enterprises have narrowed.

The consequences of domestic agricultural policies, especially agricultural price regimes, obtaining in developed exporting countries are increasingly felt, not only in terms of heavy income losses for the farmers and government budgetary difficulties, but also in terms of the possibility of conflicts in international agricultural trade.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Just to guide delegates, as you see, item 4 is on the Current World Food Situation, and there is item 5 on Food Situation in Africa, so my colleague, Dr Islam, has introduced item 4, The Current World Food Situation. When you finish with the discussion on item 4, then on item 5, I will again ask my colleague, Dr Islam, to introduce the Food Situation in Africa from the point of food aid, food delivery, food requirements for 1985/1986 etc. and then Mr Lignon will introduce, just after him, another sub-item which is the progress of the FAO's Programme for Rehabilitation for Agriculture in Africa, on which he will provide information.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Directeur général pour les précisions qu'il vient d'apporter concernant l'étude des points 4 et 5 de l'ordre du jour. Je pense que nous pourrions étudier ces deux points de façon séparée puisque le point 5 sera présenté à la fois par le Dr. Islam et par M. Lignon.

Permettez-moi maintenant de présenter quelques observations sur le point 4 de l'ordre du jour relatif à la situation actuelle de l'alimentation dans le monde. Je voudrais commenter la présentation du Prof. Islam et le contenu du document CL 87/2 et CL 87/2-Sup.1.

En premier lieu, il convient de remercier la FAO, et notamment le Département du Prof. Islam pour la préparation de ces documents qui contiennent des données très importantes concernant la situation actuelle de l'alimentation dans le monde, en particulier au niveau régional, au niveau sous-régional et au niveau de chacun des pays pour nous donner une image claire et fidèle de cette situation compte tenu des différences entre chacun des pays et de l'évolution d'une campagne à l'autre.

Nous voudrions dire également que nous apprécions les renseignements donnés quant à l'amélioration de la situation de l'alimentation dans le monde tel que cela apparaît dans les deux documents précédemment cités. En effet, l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire par rapport à 1983 s'est traduite par une augmentation de la production de 4,4 pour cent. Cela se manifeste notamment en Amérique du Nord et en Europe occidentale. Au contraire, l'augmentation de la production n'a été que de 2,6 pour cent dans les pays en développement. Cette amélioration s'explique notamment par l'augmentation de la production du blé, du riz et des autres céréales secondaires ainsi que des graines oléagineuses dans les pays en développement.

Cette amélioration de la production mondiale ne doit pas nous faire oublier le déséquilibre entre les pays développés et les pays en développement en matière de production et de capacité de l'augmenter. Il est en effet apparu que l'augmentation de la production par rapport à 1983 a été, presque exclusivement, enregistrée dans les pays développés. La production est restée la même dans 104 pays et a baissé dans plus de 40 pays, dont 15 avec une baisse de production de 5 pour cent et plus et 6 pays africains qui connaissent un déficit alimentaire très grave. Bien sûr, ces pays ont besoin d'une aide internationale et notamment de la part de la FAO.

Je voudrais également souligner ce qu'a dit Dr. Islam concernant la situation qui se détériore en Afrique. Nous y reviendrons dans le détail plus tard mais le document CL 87/2-Sup.1 que nous avons sous les yeux prouve dans les paragraphes 10 à 20 qu'il est nécessaire de faire davantage d'effort pour apporter une aide alimentaire aux pays africains les plus touchés, une aide alimentaire aux pays dont les besoins n'ont pas encore été satisfaits. Ces pays ont également un besoin urgent de semences et autres facteurs de production nécessaires à la campagne 1985.

Nous notons par ailleurs avec une certaine inquiétude que les engagements d'aide extérieure à l'agriculture et à des conditions de faveur ont baissé au sens étroit en prix constant (1980), en 1983, bien qu'il y ait eu globalement une augmentation en prix constants.

Mais nous ressentons un certain soulagement à voir augmenter l'aide alimentaire acheminée en Afrique et nous remercions ceux qui ont fait par leur générosité que cette aide alimentaire atteigne 11,8 millions de tonnes.

Nous savons également que les engagements de participation à la RAIU seront de 653 000 tonnes pour ce qui est des céréales et nous reviendrons bien sûr en détail sur cette question lors de l'examen de la situation alimentaire en Afrique.

Mais je voudrais dès à présent dire que la situation alimentaire et agricole, qui s'est améliorée depuis les années soixante, a vu cette amélioration se produire surtout dans les pays développés. Ces pays ont actuellement des stocks très importants de produits alimentaires dont une partie pourrait être mise à la disposition des pays en développement afin d'améliorer la situation alimentaire de ces derniers.

Malheureusement le pouvoir d'achat des pays en développement est très limité et ces pays ne peuvent donc acheter les produits alimentaires dont ils ont besoin. Il faut donc une augmentation de l'aide alimentaire aux pays en développement. Les dernières statistiques prouvent qu'il y a une amélioration de l'aide alimentaire apportée aux pays en développement, mais il y a encore beaucoup à faire. Je voudrais donc remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO et le Département du Dr. Islam des efforts qu'ils déploient pour suivre de près la situation alimentaire dans le monde et nous permettent d'en avoir une image claire.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): May I express how happy we are, Mr Chairman, to see you again chairing this important Council session. We reiterate our confidence that with your intimate knowledge and wide experience in the subjects before us you will guide our discussion, as in the past, to bring the session to a very successful conclusion.

On behalf of my delegation let me first express our special thanks and gratitude to the Director-General for expressing his condolence and sympathy to the people and Government of Bangladesh at the colossal loss of valuable lives and properties in coastal areas of our country caused by the recent cyclone and tidal bores. His message of sympathy will be a source of consolation and strength for us to overcome the aftermath of the national disaster. We will convey his message to our Government.

The Director-General, in his thought-provoking opening statement, has set the tone and given definite focus and directions to our deliberations on important issues to be dealt with in this session. We are conscious of his dynamic lead and persistent efforts for eradication of hunger and malnutrition, which is the main mandate of FAO and common cause of all of us here. He deserves our unstinted support and encouragement in his pursuit to achieve this objective. My delegation places on record its deep appreciation of his untiring efforts toward this goal.

We also wish to thank Professor Nurul Islam for his very lucid and concise introduction of the subject, which by its very nature is complicated and involves a wide variety of countries and regions with diverse circumstances that affect each of them.

We also commend the FAO Secretariat for presenting before us such a comprehensive document giving up-to-date information on region and countrywide food and agricultural situation covering cereal and non-cereal foods.

The document has also given a short review of the current world economic situation and an assessment of its impact on the food and agriculture sector.

We consider the assessment of the current world economic environment and of its impact on world food and agriculture situation as contained in the document and referred to in the Director-General's opening address as very relevant, realistic and fair. We therefore generally concur with this prognosis. However, while doing so my delegation would like to make a few observations which are relevant to our experience.

It is quite obvious that the picture of the current world economic situation that emerges from the review is a mixed and diverse one. Although the economic recovery started in the developed world in 1984 with increased output and track, its full beneficial impact has yet to reach most of the developing countries.

Not only that, the economic growth in the developing countries has not been commensurate with the recovery in the developed countries, but most of the developing countries are still bearing the burden of short-term domestic adjustment measures at the cost of their urgent need for long-term structural changes and economic development.

Further, the economic growth and development of the developing countries is being hindered by various adverse external economic constraints. To name a few, these are heavy debt-servicing burden, protectionism, limiting marketing prospects of their products, unremunerative prices and weak demand of products, currency fluctuations, adverse balance of payment difficulties, cutback of development assistance to agriculture, etc. These constraints are needed to be eased and gradually eliminated, not only in the interest of the developing countries but also to ensure sustained recovery and growth of world economy as a whole.

Turning to the current world food situation, although it is heartening to note that at the global level there was substantial increase in food and agriculture production in 1984 compared to slight decline in 1983 and that carryover stocks would be at the satisfactory level for world food security, about 18 percent, at the same time it is a matter of deep concern that as many as 21 African countries are facing acute food shortage and hunger as a result of reduced food production for two successive years of drought.

As pointed out in the document, my country, Bangladesh, is one of the three countries in Asia whose foodgrains production also fell significantly short of the target during the year due to flood loss of more than 1 million tons of rice, but it was marginally higher than the output of the preceding year. However, we met this abnormal shortfall situation by timely import of a large quantity, about 3 million tons, of foodgrains against cash purchase and under aid and by their quick distribution, and no hardship was caused to the population.

It may be pointed out that as a food deficit country Bangladesh has been according highest priority to agriculture, food production and rural development in its development plan, and consistent with this priority the highest demand of our development outlay is being allocated to this sector.

The major emphasis of our agricultural development programme is on increasing foodgrain production in order to achieve food self-sufficiency in early Third Five-Year Plan which starts from July 1985. Priority will also be given for increasing output of oilseeds, fishery, livestock and forest products. For implementing this agricultural development programme more external concessional assistance will be needed to supplement our national resources.

Regarding external assistance to food and agriculture, at a time when most of the low-income countries are faced with chronic food shortages and hunger and there is crucial need for investment in the food and agricultural sector in these countries, the decline in the concessional part of external assistance to agriculture is of particular concern to my delegation, because it will adversely affect these countries that rely heavily on such external assistance for investment in their agriculture.

The low level of replenishment of IDA, as well as the uncertainty and probable low level of replenishment of IFAD, will also have serious implications on the investment and development of the food and agricultural sector of these countries.

Regarding food aid, it is a great source of satisfaction to my delegation that, mainly in response to the exceptional food aid requirements of African countries, commitments to food aid during 1984/85 at 11.6 million tons reached the highest level since the early 1970's. For this all the donor countries, especially the United States of America, who mostly contributed to this increase, deserve our sincere gratitude.

Similarly, contributions to LEFR in 1984 and 1985 are also quite encouraging, for which the donor countries should be praised. We hope that pledges to the regular resources of WFP will also reach the target of US \$1 300 million.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I must echo the statement of the previous speaker in expressing our delight at seeing you again in the Chair, Mr. Chairman. I wish to extend my congratulations to the Director-General for the comprehensive appraisal of the world food and agriculture situation in his opening statement, and to congratulate Professor Islam for his excellent introduction of this agenda item.

I will make only a few observations since this subject will be discussed thoroughly by most delegations. Although it is noted that the year 1984 has marked the beginning of end of the deepest economic recession for 50 years, we must bear in mind there was a striking contrast between agricultural production in the northern countries which produced enormous surpluses, and the southern countries where the bulk of the population were unable to feed themselves.

We learn from the Document that food production increased by 3.6 percent in Africa in 1984 after declining by 3.7 percent in 1983. However, production per capita was only 1 percent higher than in 1983, and 11 percent below the 1974/76 average for the region. In the low-economy countries per capita production has slumped. These countries now find it hard to import the food they need even though cereal prices appear to be low. The future for investment plans in agriculture looks uncertain, and this is combined with growing debt burdens on the part of the developing countries.

This leads me to echo the request made by the Nigerian Minister of Agriculture when he was addressing the Eleventh Ministerial Session of the World Food Council which has just ended in Paris. He requested that the debts of those countries which are severely affected be written off and those of the less severely affected countries be rescheduled. We believe this is a matter of morality.

Still on the question of multilateral assistance, we solemnly appeal for the replenishment of IFAD to enable it to carry out its targeted obligations.

We note with the same happiness that the food aid component of assistance has been doing very well. Commitments of food aid in cereals are estimated to surpass the 10 million tons annual target set up in 1974. The recipient countries firmly believe that food aid is an essential element for food security, especially in providing relief for the victims of such disasters as drought and famine as have been witnessed in Africa, and the floods in Bangladesh and elsewhere. Further, we are also committed to the notion that the ultimate aim of food aid programmes must be to make food aid unnecessary.

With reference to fertilizers, we believe that along with improved seeds and water, fertilizers are an indispensable input in bringing about increased productivity of food to enable countries to become more self-reliant. Therefore, my delegation shares the concern expressed by the Commission on Fertilizers in their February meeting that the present growth rate in fertilizer use in developing countries is far below what is required to achieve self-reliance in food and therefore food security. So, we appeal for increased fertilizer aid generally through the international fertilizer supply scheme.

In conclusion, I thank FAO for its efforts in assisting the severely affected countries of Africa, for the World Food Programme and other agencies who have come to the rescue of Africa in its hour of need.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): First of all, I wish to say that it is gratifying for my delegation and myself, Mr Chairman, to see you again in the Chair. Secondly, I wish to congratulate warmly the Director-General for his very to-the-point statement, particularly in stressing and drawing the attention of all of us to the concluding paragraph of the statement.

Concerning Item 4, the delegation of Cyprus has carefully studied Document CL 87/2 and its supplement, Document CL 87/2 Sup.1, and would like to commend the Secretariat on its comprehensive assessment and analysis. We would like to thank also Professor Islam for his clear introduction.

We note from the documents, and we welcome, the real increase in staple food produced in 1984 at a global level, and the higher production recorded in almost all geographic regions. However, figures of production have to be related to population growth if a picture is to emerge in relation to food availability. In this respect, we note with concern that in most parts of the world food availability is deteriorating. In 1984 production of food per capita was less than in the period 1974/76 in 72 out of the 144 countries for which preliminary data were available. Most of these countries are in Africa, but the problem is not confined only to this continent. Negative performance was also recorded in countries of Latin America, the Near East and countries in Asia and in the Pacific area. A real increase has been recorded in the developed parts of the world. An increase in carry-over stocks anticipated to rise 18 percent over the forecast world consumption in 1985/86, although adequate, is mainly attributable to this increase and will be concentrated in developed countries.

Given that the performance of developing countries in producing staple foods was no better than for cereals, as we are informed in the document, it is obvious that developing countries have to rely on imported food items to satisfy the needs of their population, but the ability of most developing countries to import foodstuffs has been limited by economic and financial constraints. Although the international prices of cereals are relatively low, the foreign exchange resources of many developing countries have been under great pressure from large debt-servicing charges and from continuing weak markets for many of the commodities exported by them. As well as strong protectionist tendencies in the major importing countries, the high value of the United States dollar is adversely affecting the ability of these countries to import required food. As a result of all this, we see the inability of a great number of developing countries either to produce or import what they need.

So what remains for them to do? Either they have to rely on food aid and the generosity of the world community for their survival, or they must be helped to increase their production. There is evidence that the donor countries do care about the starving people and have shown this by providing aid either bilaterally or, better still, through the international organizations.

The minimum annual target of 10 million tons of food aid set by the World Food Conference in 1974 is expected to be reached this year for the first time. Contributions to the international emergency food reserve in 1984 amounted to over 600 000 tons. The minimum target was 500 000 tons. Over and above this, 41 000 tons of non-cereal foodstuffs were contributed.

We hope contributions to the LEFR for the current biennium, which is for February 1985, amounting to

512 000 tons of cereals and 17 850 tons of other foodstuffs again will be generous and will pass the

minimum target. We welcome the contributions made to the reserve by such countries as India, Lesotho, Mauritius, and others.

We believe more permanent solutions should be found on the subject of overall temporary provision of food aid. In this respect we commend the Director-General for having assigned to special task forces the preparation of development projects for the rehabilitation of agriculture in cooperation with the governments of affected African countries. As we know, these projects have been presented to a specially convened meeting held in this room on 29th March.

My delegation expresses its appreciation of the interest expressed by some donor countries in assisting in the implementation of these projects. At the same time, we urge others who are in a position to do so to come forward and assist in this respect.

When discussing food supplies, one cannot help but refer to the subject of rural development which, although complex and difficult, is directly connected with food production. In this respect, what the developing countries wish to do in order to overcome their problems does not always depend on them. The most important input they need - capital - is so scarce and is getting even more scarce and difficult to secure. In order for a country to be able to plan and implement development projects, capital is a crucial factor, but certainly not the only one. There are other factors also. Nevertheless, without it nothing can proceed in the direction planned. On the question of the flow of development assistance, we do not share the cautious optimism expressed in paragraph 87 of the document under review. Rather, we would like to express our disappointment at the reduction of external assistance to agricultural development. The reduction in the resources of the International Development Association, and the failure to reach agreement for the Second Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, are seen by this delegation as a step backwards in the effort to assist developing countries to improve their agricultural performance.

R.D. KAUIARICH (United States of America): I would like to join the previous speakers who have expressed their happiness, Mr Chairman, at your continuation in the Chair for this important meeting of FAO. I can assure you of the cooperation of my delegation in accomplishing the goals of this Council. I would like also to congratulate the Director-General for his eloquent and, indeed, moving intervention to begin this meeting. He certainly has set the spirit that should motivate all of us as we go about the work of this Council.

On this particular Item, I wish to make first some general observations, and then some specific points on particular paragraphs of the document in question. This document, and the excellent introduction by Professor Islam, have underscored the useful and generally well-balanced survey of the current world food situation before us. We have the survey by commodity and by region, which is a useful way of distinguishing problem areas which persist despite abundant world food supplies. In particular we note the Secretariat identified that food prices have a strong inflationary influence and that this impact may indeed have grown in 1984. We draw from this the clear implication that both developed and developing countries must closely analyse agricultural policies in order most efficiently to allocate resources especially because these policies dramatically affect other sectors of the economy. I repeat, this is a responsibility for both developed and developing countries.

In particular, we commend the Secretariat for drawing attention to the problem of agricultural protectionism. We agree with the Secretariat when they say in paragraph 7 of the document that "...agriculture cannot be permanently excluded from adjustment reviews".

I think it might be useful to say a few words that might update the Secretariat description of the United States 1985/86 cereal supply utilization estimates. Mr Chairman, we expect that 1984/85 grain production will rise 50 percent from our 1983/84 levels. This will reach a total of 512 million metric tons. The increase is due largely to greater coarse grain production, although wheat and rice have exceeded the previous year's levels. Exports, however, seemed to rise only slightly with ending stocks of about 86 million tons of which 38 million tons are wheat, 2 million tons rice and 46 million tons coarse grain. These are up 20 percent from 1983 levels. Obviously, the outcome of present farm programme legislation will affect grain production and that outcome is unclear. We still anticipate in 1985/86 a slight rise in that production to 315 million tons. Declines of 5 percent in wheat production and 10 percent in rice production probably will be offset by a 3 percent rise in coarse grain production which we expect to reach 245 million metric tonnes. Exports of all cereal grains are expected to fall with projected ending stocks rising one-third to about 115 million tons.

Mr Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, we attach particular importance to the role of domestic policies particularly because a healthy international economy depends on healthy domestic economies. I think it is useful to give a bit of background on President Reagan's proposed agricultural farm programmes.

We have a strong feeling in the United States that the current US farm programmes need revision. These programmes are costly, very costly, and they encourage excessive production. The US Government is considering changes in the farm programmes in the context of our 1985 farm bill. President Reagan



has proposed this legislation to Congress and has called for a market-oriented programme in which price support levels would be set in relation to market prices rather than negotiated levels that are determined through a political process. It would also mean a phase-out of acreage reduction programmes so that farmers production decisions are guided by market signals rather than by Government. (We have an excess in those crops which by and large do not compete with the exports of most developing countries.) With these changes we expect that farmers will derive a greater share of their own income from the market place and, I believe, compete more effectively in world markets.

It is important to note that the farm bill also includes recommended changes in the Food Security Wheat Reserve, which will eliminate the existing reserve and replace it with a humanitarian reserve of about 13 million metric tonnes. The new reserve would be authorized for humanitarian use both overseas and domestically and would accomplish greater flexibility for the Administration as it operates the reserve, including corn and sorghum in addition to the existing reserves of wheat.'

Mr Chairman, on to some specific remarks occurring in relation to paragraphs in the document. Paragraph 93 of the document asserts that the minimum annual replenishment target of the IEFER of 500 000 tons is grossly inadequate. The United States accepts the utility of the current target, but we feel that rather than increasing the minimum replenishment level that the donor communities should have the flexibility to respond to needs as they occur. I think that the response of the donor community in connection with the situation in Africa demonstrates that the increased levels of assistance will be forthcoming as they are required.

We also note in paragraphs 96 through 100 that the document reports a rapid growth in consumer food prices, especially in Latin America, and the trend in the Far East towards reducing budgetary expenditures on food subsidies.

We believe that a lowering of such subsidies is to be welcomed if, and I underscore if, it is accompanied by appropriate policy incentives to increase food production and make the marketing of food more efficient, as well as by appropriate monetary and fiscal policies to defeat the erosion of consumers' income by inflation.

Finally Mr Chairman, let me pick up on a point that the distinguished delegate of Uganda also raised, and that has to do with the discussion in paragraph 108 regarding the concern of the Commission on Fertilizers that fertilizer use in developing countries is growing too slowly. I recognize that we will be discussing this issue later on, but I did want to point out in the context of this report that we have, as we have noted at the meeting of the Commission on Fertilizers, some concern about the emphasis on the role of the IMF in this area.

We understand that if a country should encounter a balance of payments problem arising from increased costs of importing fertilizers, the IMF provides assistance by permitting members to draw up to 450 percent of their quota if they are willing to undertake significant adjustment measures.

The United States prefers to provide fertilizer through bilateral assistance programmes. We do not believe that assessed programme funds should be used to increase the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, but we do agree that the IFS does provide a useful aid channel for some donor countries. Nevertheless, I think the facts show that the overwhelming share of fertilizer aid - about 98 percent in recent years- has been provided through bilateral programmes.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for having drawn so clearly drawing our attention to the salient topics on our Agenda. As usual, we will refer to them once they have been taken up.

My delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the balanced and analytically clear description of the present world food situation, as we find it in document CL 87/2.

We are largely in agreement with the statements in the document. We welcome the fact that world food production, which still stagnated in 1983, rose in 1984 by more than 4 percent, as stated in paragraph 11 of the document.

The situation in Africa where per caput food production in 1984 was 11 percent below the average of 1974-76 continues to be a matter of concern to us. However, we welcome the fact that the per caput food production in Africa in 1984 was one percent higher than in 1983.

Despite increases in production in the Far East, Asian Centrally Planned Economies (ACPE) and in Latin America, per caput food production in 1984 did not reach the level of 1974-76 in many countries of Africa, Latin America, Near East, Asia and Pacific, as stated in detail in paragraph 15 of the document.

Of particular importance seem to us the production increases for coarse grains, edible oils and root crops.

We are concerned about the increased food imports of Africa due to widespread production losses, as mentioned in paragraph 21.

The statement in paragraph 23 of the document to the effect that external assistance to agriculture in developing countries declined in 1983 is not true as far as my country is concerned. Agriculture and rural development have been priority areas almost from the beginning of our economic cooperation with developing countries. Their share in our overall economic cooperation with developing countries has been increasing for years, and it is now 29.1 percent of total commitments. In 1984 we spent D M 804 million for that sector, and for 1985 almost DM one billion has been earmarked for that purpose.

Paragraphs 24 and 25 of the document give the figures for pledges to the regular resources of the World Food Programme and to the International Emergency Food Reserve (IEFR) up to mid-February 1985. Therefore, my delegation suggests that these figures be updated according to the figures given in the recent issue of Food Outlook.

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to stress some other details contained in the document which seem to us of particular importance.

First, we welcome the fact that the crop production in Latin America, Asian Centrally Planned Economies (ACPE) and, even Africa, though to a lower extent has risen more sharply than population, as referred to in paragraph 27.

Second, we are concerned about the large number of African countries in the group of countries which had to record declines in food production of more than 5 percent, as stated in paragraph 30.

Third, this also applies to the statement in paragraph 32 that 86 percent of the countries in Africa produced less food per caput in 1984 than during 1974-76.

Fourth, world trade in cereals is forecast to increase in 1984-85. As stated in paragraph 48 of the document, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which is expected to import 45 to 50 million tons of wheat and coarse grains, will have a great share in the world trade volume of cereals.

Fifth, we welcome the production increase for cereals as stated in paragraphs 53 to 65 of the document. We also welcome the increase in world cereal stocks which rose to 292.4 million tons as shown in Table 6 of the document. The recent Food Outlook also shows a higher figure of 298 million tons. These figures represent more than 18 percent of world requirements forecast for 1985-86. We are glad that the level of 17 to 18 percent, which is considered adequate for the maintenance of food security at the global level has been reached and even exceeded.

Sixth, we agree with the analysis as regards the other agricultural commodities in paragraphs 62 to 82 of the document.

Seventh, we regret the decline of external assistance to food and agriculture as shown in Table 8. As I have previously stated, my country did increase our assistance to agriculture. In this connection we should bear in mind that it is the first choice of the recipient countries for which sector it seeks external assistance.

Eight, by taking up the remarks of Dr Islam in his introduction on the world agricultural market situation and on trade issues, I should like to recall what my Minister stated last week at the Eleventh Session of the World Food Council in Paris. He stated, "Since the beginning of the cooperation between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and developing countries it has been and still is our chief concern to give aid to self-help. In our opinion development aid and trade are not contradictory but are complementary in their impact. Development aid and trade, as well as aid through trade are indispensable preconditions for us in our cooperation with developing countries. We therefore welcome the idea of world trade expansion, which is stressed strongly in the document."

Later, he said: "It will only be possible to accelerate the presently still too slow growth of world economy," - which is criticised, rightly, in the document, - "if every country makes great efforts to put its own house in order and to ensure an exchange of trade as free as possible." For my country this is no lip-service but is consistent with our action. Developing countries have been able to benefit from it, as the following figures show. The imports of the Federal Republic of Germany from developing countries, including agricultural imports, distinctly rose in 1984 as against the previous year by 11 percent to DM 70 billion. More than one-third, or 36 percent, of those imports were semi-manufactured and manufactured goods. Their share in the basket of commodities imported from developing countries in 1984 increased by 20 percent while imports of raw materials only went up by 3 percent. During the five year period from 1980 to 1984, our imports from developing countries increased by almost one-third. Aid through trade will also in future be one of the guidelines of our cooperation with developing countries. This is clearly reflected by the EEC/ACD LOME III as being the way, at the Convention which entered into force this March with our full support.

Ninth, as regards informing FAO Member States about efficient development assistance, we suggest that complementary to Table 9 there should be another table giving overall all the figures as well as the sources, as is done every year by OECD. We share the Secretariat's opinion of a more optimistic view concerning external assistance and international cooperation, as stated in paragraph 87 of the document before us.

Tenth, my delegation is concerned about the expected decline in food supplies in 35 low-income food-deficit countries, as referred to in paragraph 104 of the document. This shows that great efforts of the international community are still necessary to improve the world food supply situation, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries.

The Federal Republic of Germany will continue its fruitful cooperation with developing countries in that sector, with the aim of contributing towards greater self-reliance of developing countries in eliminating hunger and malnutrition.

The Meeting rose at 12.30.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/2

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

### **SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE SEGUNDA SESION PLENARIA**

(17 June 1985)

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)

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia se complace muy sinceramente en presentar como candidato para una de las Vicepresidencias a nuestro distinguido colega y amigo Marco Francisci di Baschi, Embajador de Italia ante la FAO. Marco - así le llamamos familiarmente por cordial y sencillo - ha realizado una excelente labor. Por medio de sus vinculaciones y amistades a muy alto nivel ha logrado que hoy las relaciones entre el Gobierno de Italia y la FAO estén a un nivel verdaderamente satisfactorio. Por la experiencia y los conocimientos que admiramos en el Embajador Francisci di Baschi, estamos seguros de que él será un excelente Vicepresidente que ayudará al Señor Presidente a que este período de sesiones produzca los mejores resultados.

O. FRIIS (Denmark): It is an honour for me on behalf of the Danish delegation to support most warmly the nomination of His Excellency the Italian Ambassador.

CHAIRMAN: The Ambassador of Italy, Marco Francisci di Baschi, has been proposed as Vice-Chairman by Colombia, supported by Denmark.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise a l'honneur de présenter la candidature de S.E. M. Bukhari, Ambassadeur d'Arabie Saoudite, à la Vice-Présidence. Nous connaissons M. Bukhari comme une personnalité très distinguée qui ne peut que contribuer positivement au succès de ce Conseil.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation has the great honour and pleasure of supporting the nomination of His Excellency Mr. Bukhari, The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to FAO, for the post of one of the Vice-Chairmen, as proposed by the delegation of Lebanon. As already said by the delegate of Lebanon, Ambassador Bukhari is very knowledgeable and has long experience in the work of FAO conferences, councils and other committees. His appointment as Vice-Chairman will be of valuable assistance to you, Mr Chairman, in conducting this session to completion.

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de me réjouir de vous revoir à la présidence de notre importante réunion.

Je voudrais également appuyer la proposition qui vient de nous être faite de M. l'Ambassadeur Bukhari à la Vice-Présidence. Nous le connaissons personnellement, et compte tenu de ses compétences, de ses hautes qualités intellectuelles et morales et pour toutes les raisons énoncées par les orateurs qui m'ont précédé, je voudrais très fortement appuyer cette candidature.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I deem it a great privilege to propose the Ambassador of Cuba, His Excellency Mr Leopoldo Ariza Hidalgo, for the office of Vice-Chairman for the Eighty-seventh Session of this Council. The distinguished Ambassador of Cuba is very knowledgeable, he is very well known, and his contribution to the work of the FAO has been most outstanding. I am confident that he will be of great assistance to you and to the success of this session.

J.TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais à mon tour appuyer la proposition de candidature à une des Vice-Présidences à l'Ambassadeur de Cuba, M. Leopoldo Ariza Hidalgo. Leopoldo Ariza est un ami que je connais parfaitement et qui, tout au long de son séjour ici à la FAO, a montré des qualités exceptionnelles de compétence et son expérience nous a toujours été utile. Aussi nous sommes certains qu'il vous aidera dans la conduite des débats de cette importante session.

Je voudrais pour terminer dire que j'appuie cette candidature et je souhaite qu'il puisse être élu.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Simply to second the nomination of the Ambassador of Cuba for the position of Vice-Chairman. It gives us a great deal of pleasure to be able to subscribe to the rest of the delegations in asking the Ambassador to become Vice-Chairman.

J.M. WATSON (Panamá): Para apoyar, Sr. Presidente, la candidatura del Sr. Embajador de Cuba, Leopoldo Ariza Hidalgo. La trayectoria del Embajador Ariza, a quien he conocido recientemente, es merecedora de este excepcional honor.

CHAIRMAN: If no other delegation wants to take the floor, we have three colleagues properly proposed and seconded: His Excellency Marco Francisci di Baschi, Ambassador of Italy, His Excellency A.Y. Bukhari, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency Leopoldo Ariza Hidalgo, Ambassador of Cuba. We thus take it that it is the unanimous wish of the Council members that we request these three very distinguished people to serve us as Vice-Chairmen at this session.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

May I offer my congratulations to all three of them. I am looking forward very much to working with them in this very important session of the Council.

We are yet to have a list for the Drafting Committee.

B. SAID (Chairman, Group of 77) (Original language Arabic): As to the Drafting Committee, after having consulted the Heads of Delegations and the heads of regional groups of the Near East, Africa, Asia and Latin America, we can give you the list of candidates for this Committee: for Africa. Congo and Malawi; for Asia, Philippines and India; for Latin America, Argentina and Mexico; and for the Near East, Lebanon and Egypt. That is all I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN: We will consider them along with the other nominations later.

II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)

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

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

4. Current World Food Situation (continued)

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

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

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): At the outset may I join the other delegates in expressing our happiness in seeing you again at the helm of these deliberations which come at a very crucial time while we have problems of growth and we have problems of shortages.

The report before you, indicates that world food production has shown an up-trend, but it has also shown that there are areas where food shortages are continuing. I think this is the crucial theme to which we should address ourselves in this conference. I think it is of great significance that the production increases have come not so much from conventional crops like rice or wheat, but they have come from coarse grains, edible oils and root crops. I consider this not an accident but

a matter of great significance because with planned land use of a large number of countries, which is relevant to dry land agriculture, coarse grains would form the basis of any agricultural strategy by which cereal production can be increased with the existing limited land and water resources. I therefore would suggest to this august Council that the time has come to adopt the suggestion that I have made in the Committee on Agriculture that very special programmes to augment the production of coarse grains, edible oils and root crops need to be undertaken, because they would provide greater availability per capita of calories at a much lower cost than conventional grains to the vast majority of people below the poverty line in the developing world.

Here again, what disturbs me in the context of the better growth rate in agriculture is the commodity prices trend which, as the report highlights, has shown a decline. The prices in the international market have declined, and in the context of overall inflation the decline in the agricultural prices, which in turn would result in a decline in the prices which are available to the farmers, is something which concerns all of us, because I do not believe that inputs alone will do the trick. The farmers must be motivated to intensify agriculture, to increase per hectare production, and this is possible only if production is viable. One way of making production viable is to provide the right prices to farmers, instead of allowing prices to decline over a period.

In this context, I would like to suggest for the consideration of the Council the need for recognizing the role of supply management as an integral part of production strategies in the world. To my mind, the trend of consumer prices shows great changes, particularly in the developing world, and wide fluctuations from high to low consumer prices are not a problem of production, but of distribution. The time has come when countries which produce either for themselves or for others should also be able to deliver surpluses to the people concerned at the right place and in the right quantity. I am not sure whether we have reviewed adequately the available infrastructure for supply management in a large number of countries which depend both on domestic as well as external resources for the purpose. By this I mean the management of food aid should not be limited to the listing of donors and a quantification of resources. Management of food aid should also involve in considerable measure better management of the distribution of these resources by the recipient countries. We should galvanize the expertise that may be needed nationally and internationally to assist member countries in managing their supplies more efficiently so that price fluctuations are avoided.

I would then turn to the problems attendant on growth. I suggest for the consideration of this Council that the Secretariat should provide trend analyses of production over a longer period. Comparisons with the previous year are not of tremendous statistical significance. They may be really misleading. If there is a negative growth after a bumper crop, this is not something with which you should concern yourselves. If high growth is possible after a drought, there is nothing much about it which needs to be glorified. A trend analysis is omitted from the document. I think the trend would show the extent to which agriculture has been stabilized.

To my mind, the real danger in agriculture is the inability of agricultural production systems to withstand the onslaught of drought. In fact, this is an area where one can hardly distinguish between the developed and the developing economies. All over the world farmers are vulnerable. It is part of our duty to minimize the vulnerability of agricultural systems in the hands of farmers. I have referred to trend analysis. A steadier trend of growth taken over a longer period would reflect such strategy, even though there might still be short-term fluctuations of a seasonal nature.

I would now like to bring a very important issue to the notice of Council. It is not enough just to think of production growth; it is not sufficient only to think in terms of per capita production growth, but it is necessary that these do not involve the use of scarce land resources. It is necessary that the change from forestry to crop husbandry does not involve monoculture. Rather, developing economies should involve themselves in greater measure with appropriate land use management in integrated farming systems. I am afraid that this particular emphasis is not adequate.

I am not suggesting that FAO has not played its part. FAO has done a tremendous job in highlighting the importance of this concept of crop husbandry in developing countries. But the time has come when food production and the environment must speak with one voice. Production is not the enemy of the environment, and the environment is not the enemy of production. Production can survive on a sustained basis only with environmental protection. The environment cannot be protected on the basis of hungry homes. FAO should take upon itself the responsibility of guiding member countries to produce more from the same amount of land, perhaps even a smaller quantity of land so that the rest of it can be put to the right use. Maybe a lot of the marginal land which is subject to crop husbandry could be restored to forestry. This is a trend which is not reflected in the statistics before us. This should be our task, otherwise the means of production may easily be negated not merely by a growth in population, but by the greater growth in the depletion of balanced environmental and ecological systems. This is an area which ought to receive greater attention. I think member countries ought to set up national institutions which will determine appropriate land use.



In India, after many years of growth, we have realized that our agricultural growth cannot be sustained without appropriate land use. In the very year in which we have achieved record production levels, particularly in wheat, we have also set up a National Land Resources Commission with our distinguished Prime Minister at the helm. We have done this because we think land use is no longer a subject with which one particular ministry can deal. It is a national responsibility, a responsibility on which the future of all nations depends.

I thought I would commend this idea for the consideration of the FAO Secretariat in order that agricultural production systems should incorporate as an integral part an adequate awareness of land and water resources management.

Now I want to turn to another important issue, the report of the Commission on Fertilizers. It is a matter of great concern to all of us that fertilizer prices are likely to go up while fertilizer availability is likely to remain limited. Product prices will not necessarily show an upward trend. The conclusions are obvious: that if the input/output price relationship is adverse to the farmer, the rate of growth of fertilizer use over a longer period is likely to be adversely affected. So it is not only a question of availability of fertilizers, but is also a question of the price at which they would be available to the farmers. I suggest that the Commission on Fertilizers should continue this study with greater emphasis not only on production, but on the pricing of this very important input.

It seems to me that we must realize that productivity and the use of fertilizers will much depend on a number of related management practices and the use of fertilizers on an intensive basis (without teaching farmers that they may resort to mixed farming systems which will assist in the recycling of agricultural waste) may in the long run be counter productive. So to my mind, the Commission on Fertilizers must apply themselves with equal vigour to the problems of recycling agricultural waste, which is a neglected issue all over the developing world. Fertilisers need not and should not be defined in isolation as nitrogenous or phosphatic fertilizers. The fertility of the land and its productivity should be the concern of the Commission, rather than a limited, narrow interpretation of its task.

I think the time has come when we should attend to some of the managerial problems. With your long experience and a distinguished record of service to the international community on the subject of agricultural production, you would agree that there is one single factor which results in a great transformation, that factor is going to be the transfer of technology through effective research and extension. In India we have found with the same level of inputs, that the distinction between one area of great growth and another of retarded growth in our vast country has been attributed in large measure to the efficiency of agricultural management represented by the identification of the right technology and an efficient agricultural extension system. I think FAO should emphasize the creation, professionalisation and sustenance of a good agricultural extension management system in all parts of the developing world. Perhaps it is an item which ought to be discussed on its own merits. Since I do not find such an item being considered independently in this august Organization, I thought I should mention it as a critical factor which can make all the difference between success and failure in agricultural management.

May I turn now to an important issue. We have heard much about food aid. I want to sound a note of caution, that food aid should not be unrelated to quality of management. It is not necessary that a country or a continent or the world should deserve aid only if they are inefficient, only if they erode their resources. There is a wrong notion here. In the short run, aid is life sustaining, but in fact aid is that which helps you to sustain life on your own. When we talk about food aid and other aid, I include not only critical aid in times of grave food shortages, but also aid which is technological, financial and otherwise, the type of aid that will enable agricultural production systems in large parts of a country to be more efficient in use of land and other resources.

The objective is clear - an increase in productivity per hectare in the hands of a large number of farmers all over the world. It is that single cause to which this august Organization is dedicated. It is on that aim that all food aid essentially must converge. Therefore, aid is required for all, the rich and the poor. Countries may be rich, or they may be poor, but the farmers who need our assistance are scattered all over the world. We must enable farmers to produce more. This Organization must help farmers; it must help national governments to help their farmers to produce more. That is possible only if aid is directed towards better agricultural management all over the world, and this is made possible by institutional growth and infrastructure support.

Often we tend to emphasize only the inputs - seeds, pesticides, fertilizers. But these cannot help the farmer unless there is an infrastructure. Institutional development and infrastructure support must be available. This is the concern of FAO and its member countries. This sort of thing can make a vast difference to the productivity per hectare of some of those farmers struggling at the lowest levels of land use as compared with those who have been able to intensify their agriculture in the hands of a small number of farmers.

Finally, I would suggest that this Council must carefully consider the situation which was reflected in the very valuable presentation of the Director General, namely, that food aid must concentrate on transferring surpluses from the nearest source to the recipient countries. The food does not have to come from the aid giving countries; "the donor of resources and the production of food need not be inter-related. Food will have to come from somewhere near. As has been reflected in this report, surpluses cannot be transferred because of exchange problems. There are surpluses in some countries and there may be shortages in others, but in the context of food commodity trade we often find that surpluses cannot be transferred with the result that the European Economic Community is struggling with decisions to cut back production and we in Asia and Africa are struggling with the need to obtain more food for consumption.

If the commodity problems persist, I submit that there must be a system by which the commodity problems are sorted out by financial aid which will purchase the essential commodities needed for the sustenance of a large population who, as our Director General stated, need our friendship, support and sympathy in their most critical hour. If this aid is organized on the basis of the fiscal resources being available, I think the developing countries themselves can find food resources much nearer their homes which can be transported at a much more economic cost than being transported from distant donor countries.

I am sure this is a point that we will look into in greater detail so that international supply management will be optimized.

We have no right to tell Member Nations to optimize their supply management if FAO cannot optimize its supply management on the basis of least cost options. I am sure that this will receive careful consideration.

In conclusion, may I thank you very much for the opportunity you have given us of sharing some of our thoughts with you.

KONG CANDONG (China) (original language Chinese) : At the outset, please allow me to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election. Just now Prof. Islam gave additional explanations to the overview on the current world food situation contained in the document prepared by the Secretariat. This forms a good basis for our deliberations on this important issue at the Council. Now I wish to make a few comments on this subject.

According to the analysis in document CL 87/2, the world economic recovery beginning in 1983 generated a favourable impact on the world agricultural production. The world agricultural output for 1984 was estimated to increase by more than 4 percent over 1983. Food production in all regions except Oceania went up. Grain reserve increased, market supply was sufficient and prices were generally stable. Food aid also increased notably. This is a really gratifying situation. But basically the pattern of uneven geographical distribution of the global increase in food production has not changed. Although the situation in Latin America and Asia has somewhat improved, the gap between Africa and other developing regions has further expanded. And in 1984, some new countries were added to the list of food-deficit countries. Besides, the document indicates that in spite of the substantial increase in food production at the global level in 1984, the per capita production of more than half of the 144 countries was even less than during 1974-76, most of which are developing countries. The estimated per capita food availability in low-income, food-deficit countries in 1984-85 shows that it will decline to a lower level than 1969-71, with the exception of some countries. Therefore, we should not consider that the change in the total world food production reflects a solution of world food problems.

At present it remains an urgent task to develop production and to raise the level of food self-sufficiency of the developing countries. However, the goal cannot be achieved without the improvement of the international economic environment. Though the global economic recession in the early 1980s showed abatement in 1984, the unfavourable influence it exercised on the developing countries has not vanished today.

We agree with the view contained in paragraph 51 of document CL 87/2 that many developing countries, notably Africa and Latin America, are suffering from the effects of the worldwide recession and will continue to do so for some time to come. The unfavourable international trade conditions have hindered the export of agricultural produce of most developing countries, while the major part of their export earnings has to be used to pay debts. This has seriously weakened their import capability and their investment capacity for expanding agricultural reproduction, thereby affecting worldwide food supply and rational distribution.

To establish a favourable trade environment for the developing countries, and to improve the access of agricultural products to the international market will to a certain extent help to gradually redress the paradoxical phenomenon of worldwide food surplus on the one hand and serious food shortage on the other. This will be beneficial to the developing countries as well as developed countries.

Regarding external assistance, the document says that multilateral and bilateral concessional aid directly used for agriculture and forestry decreased by more than 20 percent and 8 percent respectively between 1982 and 1983, and it seems likely that commitments declined further in 1984. It is, no doubt, quite unfavourable to those low income countries which mainly rely on concessional assistance for the expansion of agricultural investment.

Paragraph 87 listed the signs of likely improvement for 1985, but it still calls for fresh efforts by the developed countries.

I would like to give the delegates a brief account of China's situation. 1984 witnessed the deepening of rural economic reforms. The government encouraged farmers to actively open up new ways of production and to develop commodity production. At the same time, the government supported the transfer and rational combination of the rural labour force, funds and technology, helping to improve conditions for agricultural production and organizing farmers to study and extend scientific and technical achievements with a view to enhancing the progress of agricultural techniques. In comparison with 1983 the applied volume of chemical fertilizer, rural electricity supply and agro-mechanical power for 1984 increased by 6 to 8 percent. Agricultural production continued to go up on the basis of the rise in 1983.

In the course of agricultural development, we have never spared effort in developing grain production, while promoting a diversified economy. However, how to handle the relationship between developing grain crops and other crops remains a problem to be solved in the reforms.

In recent years we have tried to readjust step by step the structure of agricultural production and the crop growing pattern by fully respecting specific local conditions and taking advantage of the merits and overcoming the defects. And we have attached importance to the development of cotton,

oil and sugar-bearing crops and other cash crops, and encouraged farmers to go in for animal husbandry, aquaculture, fruit tree planting, household sidelines and township industries so that the natural resources and labour force in the rural areas can be fully and rationally utilized.

Meanwhile, we have made continuous efforts to increase grain production and improve intensive farming and tap the production potential of per unit area. Over the past few years the area sown to grain crops has been reduced, but the grain output has kept rising. The annual increase rate of grains was 4.9 percent during 1979-84.

After all, the overall development of China's rural economy has just started. So incompatibilities emerged in the field of production, circulation and supply. There are defects in the State's management system of the rural economy. Some regions are slow in shaking off poverty. Besides, China's conditions for agricultural production are still backward and farm production depends to a great extent on natural conditions. In order to further enliven the rural economy from this year we have given up unified procurement of farm produce. The prices of agricultural products are open. The State will not set any procurement target of agricultural products for farmers, with the exception of very few products. The State will buy farm products through purchasing contracts or directly from the market. It has changed mandatory plans into guiding plans. In the meantime, the State will continue to help the rural areas to readjust production structure, promote agricultural development in a coordinated manner, liberalize rural financial policy and raise the effects of capital circulation. In the light of the principle of mutual benefit and the needs of commodity economy, the State endeavours to develop and improve the rural cooperative system, provide concessional credit loans and implement a policy of concessional taxing for township enterprises. It also aims to further expand the economic exchange between the urban and rural areas, providing more guidance for the construction of small towns.

Today's session gives us an opportunity to exchange information and experience. We hope, through the deliberations, to obtain a better understanding of the current world food situation and its tendency in the short run. This, we believe, will be conducive to the coming discussion on the Summary of Work and Budget for the next biennium at this Council.

H. REDL (Austria) : First of all I should like to thank Dr Saouma for his clear description of the present world food situation. I should also like to thank Dr Islam for his introduction to this very important document. The Austrian Delegation studied the present document CL 87/2 and its supplement. We welcome the construction of the document which makes for a clear presentation. Already during the last Session of the Council, the worldwid, and particularly African, food situation was thoroughly discussed by the Council. We therefore consider the present debate as a continuation of that held in November last year. As regards the statements in paragraphs 27 to 52, we welcome the increase in food production, as particularly stated in paragraph 31.

In the long run this should however not fill us with satisfaction, but spur us on to better performances. The review of the commodity situation enables thorough judgement in the individual sectors. It was also noted with pleasure, as indicated in paragraph 92, that in 1984 the contribution to the IEFER amounted to 607 000 tons of grains and 41 200 tons of other foods. Since primarily the data for February 1985 are mentioned in this document, it would be desirable to know the present contribution to the IEFER for 1985.

In particular, we welcome the fact that following the appeals for assistance the measures of the IEFER are benefiting the most severely-hit countries of the African region. This also applies to the FAO WFP emergency measures. Furthermore, we hope the assistance of the individual UN Agencies will be closely coordinated to avoid competition.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): First of all I would like to express my gratitude for seeing you again in the Chair. I would also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

I have listened with special interest and deep concern to the excellent introduction made by Dr Islam on the current world food situation. The documents CL 87/2 and CL 87/2-Sup.1 have clearly presented a contrasting feature of the world food situation: world food production in 1984 increased by 4.2 percent compared to the previous year, yet more than one-half of the countries in the world produced even less food per capita in 1984 than during 1974-76. In Africa this percentage went up to 86 percent. In the case of cereal production, this contrast was even more significant.

My Government has been deeply concerned about the protracted critical situation which could be a threat to world peace and stability, and feels strongly that further efforts by all parties should be continued in order to improve the situation. We are of the view that the primary responsibility in solving food problems lies within the individual governments of food deficit countries, and that the self-help efforts toward increasing food production should be reinforced. On that point, we think it important to take a comprehensive approach: giving production incentives to producers, especially small farmers through appropriate policy and social framework is, among others, one of the most important elements. In this connection, we are expecting that the FAO's on-going study on the agricultural price policies will focus on its function of increasing food production in developing countries.

Another important element of the comprehensive approach is to establish an improved agricultural information system which can provide basic data for the better formulation of agricultural development programmes.

The development of human resources, especially the increasing capability of the administration experts who are engaged in the formulation and implementation of agricultural policies, is also considered to be a prerequisite for a successful approach.

Document CL 85/2 states that external assistance to food and agricultural sector declined in 1983 by 15 percent from the previous year and that in 1984 it is also estimated to decrease. Under these circumstances, Mr Chairman, my country, as part of its effort to support development efforts in developing countries, has constantly endeavoured to expand steadily its ODA in line with the national policy of doubling ODA in five years. In fiscal year 1984, about 4.300 million dollars were disbursed. For fiscal 1985, we have secured a 10 percent growth of the General Account budget for ODA. My country has been doing its utmost to increase its aid, emphasizing rural and agricultural development in developing countries.

This April, we decided to set a new medium-term target for the period from 1986, which will enable us to continue steady expansion of ODA, with emphasis, hence, on the support for rural and agricultural development.

We are also expanding assistance through international organizations. For example, my country is now ready to increase its contribution to FAO trust funds from 1.8 million dollars to 2.6 million dollars this year.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): First of all I would like to make a few general comments on the quality of all the documentation before us on this particular agenda item both the world food situation and the African situation. Overall, I think we are very lucky to have this set of documents. We regard them as both solid and analytical documents and they do provide many useful insights. The only minor criticism that the Canadian Delegation might have is that in our view perhaps insufficient attention was given in the documentation to stressing the looming difficulties which are on the horizon for agricultural trade. However, I did note that Dr Islam in his introductory remarks underlined the longer-term significance of the growing proliferation of trade barriers and distortions, particularly the growing use of export subsidies. The Canadian delegation can certainly

endorse what was implicit in Dr Islam's remarks: that is, the paramount need for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, and the central importance in the negotiations of making significant progress in agricultural trade liberalization, not only with respect to improving the terms of access but - as I have underlined before - bringing export subsidies under more effective international discipline. In fact, as you are aware, Canada is on record in proposing that a new round of negotiations comes as early as possible: that should be early in 1986.

I stress that the trade environment not unsurprisingly given Canada's interest in world agricultural growth; but I think, as many of our colleagues have mentioned this morning, and again this afternoon, there is of course a direct linkage between agricultural development and the international trade environment. This is certainly not a North-South issue. Agricultural trade liberalization is of central importance to both developing and developed countries.

In this context, referring briefly to the African situation, we were pleased to see that in that particular document there was explicit recognition that growing imports of food into developing countries are not necessarily a sign of failure. In fact, in some circumstances, growing imports of commercial food into the developing countries is in fact a sign of rapid economic growth and income demand.

In closing, I will not make any more comments on the African situation. I will leave that until later, but I will reiterate how pleased we were that the documentation was empty of rhetoric and did concentrate in our view on an objective and dispassionate analysis of a situation which, as the Secretary indicates, is mixed. On the one hand, many developing countries are making excellent progress in developing their agricultural sectors, China and India being the most visible examples of this kind of progress. On the other hand, as many delegations have also noted, we are faced with the paradox of significant production increases in many developed and developing countries, while at the same time we have major difficulties in certain other regions, particularly in Africa.

So at this juncture, I will stop and perhaps make some additional comments on the African situation at a more appropriate time.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A los representantes de Colombia nos complace verle de nuevo entre nosotros y trabajar bajo su acertada dirección. Felicitamos igualmente a los tres distinguidos vicepresidentes, todos colegas y amigos nuestros.

Como siempre, esta mañana el Director General hizo una declaración muy elocuente, afirmativa y clara, algunos de cuyos conceptos se reflejan en la discusión de este importante tema. El profesor Islam, con su competencia y preparación ampliamente reconocidas, ha hecho una presentación útil y valiosa de este documento CL 87/2 y su suplemento 1, cuya lectura nos indica que la situación sigue siendo sombría, y un análisis cuidadoso indica que hay muchos aspectos negativos que deberemos consignar en nuestro informe. El párrafo 1 de la evaluación general afirma que 1984 señaló el final de la más grave recesión económica de los últimos 50 años. Luego, en el párrafo 52, se dice que los Estados Unidos y Japón han experimentado la recuperación más pronunciada y que muchos países en desarrollo aún están sufriendo los efectos de la recesión mundial y que esa situación no cambiará en el futuro próximo, sobre todo en África y América Latina. (Observo con cuidado a mi distinguida colega, la Embajadora Millicent Fenwick de los Estados Unidos, pero yo no he hecho más que transcribir el texto exacto del párrafo 51 del documento). Estos datos confirman la situación, bien conocida. La recuperación económica solamente se está logrando en los países desarrollados y en buena parte a expensas de las economías de los países en desarrollo. En efecto, el párrafo 2 habla de que en términos de producción y comercio los resultados alcanzados en 1984 fueron los mejores en muchos años, especialmente para los países industrializados, tal como lo demuestra el cuadro 1.

Sería de esperar, pues, que ahora, en estas nuevas y florecientes condiciones económicas, los países desarrollados aumentaran su asistencia a la agricultura, pero pasemos a ver cuán decepcionantes y deplorables son los datos respecto a las actitudes de algunos países industrializados.

El párrafo 9 afirma que ha disminuido la asistencia exterior en la agricultura y, lo que es más grave, cito: "la reducción de los créditos multilaterales en condiciones de favor, equivalente a una quinta parte del total constituye un duro golpe para los esfuerzos de desarrollo agrícola de los países de bajos ingresos". ¿Podrá acaso la comunidad internacional entender cómo es posible que se atente así contra todas esperanzas de recuperación de los países de bajos ingresos, víctimas propiciatorias de la actual crisis?

El párrafo 83 confirma el descenso de esas asistencias, y en el párrafo 84 se consigna el mágico cambio de bolsillo de la proveniencia de la asistencia de que ha venido hablando en otro foro la delegación de Colombia. Las asignaciones para la asistencia multilateral y bilateral en condiciones de favor disminuyeron en más de un 20 por ciento y cerca de un 8 por ciento, respectivamente, entre 1982 y 1983.

Decía en el documento CL 87/2 que esto había originado un aumento de la asistencia bilateral prestada a la agricultura; pero luego el suplemento 1, publicado en este mes de junio de 1985, en el párrafo 42, se confirma que esa asignación multilateral y bilaterales han seguido creciendo, y que también la asistencia multilateral y bilaterales han seguido creciendo, y que también la asistencia total bilateral siguió disminuyendo en un 8 por ciento, es decir que no es cierto que los países desarrollados hayan aumentado su asistencia, sino que, mágicamente, han cambiado los bolsillos, escogiendo los países bilateralmente para obtener dividendos de ciertos órdenes. El deterioro de ese proceso ha adquirido ahora características de agiotismo, como podrá verse en el párrafo 85, mientras que el crédito multilateral en condiciones de favor otorgado a la agricultura ha disminuido, las asignaciones multilaterales sin condiciones del préstamo oficial a la agricultura se volvieron más gravosas en todo el mundo. Esto dice el párrafo 85.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que en nuestro informe deberemos señalar hechos como estos que anulan los esfuerzos de los países en desarrollo por reducir sus importaciones y aumentar las exportaciones cuando el proteccionismo permite, a fin de lograr superávits comerciales a costa de la reducción del crecimiento de su desarrollo, superávits que son absorbidos por el alto costo del servicio de la deuda externa y por las nuevas y más gravosas condiciones de los préstamos. Situaciones como éstas afectan el crecimiento económico y la nutrición de los pueblos de los países en desarrollo, ya que como dicen los párrafos 5 y 6, los altos tipos de interés y el fortalecimiento del dólar, no permitieron la reducción de la deuda externa, y los ingresos por exportaciones debieron dedicarse al servicio de esa deuda, en vez de importar los alimentos necesarios para mantener o mejorar las dietas o los bienes y servicios esenciales para el desarrollo agrícola futuro.

El profesor Islam dijo esta mañana que se ha hecho poco en favor de modificar la inaceptable situación del proteccionismo. Oímos también al representante de los Estados Unidos de América, manifestarse en favor de reducir el proteccionismo. Igual expresión tuvo esta tarde el representante de Canadá. Ojalá que la declaración de esos dos países, de estas importantes regiones, no obedezcan solamente al enfren-tamiento de una dura guerra existente entre esas regiones y los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea, sino que esperamos que esa declaración de fe en la modificación del proteccionismo, tenga en realidad una aplicación amplia y benéfica para los países en desarrollo.

Recibimos también con aprecio positivo la declaración del colega y amigo Grabish, de la República Federal de Alemania, cuando dijo que era necesario establecer una relación directa entre la producción y el comercio. Este es un punto de vista importante que apoyamos plenamente; pero no podemos compartir otro aspecto de esa misma declaración a través de la cual nos pareció entender que los países en desarrollo somos los únicos responsables de la situación que padecemos y que necesitamos poner orden en nuestras casas para lograr la autosuficiencia. Esto es lo que buscamos y esto es lo que perseguimos, y somos conscientes de la alta prioridad de la agricultura en nuestros planes nacionales de desarrollo y les dedicamos el máximo esfuerzo, pero necesitamos la ayuda externa que se nos niega por parte de algunos países desarrollados y por eso se mantendrá siempre este círculo vicioso.

De todas maneras esperamos que las declaraciones y las cifras que fueron presentadas en sus declaraciones esta mañana, particularmente por la República Federal de Alemania y por Canadá, van a tener una ampliación práctica cuando discutamos el tema 14, el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, punto en el cual será necesario que esos países y todos los demás países industrializados confirmen en realidad su empeño positivo por fortalecer su acción en favor del mejoramiento de la agricultura.

Volviendo al proteccionismo, el párrafo 7 dice que se ha comenzado ahora a hacer un examen más a fondo del proteccionismo. Confiamos en que ese examen conducirá a cambiar el resultado del proteccionismo sobre el cual se habla aún brevemente en el documento suscrito por los siete Jefes de Estado y Gobierno que se reunieron recientemente en Bonn representación de los países más industrializados del mundo. A esa reunión once Jefes de Estado de América Latina y el Caribe dirigieron un mensaje, y la delegación de Colombia desea destacar el interés y la preocupación que particularmente el Sr. François Mitterrand, Presidente de Francia y el Honorable Bettino Craxi, Primer Ministro de Italia han venido expresando en favor de la solución de los problemas del Tercer Mundo.

¿Qué quiere decir la primera fase del párrafo 8 del documento CL 87/2 sobre la introducción de medidas de control de los suministros que atañen a los cereales y a los productos lácteos? Esperamos que ese control se ejercerá en sentido positivo y, ojalá, se nos explicará en qué consiste. La última frase del párrafo 8 se refiere a las propuestas para 1985/86 en el marco de la Política Agrícola de la Comunidad Económica Europea, y a la Ley Agrícola de 1985 de los Estados Unidos, que se elaborará dentro de este año. A este respecto habríamos deseado obtener información más actualizada; pero queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento al distinguido representante de los Estados Unidos quien esta mañana dijo que se están proyectando modificaciones a ese programa. Deseamos que esas modificaciones sean favorables para los países en desarrollo. Hemos recibido con beneplácito el anuncio de que en todo ese proceso en los Estados Unidos se está teniendo en cuenta que esas exportaciones no van a competir en los mercados internacionales con las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo. ¿Acaso los distinguidos amigos de Italia antes de que a fines de este mes concluyan su turno como Presidente de la Comisión de la CEE podrán informarnos de en qué estado se encuentran esas propuestas?

Los párrafos 13 y 15 demuestran que una vez más la noble región de África sigue siendo víctima de la situación alimentaria crítica que padece, pero sobre el documento CL 87/13 nos referimos más adelante, cuando consideramos el tema 5. Desde ahora será necesario destacar el empeño permanente, constante y positivo del Director General de la FAO en favor de las soluciones de la crisis africana.

Asimismo nos preocupa que, como dice el párrafo 14, en América Latina y el Caribe la producción de alimentos por persona fue inferior a los niveles máximos del comienzo del decenio de 1980. No obstante el grande potencial de que dispone la región de América Latina y el Caribe, vamos hacia atrás lamentablemente. Este documento que tiene fecha de mayo de 1985, sin duda fue publicado antes de los días 16 y 17 del pasado mes de mayo, cuando se llevo a cabo la Octava Reunion del Grupo de Consultas sobre la Segunda Reposición del Fondo Internacional del Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA). Esa circunstancia explica la buena voluntad y el optimismo con que se refiere al FIDA el párrafo 87 de este documento CL 87/2 que dice que confía en que aun a nivel inferior, los recursos del FIDA deberán por lo menos garantizar la continuación del funcionamiento del Fondo.

El suplemento 1, publicado ya en este mes de junio de 1985, en los párrafos 7 y 43 se ocupa del FIDA con menos optimismo y mayor preocupación. Esto es también porque la situación de los alimentos en el mundo de que nos ocupamos ha recibido un duro golpe con el caso preocupante del FIDA, ya que después de año y medio durante el cual se han celebrado ocho reuniones, esta última fue la peor de todas, ya que se concluyó sin sesión de clausura debido a las diferencias existentes, y sin ninguna base de posible acuerdo y sin ninguna fecha para la próxima reunión.

El FIDA va para el segundo año en blanco, sin recursos, sólo las generosas contribuciones anticipadas de algunos contribuyentes, entre éstos muchos países en desarrollo, han hecho posible que el FIDA no haya cerrado sus puertas como es el triste e inexorable designio a que está condenado según parece.

Estamos reconocidos a los 19 países de la OCDE, o sea todos los de ese grupo menos uno, por la forma concreta como se dispusieron a anunciar sus contribuciones, al igual que a los países de la OPEP por el esfuerzo que están haciendo no obstante el cambio desfavorable que se ha operado en las economías de esos países en los últimos años. Es increíble que esto suceda en el FIDA, organismo ejemplar que trabaja muy bien, de manera eficiente y con poco personal, y aprecio positivo general ampliamente reconocido.

Seguramente esa paradójica situación inspiró la frase del delegado que en otra reunión manifestó: " El FIDA muere lentamente, vestido de gala, cubierto de gloria desciende majestuoso hacia su tumba al son de elocuentes elogios ".

En fin, Sr. Presidente actualizaremos nuestra posición sobre el FIDA la próxima semana cuando tratemos el tema 12.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Quiero saludar a usted, Sr. Presidente, y decirle que no he tenido realmente el tiempo útil para darle la bienvenida aquí entre nosotros, pero usted sabe que le agradecemos el que presida nuestras sesiones. Queremos felicitar al Director General por la intervención inicial que con su clara visión de la realidad agrícola y alimentaria mundiales nos da la posibilidad de interpretar la documentación que tenemos para la discusión en este Consejo.

Nosotros no tenemos la tenacidad, la sagacidad, la inteligencia, ni la experiencia de nuestro amigo Gonzalo Bula Hoyos para mantener una discusión sobre temas que durante todo el año se han discutido en la FAO. Lo felicitamos a él por su tenacidad. El Consejo de la FAO es un órgano para discutir la política general de la organización, por eso quisiéramos referirnos en función de esta política de la Organización y no repetir las discusiones celebradas en el Comité de Agricultura, en el Comité de Pesca, en la comisión de Seguridad Alimentaria, Comisión de Fertilizantes, y demás Organismos, ya que sobre eso creo que hay temas para posteriormente referirnos a ellos.

El tema que nos ha presentado brillantemente, como acostumbra el profesor Islam, sobre la situación actual de los alimentos en el mundo, nos parece en una primera observación, que es una síntesis de que se hace un esfuerzo equilibrado y un análisis que nos facilita la base de datos para una reflexión seria del tema.

Los párrafos 1 y 2 de la evaluación general, deben haberles llevado mucho tiempo a los especialistas para tratar de equilibrar acciones que no se pueden equilibrar y que al final del documento revelan totalmente que están desequilibradas.

A nosotros se nos hace muy difícil comprender cómo pretenden utilizar cuando se hable del estancamiento de las importaciones y cuando se señala en forma positiva para que los países en desarrollo reduzcan su balanza comercial. Esto quiere decir, traducido en buen castellano, que nos alegramos de haber dejado de comer para no gastar. Sencillamente no gastamos y no comemos y así nuestra balanza avanza.

En el párrafo 2 se reconoce que el término de producción y comercio son los factores principales.

Los resultados alcanzados en el 1984 fueron los mejores, pero reafirmados especialmente para los países industrializados.

Ingenuamente preguntamos: ¿se esperaba otra cosa?, ¿o es que se ha redescubierto que el agua no se puede masticar? Entendemos ¿qué se quiere decir con eso?

En la línea final de ese párrafo ingenuamente también se expresa que los precios al consumidor permanecieron relativamente estables; es decir, se considera positivo que los precios inflacionarios de 1983 son estables; perfecto. Estamos balanceando bien la situación.

Cuando llegamos al párrafo 32 donde se manejan los tantos por ciento de los países que produjeron menos alimentos per cápita, el 52 por ciento de los 144 países para los que se disponen de datos produjeron menos alimentos per cápita en este año durante 1974-76. De este porcentaje incluye 63 países en desarrollo y 18 por ciento de los desarrollados. Entre los países en desarrollo el 86 por ciento de los países africanos, el 61 por ciento de los latinoamericanos, el 43 por ciento de los del Cercano Oriente, el 40 por ciento de los de Economía Planificada de Asia y el 27 por ciento de los países del Lejano Oriente.

Aquí llegamos a la conclusion, debido a la realidad de las cifras que nos facilita este análisis, que en la estructura llamada crisis alimenticia el problema del hambre en el mundo responde a una abundancia mal administrada y no a una insuficiencia real o potencial de recursos productivos, por lo que sería apropiado hablar de penurias sociales y no de penurias naturales.

Lo mismo acontece con la crisis de las materias primas, cuya esencia no radica en la escasez o ausencia de los recursos naturales, sino en la estructura de concentración asentada en el control tecnológico para la explotación de sus recursos y las características y condiciones en que se encuentran distribuidos dichos recursos.

A partir de este análisis de este documento y de la valoración que se hace de los cuatro factores o razones que impiden la expansión más rápida del comercio en 1984, párrafos 49, 50, 51 y 52 y el párrafo 64 que expone que los problemas de la balanza de pagos limitarán probablemente -aquí hay una palabra para hacer menos doloroso el golpe- "probablemente" las importaciones de los varios países africanos y latinoamericanos. Yo creo que la palabra "probablemente" sobra, no se porque se incluye, la falta de precisión y de seguridad en la perspectiva de los precios que no aparece hace muy complejo comprender un cambio optimista en esta materia.

Este documento nos sugiere a nosotros que debemos plantearnos con fuerza la necesidad de revalorizar el establecimiento de un nuevo Orden Económico Internacional Este es un gran documento para exponer la necesidad del nuevo Orden Económico Internacional,

De un análisis rápido podíamos decir que desde la posguerra, años 1934-36 cuando la tendencia de las transformaciones económicas o reformistas a partir de los años treinta se van plasmando con nitidez en algunos países, los problemas de la agricultura, de la nueva agricultura, pese a diferentes conceptualizaciones, la mayor parte de estos intentos han atribuido al insuficiente desarrollo de la agricultura el papel decisivo en la configuración de los problemas socio-económicos de la zona rural, y en la incapacidad de este sector para cumplir las funciones que supuestamente le corresponderían dentro del proceso de desarrollo

La validez de este Orden Económico Internacional aparece realmente claramente cuestionada con la realidad que demuestran las cifras de los informes de las Naciones Unidas incluidas las del Banco Mundial, porque es indudable que durante las ultimas décadas se han producido transformaciones importantes en el agro. Por ejemplo, la creciente utilización de insumos tecnológicos y equipos modernos en la difusión de nuevas formas empresariales de carácter netamente mercantil; la monetarización generalizada de las relaciones económicas; el aumento y la diversificación de la producción comercializada. Todo ello evidencia la presencia de un proceso de expansión del orden económico, de un orden económico. ¿Cuál? El impuesto en los momentos donde los países colonizados accedían a la independencia política y realmente hubo que darles credibilidad a ese orden como una vía alternativa; obviamente era una vía alternativa de desarrollo que con intensidades variables dependiendo de características regionales se ha planteado. Sin embargo, han persistido o se han agudizado los problemas socioeconómicos que históricamente han dominado la escena rural y que han motivado diagnósticos ampliamente aceptados por todos: subocupación o desempleo pleno del trabajo agrícola a pesar de las migraciones hacia las zonas urbanas; las patrones dominantes de utilización de la tierra y el agua siguen siendo inadecuados, tanto desde el punto de vista de su aprovechamiento como de la preservación de su potencial productivo que en muchos se han agotado.

El nivel de ingresos y las condiciones de vida de la población rural continúan en los países sub-desarrollados a nivel de subsistencia como consecuencia directa de la extrema concentración y apropiación de los ingresos.

La magnitud de las personas afectadas por la pobreza rural, que cada decenio es redescubierta por las mismas corrientes de pensamiento que se aferran a un orden económico injusto donde el hambre y la malnutrición tienen un sostenido crecimiento a pesar de los relativamente satisfactorios niveles de producción, es la palabra que siempre aparece en términos económicos de los informes;



por lo general este grupo de problemas se interpreta a través de expresiones como inflexibilidad de la oferta agrícola, distorsiones en el sistema de estímulos económicos, insuficiencia de la demanda agrícola, deformaciones estructurales del sector agrícola, todo insuficiente como explicación comprensiva de un patrón de crecimiento, sin que desconozcamos que existe esta situación.

Esto es ininteligible para las grandes mayorías; no se puede entender la insuficiencia de producción agrícola para mitigar el hambre si lo confrontamos con la potencialidad de los recursos disponibles y con las necesidades de millones de mujeres, niños, hombres y ancianos en África y América Latina que pasan hambre crítica, no desnutrición, hambre crítica, que son distintos factores.

Pero preguntaríamos nosotros ¿son realmente estos problemas consecuencia de deficiente desarrollo de la agricultura, o por el contrario tendríamos que empezar a decir que es precisamente dicho desarrollo, con sus modalidades específicas del orden económico actual, lo que ha contribuido a su persistencia?

Por otra parte, ¿la insuficiencia de la producción y de la demanda de alimentos y las consecuencias sociales asociadas a los patrones de utilización y control de los recursos básicos han constituido efectivamente problemas, obstáculos o distorsiones dentro de la lógica del funcionamiento de la agricultura y del sistema económico en su conjunto?

O, más importante aún, ¿hasta qué punto las estructuras actuales económicas y sociopolíticas son compatibles con la superación de dichos problemas e insuficiencias? ¿Hasta cuándo vamos a estar esperando y narrando insuficiencias?

Es evidente que estas preguntas no son pertinentes entre los esquemas del orden económico actual. Pero ¿cómo explicamos a las masas de obreros, campesinos, mujeres, jóvenes, la contradicción que la penetración del progreso técnico provoca en el empeoramiento de las condiciones de vida? ¿Cómo explico a una zona rural que un tractor los hace pasar hambre? ¿Y cómo explicamos que la expansión de la producción se hace a costa de la permanencia de las deficiencias nutricionales? ¿Cómo explicamos que la disponibilidad de nuevos recursos productivos se hace en tanto disminuye relativamente la capacidad ocupacional agrícola, etc.?

No sería, como se ha afirmado repetidamente, resultado de la permanencia de formas tradicionales, sino consecuencia y manifestación de su transformación, y esto está ocurriendo en el contexto de un mismo y específico proceso de modernización de la agricultura. Aquí podíamos decir que modernización, utilizada en sentido amplio, comprende en conjunto la transformación en las estructuras y relaciones socioeconómicas de la agricultura. Sin embargo, no es así y aquí tienden a profundizar el carácter de concentración de los recursos, así visto como parte de un orden económico, para nosotros injusto. La modernización no significa otra cosa que la adecuación de un proceso polarizado, de un norte abundante y de un sur hambriento.

Junto a toda esta situación los países atraviesan un proceso de endeudamiento, que también es interesante analizar cómo ha ido surgiendo este endeudamiento, como alternativa de desarrollo presentada dentro del orden económico internacional; muchos de estos países que accedían a la independencia política, repito, tuvieron que acogerse a esta alternativa de desarrollo y fue necesario darles credibilidad a esta alternativa. Sin embargo, ciertamente se produce un crecimiento del aparato productivo, si hay crecimiento del aparato productivo en base a una masiva transferencia de capitales, de créditos y proyectos; créditos y proyectos identificados. La factibilidad de esos créditos fueron identificados por los mismos grandes centros financieros que hoy son acreedores; los mismos centros financieros identificaron la factibilidad de todo este modelo.

Tenemos que decir que sin duda de ningún tipo el nivel de endeudamiento es consecuencia del intenso flujo de crédito y capitales externos irracionalmente ingresados sin análisis reales de posibilidades, sino de ocasión de oportunismo de utilizar un mercado fácil.

Además la elevada dependencia de una tecnología para la cual no sabíamos funcionar con ella pero que venía impuesta por los que organizaron de acuerdo con sus estrategias trasladar estas tecnologías en forma directa sin atenuación ninguna, y luego veníamos a la FAO a pedir capacitación en carretillas, en carretones porque no sabíamos cómo íbamos a manejar la tecnología. Esto ha creado la dependencia, además de todos los insumos importados.

Por lo general el modelo éste está basado en la no transformación de la deformada estructura económica heredada de las colonias. Eso fue lo que hicieron con la transformación de la deformada economía estructural heredada.

La deuda externa impagable para la mayoría de los países viene a ser la confirmación de estas contradicciones e irrationalidades de un modelo.

Señor Presidente, repetimos: este año la FAO ha tenido un intenso trabajo; todos los trabajos de la especialidad han sido atendidos y discutidos, agropecuarios, tecnológicos, técnicos, investigación, los criterios sobre estos documentos ya vienen en los documentos sobre precios, mercados, proteccionismo, no vamos a hablar de eso, creemos que no vale la pena hablar en este punto de eso; pensamos seriamente que después de los análisis y discusiones tenemos que revalorizar el trabajo sobre un nuevo Orden Económico Internacional más justo que permita un crecimiento sostenido, sano, equilibrado, tecnológico, no dependiente, que garantice a su vez el desarrollo de la sociedad en todo su impulso: cultural y educativo, no especializado especialmente para producir, sino para saber vivir después. Es necesario que volvamos a oír hablar de las negociaciones globales y el diálogo norte/sur, al mismo tiempo que intensifiquemos complementariamente entre nosotros la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I would like to say that it is a great pleasure, Mr. Chairman, once again to see you chairing this important session of Council. We have every confidence that you will conduct our deliberations in the traditionally constructive and fair manner. My delegation would also like to congratulate the three vice-chairmen elected this morning. In accordance with your instructions, I promise to be brief.

In his statement this morning, the Director-General elaborately and clearly outlined the priorities and concerns central to this Organization. We fully share his concern for the hungry in Africa, the poor and the malnourished in all parts of the world, and the victims of national calamities in Bangladesh and the Western Hemisphere.

We would also like to thank Professor Islam for his comprehensive appraisal of the current world food situation. In recent years, the world has witnessed the worst recession in 50 years. Although the worst is perhaps over, the fruits of recovery have hardly - or perhaps only marginally - improved the economic situation in the developing countries. Increasing protectionism, intractable debt burdens, high interest rates, and the surge in dollar value in the international monetary market have only aggravated the deteriorating economic conditions of several developing countries. Depressed commodity markets, resulting in reduced foreign exchange earnings by developing countries, have adversely affected their ability to buy the requisite quantity of food they need, thereby resulting in less per capita food availability, giving an unfortunate impetus to increasing malnutrition.

It is disconcerting to note that at current prices, concessional multilateral and bilateral commitments in 1983 declined by 16 percent and 9 percent respectively. Although total multilateral commitments increased by a paltry 1 percent, bilateral commitments declined by 8 percent. At constant prices of 1980, concessional commitments from all sources declined by 8 percent. On top of this, hardening terms of trade and external assistance affect the ability of developing countries to undertake programmes and projects for food and agricultural development in their individual countries.

I wish to make particular reference to the sad predicament of the uncertain replenishment of IFAD. From the documents presented to us we see that global food production increased at the rate of 4 percent. The developing countries as a whole did slightly better, but unfortunately the distribution of the increase has been uneven, although the outlook for 1985/86 is reassuring, with food stocks available at a global level sufficient for world food security. Yet the situation in Africa continues to be a cause for concern to all of us present here.

With this backdrop to the present rather grim situation, we deeply appreciate the relentless efforts of the Director-General in mounting concrete programmes for emergency assistance and rehabilitation in Africa. I would like to underline the urgent need for increasing external assistance to the agricultural sector. I fervently hope that for the second replenishment of IFAD greater resources will be available to the agricultural sector to support programmes and projects for the development of the agricultural sector and the supply of food in the developing countries.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People'S Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, I would like to join previous speakers in expressing our pleasure in seeing you chair our session. I would also like to extend our congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen, the Ambassadors of Cuba, Saudi Arabia and Italy. They will, of course, support you in your difficult task so as to crown our deliberations with success. I would also like to express our appreciation to Dr Islam for providing the balanced and objective survey of the food situation in the world.

Previous speakers have dealt with the two documents under consideration, and I do not wish to refer to them in depth. However, I would like to support the statement given by my colleague, Mr. Bashir SAID Ambassador of Libya and Chairman of the Group of 77 which truly expresses the viewpoints of the developing countries vis-à-vis all issues under consideration.

I should like to deal with an issue relating to the situation of food in some countries which constitutes a big danger, to both parts of Yemen, especially south Yemen. Despite the recent improvement in weather conditions, Democratic Yemen is not able to produce food at the level of past years due to the colossal destruction caused to our irrigation system by torrential rain and by the deadly drought that lasted nearly two years.

I should like to refer to the food situation towards the year 2000, especially the recently published valuable study entitled Land, Food and Man. This study put Yemen at the end of the list of countries suffering serious food shortages in the near future regardless of the efforts that these countries exert or the production inputs they use. Should this be the factual situation, what would be the case given the economic or financial situation of developing countries, and in particular Democratic Yemen?

In addition to the scarcity of natural and financial resources, global multilateral support is shrinking, as is regrettably noted in the case of FAO, and bilateral financing. All of these circumstances will render it impossible for Democratic Yemen in the foreseeable future to activate agricultural production and, consequently, to meet part of its food requirements.

Allow me to talk about the near future, although both documents under consideration deal with the current situation. I should like to pose a question: can we not while discussing a serious issue such as the food situation transcend the period of two years and think even generally of the repercussions of the current situation? Therefore, I should like to highlight the importance of the food situation as it constitutes a serious danger to some countries in the years to come.

I propose to the Council to include, for instance, a special item on the food situation in an appropriate form in the documentation before the Council, in addition to the current serious situation, pays due attention to forecasts of the deteriorating situation of food during a certain period of time.

This highlights the paramount importance of the FAO activities in supporting these countries technically and morally so as to activate food production and enable them to avoid imminent danger at least partially.

Therefore, the delegation of my country underscores the significance and duty of increasing global support to the Organization, its programmes and activities so as to enable FAO to meet the dangers posed by the deteriorating situation before it is too late.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La Delegation congolaise est heureuse de vous voir à nouveau à la présidence de cette session. Nous nous réjouissons de continuer ainsi à bénéficier de vos précieuses qualités et nous félicitons également les trois Vice-présidents qui ne manqueront pas de vous être utiles dans la conduite des débats au cours de cette session.

Nous avons été encouragés ce matin par la lucide déclaration du Directeur général et ma délégation ne manquera pas de s'y inspirer au cours de cette session.

Nous remercions également le Secrétariat pour les excellents documents soumis à notre examen, et l'introduction concise qui en a été faite par le Prof. Islam. Cela facilitera grandement l'examen de ce point de notre ordre du jour.

Suivant votre conseil, Monsieur le Président, j'ai dû réduire mon intervention pour gagner du temps,

d'autant plus que nombre de délégués ont abordé avec suffisamment d'éloquence - je pense à la Colombie,

à Cuba, au Canada, à la RFA, pour ne citer que ceux-là - les points que je me proposais de soulever sur cette question de notre ordre du jour.

Avant tout je souhaite apporter l'appui de ma délégation à la déclaration faite ce matin par le Président du Groupe des 77. Cependant, vous me permettrez de le dire une nouvelle fois, on est frappé en 1984 par le déséquilibre persistant dans la répartition des stocks alimentaires et de la croissance de la production entre l'agriculture des pays du Nord où la population agricole active de plus en plus réduite produit des surplus modulables à volonté, et celle du Sud où les paysans malgré leur grand nombre ne parviennent pas à nourrir convenablement la population, du fait d'une agriculture extensive et ne mettant pas en oeuvre les techniques les plus modernes. A cet égard il convient de rendre un hommage fort mérité aux paysans de certains pays en développement parmi lesquels on peut citer la Chine et l'Inde qui ont atteint pratiquement leur autosuffisance en céréales et réussi à constituer des stocks de sécurité appréciables.

Cependant, il est triste qu'à côté de ceux-là, existe encore un grand nombre de pays à faible revenu où la production alimentaire par habitant a continué à se dégrader au point de ne plus satisfaire les besoins alimentaires nationaux. Certes, l'abondance de céréales sur le marché mondial a quelque peu baissé les prix internationaux mais la faiblesse des monnaies de ces pays vis-à-vis du dollar a annulé cette baisse et ne leur a pas permis d'importer les quantités de vivres pour maintenir le niveau alimentaire déjà faible des populations concernées. Ce qui, ajouté aux lourds services de la dette que connaissent ces pays, constitue un handicap quasi-insurmontable auquel ils ne pourront faire face sans initiative hardie de la communauté internationale.

Le déséquilibre de production et de stock entre le Nord et le Sud est encore plus criard pour ce qui concerne l'Afrique dont la situation est connue de tous et a été dépeinte de manière souvent poignante dans toutes les enceintes internationales aussi bien à Rome, qu'à New York, Genève, et même tout récemment à Paris pendant la session ministérielle du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation. Mais on sait que cela ne sera possible que dans un contexte international assaini et rendu plus juste qui allégerait le fardeau que constitue l'écrasant service de la dette qui leur épargnerait la dégradation inexorable des termes de l'échange qui spolie les ressources nationales et fragilise davantage les faibles économies de ces pays. Nous savons gré à ce sujet à la Convention de Lomé qui s'emploie grâce au stablex à limiter les dégâts. Le libéralisme sauvage dans le commerce ne peut être équitable entre pays de puissance inégale. Il renforce les plus forts au détriment des plus faibles que sont les pays en développement.

Il s'agit là d'une situation cruciale qui, si elle ne trouve pas de solution satisfaisante, risque de condamner irrémédiablement les économies des pays concernés et les placer dans une situation de dépendance alimentaire permanente.

Cela est d'autant plus vrai que les engagements publics de l'assistance extérieure au secteur alimentaire et agricole ont diminué en 1983. L'on est d'autant plus préoccupé que cette réduction concerne surtout la part des engagements publics fournis à des conditions de faveur. En clair ceci signifie que la réduction frappe plus particulièrement les pays à faible revenu dans lesquels, comme il est dit au paragraphe 83, l'expansion des investissements agricoles dépend pour une large mesure de cette assistance extérieure. Il est certain également que ces engagements ont à nouveau diminué en 1984 si l'on se réfère à la situation du FIDA, du PNUD et de l'AID. Enfin, nous nous inquiétons du durcissement des conditions de prêt officiel à l'agriculture et les difficultés que connaît actuellement le FIDA ne sont pas étrangères à cette situation.

Nous aimerions partager l'optimisme du Secrétariat décrit au paragraphe 87, mais personne n'ignore qu'un pays, en l'occurrence le principal contributeur, n'a pas permis à la consultation de clore cette négociation sur la seconde reconstitution des ressources du FIDA dont sa huitième réunion a été ajournée sine die. Nous profitons également de cette occasion pour rendre hommage aux 19 pays de l'OCDE dont la volonté d'aboutir nous est apparue comme encourageante. Quoi qu'il en soit on sait que cette deuxième reconstitution des ressources du Fonds, si elle se réalise, connaîtra un niveau désespérément bas qui tranche avec la situation que vit nombre de pays en Afrique et ailleurs et qui nécessite un effort accru dans ce secteur clé.

La situation actuelle de l'alimentation dans le monde avec les caractéristiques évoquées ci-dessus devrait orienter nos efforts de façon à inverser la tendance relevée dans 35 pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier dans lesquels la consommation par habitant d'aliments de base a diminué en 1983/84. Il est impératif de remettre ces pays en condition de produire ou d'importer les quantités d'aliments nécessaires pour nourrir convenablement leurs populations, et pour cela de meilleures chances de développement doivent être accordées à tous ces pays dans le cadre d'un nouvel ordre économique international plus juste, plus équitable et plus humain car l'aide alimentaire ne pourra suffire pour enrayer la famine et la malnutrition que connaissent ces populations des pays où sévissent les pénuries alimentaires.

En effet, si nous nous félicitons des 11,8 millions de tonnes de céréales d'aide consenties en 1984 aux pays déficitaires, c'est-à-dire 2 millions de tonnes de plus qu'en 1983, force nous est de constater qu'elles ne suffisent ni en qualité ni même en quantité. Ce qui rend cette solution parfaitement aléatoire et doit inciter la communauté internationale à appuyer sur le bon bouton qui est celui qui imprimerait une forte accélération de l'aide publique au développement seule capable d'aider ces pays à avoir de moins en moins besoin de l'aide alimentaire parfois inadaptée et souvent inadéquate.

A cet égard, la diminution de la consommation mondiale des engrais nous préoccupe et la faible augmentation relevée pour l'Afrique ne doit pas masquer le fait que cette région occupe la dernière place dans l'utilisation d'un intrant aussi fondamental dans l'accroissement de la production agricole.

Nous espérons que la reprise économique, indiquée au paragraphe 20, aidera les pays développés à accroître de manière substantielle leur assistance publique au développement, notamment sous forme multilatérale, sans qu'il soit nécessaire aux pays en développement de consentir des compensations politiques humiliantes et inacceptables.

MAME BALLA SY (Senegal) : Comme tous les autres orateurs qui m'ont précédé, permettez-moi, M. le Président, de vous dire combien je suis heureux de vous retrouver à la présidence du Conseil que vous avez marquée d'une empreinte indélébile par votre patience, vos hautes qualités et votre esprit d'équité et de tolérance.

Prenez ce témoignage comme une expression sincère et objective d'une profonde reconnaissance que tous les membres et observateurs de ce Conseil vous doivent.

Aux Ambassadeurs d'Italie, d'Arabie Saoudite et de Cuba, choisis compte tenu de leur compétence et de leurs qualités pour vous seconder, j'adresse également mes vives félicitations.

Cela dit, qu'il me soit permis d'aborder le point 4 de notre ordre du jour relatif à la situation alimentaire mondiale, objet du document CL 87/2 et de son complément.

A ce propos, je voudrais adresser mes chaleureuses félicitations au Directeur général pour sa brillante déclaration de ce matin et à ses collaborateurs pour le soin apporté à la préparation des documents précités dont la rigueur dans les analyses rivalise avec la richesse et la pertinence des informations fournies.

L'introduction intelligente et méthodique qui en a été faite par le Prof. Islam est venue jeter plus de lumière dans l'étude du thème en cause.

La situation alimentaire mondiale est pour le moins inquiétante car elle repose sur des paradoxes intolérables dans une communauté humaine. En effet, il n'est que trop regrettable de constater que dans un petit nombre de pays prospères et nantis les excédents alimentaires sont particulièrement importants, tandis que dans bien d'autres, déjà pauvres et économiquement faibles, des milliers et des milliers de personnes meurent de faim et de soif sans compter celles menacées par les mêmes fléaux à plus ou moins longue échéance.

Par ailleurs, l'aide alimentaire n'a jamais été aussi abondante qu'elle l'a été en 1984/85 et pourtant les besoins d'alimentation sont de plus en plus importants.

D'aucuns expliquent cette situation par des raisons de caractère démographique. La croissance démographique dans les pays à déficit alimentaire est certes un facteur important mais il n'explique pas tout. S'il en était d'ailleurs ainsi la solution serait très simple parce qu'il suffirait sinon de freiner, du moins de réduire les taux de natalité. Le problème est beaucoup plus complexe car il tient davantage aux structures et aux facteurs de production qu'à des considérations sociologiques ou démographiques.

La conservation et la fertilisation des sols, l'accroissement de l'utilisation des intrants et la mise en application des techniques agricoles appropriées, la formation de cadres compétents en nombre suffisant, la maîtrise de l'eau et la mobilisation de ressources financières à des conditions de faveur devraient constituer les principales préoccupations de la communauté internationale. Hélas, force est de constater que nous ne sommes pas très près de ces objectifs. Les paragraphes 83, 84 et 85 nous montrent, chiffres à l'appui, que les aides des secteurs alimentaires et agricoles ont considérablement diminué, surtout celles à des conditions de faveur. Aussi ne puis-je partager le même optimisme exprimé au paragraphe 87 à moins que, comme je l'espère, un changement des mentalités intervienne.

A cet égard il convient de se rendre compte que l'aide alimentaire bien que nécessaire et utile, devrait être réorientée de manière à ce que ceux qui la dispensent ne l'envisagent plus sous l'aspect d'un seul devoir moral et que ceux qui en bénéficient cessent de se considérer comme d'éternels assistés.

Pour cela cette aide devra être un maillon important dans le processus de développement agricole des pays bénéficiaires. Une telle orientation, à mon humble avis indispensable, passe par une coopération multilatérale, dynamique et appuyée par tous les états. Dans ce sens un plus grand intérêt devrait être accordé à l'IDA, au FIDA, au PAM et à la FAO par un renforcement de leurs moyens. La tendance actuelle de vouloir privilégier la coopération bilatérale sur la multilatéralisation est une démarche qui ne fera que perpétuer la dépendance des plus faibles vis-à-vis des plus forts.

Les pays en développement, notamment ceux à déficit alimentaire, doivent également envisager d'importants changements. Le développement agricole devrait constituer une des principales priorités. La consommation de produits vivriers locaux gagnerait à être encouragée. La coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement devrait être accentuée dans le sens d'une amélioration de conditions d'existence des masses rurales concernées.

En ce qui concerne mon pays, il a tiré les leçons des erreurs commises 20 années durant pour élaborer une nouvelle politique agricole qui vise à responsabiliser davantage les producteurs, à mettre à la disposition de ces derniers les structures de financement (Crédit agricole) leur permettant de s'approvisionner en intrants et à instituer un système de commercialisation garant

des intérêts des producteurs et des consommateurs, tout cela pour améliorer les conditions d'alimentation et de vie des populations sénégalaises dans le but d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire et un développement économique plus viable.

De telles ambitions, qui sont celles de la plupart des pays en développement, expliquent tout l'appui que nous devons apporter aux institutions spécialisées des Nations Unies concernées, plus particulièrement la FAO qui devra davantage se consacrer à la formation, à la recherche et l'assistance-technique.

J.M. WATSON (Panama): Regularmente este Consejo de la FAO, en sus distintos períodos de sesiones trata este tema fundamental que tiene que ver con la situación de los alimentos en el mundo. En esta oportunidad la delegación de Panamá desea puntualizar sobre aspectos que le merecen particular atención por tratarse de situaciones que viven muchos de los países de la región, a la cual pertenecemos, pero que igualmente coinciden con situaciones de otros países en otras regiones del mundo, en desarrollo.

Consideramos que antes de iniciar cualquier análisis de la situación de los alimentos en el mundo, es de vital importancia entrar a considerar algunos aspectos sobre la grave situación económica y financiera por la cual atraviesan países de la región de América Latina y el Caribe en general, con particular alusión a la situación de nuestro país.

Esta situación se viene a caracterizar por el ya conocido endeudamiento de nuestros países, que trae consigo que un alto porcentaje de sus exportaciones, bienes y servicios, estén dedicados al servicio de la deuda externa, debido en parte al aumento de las tasas de intereses reales que efectúa la comunidad financiera internacional para resolver problemas que confrontan economías desarrolladas consistentes en mantener altos déficits públicos dado el incremento en sus gastos militares. Uniéndose a todo esto el proteccionismo creciente y rampante así como las relaciones de intercambios crónicamente desfavorables a la cual se viene a agregar los problemas que plantean los cambios en la estructura de la demanda de productos, que, como el azúcar de caña, son desplazados por productos sucedáneos, tanto de origen natural como sintéticos, que se producen cada vez más en los países desarrollados. Frente a este problema nos encontramos con el incremento de la ya alta tasa de desempleo, tanto rural como urbano que viene a afectar a más de una generación de jóvenes que todavía esperan poder tener su primera experiencia de trabajo.

Panamá por estas causas ha visto incrementar su servicio de la deuda externa en un 67 por ciento entre 1980 y 1984. Destacamos a este respecto los esfuerzos notables de ajuste que países como el nuestro han venido realizando de cara a resolver sus problemas internos. Reajustes estos que en la práctica exacerban aún más los procesos recesivos al tener que ajustarse a las teorías de que son los pueblos los que deben pagar el precio del desequilibrio económico mundial a través de pérdidas sustanciales en sus ingresos reales, que como consecuencia agravan los problemas sociales y se convierten en la antesala y el caldo de cultivo de la violencia generalizada. Los dolorosos sucesos que con frecuencia se repiten en nuestros países son el aldabonazo contra estas políticas. Tomando en cuenta estas situaciones fue que al pronunciarse ante el Consejo de Administración del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, el Presidente de la República de Panamá, Doctor Nicolás Ardito Barletta, insistió sobre estos esfuerzos que llevan a cabo nuestros países, agregando además, que los mismos deben ir acompañados en la forma más eficaz posible, por una cooperación internacional más amplia que promueva la transición entre este ajuste y la reactivación del crecimiento y del desarrollo integral de nuestros países. Esto para estar en condición de enfrentarnos con mejores posibilidades a los problemas que como el de la hiperinflación, del cual nos habla el párrafo 97 del documento que sustenta el tema en discusión, señala, al referirse a la situación de América Latina y el Caribe, que la tasa media de crecimiento de todos los precios en esta Región, ponderados según la población, fue del 165 por ciento aproximadamente en 1984, cifra esta nunca antes registrada en la historia de los países latinoamericanos.

Es por todo esto que sobre el contenido del documento que se nos presenta sobre la situación actual de los alimentos en el mundo, la delegación de Panamá señala, en primer lugar, lo relativo a la asistencia exterior a la alimentación y a la agricultura, que conforme se deduce del cuadro 8 del documento, así como de los párrafos 83 al 87, nos deja una serie de preocupaciones. Así, el párrafo 85 señala que mientras que el crédito multilateral en condiciones de favor otorgado a la agricultura ha disminuido, las asignaciones multilaterales sin condiciones de favor aumentaron de 2 351 millones de dólares en 1982 a 2 836 millones de dólares en 1983, un aumento del 21 por ciento, con lo cual se viene a demostrar que las condiciones de préstamos oficiales a la agricultura se volvieron más gravosas en todo el mundo.

Sin embargo, a este respecto nos complace lo expuesto por el distinguido representante de la República Federal de Alemania, Sr. Grabisch al informarnos de que la ayuda a la agricultura y a la alimentación prestada por su país no ha disminuido.

Igualmente se constata por otra parte, de la información que nos suministra el cuadro 8, que tanto las asignaciones totales como en condiciones de favor prestadas por el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) han disminuido entre 1980 a 1984, en un 35 por ciento. De aquí que no compartimos, en esta oportunidad, el optimismo expresado en el párrafo 87 sobre el particular, cuando manifiesta que las negociaciones sobre la segunda reposición de recursos para 1985-87 logre un nivel que si bien sea inferior al de la primera reposición correspondiente a 1981-83, daba por lo menos garantizar la continuidad del funcionamiento del Fondo. Y no compartimos este optimismo porque somos de la opinión que el FIDA se debate entre la vida y la muerte y por ello pensamos, y así lo proponemos, que este Consejo recomiende medidas extraordinarias para realmente salvar al FIDA tal y como fue concebido y dentro de estas medidas se pueda considerar la de efectuar urgentemente y en forma efectiva consultas con representantes al mas alto nivel de nuestros países. Estas

consultas así planteadas deberán más que garantizar la continuidad del funcionamiento de este Fondo, que con tanta esperanza fue creado conforme a su Carta Constitutiva y que bien se refleja en el documento oficial que delinea las políticas y criterios en materia de préstamo. Instrumentos estos fundamentales que no deben ser modificados, entre otras cosas por la corta vida que tiene el Fondo.

Por las circunstancias actuales en que se hace necesarias medidas verdaderamente innovadoras e imaginativas que den soluciones a problemas concretos como el que atraviesa la Region de America Latina y el Caribe y que consiste en la reiterada disminución en el consumo de fertilizantes, con la secuela de consecuencias que esto entraña para el logro de mas producción alimentaria. Este hecho bien puede hacernos promover efectivamente la ayuda en fertilizantes a través de diversos mecanismos y modalidades totalmente nuevas, en donde bien cabría la utilización de estructuras de cooperación regional, como MULTIFERT: Empresa Latinoamericana de Comercialización de Fertilizantes, S.A., del cual se ha venido ocupando tanto la Comisión de Fertilizantes de la FAO como la recién pasada Consulta Técnica sobre Cooperación Económica entre Países en Desarrollo para el Suministro y la Utilización de Insumos Agrícolas.

Atención especial le merece a esta delegación la situación por la cual atraviesan los hermanos pueblos de Africa, en especial aquellos 21 países (Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, El Chad, Etiopía, Kenya, Lesotho, Malí, Mauritania, Marruecos, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudán, Tanzania, Zambia y Zimbabwe) que actualmente confrontan problemas excepcionalmente graves en el suministro de alimentos. A este respecto el gobierno de la República de Panamá apoya la oportuna gestión de que frente a la solución de los problemas africanos realizó y realiza en forma denodada el Director General de la FAO. En base a esta situación que se viene dando no sólo en Africa sino también en otras regiones del mundo, la delegación de Panamá reitera su llamado a los países donantes en el sentido de aumentar la meta actual mínima de la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia (RAIE), de tal manera que pase de medio millón de toneladas a un millón como mínimo.

CHAIRMAN: This morning I announced that normally we would meet from 9.30 to 12.30 in the forenoon, and 2.30 to 5 in the afternoon, but if you agree we will continue today until about 6 p.m. We have 14 more speakers and I have given their names, although there may be a couple more who have joined, and if you look at the timetable which we adopted this morning we should have substantially done both items 4 and 5 today and we are still mid-way through item 4. I expect maybe almost the whole of tomorrow might go on item 5, in which case we will be one day behind time. So please be prepared this week to have a couple of evening sessions, because I do not want to end the discussions on these important items. But at the same time it is important that we get through the whole agenda.

O.R. DA SILVA NEVES (Brazil): Mr Chairman, it is my pleasure to address you for the first time and I will be brief. I would like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen just elected. I would like as well to thank the Director-General for his frank and timely introductory remarks. I can assure him that FAO has the full support of my Government. In this respect the Ambassador of Libya, as Chairman of the Group of 77, expressed the views of the developing member countries of this Organization.

I would like as well to thank Dr Islam for his concise and clear comments on item 4 of the agenda -Current World Food Situation. Documents CL 87/2-Sup.1 indicate positive developments in 1984 as far as food and agriculture, broadly speaking, are concerned, but when we take into consideration developing countries as such we will note wide regional and country differences. The situation in Africa continues to be extremely serious and a cause of concern, and the situation in some Asian countries. In Latin America food production is falling behind the needs of its rising population. In this region, as it notes in the report, the annual rate of change from 1980 to 1984 in food, agriculture, crops and livestock production has consistently been below the average rate for developing market economies in the same periods. Per capita production of food in 1984 remained only 4 percent above the 1974-1976 average and was lower than the levels achieved in 1981 and 1982. As has

been pointed out by a previous speaker this data is fortunately not enough to indicate a definite trend, but it is a cause for concern. With that service burden coupled with a deterioration of the composition in the levels of the flows of external assistance to agriculture and new constraints on the developing countries' efforts to produce food for their population, under the circumstances we have to strive at the backward land managements. The delegate of India touched upon this point, quite rightly so. My Government is definitely committed to this task.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Hemos escuchado con mucha atención la exposición sintetizada del señor Islam y habíamos leído cuidadosamente el documento que ahora consideramos. Quisiéramos referirnos concretamente al segundo punto del Programa: situación y perspectivas de los productos básicos. En una anterior oportunidad, en la reunión de los cereales nos referimos al hecho de que los documentos de la FAO establecen una clasificación de cereales secundarios que nos parece incongruente si necesitamos estimular la producción alimentaria.

Observamos que en esta oportunidad se ha elevado de categoría el arroz dando un tratamiento separado, pero continúa, el tratamiento peyorativo del maíz como cereal secundario, sin tomar en consideración la importancia de este producto básico en la alimentación humana en muchas regiones del mundo. Olvidamos tal vez que fue este producto una contribución del Nuevo Continente no sólo a la alimentación humana en general, sino a la producción agrícola industrial de los países hoy llamados países desarrollados.

Cuando los europeos, concretamente los ingleses sirven en su desayuno el característico corn flakes de los estadounidenses están comiendo el humilde maíz que los indígenas del Nuevo Mundo aportaron a la cultura alimentaria, si bien aún los europeos lo cultivan para convertirlo en carne o leche a través de la alimentación del ganado, también como insumo de la industria de los aceites comestibles. Por ello no podemos entender que en este documento se ignore todavía, sin mencionarlo, sino como cereal secundario y se ignora acaso que muchos países de los que hoy nos preocupan por su déficit alimentario consumen como alimento básico el maíz y el mijo y muchos países en vías de desarrollo, en especial en América Latina, consumen básicamente maíz.

Este tema fue tratado en el Comité de Agricultura y se estuvo de acuerdo en que había que prestar mayor atención al problema por lo que se refiere a América Latina y a la región del Caribe. Por esa razón hacemos la observación para cuando vayamos a la Comisión de Redacción en que habría que poner por lo menos una observación al respecto.

Asimismo deseamos referirnos a los tubérculos. Esta situación de la aguda crisis de África ha puesto al descubierto cómo muchos de esos pueblos tienen como alimento básico otros productos agrícolas diferentes del trigo, que es el que constituye el mayor porcentaje y volumen de la ayuda alimentaria que ellos reciben.

Si me refiero a esto es para anotar como positivo el hecho de que se haya individualizado en el documento que estudiamos la yuca; observamos, sin embargo, que al hablar de la yuca se hace referencia a la competencia ejercida por otros piensos; me refiero al párrafo 72, en la página 18. Esto significa, acaso, que para los especialistas que trabajan en esta materia la yuca es sólo un producto forrajero, ignoran que es un alimento básico para muchos pueblos, que es un insumo industrial muy usado en la industria farmacéutica y en el cultivo de los climas tropicales húmedos.

Deberíamos recordar que uno de los tubérculos hoy universalmente consumidos oriundos de la región de la América Latina fue traído y establecido como base de la alimentación de muchos países europeos

para las nuevas generaciones de Francia, Holanda, Dinamarca, Inglaterra y otros países europeos, que no saben quizá que la patata, o potato como dicen los ingleses, que consumen a diario, la recibieron importada por los descubridores del Nuevo Mundo. Tal vez podríamos considerarlo como un primer ejemplo de ayuda alimentaria.

La FAO debería orientar su ayuda a los países del Tercer Mundo, a nuestro juicio, y a los de en vías de desarrollo hacia el aprovechamiento y estímulo de los cultivos autóctonos, y este es el énfasis que quiero poner.

Determinadas áreas geográficas, las regiones intertropicales, la faja ecuatorial poseen condiciones adecuadas excelentes para la producción de tubérculos y raíces de gran poder alimenticio que eventualmente podrían constituir la base de industrias alimentarias; pensamos que así como la yuca ha merecido la atención del Comité de Agricultura y de este documento, que aparece en el párrafo 71, tal vez porque: ha alcanzado una cifra de producción de 127 millones de toneladas, suerte que no han tenido tal vez otros de los tubérculos.

Una investigación más amplia para otros tubérculos descubriría que existen muchos similares que pueden ser dignos de estudio para estimular su cultivo en los países que hoy enfrentan situaciones de hambre y de déficit alimentario, países en los cuales estos cultivos constituyen la base de su alimentación, si bien los países industrializados no los han descubierto aún porque no tienen un nivel de exportación o de relación comercial. Por ello no han tenido la suerte que tuvieron en el pasado la papa y el maíz.



Respaldamos la idea expresada por el delegado de Japón de establecer un sistema de desarrollo rural integrado que pueda servir, en pequeña escala, a los países menos desarrollados que aún estén a niveles de la agricultura de subsistencia. Ello podría superar la situación a que se refiere el párrafo 51 en cuanto a la disminución de la producción per capita de los países en desarrollo, especialmente en agricultura y la aplicación de técnicas simples a nivel de las comunidades rurales. Es otra posibilidad a tomar en cuenta como es la experiencia en China. Ello podría ayudarnos a superar los déficit alimenticios de los países en vías de desarrollo.

Son simplemente esas observaciones las que quería dejar anotadas por si en el Comité de Redacción se dignan tomar en cuenta estas ideas y tal vez recomendarlas para que la FAO en el futuro pueda prestar su atención a los llamados "cereales secundarios" con sus nombres específicos.

CHAIRMAN: May I say that as far as terminology is concerned I am fully at one with you. Professor Islam knows that I have been protesting against the use of the term 'coarse grains'. Sometimes animal food is used as a criterion but wheat is also used very considerably as animal feed. I hope that FAO will take note of the very important suggestion made by the delegate of Venezuela.

J. POSIER (France): Monsieur le President, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous exprimer toute la satisfaction qu'éprouve la delegation française d'avoir á travailler a nouveau pendant cette 87eme session du Conseil sous votre présidence.

Ainsi qu'il a été suggéré á ma délégation, cette première intervention présentera de façon groupée le point de vue de la France sur les documents relatifs aux points 4 et 5 de l'ordre du jour.

Je voudrais d'abord adresser de vifs remerciements á l'OAA pour la qualité et la precision des sujets présentés. Ceux-ci nécessiteraient de notre part d'amples développements mais les points suivants de l'ordre du jour permettront á ma delegation d'entrer ultérieurement plus dans le détail sur les nombreux sujets qui nous préoccupent. S'agissant tout d'abord du document relatif á la situation actuelle de l'alimentation dans le monde, l'analyse présentée permet de prendre toute la mesure des problèmes poses.

L'amélioration relative de la situation alimentaire mondiale en 1985, si elle constitue un encouragement, laisse néanmoins subsister d'importantes disparités. Il apparaît que l'écart existant entre certains pays d'Afrique et le reste du monde, loin de se combler, a tendance a. s'accroître. A cet égard, le document CL 87/13 relatif á la situation alimentaire en Afrique met bien en evidence - je cite: "L'Afrique perd du terrain dans son combat pour la sécurité alimentaire". Les paragraphes 31 et 37 de ce même document qui procèdent á une analyse fine des causes profondes de cette situation, soulignent le point de la croissance démographique, accentuent l'urbanisation et, d'une manière generale, la croissance rapide des besoins á laquelle l'agriculture locale ne peut faire face.

La Communauté internationale ne reste pas inactive. L'OAA en particulier a pris des initiatives constructives pour favoriser la relance de l'agriculture des pays africains les plus touches.

Cette action porte deja ses fruits puisqu'un certain nombre de projets proposes lors de la réunion des donateurs du 29 mars, ont été pris en charge.

Les mesures présentées dans le document soumis au Conseil aux paragraphes 40, 41 et 42 répondent a de réelles priorités et reçoivent le soutien de ma delegation.

Je suis cependant plus réservé sur les propositions figurant au paragraphe 43 recommandant la mise en place anticipée de stocks alimentaires dans les zones exposées á des catastrophes ou dans d'autres endroits stratégiques ou il est facile de desservir ces zones.

Sans remettre en cause les finalités d'une telle action, il m'apparaît toutefois nécessaire de bien prendre en compte tous les problèmes que posent la gestion de stocks alimentaires, tant sur le plan technique que sur le plan économique.

Il m'apparaît préférable d'accorder la priorité á la mise en place de systèmes d'alerte efficace et d'utiliser au maximum les possibilités offertes en matières d'échanges. La délégation française est persuadée que dans ces domaines, en particulier, les rapprochements régionaux peuvent jouer un rôle important.

Permettez-moi a ce sujet de rappeler ici ce qu'a déclaré le Président de la République française, M. François Mitterrand dans l'allocution qu'il a prononcée á l'occasion de l'ouverture de la 11ème session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation: "Laissez-moi vous dire aussi la nécessité des rapprochements régionaux. Notre participation a la communauté européenne nous montre chaque

jour davantage à quel point les politiques strictement nationales sont interdépendantes. Elles se veulent strictement nationales, trop souvent, elles sont toujours interdépendantes au-delà des frontières. Des communautés d'intérêts existent, pourquoi ne pas s'appuyer sur elles au lieu d'affronter seuls et en ordre dispersé les difficultés immenses".

Le document CL 87/13 qui, dans son paragraphe 68, met l'accent sur la volonté de s'attaquer à quelques questions importantes, précise à juste titre que parmi ces questions, figure le développement d'une coopération mutuelle entre pays africains voisins et d'autres pays ayant des intérêts communs. Des domaines de coopération cités sont multiples: le commerce, les finances, le partage des résultats de la recherche et de la formation... La délégation française s'associe pleinement à ces orientations. D'autres domaines de coopération apparaissent tout aussi essentiellement, en particulier l'organisation des marchés et le développement des échanges.

Tels sont les points importants sur lesquels, au début de cette réunion du Conseil, la délégation française souhaitait appeler l'attention.

O. FRIIS (Denmark): Since this is the first time that our delegation has taken the floor, Mr Chairman, may I thank you for your kind words of welcome when we took up our seats this morning. I can assure you that we are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with you and with

all other delegations in the Council in order to arrive at conclusions on the Agenda in front of us. May I also on behalf of the Danish delegation express our appreciation at seeing you again in the Chair, Mr Chairman. I would also like on this occasion to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen who were elected earlier this afternoon.

My delegation has studied with interest the documents on the current world food situation and we find that they give a very comprehensive and important report. We find it fully justified that the opening remark in stating that the year 1984 marked the end, or the beginning of the end, of the deepest economic recession to have occurred in fifty years.

Developments in food and agriculture in 1984 were conditioned in a different degree by the improved general economic environment. We are however moving through a period where the general picture is becoming more and more complicated. When you look at the global food and agriculture picture you will see that a larger and larger number of developing countries are luckily improving the food situation based upon their own production, but others, especially in Africa, are unfortunately lagging seriously behind. At the same time in our part of the world we have too many resources in agriculture. Productivity is increasing rapidly and in most products we are at present far from the end of the road. My Government has in several fora noted the paradox that in one part of the world productive farmers have their production regulated while at the same time a large proportion of the world's population is suffering from under-nutrition and malnutrition.

We have to accept that in the next decade in our part of the world more resources must be moved out of agriculture. This is not an easy task, with all the social and other problems involved. At the same time it gives us new possibilities. For instance, we can think in new ways of surplus stocks of cereals.

As correctly stated in the document, the concessional commitment of resources to the agricultural sector has continued its decline. In this connection in particular my Government is concerned about the current deadlock of the negotiations on the Second Replenishment of IFAD, which we consider to be a very important source of assistance in realizing productive potential of the small farmers. The mobilization of this potential, not least in Africa, is in our view the only long-term solution to the present food crisis. It must however be underlined that the ultimate responsibility in overcoming the present crisis rests with the affected countries themselves. In view of this my Government is concerned about the continuous decline in public investment in agriculture in Africa, although we certainly recognize that this condition is to a large extent caused by a desperate emergency situation in that part of the world.

Progress in the global eradication of hunger and malnutrition does not only depend on the level of resources but also on effective utilization of the available resources as required. In this respect we feel that there is an increased need for coordination of efforts presently displayed both at the bilateral and on the multilateral level. My Government feels that participation in the work of the FAO is aiming towards this goal.

J.B. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Nos complace verle presidiendo de nuevo con gran talento los trabajos de nuestro Consejo. Nuestra felicitación a los Vicepresidentes electos, que sin duda le serán de gran apoyo. Nuestro aprecio al Director General por su orientadora declaración, y al doctor Islam por la ordenada presentación de este tema del programa.

Apoyamos en todo lo que vale la declaración hecha por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 del documento CL 87/2. Destacamos la medida en la que el fenómeno del hambre se ve sistemática y estructuralmente ligado a los graves problemas económicos, y en particular financieros, del mundo. La recuperación económica es un fenómeno exclusivo de los países industrializados como consecuencia de un orden económico-social inequitativo e injusto; las cortas tasas de interés, el fortalecimiento artificial del dólar y la consiguiente inestabilidad de los tipos de cambio evitaron, y evitan, que la reestructuración de deuda sea una solución de mediano o largo plazo y que los países en desarrollo dispongan de divisas y de créditos para importar alimentos o los bienes y servicios esenciales para el desarrollo agrícola. El recrudescimiento de las medidas proteccionistas por la virtual guerra comercial entre países industrializados se ha reducido, por la vía de precios y mercados inestables y han restringido la perspectiva exportadora de los países en desarrollo y, por tanto, el estímulo más importante a su recuperación y a la obtención de divisas para la agricultura y la alimentación.

La región más afectada y sin expectativas de salida, si la situación sigue igual, es el continente africano, que ha visto reducir dramáticamente la producción y las disponibilidades de alimento per cápita. La ayuda internacional en general y la alimentaria en particular no compensan ni con mucho el deterioro económico y la exportación efectiva de capital y de nivel de vida derivados de la mecánica económica de la convivencia internacional, desigual e inequitativa.

El aumento de la producción a nivel mundial no implica disponibilidades para los necesitados, porque éstos no tienen recursos para generar demanda, porque los excedentes de cereales para concentrar excesivamente en los países de América del Norte, fundamentalmente, y porque más de la mitad de los países redujeron su producción per cápita. Las asignaciones oficiales de recursos a la agricultura y la silvicultura disminuyeron en los últimos años, particularmente los créditos internacionales en condiciones de favor y otro tipo de ayuda financiera, con lo que se afecta gravemente a la agricultura de los países de bajos ingresos. El caso del FIDA es el más lamentable. Esto sucede cuando se verifica cierta recuperación económica en los países industrializados y a la vez la crisis alimentaria más aguda y prolongada en África y en otras regiones del mundo.

En suma, es evidente que lo que podamos hacer los países en desarrollo por nosotros mismos es poco. Aun poner la casa en orden depende determinadamente de las condiciones internacionales. No se pueden pedir sacrificios sin límites. La mayoría de los países en desarrollo enfrentan un callejón cuya única salida es la muerte por hambre o violencia. Prácticamente la totalidad del Tercer Mundo está en vías de subdesarrollo. No podemos, por tanto, concluir otra cosa, como lo han hecho muchas delegaciones, sino que la solución a los problemas de la pobreza y, en consecuencia, del hambre, no está tanto en nuestros países, sino fundamental y estructuralmente, fuera, en un nuevo orden económico-social, en el inicio inmediato de las negociaciones globales, en el diálogo Norte-Sur, en la intensificación de la cooperación económica y técnica, en el fortalecimiento del multilateralismo y en una ayuda bilateral sin condicionantes políticas y económicas.

M J.J. BLAMEY (Australia): The Secretariat paper on the world food situation tells us of the paradoxical situation where we have continuing food crises in Africa at a time of mounting surpluses and declining commodity prices. Australia is a food exporting nation and, like many developing countries, we feel directly the effects of a deteriorating world price situation. The Secretariat paper has outlined very well the situation with regard to such things as livestock products, cereals, cassava and sugar. Low prices generated in part by subsidised agricultural production in rich and large countries have a profound effect on agricultural trade and on agricultural production in small countries, both rich and poor, however efficient they are.

The rural sector of our economy is fundamentally no different from that of other countries which must depend on the market to generate returns for producers. Ours is modern, innovative and adaptive to change, but is still vulnerable. The long-term effects of depressed prices on agriculture in developing countries, as well as others, leads to falling production and exhaustion, not conservation, of resources, and food security simultaneously is undermined.

The only sensible remedy to these problems is mutual agreement by all agricultural trading countries to lower barriers and drop their subsidies. The next MTN round is the last chance to prevent the destruction of large sections of the world's efficient agricultural producers. This Council must urge the next round to squarely face the issue of agricultural trade and bring it fully within the framework of GATT.

Later on, we shall be addressing ourselves to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986/87 which sets as priorities, promotion of food production and an increase in food security. Fundamental to addressing these priorities will be not only the improvement of external trade, but also that internal changes in member countries' own domestic policies and management techniques will be needed. Important to the goal of food security is the recognition that domestic policies are self-defeating if prices facing producers, farmers, do not reflect market realities. Achieving this can be difficult, as we know from experience in Australia. However, this goal is important if we are to see an end to the paradox of several large producers depressing prices in world trade through subsidies surplus, while many smaller countries, probably more cost efficient, are producers of less food for themselves.

More immediately, the food crisis in Africa will require a continuing transfer of resources, including food aid, to help relieve human misery. There remains much to be done to improve the quality of assistance aimed at economic development towards self-reliance.

The Director-General has focused our attention on some alarming aspects of the world food situation. If we are to find any cause for optimism on this issue, it is the growing awareness amongst the people of the developed countries of the suffering in Africa. Never before has there been such a level of consciousness among ordinary citizens of a famine in a faraway place, nor such a level of sympathy.

The Director-General also outlined arrangements for the celebration of 40 years of activity by countries which constitute this Organization. As well as proposing celebrations, we should perhaps also be asking ourselves, as members of this Organization, how well we have done in meeting our communal objectives set out in the Basic Texts; where we have succeeded, where we have failed, and what we can do about it in FAO. It seems reasonable to raise such questions now as we still face problems as momentous as those in 1945 or, for that matter, in 1975. Starvation is still rampant; food crises occur year after year; food production in many developing countries is still inadequate.

To come to grips with the problems, we need first of all to understand them. The Secretariat paper before us illustrates the high level of understanding which has been developed within the Secretariat. We also need to generate the political will and commitment to address ourselves to these problems. This is an area which in recent years has been looked at very well. We also need adequate resources. In view of the increasing political attention being given to the world food situation, we can I think be increasingly confident that resources will be found for well-directed, clearly articulated and well-managed programmes and projects. However, we should recognize that the resources to deal with these problems are not without limit. This points to the need, both at bilateral and multilateral level, for increasing concern to maximize the effectiveness of all aid, including food aid and emergency relief.

Very shortly, the Australian government will announce the decisions it has taken as a result of a major inquiry into our aid programme. These are decisions which we hope will provide a policy and framework for a better focus and more effective aid programmes. The Australian Minister for Primary Industries, at the recent World Food Council meeting, suggested that at a multilateral level also, we should give consideration to undertaking fundamental reappraisals of the assumptions upon which we work. The existing policies and work methods of agencies under the United Nations system should be regularly subjected to rigorous scrutiny. Perhaps now is a good opportunity for us hereto take time to subject ourselves to similar scrutiny.

C. SUVIPAKIT (Thailand): My delegation wishes to welcome you, Mr Chairman, to your position as Chairman of this meeting of FAO Council. We congratulate Dr Islam for his clear intervention on the world food situation. We also welcomed the opening statement made by the Director-General regarding the agricultural rehabilitation of Africa. My delegation wishes to give full support to his statement, and to his continuing efforts to mobilize the funds necessary to meet the urgent needs of the situation.

In various international fora, my Government has supported the international effort to help reduce hunger and malnutrition in the continent of Africa. My Government has recently made a modest contribution to IFAD in response to the call for help for countries in Africa. This is apart from our bilateral contribution to certain countries in the same region.

At this juncture, my delegation wishes to submit to Council our aid programme which may be incorporated with the technical assistance being provided by FAO. In the effort to promote economic and social development, we stand ready to share academic facilities and opportunities with developing countries and countries in Africa. We have training facilities in every sphere of agriculture -livestock, plant diseases, sorghum, improved agricultural extension, farm mechanization, and so on. My delegation will give to the Secretariat our food aid programme so that countries who are interested may contact the FAO Secretariat further.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Mr Chairman, before proceeding with the essence of our comments on the two items we are discussing I wish to join with previous speakers in expressing our pleasure at seeing you once again directing and guiding the deliberations of the Council. We also wish to thank the Director General for his usual very lucid and informative review of the significant issues which impact on the general situation.

My delegation very much appreciates the opportunity to make a contribution on the two items since they both focus directly on the basic reason for the very existence of FAO, the availability and consumption of food by mankind. At this time we direct our concern to the global situation and to the special problem of Africa, the region facing a real crisis today.

We take note, as the Director General has indicated, that food aid last year was the highest ever achieved. Nevertheless, we are nowhere near solving the problem of those countries which are severely affected. There is no doubt that this Organization and, indeed, the world community must focus on programmes and projects which will rehabilitate the agricultural sector of those countries on a long-term basis, indeed, hopefully on a permanent basis. In this regard we propose to support the initiatives of the Director General which will provide increasing resources to much needed activity in this direction.

Our delegation wishes to emphasize our position, particularly in the light of Dr Islam's introductory comments and the context of document CL 87/2. An issue of real interest which must impact on our minds relates to the policies which have resulted in rising stocks and mountains of supplies while at the same time there is increased domestic pressures for more effective protection of both industrial and agricultural products. This development has taken place more so in the countries which can better withstand the ill effects of the current world economic situation.

There is also the question of declining assistance and commitment to food and agriculture at the multilateral and bilateral levels, which is reflected in paragraphs 83 to 85 of the document before us. In contrast, there have been increases of food aid definitely required but which are very likely to increase the level of dependency on external sources. Much has already been said in other forums about the linkage between the increase in food aid and the decline of external assistance to the food and agricultural sectors which need not be reported here.

The information in paragraphs 105 to 108 must be of concern to us in the context of the global food problem. This is the question of fertilizer supplies and at affordable prices. We note the declining consumption of fertilizers coupled with increasing prices. Also, where there is evidence of the recovery of fertilizer consumption, this is largely so in the regions of the world which are already to a large extent among the highest producers. The document states clearly that in the developing countries current levels of utilization cannot lead to self-reliance. This is clearly an area in which the initiatives of FAO must be supported.

Our delegation has paid particular attention to paragraphs 63 to 66 of CL 87/13 in which emphasis is given to the importance of long-term measures for dealing with the food crisis in Africa. We recognize the difficulties implied in what is proposed, but we do feel that the conclusions therein are correct. We support the need for profound structural changes and above all a long-term perspective while we cope with the constantly arising emergencies.

Let us now associate my delegation with previous speakers who conveyed congratulations to the three elected Vice-Chairmen. We assure them of our fullest support during the session.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, it is good to see you again in the Chair, and my delegation's congratulations go to your colleagues who were elected Vice-Chairmen this morning. My delegation thanks the Director General for his remarks on the world food situation and also Professor Islam for his introduction, as well as the Secretariat for the two papers. These factual and scholarly reports help the international community to take decisions against a balanced view of the world food situation.

My comments arise directly from document CL 87/2 and with the analysis in which we substantially agree. My first observation concerns the point made in paragraph 9 of the paper that external assistance to agriculture in the narrow definition declined in 1983. This is ascribed in the paragraph to budgetary restraint on the part of major donors, and later in paragraph 83 more correctly to some extent being due to budgetary restraints facing donors in the 1980s.

As the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany said, donors, both bilateral and non-specialist multilateral, take account of the wishes of the recipient countries in the sectoral allocation of aid. Much of this decline is due to a conscious switch by recipients in the use of concession resources to other sectors, for example, sectors where technical assistance from outside is regarded as more valuable, or to capital aid for the improvement and rehabilitation of infrastructure, or assistance to improved public administration. In some cases it may involve a split in favour of population activities which must go hand in hand with agricultural rehabilitation and progress towards self-sufficiency.

My own administration quite deliberately allocates resources according to the agreed needs and plans of individual countries and does not have targets in respect of agriculture. The expenditure directly on agriculture is the incidental result of a collection of separate decisions. So while we support the analysis by FAO of the pattern of international assistance to agriculture, if only to guard against the collective insanity of ignoring this key aspect of development and security through a series of individual decisions that may in themselves seem sensible, we do not place excessive value in variations in one year or another. But it is the pattern of overall flow of resources that really matters. This argument, of course, does not apply to the analysis of the extent of the international commitment to emergency assistance or to food aid. This assistance usually is assessed separately from bilateral country aid.

The response of the international community has been shown to be creditable and my country has been more than happy to play its part both directly and through the European Community.

We concur with the cautious optimism expressed in paragraph 9 of the paper. In considering food aid covered in this paper in paragraphs 89 to 93 it is important to bear in mind a distinction between food aid as a convenient, though not necessarily the most efficient form of balance of payments assistance, and food aid which is needed to meet a shortage when a country is unable to purchase food. We here are concerned with food aid in this second role. As regards the reduction in the allocation of food aid for emergency assistance to the refugees mentioned in paragraph 94 of the paper, my delegation takes the view that it is the total amount of assistance in relation to need that is the important factor, not the amount of food aid. The use of food aid for this purpose, that is, for refugees, which is sometimes a United Kingdom practice, is usually merely a matter of convenience.

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): Mr Chairman, we are very pleased to see you, and on behalf of our delegation I should like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen elected this morning.

Since our delegation is taking the floor for the first time I should like to express our great appreciation for the statement of the Director General which drew our attention to the major problems faced by our Organization at the time of the preparations for this year's General Conference. At the same time I believe that the Council may express its recognition to the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of documents for this session.

Since document CL 87/2 will be completed and finalized before the Conference session in November 1985, I should like to make several comments without touching upon the numerical data contained in the document.

It is a matter of high prestige to FAO that its statistics, the world food reports as analysed and prepared by the Commodities Division, and similar documents, for instance, the 1983 published report entitled International Alert on the Emergency Food Supply Situation of Selected African Countries, are the major source of information to Member Governments on the situation and development of the world output and consumption of food.

The FAO analysis of recent years as well as this report indicate irrefutably one very important trend that whereas the problem of food security no longer exists in advanced countries, the agricultural production in a large number of developing countries is highly vulnerable. Its trends are not satisfactory and we cannot be satisfied with the situation in 1985.

Our delegation is of the view that it would be appropriate to follow the development in Africa and other regions in two respects. Firstly, given the assistance by FAO and the overall economic multilateral and bilateral aid, how successful is the rehabilitation and restructuring of the production in the most affected countries.

Secondly, whether the agro-industrial complex of these countries is approaching their sufficiency or moving further away from it. Here we are aware that the objective constraints to economic development in many countries may not allow reaching the optimum level even by the end of the century, that is, by the year 2000.

During the United Nations sessions on these questions some delegations frequently allege that every economic recovery in the development of the industrial countries of the west will directly benefit developing countries. Rarely has it been shown that not only were the hopes of the developing countries not fulfilled in this respect, but the differences and contradictions among the overall economies within that framework, the agricultural economies of the developing countries and industrially advanced capitalist states, have grown even deeper.

If 86 percent of the countries in Africa, as stated in paragraph 15 of document CL 87/2 produced in 1984 even less food per capita than during 1974-76, it is an alarming fact compared with certain optimistic data in paragraph 281 of the submitted report.

I should like to record the reasons stated by the United Nations Secretary General during his visit to Latin America in which he emphasized that the deep indebtedness of developing countries remains a serious political problem which governments are unable to resolve automatically.

For the time being paragraph 85 points out an overall hardening in terms of lending for agriculture rather than a trend towards its improvement. The reduction of investments and input into agriculture, and in a number of economically affected developing countries with a view to reducing the deficit in their balance of payments, is a significant phenomenon.

In the part of the report dealing with external assistance for food and agriculture, paragraphs 83 and 87, we miss data on the role of the UNDP project channelled through FAO, whether in connection with the solution of difficult programmes of agriculture in developing countries, or whether the share of FAO has been increased or reduced. In paragraph 87 the report gives some optimistic data on the World Bank, the IFAD, and the impact of the United Nations appeal for emergency relief for Africa, but it does not mention UNDP.

The programme of work and the strategy of our Organization are necessarily based on a profound objective analysis of the world situation in agriculture and food, and during our Conference we will once more return to the document. In the opinion of my delegation the dramatic situation of many nations during last year and this year with regard to securing food for the population shows that we are still far removed from the final objectives of the solution of the world problem.

The delegation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic takes this opportunity to reassure the Council and the Director General of Czechoslovakia's willingness to cooperate with the FAO and the United Nations in the implementation of programmes and projects, of development assistance aimed at the substantial improvement of self-sufficiency of the affected developing countries in agriculture and food output in the nearest possible future.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 heures

Se levanta la sesión a los 18.00 horas





## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/3

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

### **THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE TERCERA SESION PLENARIA**

(18 June 1985)

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 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. SITUACIÓN MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)
- 4. Current World Food Situation (continued)
- 4. Situation actuelle de l'alimentation mondiale (suite)
- 4. Situación actual de la alimentación en el mundo (continuación)

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The delegate of Colombia, Ambassador Bula Hoyos, in referring to earlier statements yesterday has undoubtedly enriched our dialogue. Having followed closely his intervention in his mother tongue I should like to clarify an issue on which he apparently did not get through what I had stated. When quoting from my Minister's statement given at the Eleventh Session of the World Food Council last week in Paris I did not say that developing countries alone should put their own house in order. On the contrary, I stated, and I quote again from my Minister's statement: "It will only be possible to accelerate the presently still too slow growth of world economy, which is criticised rightly in the document, if every country makes great efforts to put its own house in order and to ensure an exchange of trade as free as possible."

My second remark is that our envisaged increase of official development assistance to agriculture to almost DM one billion in 1985 has no direct link with agenda item 14 or the budgets of other international organizations.

My third remark is regarding the suggestions to increase the level of the International Emergency Food Reserve. We wish to draw attention to paragraph 92 of the document. Here one can see that donors responded effectively to emergency situations in 1984, again surpassing the level of that reserve without previously having raised it, and for 1985 this level was surpassed already as at February 1985. We feel that the voluntary character of that reserve should be maintained at the present level of 500,000 tons.

J.C. CLAVE (Philippines): My friends and fellow delegates, I will try to intervene as briefly as

I can but if I exceed the time allotted to me please forgive me; surely all of us understand that out of a heart that is full sometimes flow too many words.

First, I wish to point out and bring to the attention of this distinguished Council the fact that you, as Chairman of this Council, are currently the Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, which is my country. I take pride in announcing this fact, for it gives me a sense of hope, because I do believe that the man in the field like you, Sir, especially in my country, would know more of the conditions in the field and it is by knowing these conditions that one would fully understand the particular problems and propose effective solutions. One has indeed to be in the field, on the farm, or be a farmer, to understand the problems of agriculture.

The second point I wish to dwell on is to commend the Director-General and the Secretariat of this Organization for the good and excellent work which they have done so that this Council meeting 'will run smoothly and be productive.,

I wish to draw attention to the comprehensive and relevant materials before us., I do not think I have to dwell further on the report, except to say that it is in fact comprehensive. The Secretariat has put before us data on food and agricultural production. In fact, it even went further into dealing with two of the major problems that face the developing countries, and these are dwindling provisions of concessional capital and the obstacles to the marketing of the agricultural products of these countries.

Indeed, the agricultural regions of the world are faced with insurmountable odds, and I do not have to dwell on them either because you, my colleagues here, are aware of all of these problems.

Faced with these insurmountable odds I am compelled - and forgive me for doing so - to call attention again to the fact that the United Nations Organization and the other United Nations Agencies in the United Nations system were organized in accordance with a spirit of mutual concern and assistance at the time of their birth. I believe that it was this spirit of mutual concern and assistance which inspired the founders of the United Nations and the other U.N. Organizations to lay the foundations of our Organization, the FAO, as well.

As I ponder on the problem and contemplate on the spirit that brought forth the FAO I am reminded of two incidents during my yet brief stay here in Italy. I arrived here two months ago, on 9 April to be exact, to become Ambassador of my country to Italy and to be Permanent Delegate to FAO. Upon my arrival on 9 April the temperature here was something like 22 C. Coming in from Paris I told my staff, "it is very warm here, it is very hot!" And their answer was, providentially I thought, "Because of the winds from Africa".

Then after two weeks of stay here I found that my car was full of dust and I asked: "Why the dust?" My staff replied, "the dust from the Sahara". To me these became a symbol and as I face you today with a special report with a special focus on the food and agricultural problems of Africa I say to myself: "Africa has in fact become a symbol. But it is a symbol not only for that particular region but for my region as well, and many regions of the world when hunger is present. And there are many Africas today.

I will not proceed without commending - and this is my third point - those countries, the rich and affluent nations which have zealously worked through FAO and other international organizations to extend a helping hand to the underdeveloped countries. I must commend them, commend them because notwithstanding the fact that sometimes out of our frustrations as developed nations, we sometimes tend to condemn them, holding them responsible morally or legally to feeding the whole of mankind. Notwithstanding this interest these have stayed on in these organizations. I must commend them specially because of my belief that there is always a way out, to withdraw from the Organization. There is the other alternative of staying out of the Organization and not being blamed at all for the problems of the world; but instead of taking this alternative they have stayed with us and I hope they will remain.

The other point that I want to bring up is the fact that while we are concerned ourselves with productivity, and we think of productivity in terms of opening up more lands for agricultural production to meet the world's food requirements. This is the natural thing to do but I am disturbed by the fact that if this trend continues there will come a time when we will have no more new lands to open for agriculture. As I speak here of course I am not concerned only about the hunger that faces mankind today but, being a father as well as a grandfather, I am more concerned with the food supply, the food resources, that will be available to my children and more so to my grandchildren.

Therefore, it is my position to urge that FAO be concerned not only with the present hunger in the world but also with the hunger of the future generations of our children and grandchildren. Hence, I thought that in the course of this session we should consider proposals that would be geared towards rehabilitation, reclamation of those lands lost to the deserts or other arid areas and the conservation of lands that are now devoted to agriculture.

I have here statistics showing the loss of agricultural lands, the desertification of these lands, at 5 million to 7 million hectares a year. Hence, I thought that we should likewise consider measures, urgent measures I would call them, on the rehabilitation, conservation or reclamation of lands already taken away from agricultural productivity.

Every time we think of hunger or of the food problems of the world, the tendency is to look towards increasing productivity, opening up more land, increasing production of that land. As a farmer, I wish to say - experience shows that when one over-produces in his land sooner or later the land will produce no more. Again, I am aware of the future livelihood of my children and grandchildren.

In my country we have the best mangoes in the world. - Forgive me for the commercial! From our scientific experience, we know that the more we induce these mangoes to bear more fruit, the shorter the fruit-bearing period becomes. This is also a point I wish to bring to the attention of the Council.

When I speak of increasing food production, I wonder whether our respective nations and governments - our respective peoples for that matter - when thinking of the hunger that faces us, should not think as well in terms of how we can control the excessive consumption of food by certain societies. When my children were here with me in Europe, I asked them to eat all the food they could because there is a lot of food in Europe. But my children said, "We might get used to it, and we will miss a lot of it when we go back to the Philippines". I thought this was a message that should challenge all of us. There is excessive consumption of food in many societies in the world. We cannot here prescribe how much each person will consume, but probably the moral voice of this Organization should go forth against excessive wasteful consumption. We should hearken to the wise words of the great Gandhi -- I think it was - who said: "There is enough food in the world to meet everybody's needs: but not enough to meet everybody's greed". In speaking thus, I am guided by that wise counsel.

During the course of the discussion yesterday certain delegations - the problem was raised of moving food to where it is most needed. FAO, with its enlightened experience and wisdom, should consider developing food areas in critical regions of the world. I believe the Director-General mentioned yesterday the fact that there is some rain in certain countries of Africa and drought still in some other areas. However, we know definitely that there are areas which are good for agricultural production and areas which are not. This is what I mean by "food areas". As delegates, I feel we have been motivated to obtain assistance for agricultural development in our own respective countries, which is only natural, but I think it is time that FAO developed food regions in each of the critical areas of the world. For these areas FAO shall focus its concentration, its assistance and its energies in order to meet the food problems of those particular regions.

I have a proposal which I hope the Council will like. We have this meeting scheduled for almost two weeks. I am about to propose that with your able guidance, Mr Chairman, and that of the Director-General, we work hard enough so that we will be able to cut short our Council meeting, and the corresponding savings shall be earmarked for food programmes in the African region. This is a proposal of the delegations of the Philippines.

I hope I have not gone on too long. It has been my hope during this brief intervention that I have been able to contribute a little wisdom. However, my greater aspiration is that like you, Mr Chairman, and the Director-General, I should be able to reawaken and enliven the spirit that brought forth the banding together of our nations in the United Nations family, which is the spirit of mutual concern and assistance.

May I refer to the statement made yesterday by the Director-General when he said that on our fortieth anniversary we should on all occasions, not just before Council and Conference, emphasize our unifying aims, ideals and efforts, and set the highest example of cooperative consensus through fruitful collaboration and international accord to our ultimate constituents, the poor, the weak and the hungry millions of our world and I would add, to ourselves."

May I close by saying that if I have said anything by word or phrase which may not sound pleasant to anyone, it was never my intention to hurt anybody. Please consider my statement' in the context of the policy of the Republic of the Philippines, especially of its incumbent President, which is to extend the hand of friendship, goodwill and collaboration to all nations of the world.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): No vamos a ser muy extensos en este punto, Señor Presidente, porque la intervención del señor delegado de Colombia ayer ha abarcado la casi totalidad de los puntos que nosotros habíamos incluido en nuestra intervención. En este sentido damos nuestro apoyo a esa declaración y en particular lo que se refiere a la disminución de la asistencia multilateral para la agricultura. Nosotros queríamos hacer hincapié especialmente en los efectos limitantes externos que hoy dificultan esa expansión del comercio y también la expansión de la producción agrícola en nuestros países.

Generalmente nosotros en este punto de la agenda, en todas las reuniones del Consejo, nos dedicamos especialmente a ver cómo nuestra situación y el avance de la producción agrícola en nuestros respectivos países mejora y de alguna manera contribuye a mejorar la situación actual de la agricultura en el mundo. En este sentido no vamos a hacer alusión a ello por considerar que la situación económica internacional es lo suficientemente grave como para que prestemos toda nuestra atención en este punto.

Nos vamos a referir a algunas cuestiones que están enunciadas en el documento en primer lugar y a otras que no lo están, en segundo lugar. Para nosotros el enfoque que hace el documento en cuanto a situación descriptiva, la situación general es aceptable; no obstante de su lectura surge que el análisis global que se realiza en el primer capítulo sobre todo, no permite comprender bien, ni tampoco las raíces del problema que afecta a la Región de América Latina y, mucho menos, en lo que hace a la situación de Argentina. Cuando se dice que se está al comienzo del final de la más grave recesión económica, nosotros lamentablemente, a pesar de la amable explicación del Profesor Islam, no lo vemos así, ya que nuestros indicadores reflejan otra cosa. Si nosotros reelaboráramos los indicadores económicos externos a nivel regional, las cifras indicarían otra situación de la enunciada en el documento, porque el incremento de las balanzas comerciales positivas no son un resultado de la recuperación o de la reactivación económica, sino de la disminución de las importaciones por la aplicación de las políticas económicas de ajuste que implican tener mayores saldos en la balanza comercial para pagar intereses, servicios de la deuda, y no para promover el desarrollo económico de nuestras naciones.

A su vez la relación entre deuda y exportación a nivel regional, si lo analizamos a nivel regional no es lo mismo para todos los países. Para la Región ha habido una baja en cuanto a los niveles de deuda, pero eso ha sido por el aumento de las exportaciones de un solo país de la Región, que es Brasil, y no del resto. A la vez si vemos cuál es el nivel de las relaciones de intercambios, vemos que ha habido una caída en eso, como también ha habido una caída en los precios internacionales; en ese sentido para nosotros la recesión está muy lejos de terminar.

Por otra parte, sobre lo que se dice en el párrafo 1, notamos que hay una leve contradicción con lo que se afirma en los párrafos 6 y 7 y mucho más con lo que se dice en los párrafos 49 a 51 sobre los factores limitantes al comercio. A su vez, en esta segunda parte del documento, cuando se habla de las razones que impidieron la expansión del comercio en 1984, además de las que se enuncian a nivel regional, nosotros pensamos que el documento es demasiado benévolo al tratar el proteccionismo y los subsidios a las exportaciones que practican los países industrializados. Nosotros acá lo que quisiéramos es que en el Informe final se reflejara esto de una manera mucho más realista y, sobre todo, desde el punto de vista de los países en desarrollo productores y exportadores de alimentos.

Aquí se citan cuatro razones que impiden la expansión rápida del comercio, pero nosotros creemos que justamente hay más y en este sentido el proteccionismo y la práctica de subsidios es claro que también son un factor que impiden la expansión rápida del comercio.

Al principio de nuestra intervención cuando decíamos que la situación actual es demasiado grave para poder ocuparnos, en el caso de Argentina, de los avances que hemos tenido a nivel interno, decimos el porqué, porque estamos en presencia, estamos al inicio de una guerra a nivel comercial entre los dos más grandes productores de alimentos del mundo que, en principio y en los términos que lo plantean ambas partes, solamente será entre ellos. Nosotros queremos usar este distinguido Foro para decir que no es así, ya que los principales perjudicados de esta guerra de subsidios será el mundo en general, tanto los países que se dedican a la producción interna de alimentos, porque en ese sentido perderán incentivos y no verán incentivados a sus agricultores para la producción de alimentos, como también los países productores y exportadores de todo el mundo desarrollado y en desarrollo.

Creemos que hoy urge más que nunca la aplicación de una gran cantidad de Resoluciones y Recomendaciones que hemos aprobado en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en la Conferencia de la FAO, en este mismo Consejo y que hemos destacado muchas veces en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, al cual nosotros le damos mucha importancia para el análisis de esta situación, y aquí nos referimos a la Resolución 2/79 de la Conferencia de la FAO, a la Resolución 2/83, en particular a su artículo 5, a la Resolución 3/83 de la Conferencia de la FAO, en particular la orientación 7, y a las Resoluciones sobre problemas alimentarios de las dos últimas Asambleas Generales de Naciones Unidas.

En ese sentido, Señor Presidente, nosotros queremos terminar con nuestra intervención y hacer la salvedad de que no exponemos en este punto nuestra situación alimentaria a nivel nacional. Daremos los datos directamente a la Secretaría, debido a que queríamos hacer especial hincapié en los factores externos que perjudican la expansión del comercio y, por lo tanto, afectan a la producción agrícola y alimentaria en general.

J. MINTCHEV (Bulgaria) : Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de saluer les trois Vice-Présidents à l'occasion de leur élection à ces postes de grande responsabilité et de souhaiter que la présente session atteigne des résultats très positifs. C'est avec beaucoup d'attention que nous avons pris connaissance du document CL 87/2 relatif à l'état de l'alimentation mondiale et à la production alimentaire mondiale. Il illustre parfaitement l'état de la production, de la consommation et du commerce des produits alimentaires. Il offre une image entière de la situation dans le monde par région et par type important de produits. Ce document se distingue par sa haute qualité professionnelle et le Secrétariat de la FAO doit à juste titre en être félicité.

Le problème de la production alimentaire a fait l'objet de l'attention de tous les Conseils de la FAO et il est fondamental tant pour les travaux de l'Organisation dans la réalisation des objectifs et tâches qu'elle s'est posés que pour l'avenir de l'humanité.

Les données statistiques présentées par le Secrétariat de la FAO montrent que la production mondiale moyenne de produits alimentaires s'accroît chaque année. C'est réjouissant, mais l'on sait en même temps que la répartition mondiale de cette production est extrêmement inégale. La onzième session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation tenue récemment à Paris a annoncé par exemple que, pour la période 1983-84, la production alimentaire mondiale s'était accrue de 4,2 pour cent, mais cette augmentation se présente ainsi : 5,6 pour cent pour les pays développés et seulement 2,6 pour cent pour les pays en voie de développement. Si l'on tient compte du fait que dans cette même période la population des pays en voie de développement s'est accrue de plus de 2 pour cent, la disproportion entre la production et les besoins de ces pays ressort très clairement.

La question qui nous a préoccupés pendant les dernières décennies est de savoir ce qu'il convient de faire pour résoudre les problèmes de l'alimentation de l'humanité dans son ensemble. Il est nécessaire que soient mobilisés absolument tous les efforts de toute la communauté mondiale afin que soient assurés les fonds d'investissement et de formation de cadres locaux, que soient fournis les grains de semence, les engrais, les matériels agricoles et les technologies nécessaires à la modernisation et à l'intensification de la production agricole dans maints pays en voie de développement. A l'heure actuelle, l'assistance internationale apportée à cet effet est de taille, mais elle est de toute évidence insuffisante pour surmonter les problèmes. Il faut encore beaucoup de moyens dont une grande partie pourrait être trouvée dans les pays intéressés eux-mêmes, mais le reste devrait être apporté de l'extérieur.

C'est le lieu de déclarer qu'une partie essentielle de ces fonds pourrait être fournie par la libération de ressources suite à un désarmement réel et à une réduction des dépenses militaires. L'utilisation de ces fonds libérés et leur mise au service de la modernisation de l'agriculture pourrait contribuer à la solution du problème alimentaire. Il est maintenant clair que la solution de ce problème se trouve indissolublement liée aux relations économiques internationales. L'aide-alimentaire utilisée comme moyen de pression politique constitue une entrave sérieuse à la solution de ce problème. Le commerce international souffre gravement des tendances protectionnistes qui ont cours dans certains pays capitalistes. C'est seulement avec l'établissement d'un ordre économique nouveau et juste, sur une base démocratique, que l'on peut s'attendre à une augmentation des économies de tous les pays. Il est très dérangeant pour nous de constater les dettes énormes accumulées par les pays en voie de développement dont les limites atteignent des dimensions qui sont en dehors de ce qui est raisonnable.

Ce problème peut être résolu si les échanges se font librement, sans barrière pour le commerce international et, plus concrètement, en atténuant le protectionnisme, les conditions trop lourdes de crédits et en réduisant les taux trop élevés des intérêts de ces crédits, etc. La solution des problèmes de l'alimentation dépend aussi du développement des possibilités de production des divers pays, de la modernisation de leur agriculture et de l'amélioration de la condition sociale des travailleurs des régions rurales.

L'absence de cadres nationaux dans les pays en voie de développement, la pénurie des investissements et l'absence d'une politique adéquate en matière d'économie rurale sont, à nos yeux, des facteurs essentiels qui retardent la solution du problème alimentaire.

Il serait à peine possible d'élaborer un modèle universel de programme et stratégies à réaliser dans le domaine de l'alimentation et qui répondent aux intérêts de tous les états. Cependant, les problèmes de la famine dans le monde demandent une solution intégrale, une solution d'ensemble et non pas seulement et surtout des mesures pour surmonter l'actuel état critique que connaissent les pays africains. Pour ce qui est de l'Afrique, il est hors de doute que l'essentiel est de sauver la vie des gens et que pour cela l'aide doit être accordée à temps et sans aucune condition politique ou économique. L'aide doit être apportée aussi sous forme de transfert de technologie, de fourniture de matériel, de graines, ainsi que par la formation de cadres locaux.

Parallèlement, il ne faut pas perdre de vue les possibilités internes de solutions du problème alimentaire. Il est nécessaire d'accélérer partout et durablement le développement social et économique des pays en voie de développement. Une restructuration de la production et l'adoption de formes intensives de gestion de la vie économique s'imposent. A cet égard, l'expérience et l'exemple des pays socialistes et des complexes agro-industriels qui y sont organisés apparaissent comme très significatifs. Ce n'est donc pas le fait du hasard si des milliers de jeunes issus des pays en voie de développement font des études ou se perfectionnent dans les pays appartenant au système socialiste. La Bulgarie organise nombre de séminaires et cours de formation agricole. Elle envoie des coopérants dans les pays du tiers monde pour les aider dans leur développement et pour transmettre son expérience à ceux qui s'y intéressent.

Telles étaient les quelques questions que la délégation bulgare voulait traiter devant le Conseil de la FAO.

A. YILALA (Ethiopia): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and representatives of Member Nations, Dr Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, ladies and gentlemen.

The Ethiopian delegation would like to express its satisfaction and pleasure to see you again, Mr Chairman, as our Chairman of the Eighty-seventh Session of the FAO Council. As one of the most prominent personalities in the field of agricultural science, we are sure that with your leadership this Council will be able to consider the situation of food and agriculture objectively and at length.

We should also like to congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen whom we are sure will be of great assistance to you.

Mr Chairman, with your permission we should also like to congratulate Dr Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, on his continued efforts and contributions to the areas of increased food production and improved agriculture in general.

Our delegation would also like to thank Professor Nurul Islam for his excellent presentation of the agenda items for discussion.

The Ethiopian delegation considers that adequate food production for the increasing population of the world is one of the biggest challenges of the international community. With concerted effort tackling the challenge of increased food production is not beyond the means and know-how of the international community. However, it is not an easy challenge and it will therefore require the cooperation of all Member Nations and individuals with varying responsibilities in agriculture and in other areas.

We have all witnessed the 1984 food situation in which a few developed countries were able to increase food production and many of the developing countries were faced with severe food shortages which affected the lives of millions of people, and yet global food security was considered adequate.

In this connection we should like to quote from the statement of Dr Saouma to the Eleventh Session of the World Food Council: "The world food situation in 1984 was marked by a striking contrast between agriculture in northern countries where an ever-shrinking farm population produces enormous surpluses and the agriculture in the southern countries where peasants, who are the bulk of the population, are unable to feed themselves properly".

The increasing difficulties of earning hard currency and the low income level of most developing countries makes it difficult for most of those countries to purchase food from the international market. Even if this was possible, international transportation and the distribution of food within a country will consume most of the resources of that country thus leaving very little or none for increasing production or other development activities.

This is a clear indication of how much resources are available within developing countries and the need for external assistance and cooperation to increase food production is therefore essential for the well being of its members.

While we support and appreciate the dramatic response of the international community as a whole to the severe food shortage situation with emergency and relief operations in Africa, we strongly feel the need for assisting developing countries to increase food production to achieve self-sufficiency, for we feel that the long term solution to food shortage problems lies in the capability of people to produce their own food. Increased food production would be possible within developing countries if it were not for the shortages of trained manpower and resources. The achievement of the two most populated nations, India and China, in food production is remarkable and a source of inspiration for us all.

Increase in food production within developing countries should be viewed from the points of view of both an adequate level of food production and an increase in the level of income for the rural poor, thus enabling the developing countries to plan for essential agricultural technologies in order to cope with the food needs of the increasing population while education on the need for population control is advancing. Thus the need for improving the present subsistence level of agricultural production becomes a priority area for the entire nation.

In Ethiopia, during normal seasons where agriculture is at subsistence level and world food production does not go beyond what is annually required, efforts are being made by the Government and the people of Ethiopia to avert the situation. This effort however was faced by the worst drought in 1983 and 1984, thus reducing food availability further. Favourable policies to increase food production were introduced, and major issues in food production were effectively tackled by the Ethiopian Government as a priority area of concern at the onset of our popular revolution.

The present form of land tenureship, which entitles the farming population to free usage of the land, is just one example of the progressive policy for food production. Rural institutions which form the basis for rural development and increase the participation of the farming population, were organized as peasant associations and cooperatives of various forms encompassing both services and production all the way from grass root level up to national level. Ideal grounds for increasing food production are established. What is lacking is the availability of technology and know-how to be transferred to the farming population for the objective of achieving increased food production. The achievement of further progress in this regard will therefore require further resources. Consideration for strengthening this effort so as to achieve food self-sufficiency through the introduction of appropriate technology, development of essential infrastructure, introduction of essential agricultural inputs including improved seeds and breeds, fertilizers and implements, as well as the improvement of the marketing system, are indeed the major commitments of the Government. However, as with any other developing nation, limitations of resources and know-how become a major hindering factor in achieving these commitments.

The long-term solution to achieve self-sufficiency is increase in food production, in our view, which will require trained manpower at the grassroots, contact, middle and high levels, agricultural inputs which will include improved seeds, breeds, fertilizers, implements, pesticides etc., and integrated and coordinated research, a good network and well designed extension programme, avoiding dependency on rain and increasing water usage capabilities, conservation of natural resources covering the areas of forestry, water and soil, better management of the food resources available,

introduction of new components of food into the regular feeding programme - such as fruits, vegetables including mushrooms, water food resources - which otherwise are left unutilised and idle in most of the developing countries.

The Ethiopian Government and people are aware of these needs and some work in this regard is also being initiated with the desired vigour and enthusiasm. Because of limitations of resources, the desired level of food production could not be achieved as rapidly as desired. Financial, material and technical assistance in this regard should be considered as a part of our long-term objectives of increased food production, and will receive the maximum support of the Ethiopian people.

Towards this achievement, projects were prepared with the assistance of the Director-General of FAO and the Secretariat of FAO on the rehabilitation of Ethiopian agriculture. The components of this request are far beyond what is required.

However, this would be a good start and would provide a good basis for our longer term objectives of achieving increased food production. In saying this, we do realize and recognize the importance of the Harare Declaration in food production and food self-sufficiency. However, the required resources are limited and need to be supplemented. Failure to recognize this will make the achievement of our long-term objective in food self-sufficiency difficult.

In April and May of 1985 the small rainfall covered most of the country, though later than the usual time. This was good for recovering the vegetation, increasing the water availability and softening the soil for ploughing with traditional implements. The major rain season, which is important for almost all food production, is expected to come anytime after the second week in June. We are already moving into the third week of June, and yet most of the agricultural inputs are not distributed to farmers due to late arrival, and some essential inputs have not yet arrived. Immediate considerations of despatch and improvement of deliveries will therefore require the utmost urgency. The discussions of all major international fora were dominated by the emergency and relief operations of food in 1984 and 1985. Major donors have responded favourably and our delegation is fully convinced that this is a proper response to the crisis which was facing us, and is therefore duly regarded and highly considered. Whilst recognizing the importance of the continuation of food aid for 1985 and 1986, we do notice that there are gaps between emergency food reaching the country and its distribution to the victims of famine, due to shortage of transportation which includes problems of lack of transportation vehicles, lack of spare parts, and problems with supply of fuel and tyres. Ethiopia at present is mobilizing the lion's share of its transportation resources to the emergency food operation, using both land and air transport. However, available transportation means are limited and lower than required.

Over and above this, other developmental activities which are essential have had to be delayed due to the priorities attached to the emergency operations. There is a very great need for supplementing those components to the emergency operations. In our view, the present food crisis will be brought to a possible minimum through a combined action of emergency food distribution and increased food production through the provision of increased agricultural inputs and know-how, and establishment of food reserves. The approach towards assisting Ethiopia should cover all these areas in order to achieve food self-sufficiency.

My delegation considers that the item for discussion presented to the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council includes major programmes to improve rural income, level of nutrition, and security of food supplies, the involvement of small farmers, women and youth in the development process, attention to be given to the role of minor crops in nutrition and food security, the national code of conduct on distribution and use of pesticides, agricultural price policy, implementation of strategies for fisheries management and development, the refocusing of the 1985 FAO Regular Programme in support of rehabilitation requirements, and strengthening the global information and early warning system of food and agriculture. These are all important areas for consideration, and will all contribute towards improving the food situation and alleviating the suffering of human beings from hunger.

We would therefore like to indicate our firm support and commend the efforts of the Director-General and of FAO for their remarkable initiative.

Last but not least, we would like to communicate our satisfaction and pleasure in seeing the delegation of further authority to WFP by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO. We hope that this present solution will solve most of the long-standing and administrative problems.

J. ORZESZKO (Observer for Poland): My delegation is very pleased to see you again in the Chair. I wish also on this occasion to congratulate all the Vice-Chairmen unanimously elected yesterday.

In order to be brief, I shall concentrate my remarks on the African problem, but with your permission I would like first to say a word of sympathy from my nation to families of flood victims in Bangladesh.



It is for the first time in the history of this Organization that we face such an unprecedented destruction in the economy of a whole continent. The situation, which threatens not only the present but also the future of the African people, speaks for itself. Searching for roots of this phenomenon, it is beyond doubt that the present situation cannot be termed as an unexpected course of events which has developed only recently. Already prior to 1980, the economic problems facing this continent had been manifested. In most cases drought and desertification had completed the dim picture. The world economic recession has further aggravated the unfavourable impact of different factors. Africa has been affected more severely than any other region by the deterioration in the terms of trade. In the sub-Saharan Africa where the situation is extremely critical, food production per capita has been falling roughly by 1 percent a year for more than a decade. More than 150 million people are faced with hunger and malnutrition. Even now, despite some positive developments in the world economy, prospects for most African countries for 1985 and beyond have not much improved.

A solution of the problems should, by necessity correspond to their nature. While the emphasis is understandably put on the mobilization of emergency assistance, in particular food and other survival items, one must not forget as the excellent document before us implies - that best assistance is through development that needs to be revived. To help Africa to be able to help herself should be another, of equal importance, field of our interest.

Mr Chairman, it is in these two directions - immediate relief and longer term self-reliance consolidation aimed assistance - that Poland desires to bring her contribution. Sharing the deep concern of the African governments over the fate of their peoples and highly appreciative of their own efforts to combat emergency situations, Poland renders full support to the expansion and coordination of massive emergency aid designed not only to feed the people but also to limit the effects of drought or other natural calamities.

Answering the appeal of the Ethiopian Government, Poland joined the international relief effort to the drought victims in that country, supplying in the second half of 1984 and at the outset of 1985 food and medicaments to the Ethiopian authorities. Our population generously responded, despite still persistent economic difficulties of Poland. Appreciating the role of transportation and logistics in relief operations, the Polish Flying Squadron composed of heavy transport helicopters has been put to the disposal of Ethiopia to carry out the distribution by air of food and medicaments. The Squadron cooperates with similar services provided by other countries.

As far as the longer-term assistance for Africa, Poland offers growing opportunities of training in various domains, both bilaterally and through the UN system, FAO in particular. Recently new offers of training have been made for UNDP consideration. It is our view that preparation or upgrading of qualified cadres to tackle the problems of their countries is a vital factor in the strengthening of their "human infrastructure".

Mr Chairman, impressed by Dr Edouard Sauoma's deep personal involvement to mobilize public opinion towards the African disaster and having in mind the competence of FAO staff as well as the efficiency of FAO's food aid programmes, my Government recently decided to make an exception to our general line to provide assistance through bilateral channels and is ready to present a group of fully qualified experts in animal health and animal production at the Director-General's disposal. Paid by my Government they will serve as volunteers in the framework of FAO activity in most affected African countries.

CHAIRMAN: I now request Professor Islam to make some remarks on the points made by the delegates.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The Secretariat is very grateful to the distinguished delegates for various helpful comments and suggestions. I would respond to the very specific queries made in the course of the debate.

Several delegates have requested that a number of statements in the main document need updating. Some of these have been updated already in the document which is supplementary to the main document, that is CL 87/2-Sup.1, but we have taken careful note of the various suggestions made for updating by the delegates. One suggestion was made that the document should have included short-term forecasts on the food and agricultural situation in either regions or country-wise. We have made some very broad references about the short-term crop forecast in the document. However, FAO does publish a set of documents relating to the short-term food situation and forecast. They are, if I can remind the distinguished delegates about them: - The Food Outlook Bulletin - monthly; Foodcrops and Shortages - monthly publication; The Africa Food Situation, special report - monthly, and we have Cereal Import Requirements which is about 3 or 4 months every year. So all these reports really do forecast on the evolving food situation throughout the year, and they are continuously updated and get revised, so we thought in view of all these publications we would not need to include short-term forecasts again in this document in any great detail.

It has also been pointed out that the document in the discussion does not discuss the annual situation in the context of long-term planning. Here again the concentration of this particular document is on an analysis of the current food and agriculture situation and not on discussion of long-term trends. Of course the reference is true, long-term development is mentioned in one or two relevant places, for example in Table 2 on page 5 we have compared the world and regional food production statistics as compared to the average between 1980-84. Again on page 23, Table 10, we have done the same thing, our per capita food availability in 1983/84. Changes between 1983/84 have been compared with other former years. So wherever relevant we have made this comparison, but I wanted to emphasize the focus of this report on the current food and agriculture situation. We do undertake long-term trend analyses which is more fully set out in our Food and Agriculture publication, but also there are special chapters from year to year and from time to time on long-term trends and development. For example, next year, 1985 the State of Food Agriculture will include a mid-decade review of the food and agriculture situation. Again our Conference document is here. The monitoring report on guidelines for international agricultural adjustments also includes an analysis of a longer-term situation.

Reference was made to discussions on resources, land use, environment etc.; why are they not included in this short document. Again here the space and the nature of the document precludes analysis of these issues which are better reserved for the fuller issue of the State of Food and Agriculture, and also I want to refer to the special issues which there are from time to time, special chapters, which relate to the specific topics. For example in 1977 we had a special chapter "The State of Natural Resources and Human Environment for Food and Agriculture". In 1979 we had "Forestry and Rural Development." In 1980 "Marine Fisheries in the New Era of National Jurisdiction", etc. so these special issues are covered from time to time in the "State of Food and Agriculture".

Questions have been raised about the overall Official Development Assistance, and the relationship of the overall development assistance to the resource flow to the Agriculture sector. I can give you some figures here. Compared to 1980 there has been a decline in overall development assistance, ODA, Official Development Assistance, in 1983 it was 33.600 million compared to 1980 figure of 37.500 million and whereas the decline in the official development assistance between 1982 and 1983 was by 3 percent, the agriculture sector declined by 12 percent. In other words the decline was much greater in the flow of official assistance to agriculture compared to overall development assistance. If you compare with 1980 the ODA, overall development assistance, declined by 10 to 11 percent whereas that to agriculture declined by 14 to 15 percent.

It has also been suggested that the document should have mentioned other cereals which are lumped together under one category, so called coarse grains, and it should mention each of the categories such as maize, sorghum, separately. I think this is a point well taken. We do recognize the importance of other crops as well as maize, sorghum and millet, but in this short document they are lumped together. There are other publications where we do discuss the individual crops separately. We have also mentioned here of course besides cereals, pulses and roots and tubers which are separately mentioned in some of the tables, but this is a point which we do recognize and we should mention individual crops separately.

Now a question was asked about the mention of supply control measures in the document. What are the supply control measures in the developed countries? I will illustrate only by reference to a few such measures. For example in the United States instead of cereals there are still measures ongoing to hold land out of cultivation, and there are proposals, as mentioned by the distinguished delegate from the United States yesterday, to reduce levels of support prices with a view to reducing output. In the EEC there is an upper limit on the quantity of cereals which are eligible for food price support. In respect of milk production there are quotas in the EEC as well as super levies where the deliveries exceed defined quotas. In the USA there is a payment programme for producers who agree to reduce milk production and there are attempts also to reduce support prices.

CHAIRMAN: May I thank all the 29 Council members and two observers who spoke on this important item of our agenda. I would like to join them in thanking the Director-General for the clarity and comprehensiveness of the documentation provided to us and Professor Islam for his illuminating introductory and closing remarks. At our last meeting in November 1984 I mentioned "knowledge leads to unity; ignorance to diversity". Obviously in a gathering of this kind there will be varying perception of both problems and solutions. Thanks however to the excellence of the information provided in documents CL 87/2 and CL 87/2-Sup.1 you will agree that the interventions of the various delegates revealed an impressive sense of unity both in the diagnosis of major global agricultural maladies and in the prescription of remedies. From the various suggestions heard, it is clear that the Council is seeking a new International Agricultural Order based on five major principles.

First, the global agricultural scenario reveals considerable diversity in per capita productivity. Some countries and some parts within large countries in all the continents have practically no gap between potential and actual yields at currently available levels of technology. In contrast, the yield gap may be as high as 80 percent or more in others. The constraints responsible for the prevailing yield gap may be ecological, technological, educational, socio-economic and/or political. Obviously, socio-economic and political factors may be both internal and external, and their relating importance may vary from country to country. National and international action is needed to identify and remove the constraints responsible for inadequate progress in improving the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of major terrestrial and aquatic farming systems.

Secondly, in spite of much patchiness in agricultural progress, more than enough food is already produced in the world to provide a balanced diet for all its inhabitants. Global, regional and national policies for equitable distribution and improved consumption by the rural and urban poor are therefore urgently needed, a topic we will be discussing later under Item 6 of the agenda. Can the concept of "humanitarian food reserve" mentioned by the delegate of the United States become an integral part of a new international agricultural order with all nations contributing to the maximum of their capacity?

Thirdly, it is clear that people with purchasing power seldom go hungry. Greater opportunities for both on-farm and off-farm employment are essential for higher household purchasing power. Continued food imports by predominantly agricultural countries will have the same impact as importing unemployment, since imports will lead to keeping local farmers at low levels of productivity and employment. Hence, a livelihood security plan based on opportunities for earning one's daily bread will have to be developed based on an appropriate blend of technologies, services and government policies.

Fourthly, small and subsistence farmers who constitute the majority of the farming population in many developing countries will not produce more than what they need for themselves, unless they are assured cash and/or goods with the timely and adequate supplies of agricultural inputs and of basic goods such as clothing, salt, soap, blankets, cooking oil, matches, sugar, paper, pencils, batteries, etc. will enable and stimulate small farmers to produce and earn more. Hence, it will be desirable to reserve a certain proportion of the funds available for aid and relief for purchasing at remunerative prices surplus produce from small farmers and for providing essential consumer goods. The grains thus purchased could be used in the same country for a "Food for Work" programme for promoting agricultural and ecological rehabilitation and a "Food for Nutrition" programme for insulating old and infirm persons, pregnant and nursing mothers and pre-school children from starvation.

Finally, current trade, aid and investment patterns need a thorough review. Shrinking commitment to multilateral and concessional assistance, expanding debts and debt servicing burdens, import restrictions and export subsidies, trade wars and increasingly unfavourable cost, risk and return structure of farming to the world's small producers, inadequate availability of capital for the modernisation of agriculture and in some cases, the very model of agricultural modernisation adopted having built-in seeds of ecological and social biases, are all areas which deserve concerted attention and equitable solutions.

The urgent need for a new international agricultural order has been highlighted by the food situation in Africa. Hence it is appropriate that we now turn our attention to this item of our agenda. I will ask Dr Islam to introduce this item.

5. Food Situation in Africa

5. Situation alimentaire de l'Afrique

5. Situación de la alimentación en Africa

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The item for discussion, "Food Situation in Africa", is located in document CL 87/13. I also ask you to refer to document CL 87/2 Supplement 1, which in paragraphs 10 to 20 gives the situation in the drought-affected countries at the end of last month. The Rehabilitation Programme, the subject of CL 87/13 Supplement 1, will be introduced by my colleague, Mr Lignon.

As is well known to delegates from the numerous reports and alerts given by FAO's Early Warning System, the current African food crisis began to assume alarming proportions early in 1983. For the 1984/85 marketing year, 21 countries in Africa faced abnormal food shortages, 15 of them for the second or third year in a row. Although the situation has improved in some countries of the region, the food supply position remains critical in a number of other countries, and reports continue to be received of widespread malnutrition and death from starvation in some. In eastern Africa, logistic constraints are seriously impeding the delivery and internal distribution to the most seriously affected areas of Ethiopia and Sudan. In western Africa, the present rate of delivery of food is well below the needs in several Sahelian countries, where the available supplies of food are not sufficient even to meet the minimum needs of the most severely malnourished sections of the population. In southern Africa, several countries will again face exceptional food supply difficulties in 1985/86 as a result of drought and the disrupting effects of civil strife and lack of inputs.

Africa's food import and food aid needs are at record levels. FAO has estimated that the 21 most severely affected countries would require cereal imports of over 12 million tons in the current season. After allowing for increased commercial imports of 5.2 million tons, food aid requirements are 7 million tons, which is more than double the figure of 1983/84. Donor pledges currently amount to 6.6 million tons, but only 3.6 million tons of this has so far been delivered.

It is necessary to give the utmost consideration to the implications of the present delays in food deliveries. The most serious problem is where the rate of food deliveries is well below needs, thus exacerbating the extent of distress and starvation. Internal logistical problems are an overriding impediment in some areas, and the coming of the rains will worsen the transport and distribution difficulties. For instance, the inability of Sudan's railway system and roads to carry food to affected areas are causing mounting stockpiles at Port Sudan. Likewise, food targeted for Ethiopia is piling up in the country's ports for lack of sufficient road and rail transport. But there is also another potential problem on the horizon if the food delivery delays continue, namely the possibility of discouragement to local production efforts if the arrival of food aid supplies should coincide with the forthcoming harvests.

Thus, as document CL 87/2-Sup.1 points out, only quick action by the international community working with governments of affected countries can avert a further deterioration in the food supply situation in the most critically-affected countries of Africa. The main objectives of such action should be:

to accelerate the delivery of food aid to deficit areas, in some cases requiring additional logistical support; to provide additional food aid to countries whose requirements are not covered and whose harvests are still some months distant; and to provide seeds and other inputs to enable the 1985 crop to be planted where it is not already too late.

I should like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the present emergency is indeed superimposed on the longer-term crisis in the African food situation. The document reveals the longer-term aspects of food and nutrition in Africa in paragraphs 18 to 38 and highlights the challenges which these developments present to Africa and to the international community. As is demonstrated, per caput food production has shown a long-term decline in 32 of the 46 African countries. Food imports on commercial terms have become more difficult to finance from slender foreign exchange resources. High population growth continues in most countries of Africa, putting stress on fragile land resources. And rapid urbanization continues to magnify the strains on the distribution systems.

R.S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur general, Departement du développement): Je voudrais parler du programme de relance de l'agriculture que nous avons préparé, étant entendu que ce programme de relance s'insère entre l'aide d'urgence et les projets de développement a moyen ou a long terme qui constituent le fond de l'aide qui est apportée à l'Afrique.

Avant d'aborder a proprement parler le thème de la relance, je voudrais rappeler qu'avec l'appui unanime de tous les pays membres, y compris des pays membres qui se trouvent quelquefois dans des situations très difficiles, la FAO a focalise une grande partie de son programme sur l'Afrique, puisque plus de 40 pour cent de ses ressources financières et techniques sont consacres a l'Afrique.

Malgré la chute des crédits, des ressources financières du PNUD, et grace aux Programmes de coopération FAO/Gouvernements la FAO a pu maintenir à un niveau eleve son programme d'aide à l'Afrique puisque chaque année l'Afrique reçoit plus de 100 millions de dollars d'aide - 100 millions était le chiffre de 1984, il sera probablement de plus de 120 millions cette année dans le cadre de nos programmes d'assistance technique.

En outre je voudrais rappeler que le Centre d'investissement a, dans la période 1980-84, prépare plus de 99 projets dans 41 pays africains qui ont été approuvés par les organisations de financement internationales et le total de ces investissements représentés par ces 99 projets s'élève à presque 3 milliards de dollars sur lesquels 1 milliard 700 millions proviennent des sources de financement extérieur, le reste étant financé par les pays eux-mêmes.

A la fin de 1984 le Centre d'investissement avait en outre terminé la préparation de 36 projets de l'Afrique, au sud du Sahara, représentant un montant d'investissement de plus de 200 millions de dollars qui sont actuellement a l'étude des organismes de financement. Ceux-ci, avec lesquels le Centre d'investissement travaille, sont essentiellement la Banque mondiale, le FIDA, la Banque africaine de développement ainsi qu'un certain nombre de Fonds importants comme les plus grands Fonds arabes, le Fonds européen de développement et encore d'autres Fonds de financement.

Autrement dit, le programme de la FAO sur l'Afrique est déjà très important. Si l'on a construit un programme de relance c'est parce qu'il faut considérer que la crise de l'Afrique est l'aboutissement d'une dégradation progressive des systèmes écologiques et des systèmes de production qui peuvent quelquefois atteindre des seuils d'irréversibilité et qui pourraient conduire à des situations qui ne seraient plus réversibles et qui, de ce fait, mettraient en danger, comme tout à l'heure l'a indiqué le Prof. Islam, la reprise même et l'avenir de l'agriculture africaine. Je ne vais pas m'étendre sur les conditions dans lesquelles ont été préparés ces projets de relance de l'agriculture. Ils sont décrits dans le document CL 87/13 mais ce que je voudrais souligner essentiellement auprès de vous c'est que ces projets ont été préparés en accord avec les gouvernements des pays membres avec l'appui des représentants de la FAO et pratiquement tous les services techniques de la FAO ont été mobilisés pour cela.

La liste des pays qui ont été finalement choisis est fondée sur les évaluations du système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide ainsi que sur les résultats des missions d'évaluations des équipes spéciales FAO/PAM et, globalement, dans les 21 pays qui ont été retenus à ce moment-là c'est-à-dire l'Éthiopie et 20 autres pays africains, nous avons préparé 229 projets qui représentent 216 millions de dollars. Comme le Directeur général de la FAO vous l'a indiqué à plusieurs reprises, nous avons suivi très étroitement, à la suite des réunions qui se sont tenues le 29 janvier et le 29 mars à Rome, avec les donateurs potentiels les moyens de financer ces projets étant donné que ceux-ci avaient reçu un support unanime au cours de ces réunions. Je dois vous dire qu'à ce jour les résultats - et je dois en remercier la communauté internationale - sont particulièrement intéressants puisque l'on peut dire qu'actuellement 72 pour cent en valeur des projets qui ont été préparés ont reçu une attention particulière des donateurs et que, parmi ces 72 pour cent, 32 pour cent des projets ont été financés. Trente-deux pour cent, cela veut dire que sur le total de 216 millions de dollars 70 millions de dollars ont déjà reçu un financement.

Je dois faire deux commentaires sur ces chiffres. Le premier c'est que la plus grande partie des financements qui ont été déjà approuvés se réfèrent à l'Éthiopie. Il est clair que la Conférence qui s'est tenue à Rome sur l'Éthiopie s'est passée deux mois avant celle qui s'est passée à propos des 20 autres pays africains. Par conséquent, nous avons eu un peu plus de temps et les 59 millions de dollars du programme éthiopien qui représente 13 des 35 projets qui avaient été préparés à propos de l'Éthiopie ont été essentiellement financés par des organismes de financement internationaux comme la Banque mondiale, le FIDA, le PNUD et je dois dire que ces projets qui ont été financés et acceptés par ces agences sans notre propre participation nous permettent de penser que le programme Éthiopie pourra être à brève échéance à peu près complet, satisfait.

En ce qui concerne les programmes pour les projets relatifs aux 20 autres pays africains, actuellement les financements approuvés sont de l'ordre de 10 millions de dollars et, parmi les pays qui ont approuvé des projets, je voudrais signaler un certain nombre de pays qui ont déjà fait connaître à la FAO qu'ils utiliseraient les services de la FAO pour les exécuter. Je veux citer la Belgique qui s'est engagée pour plus de 2 millions de dollars et 4 projets; l'Espagne pour 3 projets et 350 000 dollars environ; et je voudrais dire que certains autres pays ont exécuté des projets bilatéralement. Je peux citer la France, le Danemark qui a pris un projet qu'il engage bilatéralement. Je voudrais dire aussi que la Chine s'est engagée pour 8 projets bilatéralement, par ailleurs, et cela est extrêmement satisfaisant aussi, qu'une organisation non gouvernementale allemande ait pris l'engagement de financer 1 300 000 dollars pour 3 projets qu'elle fera exécuter par la FAO et récemment une organisation non gouvernementale japonaise a commencé à participer au financement de ces projets.

Il est bien évident que la mise à exécution de ces projets doit être faite rapidement. Certains d'entre-eux devaient même démarrer dès la prochaine campagne si l'on veut qu'ils aient tout leur impact et c'est la raison pour laquelle, sur ces ressources propres, la FAO a engagé l'exécution d'un certain nombre de projets pour un montant total à ce jour de 4 millions 800 000 dollars. Voilà comment se place le programme de la situation du programme de relance de l'agriculture dans les 21 pays africains.

Je voudrais ajouter quelques commentaires. Le premier c'est que cette liste de 21 pays a été établie à un moment donné dans les conditions que je vous ai indiquées. Il est clair qu'elle pourrait être modifiée, en particulier à la suite de missions d'évaluation envoyées dans un certain nombre de pays. Nous avons pensé que quatre pays devraient pouvoir bénéficier de ce programme de relance: Djibouti, Sao Tomê-et-Principe, la Gambie et la Guinée-Bissau. Ces quatre programmes sont en cours de préparation et à une date rapprochée vous seront communiqués les résultats de ces missions et la liste des projets qui devraient être mis en œuvre rapidement dans ces pays.

Le second commentaire que je voudrais faire c'est que ce programme de relance qui est concentré sur ces pays actuellement n'a pas modifié l'effort que la FAO faisait dans le reste de l'Afrique, puisque actuellement, en dehors de ces programmes, le programme de la FAO sur les produits africains n'a été modifié en aucune manière et que, par conséquent, tous les autres programmes qui ont été mis en œuvre sont en cours d'exécution.

Je crois que globalement c'est ce que je voulais vous dire sur la situation du programme de relance en Afrique et évidemment je me tiens à votre disposition, M. le Président, si vous avez des questions et si MM. les délégués ont des questions plus précises à poser.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I wish to thank Professor Islam and reassure him and the Council that we in Canada are sensitive to his introductory comments, and are doing our utmost to respond to the logistical and timing factors of food aid shipments and rehabilitation programmes in Africa. It is a critically important and difficult challenge for all those involved in these operations.

Overcoming the crisis in food production and distribution in Africa is perhaps the major development challenge faced by the international development community at this time. Its place on the development agenda of every international institution is testament to this fact. The document before us - CL 87/13 - is a good one both in its analysis and prescription. I congratulate the Secretariat, and would like to quote from the paper's conclusions in paragraph 65, where it is stated:

"In order to prevent such a disaster, a radical break with the past is needed, involving profound structural changes". We share this view, as I believe does everyone who analyses the alarming and continuing trends before us.

A strength of this document is its focus on the vulnerability of depleting land resources, vulnerability to both nature and, most critically, to man. Continued population growth in many countries within current economic and social parameters is clearly not sustainable. These parameters must be changed. Nature finds its own equilibrium. Our profound collective challenge is to seek and establish a new equilibrium radically different from the one projected in the sub-text of the analysis of this document.

The analyses and information flowing out of international organizations such as FAO, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, IFAD and others clearly provides us with a basis for action. The more coordinated flow of the massive increases in food aid to Africa under the auspices of the WFP is another. We welcome and encourage the collaborative approach which is evolving between United Nations institutions, as witnessed by the Joint FAO/WFP Task Forces, and the United Nations Emergency Operations for Africa as an effective marshalling of capacities and resources.

Examples of effective responses are also available. To cite one at national level, there is the Government of Kenya's response to its drought situation, which is particularly commendable and worthy of further study by us to draw lessons which are applicable elsewhere.

Among the lessons being learned is the need for clear priorities and the efficient and effective channelling of scarce development resources. Here, the trade-off between short-term emergency aid and long-term development assistance is painfully clear. For Canada, as for all other donor institutions, a dollar spent on emergency aid is a dollar less for emergency development assistance, so it is important to use emergency assistance as much as possible in a developmentally sound manner.

Canada's aid agency, CIDA, has undertaken a significant, difficult shift of priorities over the last few years towards increasing our assistance to Africa. In food aid alone, over half of our bilateral programme of 365 million dollars is now directed towards Africa. The priority emphasis on agriculture and rural development also continues in our bilateral assistance to African countries.

In reorientating our programme, other traditional development partners in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean are also making a real if indirect contribution to meeting the African food crisis, as we redirect our development resources from them to Africa. Equally, we, in Canada are coming to grips with longer-term solutions. In addition to the reorientation of our regular programmes, the Government of Canada has recently announced a special fund of 18 million dollars for African rehabilitation under the Special Coordinator for African Famine Relief, David MacDonald. Canada is also paying particular attention, as I mentioned earlier, to the issues of timing and logistics.

Turning briefly to the Programme of Work for FAO, as we have spoken to many of these issues in other fora, I will not repeat our comments here. However, paragraph 47 does raise certain measures at the international level on which I would like to touch, and I will do so briefly.

First of all, the proposal for standby resources for the IEFRR would mean a diminution of development assistance available from Canada under our budgetary procedures and is therefore not acceptable to my delegation. In our view the existing emergency procedures of the FAC when taken in conjunction with other procedures have proved adequate, although we would remark that they are always subject to ongoing review. Then there is the system of interim food

reserves and food aid insurance schemes; these require further study. For us, economic arguments have yet to be made for these proposals and the development of alternatives, as well as those for the extension of pre-positioning of stocks. We will be guided in our policy by the economic arguments developed for each proposal.

Finally, I turn to the issue of refocusing of the 1985 FAO Regular Programme: in support of rehabilitation requirements in Africa. Reprogramming of resources coupled with cuts in other areas has resulted in the freeing of 5 million dollars for drought area rehabilitation. We are curious to know what was cut from the original budget and therefore what was not done in 1984/85.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Ma délégation congolaise voudrait féliciter le Secrétariat pour cet intéressant document qu'il a préparé sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique et les mesures prises pourraient orienter les programmes de la FAO.

La présentation qui vient d'en être faite par MM. Islam et Lignon. en raison de leur clarté et des précisions qu'ils ont apporté vont sûrement nous faciliter les débats.

Monsieur le Président, il est un fait que l'Afrique, depuis quelque temps déjà, a pris conscience des pénuries alimentaires qui la guettaient et s'est rendue compte que des efforts concertés au niveau de la région étaient utiles pour mener ensemble la bataille pour l'autosuffisance individuelle et collective dans cette région. La déclaration de Freetown dont il est fait mention au paragraphe 1 du document CL 87/13 en constitue un témoignage éloquent. L'élaboration du plan alimentaire régional pour l'Afrique, avec son prolongement dans la partie agricole du plan d'action de Lagos, n'ont fait que renforcer cette prise de conscience collective, mais avouons-le, cela n'a pas suffi, car ici plus qu'ailleurs, les seules volontés des mêmes politiques ne suffisent pas pour changer le cours des choses. Seules les actions peuvent conduire à des résultats concrets. La dernière déclaration de Harare s'inscrit dans cet objectif et le fait que celle-ci ait été accueillie aussi favorablement dans tous les "fora" a pu susciter en nous quelque espoir car l'Afrique est consciente qu'elle doit accorder de plus en plus la priorité à la production agricole et vivrière, mais ces efforts se heurtent au sempiternel problème de l'inadéquation des moyens face aux objectifs visés.

Voilà pourquoi je partage ce qui est dit au paragraphe 5: "L'Afrique perd du terrain dans son combat pour la sécurité alimentaire". En fait, l'Afrique n'a pas que ce combat à livrer, elle en a plusieurs, liés les uns aux autres, et ce n'est sûrement pas l'aide alimentaire, aussi massive soit-elle, qui réglerait de manière définitive les questions relatives au développement, car la faim avant tout est un problème de pauvreté dans ce monde où règne l'abondance. Dans la solution par l'accroissement des revenus qui appelle à son tour la création de richesses et d'emplois, la meilleure manière d'aborder la question est donc, selon nous, de créer les conditions d'une certaine prospérité dans les pays, non pas en sollicitant indéfiniment l'aide alimentaire, mais en créant les conditions d'une meilleure exploitation des ressources naturelles. Nous estimons que cette question n'a jamais été abordée en profondeur, même après la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation de 1974, puisque tous les engagements pris n'ont pas été tenus par les différents acteurs.

Nous espérons que l'étude que la FAO a entreprise et qui sera examinée à la Conférence régionale de Brazzaville, nous donnera une illustration éloquent. De même qu'on n'a pas cru aux premières alertes lancées depuis pratiquement 1982, et même avant, par le Directeur général, qui signalait grâce aux indications données par le système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide, les menaces qui pesaient sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique, menaces qui se sont précisées en 1983 par la persistance de la sécheresse.

A cet égard, nous sommes reconnaissants au Directeur général de la FAO pour les appels au secours lancés en direction de la communauté internationale et sommes sensibles aux manifestations de solidarité que cette crise alimentaire, avec son lot de morts et de souffrances humaines, a déclenché à travers le monde. En effet, cela a eu pour résultat le doublement de la quantité d'aide alimentaire reçue par ces mêmes pays en 1983/84. Mais l'arrivée massive, dans les ports, de cette aide alimentaire a mis au grand jour la faiblesse de l'infrastructure routière de transport et de stockage des vivres, ces pays n'étant pas préparés à de telles opérations de grande ampleur, ce qui a occasionné des pertes matérielles et réduit l'efficacité de cette aide puisque les livraisons de vivres ont atteint des retards considérables causant la perte de nombreuses vies humaines sans compter que toutes les aides promises n'ont pas encore été livrées.

Le fait que les conditions météorologiques se soient améliorées en 1985 nous redonnent espoir dans le court terme sans que nous soyons épargnés d'autres crises éventuelles de grande envergure. Le temps semble selon nous propice pour non seulement prendre des mesures propres à faire face à de telles éventualités mais encore à relancer l'agriculture pendant que l'aide d'urgence continue d'arriver.

Monsieur le Président, la crise africaine de ces dernières années a montré clairement qu'il faut en effet craindre que le phénomène d'accoutumance ne décourage les initiatives et paralyse l'action de la communauté internationale, ce qui aura pour effet de perpétuer la situation et rendre plus vulnérables les populations actuellement sinistrées et éviter une extension encore plus ample du phénomène.

Aucun pays de cette région n'est à l'abri de telles situations, c'est pourquoi, l'action à entreprendre en Afrique doit être massive et viser le collectif des Etats de la région car tous sont porteurs des germes de la crise alimentaire puisqu'ils ne disposent pas des capacités infrastructurales, financières et techniques pour assurer leur autosuffisance alimentaire. Les efforts d'investissement dans ce secteur que déploient en ce moment certains Etats méritent le soutien actif de la communauté des donateurs. L'accent doit être porté sur des projets nationaux certes mais ceux-ci devront s'inscrire dans un cadre plus vaste sous-régional ou régional.

En attendant et au regard de l'ampleur des dégâts causés par les sécheresses successives nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de l'initiative du Directeur Général de la FAO qui a réussi à mettre en application les directives que notre conseil lui avait données dans sa résolution 1/86.

Les petits projets de relance de l'agriculture dans les 21 pays gravement affectés par la sécheresse avaient déjà reçu le soutien de mon gouvernement le 29 mars dernier. Nous nous félicitons de ce qu'un grand nombre de pays tant développés qu'en développement se soient déjà offerts pour financer leur mise en oeuvre. Nous nous réjouissons à cet égard des mesures concrètes prises par les pays donateurs présents ici pour ce qui concerne les projets. La FAO devra veiller sur leur réalisation effective. Mais disons qu'il s'agit là d'une opération de sauvetage qui doit assurer le lien entre l'aide d'urgence et les projets d'investissement à long terme qui devront s'attacher à guérir le mal par la racine. C'est cette dernière action autant que la précédente qui sera décisive et sur laquelle sera testée la bonne volonté des uns et la détermination des autres, car c'est ainsi que ces pays pourront de moins en moins faire appel à l'aide alimentaire d'urgence.

En attendant nous aimerions que la FAO poursuivre toutes les démarches nécessaires afin que tous les projets de relance trouvent un financement et nous voudrions d'ores et déjà féliciter le Directeur général pour son initiative de mettre les ressources de l'Organisation à contribution notamment les 15 millions qui étaient destinés à être distribués entre nos Etats Membres et qui viennent renforcer l'enveloppe de 5 millions que le Conseil avait dégagés lors de sa dernière session.

Nous sommes aussi d'accord avec toutes les réorientations de programme de travail de 1985 et espérons que celles-ci contribueront à relancer l'agriculture des pays sinistrés sans provoquer trop de dommage aux autres pays tant africains que des régions soeurs, afin de les épargner des souffrances que connaissent à présent les pays frappés par les calamités naturelles dont on peut se prémunir.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, nous souhaitons que vous reteniez que nous sommes actuellement en pourparlers avec un certain nombre de délégations pour présenter un projet de résolution qui reflète une nouvelle fois nos préoccupations au sujet de la situation alimentaire africaine. Elle viendra compléter celle que nous avons initiée et fait adopter en novembre dernier et qui a servi au Directeur général pour entreprendre les vigoureuses actions que l'on sait et qui ont abouti à la présentation, les 30 janvier et 29 mars derniers d'un certain nombre de projets de réhabilitation de l'agriculture aux donateurs, il pourra être transmis au Comité de rédaction qui se chargera d'en affiner le texte.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban): (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais faire quelques observations sur le point 5 de l'ordre du jour, à savoir la situation alimentaire de l'Afrique et j'aimerais tout d'abord féliciter M. Lignon et M. Islam de leurs exposés passionnants sur cette question très importante relative à la situation alimentaire en Afrique; ce continent qui nous préoccupe tous et qui exige de la part de la communauté internationale toute aide et toute assistance possible. A cet égard je ne saurais manquer de rappeler que la FAO a été la première organisation à donner déjà l'alarme en 1976 et il ne faudrait pas oublier que le Directeur général de l'Organisation depuis très longtemps avait invité la communauté internationale à aider le continent africain afin de relancer l'agriculture sur ce continent. Nous constatons également que le programme de relance agricole en Afrique est un des programmes ou projets les plus importants entrepris par cette organisation récemment et la réponse merveilleuse que nous avons enregistrée lors de la première réunion, fin janvier 1985 concernant l'Ethiopie et de la deuxième réunion tenue le 29 mars 1985 concernant 20 pays africains souffrant de la sécheresse, la réponse à l'appel lancé par le Directeur général de la part de la communauté internationale et des pays donateurs, nous réchauffe le coeur et nous remplit d'enthousiasme et d'optimisme et nous confirme une fois de plus que l'on ne peut ignorer un appel au secours.

Monsieur le Président, les informations données par le Secrétariat, montrent que la vague de sécheresse a tendance à se limiter et que les pluies dans l'Afrique de l'est et en Afrique australe permettront d'encourager la relance agricole dans cette région, mais malgré ce recul de la sécheresse, la famine n'est pas à son terme en Afrique. Les informations sur la famine que nous avons sur un pays qui nous est très cher, j'ai nommé le Soudan, sont très alarmantes; il en va de même de la situation au Mozambique, en Angola, au Tchad, en Ethiopie.



Le problème n'est pas simplement un problème de chute de pluies, de précipitations, il s'agit de faire parvenir cette aide à bon port, c'est-à-dire à ceux qui en ont le plus grand besoin plutôt que de voir cette assistance et ces produits s'empiler dans les ports sans aucun moyen, faute d'appui logistique, de les faire parvenir aux régions où sont concentrés les réfugiés, les affamés et les sans-abri, ceux, en d'autres termes, qui en ont le plus grand besoin.

C'est pourquoi j'estime que toute aide, toute assistance qui pourrait contribuer à régler ces problèmes logistiques serait la bienvenue et permettrait de remédier à cette situation qui se détériore jour après jour en Afrique. A cet égard, j'estime que les informations de M. Lignon sur la relance de l'agriculture en Afrique sont très pertinentes. Il faudrait, en fait, réorienter les programmes de travail de l'Organisation afin de donner une priorité aux projets et programmes visant à augmenter le potentiel et la capacité des pays africains eux-mêmes, leur permettant ainsi d'augmenter leur production agricole et d'accroître leur productivité.

Ma délégation approuve entièrement cette orientation. Le document présenté par M. Islam traite du problème agricole et alimentaire en Afrique. Sous tous ses angles, M. Islam, dans ce document, su diagnostiquer le mal et donner les solutions et les remèdes nécessaires, mais il a également attiré notre attention sur le fait qu'il ne suffit pas de compter sur la générosité des pays donateurs mais qu'il faudrait également que les pays bénéficiaires, ceux qui reçoivent cette assistance, fassent preuve de volonté d'action. En ce sens que les bénéficiaires devraient développer leur capacité de faire face à ces situations exceptionnelles, par exemple la situation de sécheresse; il faudrait également que ces pays aient la volonté et le pouvoir de développer leur agriculture par leurs propres moyens avec l'assistance de la Communauté internationale. Le programme de relance agricole en Afrique tel qu'il nous est soumis par la FAO est tout à fait opportun et nous fondons beaucoup d'espoir sur l'étude approfondie qui sera présentée par l'Organisation lors de la prochaine Conférence régionale en Afrique; car une telle étude va traiter les racines mêmes de ce problème et va établir des solutions à long terme, comme cela figure dans la dernière partie du document présenté par M. Islam.

Permettez-moi de dire au nom de la délégation libanaise combien nous sommes reconnaissants et fiers de la réponse donnée, à l'appel pour aider le continent africain, par les pays avancés et nantis, mais aussi par d'autres pays comme l'Inde et la Chine. Il s'agit là d'une illustration merveilleuse, d'un exemple sans précédent de la solidarité internationale entre pays nantis et pays pauvres.

J'aimerais, en conclusion, dire qu'un tel geste permet de se tourner vers l'avenir avec beaucoup d'optimisme. Je crois que l'avenir n'est pas aussi sombre que certains le présentent et je suis très fier de voir se matérialiser la coopération internationale au sein de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, au sein de laquelle la FAO se dédie avec dévouement à la cause de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Je suis sûr que la FAO se montrera à la hauteur de sa noble tâche, comme elle l'a déjà fait dans le passé, et permettra de promouvoir le développement agricole et rural dans les pays du tiers monde.

M. BALLA SY (Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole pour me permettre de vous livrer quelques impressions sur ce thème qui est particulièrement important aussi bien pour la communauté internationale que pour le continent africain.

Le document que nous étudions me plonge dans un empire sentimental on ne peut plus confus. En effet, l'examen de ce document provoque en moi des sentiments qui alternent l'angoisse, l'espoir et la confiance.

Angoisse, parce que les analyses pertinentes faites par le Secrétariat que je voudrais chaleureusement féliciter à cette occasion, montrent la gravité de la situation alimentaire en Afrique. Les problèmes soulevés par l'acheminement de l'aide et sa distribution rapide sont très préoccupants et méritent d'être davantage cernés dans le sens du renforcement des moyens logistiques dans les pays concernés.

Cette situation m'amène à évoquer la question de la Réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence et des réserves intermédiaires. D'aucuns disent que les derniers événements douloureux survenus récemment en Afrique ont prouvé que la communauté internationale peut à tout moment faire face à n'importe quelle crise alimentaire. Je dois reconnaître que cela est exact, mais je dois aussi souligner que les pays donateurs ont en effet consenti des efforts et des moyens considérables pour secourir les populations africaines. Cependant, l'effet de surprise et l'ampleur du drame vécu ont mis en exergue certains aspects dont on doit tenir compte. Combien de vies humaines auraient pu être sauvées si des lacunes logistiques telles que l'engorgement des ports, l'insuffisance du réseau routier et le manque de moyens de transport ne s'étaient signalées avec autant d'acuité.

Cela ne suffirait-il pas à faire admettre que l'augmentation de la RAIU et la mise en place des réserves intérimaires dans les zones menacées seraient des mesures de sécurité irremplaçables. En effet, cela nous fait admettre qu'il vaut mieux prévenir que guérir et c'est là justement le sens profond des propositions déjà faites par le Secrétariat dans le sens d'une restructuration de la RAIU et de la mise en place des réserves intérimaires.

De toutes ces considérations nous devons également tirer d'autres leçons.

En premier lieu, la solution de la crise en Afrique, nous le savons tous, dépendra essentiellement de la relance de l'agriculture. C'est à ce point de vue que les actions de la FAO, dans le sens des initiatives du Directeur général et de ses collaborateurs, méritent une grande attention et un soutien total de la communauté internationale. Les réactions, dont vient de nous parler M. Lignon avec autant de clarté, de certains organismes intergouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux et de certains pays donateurs aux programmes de la FAO pour 21 pays d'Afrique, en particulier l'Ethiopie, sont des réactions louables qui méritent d'être soulignées avec espoir. Je disais qu'il y a une sorte d'angoisse qui m'a été procurée par cette situation alimentaire dramatique. Mais il y a tout de même de l'espoir, je viens de le signaler, qui est dû à ces réactions très positives de la communauté internationale aux programmes de la FAO, et l'espoir que cette initiative sera suivie par d'autres pays dans le futur.

Je voudrais également à cette occasion reprendre une conclusion de M. Lignon qui disait que la préparation de ce programme ne signifie pas que la FAO se désintéresse de l'Afrique. Je crois que cette précision n'était pas utile. Elle n'a pas de sens profond parce que la préparation de ce programme signifie très clairement, qu'on le pense ou qu'on ne le pense pas, que la FAO ne fait que donner une priorité à l'Afrique, et nous souhaitons que cela dure encore. Je suis persuadé que toute la communauté internationale ne manquera pas de reconnaître que bien que l'aide alimentaire soit nécessaire, celle-ci devrait non seulement s'orienter dans le sens de son intégration au développement, et particulièrement dans la mise à la disposition des nations touchées des moyens de production pour leur permettre d'être autosuffisantes et de produire assez pour les populations qui relèvent de leur juridiction.

La deuxième leçon est liée à l'observation précédente, c'est-à-dire que l'aide alimentaire devra prendre une nouvelle direction pour s'intégrer davantage aux efforts de développement. Aussi ne puis-je que souhaiter que les projets de développement financés par le PAM qui n'ont cessé de diminuer au cours de ces dernières années soient au contraire renforcés.

La troisième leçon est que le transfert des technologies, la formation, la recherche scientifique, la sélection, la conservation et l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources phytogénétiques devraient demeurer notre principale préoccupation.

Je pense que la communauté internationale, les pays donateurs et les organismes de financement en particulier, ainsi que la FAO, ont désormais définitivement pris l'engagement irréversible de donner une priorité à l'Afrique. Cela est d'autant plus réjouissant et réconfortant que les pays membres de la FAO dans leur intégralité, malgré les difficultés diverses, sont également solidaires dans cette action.

En effet, dans aucune instance internationale, cette priorité ne souffre de contestation. Au contraire, les bonnes intentions sont si nombreuses que leur coordination pose un problème. Pour éviter qu'il y ait une dispersion des efforts dont l'Afrique n'a point besoin, on devrait reconnaître que la FAO est, quoi que l'on puisse dire, depuis sa création, l'organisation spécialisée la mieux armée, la plus aguerrie pour jouer le rôle de chef de file. Notre devoir est de le reconnaître, de l'aider sans complaisance en étant conscient de ses mérites, en soulignant ses erreurs et en lui prodiguant des recommandations utiles.

Je ne saurais terminer sans appuyer une idée à laquelle ma délégation s'associe activement et qui a déjà été soulignée par M. l'Ambassadeur du Congo. Il s'agit du projet de résolution que notre instance devrait exceptionnellement envisager dans le cadre de ses présents travaux. Compte tenu des difficultés que traverse l'Afrique qui, j'en suis sûr, préoccupent tous les pays ici présents, je crois que dans aucun de nos comités il n'y a eu de divergence sur la question. Ce sont seulement les moyens de réaliser les objectifs qui ont divisé les délégations, mais les objectifs ont toujours été les mêmes. Les bonnes intentions n'ont jamais manqué. Il s'agit simplement de déclarer solennellement à l'occasion de nos travaux, dans le document qui sera soumis au Comité de rédaction pour son affinement et sa finalisation, cet engagement qui ne fait défaut au niveau d'aucune délégation ici présente.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): I take this opportunity to thank the Director-General for a very clear analysis of the food situation in Africa. I would draw particular attention to paragraph 7 of document CL 87/13 which emphasizes the need for strengthening the infrastructure and the logistic support for delivering food aid to the needy in those countries. India has in its own humble way tried to play a part in shipping some of the grain required. I know that the needs are large, and contributions made by each one of us could perhaps be said to be a very humble contribution, but I believe that all the contributions that we make should reach the needy in time and I am sure that we all, in collaboration, will try to see what can be done to improve the logistics support for that aid to reach them in time. We share this concern expressed in the document, and we would like to do all we can to find better ways of ensuring that supplies arrive in time.

Secondly, I would also like to draw attention to paragraphs 34 to 37 of this document which really highlight the components of the rehabilitation programme - mainly, the support from technology, the support from extension and related support services, and the need for greater use of inputs without which the fall in yields which has been noted in paragraph 34 cannot be reversed.

I think it is in this context that I would like to commend our Director-General and through him therefore the Secretariat for an excellent report which is reflected in paragraphs 55 to 57 of this Valuable document. As mentioned in paragraph 55, the meeting which took place on March 29, 1985 was an historic event in the field of international cooperation for setting up a new international agricultural order, Mr Chairman, to which you refer to. I think the work done in identifying no less than 194 specific projects for the twenty countries' rehabilitation programmes is a task which needs to be fully commended by this Council. I believe this set of projects in fact reflects a certain concern for integrating various aspects with which the FAO has been concerned. I think it reflects a concern for increasing the employment, providing food security and increasing agricultural productivity. It seeks Mr Chairman, in the African context, and it might be equally relevant elsewhere in varying degrees, to modernize agriculture, transport and communications. I think the need is to coordinate the effort whether national, bilateral or multilateral, and thus the suggestion made in paragraph 57 of this document that FAO could play a critical role in assisting the various agencies, both the donors as well as the recipients, in monitoring the effective use of the resources provided for achieving this tremendous task.

I am very happy to mention that we would particularly like to emphasise the technical cooperation component of this programme, and there is scope for mutual cooperation amongst all of us, particularly in the areas like the organization of farmers and their exposure to specific productivity programmes, the organization of improved seed supplies and agro-economic expertise, the provision of agricultural extension and support services. In all of this we might be able to make a humble contribution to our brothers and sisters for getting together for organizing agricultural management and fulfilling the tasks ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr Chairman, to salute the efforts made by our brothers and sisters in Africa. In referring to the role of aid I do not want to underestimate the noble, the valiant efforts made by our friends in Africa to face the situation and to rehabilitate agriculture in an orderly and in an effective manner. We think but for this effort from Africa, all that we are doing in our humble way would not be achieving the results that it is showing, and I would take this opportunity to salute the African countries in their march ahead and I would like to pledge our support in this noble endeavour.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to bring to your notice that India, as part of the non-aligned Movement, has tried to enroll the collective efforts of the non-aligned Movement. The meeting of the non-aligned coordinating Bureau took place in New Delhi in April and I am very happy that FAO has welcomed this initiative of the non-aligned Movement for joining in the task of assisting the African countries by various supporting systems including the adoption of the projects which have been listed by the FAO. I hope that in response to this appeal which has been endorsed by the FAO, members of the non-aligned Group will be providing, either directly or through FAO, the necessary support in respect of identifying the projects in which they feel they could work together with the recipient nations.

I would like to congratulate the FAO on their offer of assistance in coordinating this effort in various roles such as cost sharing of the supporting services, provision of FAO expertise and monitoring of the effectiveness of the technical collaboration arrangements, and I think it is in this manner that nationally and internationally, through the technical support of the FAO, we could ensure that whatever national or international inputs are going into this great task of reconstructing agriculture in this great continent will succeed, and I am sure this Council will endorse all the national and international efforts as well as the involvement of the FAO in this great march ahead. Let me thank you for this opportunity I have of associating myself and India with this great task, and let me pledge our country and all our colleagues in the non-aligned Movement to make our humble contribution in the fulfilment of this noble objective.

Ms. M. FENWICK (United States of America): I know my delegation has already welcomed your arrival here and told you how happy we are to see you, but I would like to add personally that I share that. Also to the Director-General, our delegation has expressed its appreciation for his statement - and I especially - because as always I find in the Director-General's remarks that heartfelt concern for those who suffer, without that our work here loses so much of its impetus and spirit. And to the Secretariat, thanks also.

I am always stimulated to say more but I like to be brief; I try to keep to three minutes and I hope I will, but my colleagues interest me so and they say things that are so interesting. A word we hear all the time is "protectionism" and I think it might be some comfort to my colleagues, although it certainly is not to us, to know that we have a trade deficit of over one hundred billion dollars - a staggering deficit with Japan and a deficit with Europe. But the biggest of all our deficits is with the rest of the world, 38 billion dollars, not including Japan or Europe. I think for sub-Sahara Africa it is 9,000 million dollars alone. This is something I just thought might be of comfort to some here who speak of protectionism, which I may say I am very much against and always have been.

I would like to speak also about two programmes that we have for development, especially for Africa. The African Economic Policy Reform Programme is going to give cash grants - this is the proposal - for some 500 million dollars to be given out over a series of years to those nations whose policies are designed to increase the production in their country; marketing, pricing, all the things that we know about - a practical programme. That will be for 1986. It is a proposal not yet in operation.

In 1985 the US total - and this includes also the Caribbean basin where we are trying to do some helpful work - is some 755 million dollars. That would be for 1985.

Now leaving figures which I never enjoy very much, I would like to speak about what some of my colleagues have said. I thought the intervention of the Government of Czechoslovakia was most interesting. So many years, and we are worse off than we were; that is surely something that should be brought to our attention. Also, perhaps because I too am a grandparent, I would like to echo the concerns of the Government of the Philippines concerning the environment, and I think FAO's work in forestry particularly has been significant in the protection of the environment, and of course small catchment basins for the rain water, which are not only environmental but of great use to the small farmers. And so my colleagues who know me know I come to the subject that I care about the most, the small farmer, the smallholder farmer. Why does everybody look at China and India? Why, because they offer such startling examples. China, suddenly is now the biggest wheat producer in the world. As one important Chief of State the other day said, speaking of his own country's difficult agriculture and economy, the philosophic base of a policy is the determinant, and that is what has happened I believe with the changes that have been made in China. Also perhaps it accounts for some of India's success where we have a million independent milk farmers in the Annan Project. The heavy hand of Government does not enter. The average herd is five buffaloes, a million members in the Annan Project. Or you take the agriculture of India itself, 70 percent of the land that is cultivated in India, 2 hectares or less. This does not entail great big tractors; this is what Nehru was talking about when he said "What is progress? It is giving a man who has a wooden plough the opportunity to get himself a metal plough". We have to learn from what works. Now I am not anti-intellectual, and I do not mean to suggest that. I know we need research for the tsetse fly, for the larger grain borer, for the mealy bug, for all these curses of Africa, and that research obviously will have to be done in laboratories and by experienced people, but we ought to look around; ask Zimbabwe how good is the Master Farmer Scheme. Look what they have produced on the small farms in Zimbabwe, the Master Farmer Scheme. The one I visited had over 50 percent women enrolled. Lots of things are working. FAO invented a marvellous oven so that the women of West Africa who smoke the fish and control their own income can work more efficiently and keep an income all the year round. These are the things that really count. It reminds me of my dear friend Mr Palmer from Sierra Leone. "What every village needs is a vivid demonstration of something that works". There are so many of these - the blacksmith training that FAO is now doing. Those blacksmiths remind me of Ford starting in the bicycle world! Why not. Training people making parts for these machines. We have to realise what is involved here. Small businesses, independent people. As the Chairman said, the rich are very seldom hungry. The other name for hunger is poverty, We must encourage the local farmer to sell for cash, buy what he wants without anybody ordering him around, produce what he can produce. I met a wonderful African when I was in West Africa this year and we were talking about the rural poor, and he said "what the rural poor need is not relief, it is release, freedom to do what they know how to do". Listen to them because they often know a lot more than we do. Serve them; learn from them.

I would also like to speak of the aquaculture project. I saw a wonderful aquaculture project in Zambia. Here were independent farmers digging their own ponds. Two experts were there for 600 farmers. They were advised, "You have not enough water. You have not the kind of land that will hold water." So you go ahead and dig your pond and they tell you how to go down to the bank and borrow \$900. I have not time to tell you the details, but 300 of them are in a voluntary cooperative making money. They are going to hire their own people if they need any.

All this adds up to what we are here for, caring as we do. We all do, or we would not be here, hoping to be useful.

I must draw your attention here to what I consider to be a very beautiful, important contribution that an African government and country has made. I am talking of Cameroon, and its President, H.E. Paul Biya, and his people, who have made that little port of Douala the port of hope for the people of Chad, accepting food at tremendous difficulties for Cameroon and allowing that food to go into Chad where people are starving. That is a gesture of human solidarity and caring and compassion which is a model, and I would like to bring that to the attention of this council.

Otto FRIIS (Denmark): Allow me to make two brief comments on document CL 87/13, which in the view of my delegation contains a comprehensive assessment of the current African food crisis, which is certainly a serious one. I have listened carefully to what was said earlier this morning about the situation and I will not go into any detail about the grave concern which the situation is causing also in Denmark. But I think it is important to keep in mind the value of keeping an updated picture of the situation.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my Government's support for FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System. Through its close monitoring and reporting we believe that the system has played an important role in mobilizing a timely and coordinated response by the donor-community to the African crisis. We would like to encourage FAO to continue its current endeavours to further improve the analytical framework and reporting of the system.

Secondly, we find that the information contained in the document testifies to the structural nature of at any rate part of the African food crisis. Consequently it underlines the need for a close integration of short-term emergency relief and long-term development assistance, of which the FAO is certainly aware. This integration seems to us to be of great importance since we otherwise see the risk of making the African countries dependent on emergency assistance, particularly in the form of food aid. In our opinion this could endanger their long-term development objectives. We are certainly aware that such an integration may be hard to achieve given the current institutional division of labour within the UN system, where the World Bank provides structural assistance to the agricultural sector, the FAO provides medium-term structural rehabilitation programmes and the UN Office of African Emergency Operations provides short-term emergency relief. So we urge the various UN Agencies involved to coordinate their efforts in combatting the immediate effects and the structural causes of the African crisis.

Y.A. HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman. I should like first of all to express our pleasure at seeing you once more, and I should like to congratulate the Vice-Chairmen on their election. We also wish to congratulate the Director-General on his important statement, and we wish to thank Professor Islam and Mr Lignon for their introduction to this item.

The problems of food and agriculture faced by Africa have been very clearly identified in this document. These problems are multi-faceted, such as the continued decline in self-sufficiency in the continent, decrease in per caput food production, the problem of drought, the shortage of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and technology, and man made emergencies.

The document has laid down guidelines to get prepared to face these emergencies at the national and the international levels. We fully approve these guidelines. We would in this respect commend the efforts made by the Organization in order to contribute in the implementation of these guidelines in cooperation with the governments concerned. In fact the Organization has taken the initiative in studying and preparing rehabilitation projects for the agricultural sector in 26 affected countries in consultation with the countries concerned.

These projects were so designed as to ensure rapid execution and considerable impacts in a short period and they aim at a large number of producers and inhabitants. They include technical assistance and training programmes and the provision of agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. The Organization has appealed to the international community to contribute to these efforts. We are pleased to hear today that a number of countries and non-governmental organizations have expressed their readiness to finance these projects. We thank these countries

and organizations which have responded so favourably to this appeal and which have been listed by Mr Lignon. In this respect we should like to appeal to the other governments and organizations to contribute to this programme in favour of the African countries, which would lay down the cornerstone of agricultural development in these countries and would also contribute to laying down the basis for self-reliance and self-sufficiency in the long-term.

We would also like to support the Director-General in allocating \$200 million from the Regular Programme and within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Programme, which besides those contributions from other States and organizations, would be used in financing these projects.

In conclusion we should like to announce our country's preparedness to contribute to the training programmes regarding human resources in Africa and also to provide Egyptian expertise in different fields of agriculture at the bilateral level and through the Organization,

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: Regarding the Drafting Committee, you will remember that yesterday the Chairman of the Group of 77 announced that Congo, Malawi, Philippines, India, Argentina, Mexico, Lebanon and Egypt, these eight names were mentioned by consensus. The Chairman of the OECD Group has informed me of Australia, Italy, Spain and the United States of America. In all therefore there will be twelve members. These constitute the Drafting Committee. We ought to have a Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I give the floor to the delegate of the Ivory Coast.

D. YOMAN (Côte-d'Ivoire): Au nom du groupe africain et en notre qualité de pays assurant la présidence de ce groupe nous avons l'honneur de présenter ici à l'élection par le Conseil lui-même la candidature de l'Ambassadeur du Congo, au poste de président du Comité de rédaction de la quatre-vingt-septième session. Cette suggestion, croyons-nous, qui n'est pas une première dans la pratique de notre Conseil, devrait à notre avis requérir le consensus de tous les honorables délégués présents dans cette salle. Le Groupe africain s'honore de cette candidature d'un de ses membres éminent qui est un homme d'expérience. Son Excellence, l'Ambassadeur Tchicaya, en effet, est un diplomate avisé mais également et surtout un agronome ayant assumé de hautes fonctions dans l'administration de son pays. Il connaît parfaitement la FAO et le fonctionnement de ses organes. Il a déjà assumé avec succès les charges de Vice-Président du Conseil, de Président du Groupe des 77 et bien sûr a participé à de nombreux comités de rédaction ici même. Du fait de son sens de la mesure, de sa compétence sur les questions alimentaires et agricoles, de sa disponibilité et son dévouement, nous sommes d'avance certains qu'avec l'aide des autres membres du Comité de rédaction le rapport final de notre session reflétera d'une façon claire et responsable les débats de notre réunion. Au nom du groupe africain, nous souhaitons, encore une fois, que cette proposition reçoive l'accord de notre Conseil.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos, Señor Presidente, apoyar en todas sus partes la proposición que ha hecho la distinguida representación de Costa de Marfil en la persona del Embajador Tchicaya para presidir el Grupo de Redacción. Creemos que es difícil repetir lo que ha planteado el colega de Costa de Marfil sobre las cualidades, capacidad y dinamismo del Sr. Tchicaya; por lo tanto, creemos que puede convertirse en un gran Presidente de un Consejo que necesita un buen Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Yo estoy de acuerdo con la propuesta del Embajador Tchicaya ya que será un excelente Presidente; pero yo me quería referir a otra cuestión. Me parece que los nombres que dió usted por América Latina y el Caribe están equivocados y podría usted dejarlo abierto y en la tarde le comunicaría la Presidente de nuestro Grupo, la Embajadora de Venezuela, los nombres definitivos.

Dra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Dice bien la señora representante de México cuando indica que hay un error en la nominación de los miembros para el Comité de Redacción; en el Grupo de los 77 habíamos escogido en vez de México a Colombia para constituir el Comité de Redacción; así que Colombia pasará a formar parte del Grupo de Redacción en vez de México.

CHAIRMAN: That means that for the Drafting Committee we have the following: Congo, Malawi, Philippines, India, Argentina, Colombia, Lebanon, Egypt, Australia, Italy, Spain and the United States of America. If Council agrees, we will condemn Ambassador Tchicaya to sleepless nights and dinnerless evenings, because he will have to work very hard. Let us wish him well in his new task.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

The Director-General reminds me that the members of the Committee will also have to work very hard in the evenings so we must thank them as well.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La seance est levée à 12h30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.





## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/4

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Eighty-seventh Session  
**PLENARY**

Quatre-vingt-septième session  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

87° período de sesiones  
**PLENARIA**

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING  
QUATRIÈME SEANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
CUARTA SESION PLENARIA  
(18 June 1985)

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

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

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

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DELA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 5. Food Situation in Africa (continued)
- 5. Situation alimentaire de l'Afrique (suite)
- 5. Situación de la alimentación en Africa (continuación)

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia) : The Czechoslovak delegation appreciates the important share of FAO in solving the food crisis in Africa. We fully agree with the analysis of the present situation of African agriculture contained in document CL 87/13 and its supplement. We also consider it right that it is the technological assistance of FAO in this part of world that is emphasized by the Director-General in his draft programme for the years 1986/87.

The year 1984 was one of the least favourable years for the economies of African states since the beginning of their new existence. On one hand, the reason was a very complicated situation of the capitalist economy of the present world where elements of economic recovery had no corresponding positive reflection in the African economy. At the same time, a considerable portion of funding, which might have been used for the economic development of the advanced and developing components of world economy, was allocated to the field of armaments.

In spite of its notable natural resources Africa remains to be the economically most vulnerable continent in the world and, as a result of colonial deformation of its past economic and social development and of the present neocolonialist practices, an agrarian and raw material appendage of the industrially developed capitalist states.

The removing of food problems in the developing countries is therefore immediately connected not only with the necessity of improving their own agricultural sector which should be able to ensure their self-sufficiency in the production of basic food-stuffs, but it also requires a corresponding restructuring of international economic relations. We consider it very desirable that great attention should be generally paid to the search for more and more effective forms of assistance by means of which it would be possible to solve the food issue not only temporarily but also with prospects for the future. This strategy is an integral part of the Czechoslovak foreign policy in implementing our cooperation with the developing countries.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic takes an active part in the economic and technological cooperation with African countries entirely or partially financed by the Czechoslovak side. Credits, particularly for plant construction, are granted under advantageous conditions. 1 350 African students study in Czechoslovakia who are granted scholarships by the Czechoslovak side. In addition, the Czechoslovak institutions have provided their training facilities to a large number of experts from African and other developing countries. Here I would like to recall that the overall public assistance to the developing countries amounted to 3 600 million Czech. crowns equal to 0.74 percent of the national income already in 1982. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic assists the African countries also in their struggle against drought and famine.

With your permission, I would like to mention some new cooperative projects in Africa: Over the last 3 years work has been intensified in the field of non-metallic sorbents in agriculture and in combatting the problems of environment. The application of bentonites in sand soils in Northern Egypt has clearly demonstrated that Czechoslovak technology had redoubled the output of agricultural products in desert conditions and reduced by more than a half the demand for irrigation water.

These results have generated an effort to utilize local bentonites also in the neighbouring African countries. Besides the Joint Program Czechoslovak geologists made an evaluation of the local bentonites and we are ready to extend this work to other countries through FAO in case of interest.

As the submitted document contains also a number of proposals for measures which FAO and its Member-Governments intend to take for the benefit of Africa, I considered it useful to draw attention also to this new possibility not included in the proposals.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan) : First of all I would like to thank Dr. Islam and Mr. Lignon for their impressive introduction of this agenda item. Our appreciation also extends to the Secretariat for having prepared this very lucid and informative document before us.

The present critical food situation in Africa cannot, of course, be overlooked not only from a humanitarian point of view but in terms of world peace and stability. Bearing this in mind, my Government has been strengthening its efforts to provide food and agricultural assistance to this region. I wish to state in this context that in the fiscal year 1984, my country extended about 60 percent of its bilateral food aid to the African countries, and that in the current fiscal year

our grant aid and technical cooperation for Africa will amount to about 240 million U.S. dollars. We will also provide this region with 100 million dollars in yen loans, paying due attention to the coordination with the World Bank and other international development banks. With regard to multilateral assistance, my country plans to increase its contribution to organizations, such as FAO, UNDP, WFP, which are engaged in implementing measures needed to solve the African food problems.

The document CL 87/13 focuses upon various aspects of food situations in Africa. We particularly support the analysis made by the Secretariat regarding the root causes of the current food crisis, which are incorporated in paragraphs 30 to 38. It has relevantly pointed out the problems of population growth, rapid urbanization and the inadequate dynamism of the agricultural sector. Looking back over the history of the critical situation in Africa, no one could deny that the fundamental cause lies in the vulnerability of the economic and social infrastructure.

Although the emergency relief operation to the suffering countries is surely a matter of urgent concern as a tentative measure, we believe that the importance of medium and long-term measures to eradicate the main causes mentioned above cannot be over-emphasized. In this connection, my delegation would like to stress one very important element: that is the development of human resources. The development of human resources, although it may seem to be a roundabout approach, is actually the shortest way to improving the economic and social structure.

Without the promotion of human resources in Africa, even the external assistance from the international community cannot be fully effective to the development objectives. As paragraph 68(a) has rightly pointed out, the development of Africa's human capital is, indeed, a priority need. We hope, therefore, that FAO, when providing its future assistance to Africa, will put further emphasis on the activities aiming at the promotion of human resources development. In particular, the development and strengthening of management capability for policy formulation and implementation should be enhanced through FAO's technical advice and training activities.

Now, I would like to briefly touch upon the enhancement of the global information and early warning system mentioned in paragraphs 40 and 41. In order to effectively cope with the food and agricultural problems under severe natural conditions in Africa, it is indispensable to study and learn to predict changes in the weather conditions and the accompanying crop conditions, thus making it possible to adopt appropriate countermeasures.

It is also of paramount importance for formulation of appropriate agricultural development policy to grasp accurate information on forest and water resources, and soil conditions.

We feel that there is much room for improvement in this area by using advanced remote sensing technology. Recently, improvement of the Early Warning System was agreed upon at the Bonn Summit Meeting. We believe that the expanded use of this system in Africa will make a great contribution in combatting with the food crisis in that part of the world. We also believe that further improvement is necessary in order to have greater accuracy and obtain information more rapidly.

My country, noting the great achievement so far made by FAO, is now studying ways of helping African countries, through FAO trust funds, to improve this information system in Africa.

DATO ALWI JANTAN (Malaysia): Since this is the first time I am having the floor at this meeting, I would like to join the other delegations who have spoken before me in expressing our pleasure to see you again in the Chair. We would like also to congratulate the three distinguished Vice-Chairmen on their election. We are confident that under your wise leadership and guidance this important meeting will be brought to a successful conclusion to the satisfaction of everyone.

I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation to the Secretariat for its creditable effort in producing the excellent document as usual, and for the lucid manner these documents have been presented to us by both Prof. Islam and Mr Lignon. It is ironic that hunger and famine persist at a time when the world food situation is experiencing an increase.

It is imperative therefore that this unfortunate situation in Africa be halted and reversed as soon as possible. No efforts must be spared by the affected countries and the International Community to arrest the situation and alleviate the human sufferings.

Some of the reasons cited in the document for this unfortunate circumstance include factors such as degradation of resource base; low yields due to low agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and quality seeds and rapid urbanization. These factors are within the control of human beings. My delegation feels that with sufficient technical and financial backing, most of the above factors can be surmounted.

Of course, the famine and hunger of the magnitude we are facing are not all due to failures of mankind. The drought that has persisted for the last few years has been the major factor which is really beyond human control. Therefore, the best way to deal with this situation is to be ready for it. The FAO Global Information and Early Warning System are appropriate measures which need to be further improved. We fully support the suggestions in paragraphs 40 to 44 of the document to increase emergency preparedness by expediting mobilization of international assistance, improvement in port facilities and internal distribution systems and the possibility of prepositioning food in the disaster areas.

The present concern of organizations dealing in food aid and the International Community, is to alleviate the present sufferings as much as possible. Equally important though, is the rehabilitation of agriculture and the long-term solution to the problem.

My delegation fully supports the rehabilitation of agriculture in the affected areas as the most crucial first step. This undoubtedly would be an overwhelming task and I therefore would like to commend the Director-General and the Secretariat for having formulated the Country Rehabilitation Programmes specifically for this purpose.

As for the long-term solution, the high population rate which outstrips food production is a very distressing trend. We hope that the study FAO is undertaking for the consideration of the African Regional Conference next year will incorporate appropriate measures to change the long-term trend in Africa.

As part of the long-term solution, we also feel that more countries in the position to render technical cooperation should work with one or several African countries consistent with FAO's own concept of technical cooperation. Malaysia, in its own modest way, has been playing this role with Mali by providing some technical cooperation to help stimulate agricultural production in this farming stricken country. We have been providing some training, and also helping in the establishment of an agricultural research centre. Some agricultural machinery has also been provided to supplement the country's needs. Besides, Malaysia has also contributed some emergency food aid and identified trade opportunities with Mali to stimulate economic activities between our two countries. Both the Malaysian Government and the Malaysian public have also contributed to the African disaster fund through various channels.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our full support to the FAO in its noble and monumental tasks to render assistance to the drought affected countries of Africa.

A. M. QURESHI (Pakistan): First of all I would like to thank Prof. Islam and Mr Lignon for their brief and succinct presentation of the documents presented to us this morning. The Secretariat deserves to be commended for the excellent document CL 87/13 and CL 87/13-Sup.1. The documents are well prepared and clearly analyse the food problems, pinpoint their causes, and suggest short and long-term measures to resolve them.

We in this Council would be failing in our duty if we did not place on record our deep recognition to the international community, multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental organizations, countries big or small, one and all which responded so readily and generously to the call of the Director-General to meeting the emergency needs of affected African countries. This only shows that the common bonds of humanity tie us all together as one world, the nations united in distress, determined to wipe out the ugly spectre of hunger.

I shall be brief and will touch on major issues of food aid and rehabilitation dealt with by the Director-General in a forthright manner in his opening statement yesterday.

In the context of the African situation, the Director-General highlighted the phenomena of the yawning gap which exists between the severity of disasters and the weaknesses in our capability to render assistance with rapidity. This indeed is a very crucial area which needs to be urgently addressed to. As we see from Table. 2.2 in document CL 87/1.3, 51 percent of all food aid in 1982/83 was committed to Africa, and more than half of the global food aid now is generated towards Africa. Therefore there is an even greater and more urgent need to resolve this thorny problem, and improve the delivery system so that food can reach the hungry mouths.

From our own experience in Pakistan and in the context of refugees, the lag between the commitments and actual arrival of food puts heavy strains on the economy of Pakistan. We are required to make a reserve equivalent to six months requirement which indeed subjects our economy to heavy burdens.

We generally agree with the analysis put forward in the document CL 87/13, especially the focus on increased dependence on food aid, rising population, rapid shift of population from the rural scene to urban centres, inadequate supply of inputs and limited use of improved seeds and fertilizers, low yields and reduced resource allocation to the agriculture sector in the annual development programmes of African countries. In this context we appreciate the Director-General's concern with putting

Africa back on its own feet, when again in his opening statement he has aptly underlined that rehabilitation should go hand in hand with emergency food aid. We appreciate that the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme has been designed to yield quick results within the next three years. The programme is well conceived and the projects have been selected according to a strictly laid down criterion. It is encouraging to note that the rehabilitation programme will be strengthened by a rigorous follow-up to closely watch and constantly monitor its progress.

We also agree with the contents of paragraph 65 of CL 87/13 emphasizing the need for formulation of longer-term measures to cope with the extraordinary situations such as that of Africa, so that hunger can be banished from this continent for good.

R. M. MUPAWOSE (Zimbabwe): This being our first attendance of the FAO Council as a Member, I would like to thank you Mr Chairman for some of your kind words of welcome yesterday when we first attended this meeting. I must at the same time commend you on your admirable Chairmanship of the Council.

I also congratulate those elected to assist you as Vice-Chairmen of this Council.

The problems of agriculture in Africa have been recognized by the political leadership on the continent as contained in the Lagos Plan of Action, and of course also recently in the Harare Declaration. Some of our countries are locked in their region with unreliable rainfall and their harsh environment. Even in the so-called good seasons, rainfall is poorly distributed in the bulk of the areas of our regions, and therefore is often inadequate for normal crop production. Turning to the region I am more familiar with, that is the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, some of our countries are going into the fourth year of drought, countries such as Botswana within the region and parts of Mozambique. We are backing a number of projects aimed at alleviating the impact of drought; bilateral and multilateral assistance has been welcomed; a number of studies have been carried out and we now look at practical implementation of some of these projects.

As an example, the initiation of the Early Warning System with assistance from FAO and other donor Agencies, which we hope will provide basic information and also will improve the quality of our planning and of course in the preparation of documents such as the one we have in front of us. There is also consideration of regional food storage and food reserves. There is need to understand the attack and land degradation which some of our areas suffer. Appropriate land use is vital and the relocation of villages so as to identify correctly cropping and grazing areas.

In our region the importance of livestock must be recognized, livestock in addition to meat, milk and manure, and above all to provide draught power.

The work by EGA is being closely watched. Correct land tillage is also important. We also hope to include our inland fisheries projects. Conservation measures must be implemented to arrest the rapid loss of agricultural land. Many measures have been identified which could alleviate the shortage of food. In the SADCC region we firmly believe that irrigation development must be given a high emphasis and priority.

Taking Zimbabwe as an example, fluctuating food production is a result of erratic rainfall. In the last four years we have had marketed surpluses of crops which have fluctuated from 2 million to 620 000 over a period of three years. Where we had in 1980/81 a production marketing surplus of

2 million tons, in 1982/83 it dropped to 620 000 tons. However, we are looking forward to a possible surplus production of about 2 million tons in 1984/85.

We must attempt to even out the troughs in our production. The use of water harvesting methods and drought tolerant crops will only help but will not solve the problem.

We experienced a surplus of millets. As has been mentioned by other members, while they might be suitable for production in some regions they have their attendant problems in disposal when one produces a surplus of them.

We believe in the importance of the installation of irrigation schemes. One is conscious of the misgivings by some donor and finance organizations regarding problems of cost of irrigation installation. Any delay will only make this implementation impossible as costs escalate.

We must aim at improving the management skills of middle managers. But above all it is important that we give adequate and optimum training to the many farmers in our different countries, whether they be large or small.

The developing countries face a unique problem. Once they move beyond the level of subsistence and produce a surplus, as mentioned by some earlier contributors, they are stifled by developed countries in finding export outlets. We are faced even in our region with unfair competition in, for example, beef exports by those countries who literally dump beef at subsidized prices. On the one hand they give us development aid. On the other hand they kill our initiative at selling our produce at economic prices.

Those of us who are landlocked, such as Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe, appeal to agencies and governments to assist us by purchasing where possible their aid requirements through our neighbours from within the region. We recognize that this may be difficult, since they may be holding huge stocks at home

We support the idea of strategic reserve stocks, preferably being stored within the regions where there is the need.

Improvement of port facilities, road and rail, some of our neighbours will assist but there is limitation of inputs and exports of surplus projects.

There is a need to improve our storage facilities. We in Zimbabwe, due to policies by the government on price and infrastructure, have taken advantage of a satisfactory 1984/85 season and we are looking for good harvests which we hope will be better than the bumper crop of 1980/81.. Of course we will only be sure when we have finished the harvesting exercise which is going on today

I should mention here that there has been considerable improvement in the production of small scale farmers, where at Independence in 1980 they were marketing 5 percent of marketed surplus, and we expect that this year they will market over 50 per cent of marketed maize surplus,

We face a dilemma in that due to lack of foreign currency we cannot meet some of the commitments that we should like to meet to other people in need. Zimbabwe has given food assistance to one of our sister nations, but we have difficulties in finding a country or donor who will assist in meeting transport costs of food to that needy country.

Let me end by thanking the Director-General for a number of practical projects and useful studies in our countries and in our region. Professor Islam and his colleagues should be complimented for a well thought out series of papers. We are willing to share our experiences with those countries, both in the SADCC region and Africa in general.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): Document CL 87/13 gives a detailed account of the current African food situation, famine and food aid. This morning Professor Islam and Mr. Lignon briefed us on the efforts FAO has put in in helping the African countries. Some delegates in their interventions put forward many sound recommendations as to how to resolve the African food problem. Now I would like to add two points:

Firstly, African agricultural production and food supply have always been the centre of concern of the international community. The drought and famine south of Sahara not only threatened and claimed the lives of millions of people, but also will create serious and protracted social and economic problems for many African countries. We are deeply concerned and sympathetic with the African countries. Today, as the political and economic ties between countries are getting increasingly close, African food problem is no longer a problem for Africa alone. The international community has made effective contributions in providing emergency food aid. At present, it is necessary to give more consideration of increasing assistance of fertilizer, seeds, PESTICIDE and other inputs and of providing technical and policy guidance, with a view to helping African countries especially those disaster-stricken ones to rehabilitate their agricultural production. The March meeting called by the Director-General of Donors for their rehabilitation agricultural production in 21 countries was timely and highly necessary. It has proved the Organization is responding quickly to mobilize the international community to assist the African countries to overcome the pressing food problem. At the donors' meeting, 194 projects in 20 countries were presented. Although these still fall short of practical needs, many of the projects are combined with the local production projects, and aim to strengthen and expand the existing production projects. They will play their active role in promoting the production of the recipient countries if they make corresponding efforts. The Chinese government responded actively to the appeal of the meeting by pledging contributions within its means.

Secondly, adequate attention should be given to the deterioration of natural ecological environment in some African regions. The development of agricultural production calls for a sound control of the ecological imbalance and rational exploitation, utilization and conservation of natural resources. In this connection, China has its experience and has learnt from these lessons. Some regions in China destroyed forests to open up new land, and over-grazing on pastures led to desertification, soil alkalization and soil and water erosion, and ultimately to frequent natural calamities, in recent years, the Chinese government has taken a series of measures to protect natural resources and environment. Policies and laws have been promulgated to conserve forests, pastures, cultivated land and water resources. After a national survey on natural resources and agricultural zoning, programmes were evolved of protecting and utilizing natural production in the light of specific local conditions. Such efforts have obtained initial success. Nevertheless, it requires long-term arduous efforts to transform nature, which has important bearing on the benefit of generations to come. Therefore, we think international agencies should render support to endeavours in this regard.

It is gratifying to note that more and more African countries have shifted their focus of economic development onto enhancing agricultural production and raising the level of food self-sufficiency. Not a few countries have elaborated medium or long-term programmes to rehabilitate and further develop food production according to their specific conditions. We are confident that through their own efforts and the support and assistance of the international community, the African countries can gradually redress the unfavourable trends in food and agricultural development.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Congratulations, Mr. Chairman, to the Vice-Chairmen who were unanimously elected yesterday to assist you in your work.

The subject under discussion is now a very familiar one to us all. It is a major topic of discussion at almost all international meetings.

Document CL 87/13 before us has brought out the situation very clearly. The amount of land cultivated has declined, fertilizer usage is insignificant, drought, political instability and strife, the population nexus, the natural resources degradation, all have had their effects. Failure to focus on rural communities has led to migration to urban centres. Low level of technology, inadequate research, training and extension services, poor marketing arrangements, as well as credit facilities, all of these are working in varying degrees in different countries to maintain this sad state.

The problems are well known. The issue before us is how to tackle them. It is true, as the paper points out, that while urgent attention must be directed towards rehabilitating agriculture to increase production as the foundations of sound food security, it is equally important to establish emergency preparedness at country levels, to include an early warning system, food relief contingency schemes, emergency stocks at every level, etc. In an ideal situation the two - that is, rehabilitation and emergency preparedness - would support and promote each other. Africa cannot achieve much of this by its own efforts. So many factors come into play which are beyond our ability to control. For one thing we need capital to implement the development programmes, and even preparedness schemes identified.

Africa's surest way to obtain capital is through trade. This, as is well known, has had its own drawbacks, economic recession, low prices for raw materials, adverse terms of trade, etc. - let alone access to markets. Another possibility of obtaining capital is borrowing. The financial bodies which lend money on concessional terms are not many. IFAD is having replenishment problems, the World Bank more often than not imposes stiff conditions for its loans which often scare borrowers. On the other hand, commercial credit has the problem of accrual of cruel debt with the additional burden of debt servicing made difficult by high interest rates and the continuing appreciation of the United States dollar.

The only other way to obtain capital is through aid. As you well know, aid is more unpredictable. Depending on the political and economic climate it can rise or fall without warning. In recent years it has recorded a fall in real terms. We believe that as independent states, the rest of the world does not owe us a living. We have to rely on their goodwill. In the final analysis, therefore, we must learn to stand on our own feet. Programmes which we design should have as few external components, if any, as possible. If external assistance is received, it should supplement rather than spearhead the development effort.

In Uganda, we are doing everything we can without much external support. This includes policy reorientation to stimulate agricultural production, and marketing of food crops has been controlled; prices are determined by forces of supply and demand in the market. No subsidies are offered for foods. Emphasis is placed on such indigenous crops as plantains, tubers, root crops and local cereals such as millet, sorghum, maize and grain pulses. This point was made by the delegate of Venezuela yesterday. A national food strategy study has been carried out, but most of the projects identified by the study are pending funding possibilities for their implementation. As usual, we are vulnerable to the vagaries of weather because all our agriculture is dependent on natural precipitation.

I conclude by expressing our gratitude to FAO for its untiring efforts in assisting African countries in their efforts to solve their own food problems. Professor Islam and Mr Lignon have presented this paper in a very lucid manner, and we congratulate them.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): We welcome Document CL 87/13. It is a good analysis and, subject to the fairly minor comments I will make, we agree with its conclusions. It is, perhaps, a pity that in its introduction it does not distinguish between countries where drought has caused the emergency situation, and those where the emergency is brought about by structural problems, and drought is a contributing factor. For the purposes of mobilizing international action and regional cooperation it may be convenient and wise to treat the African problem as one, but for analytical purposes leading to specific action it is necessary to keep the two situations separate.

Without wishing in any way to underrate the importance of outside help in dealing with the emergency aid or with long-term rehabilitation and development, we agree with the emphasis on the adoption of appropriate policies by developing countries as the key to the avoidance of food insecurity. This is particularly the case in the adoption or effective carrying out of policies designed to raise the status of the farmer and the reward for his production. Our own policies for the long-term developing aid to Africa are intended to strengthen and develop Africa's physical and institutional infrastructure through cooperation from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. With the agreement of governments, this takes the form of manpower assistance to the agricultural sector, support for international research centres, improvement in management of the public sector and emphasis on rehabilitation.

In the current financial year 1985/86 we plan to spend £125 million on bilateral aid for the twenty countries in addition to Ethiopia identified by the United Nations as being most seriously affected by drought and famine. This is additional to the amount of emergency aid and at this stage the amount of aid is not normally known or planned in quite this way.

The paper tends to confirm our view that existing food aid budgets can finance the true emergency requirements of Africa if allocated correctly; that is to say, if used for situations where countries cannot afford to purchase food in an emergency situation rather than as a means of helping balance-of-payments difficulties.

We also agree with the authors of the paper that the situation is aggravated by lack of population control, and that action is necessary on this side at the same time as it is necessary for food supply. Our own aid policies are intended to help governments create a social and economic framework conducive to smaller family size, including the reduction of infant mortality through help in the health sector.

On the detailed proposals in the paper, we agree with the key elements in emergency preparedness mentioned in Section 4, but for completeness paragraph 40 should have mentioned appropriate policies for favouring production.

Paragraph 43 commends the pre-positioning of stocks by agreement with donor countries. Emergency food stocks are expensive and stock levels should be kept to a minimum in view of the short time it takes to obtain food from international sources. It is important also that where food stocks are maintained for emergency use, the control should be such that they are not used for non-emergency purposes and then not replaced, as is always the temptation.

I now turn to document CL 87/13-Sup.1. At our last Council meeting, on the specific direction of my Minister for Overseas Development, who is personally in charge of the efforts by the British Government to deal with the African famine, my delegation called for a reorientation of the FAO programme to help with the rehabilitation of African agriculture. We were told at that meeting that the Director-General had this in hand. We were pleased to see the results of this refocusing in the Programme of Work for 1985, and the list of additional activities it has been found possible to finance from administrative savings. Having seen the supplement, we acknowledge we were preaching to the converted. We commend the action taken so far and register our view that even more could be done to place greater emphasis on Africa against components in the Programme of lower priority or administrative savings.

As to the particular proposals for new activities in Appendix B, insofar as we can judge with the degree of detail given, we support the list, subject to one or two minor doubts. The first of these is on irrigation training, mentioned in paragraph 3 of Appendix B. The record of irrigation is not good in parts of Africa. Irrigation training is fine so far as it goes, but it would be wise if the Secretariat had to hand a dossier of evaluation studies which indicate why performance has been poor in Africa.

I have some reservations about the proposal in paragraph 16 about a regional maize research network. It is said that there are indications that donor support would be forthcoming but that FAO needed to provide the start-up assistance. It is necessary, in my view, to establish not only that donor support is forthcoming, but that the network would be viable once the donor support ceases. I would welcome comments by the Secretariat on both these points either at this meeting, or later if it is more convenient.

H. M. MBALE (Malawi): I would like to join previous speakers, Mr Chairman, in wishing you every success in conducting this meeting. I can assure you that my delegation will cooperate fully with you in order to achieve the objectives of our meeting. Secondly, I congratulate the three Vice-Chairmen, the delegates from Italy, Saudi Arabia and Cuba, on their election. I have no doubt that they will be of great assistance to you. Thirdly, I wish to commend Professor Islam and



Mr Lignon on the lucid manner in which they presented the papers before us. Above all, I commend the statement delivered yesterday by the Director-General, which has been received by my delegation with appreciation in that he has shown his personal effort and that of FAO in addressing himself to world food programmes as a whole, and those of Africa in particular. I thank the Director-General for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to my delegation since we arrived here, culminating in the excellent reception last night.

At this point, I wish to endorse completely the views of a previous speaker from Zimbabwe, a sister country, and also the views of the delegate from another sister country, Uganda. I fully endorse the remarks they have made.

My delegation acknowledges with appreciation the aid that Malawi has received from the donors - too many to mention individually in this meeting - who have assisted us, and also other countries in Africa with similar production problems, and addressed themselves to production-oriented activities.

It is the view of my Government that whereas food aid in times of shortage and disaster is desirable and essential, the ultimate food strategy which countries in Africa and other developing countries of the world should be adopting is that we need to produce sufficient food for ourselves. I wish to emphasize the view of my delegation that the means to produce food must be considered a priority when considering self-sufficiency in food or food security. These means would include the following: first of all, the development of fertilizer and insecticide manufacturing plants, both regionally and nationally where possible.

Secondly, these means would help us to obtain inputs such as farm machinery, fertilizers, improved seeds, insecticides, farm credit - all of them delivered as a package and at a cost which the farmer can afford. Thirdly, they will help us to develop appropriate technology for our use and, fourth, they will help us to develop our irrigation potential.

With regard to this last point, namely, the development of our irrigation potential, I will give as an example the situation in Malawi. Malawi has only one rainy season, so if the rains fail, then we have an immediate problem. Therefore, in order to ensure ourselves against this kind of potential disaster the Government of Malawi is laying increasing emphasis on the following areas.

Firstly, through agriculture research and extension, increased production of food crops with a short growing period, as the delegate from Venezuela referred to, which we refer to as insurance crops, rice, cassava, potatoes and other vegetables and pulses.

Secondly, the development of our irrigation potential. Currently a study on irrigation is going on in my country and it is hoped that when the results of this study are available these will be put to donors, including FAO, to assist us in developing this potential.

Thirdly, the development of food storage facilities. My colleague from Zimbabwe has made reference to this.

So far I have made reference to food aid in an introductory way, but I wish to make a few more comments on this important matter.

The Director-General has pointed out in his statement that food aid to needy countries has not reached the victims in time due to various reasons, including transport problems. It is indeed shameful to admit the fact that the mass media has succeeded in bringing news of food relief aid to the victims long before the actual food has arrived, but there is a solution to this problem.

In most cases food has failed to reach its destination because of the long distance it takes to move it from source. Stockpiles of food supplies from neighbouring countries to countries in need of food aid have not been considered as a possible source. Instead, food supplies constituting food aid have had to be transported for long distances at high cost. Donors should re-examine their policies in this regard because food aid in times of disaster and emergency should be delivered quickly and timely to serve its purpose. The point I am making is that if food aid was sourced from neighbouring countries in Africa, it would constitute a saving in transportation costs on the part of the donor, and in addition it would lead to timely delivery to the needy and act as a catalyst for further food production in those countries.

I wish to make the point that Malawi has surplus maize at this stage and it could be quickly delivered to our neighbours who have a shortage of this very important grain.

I wish to make two additional points through which developed countries or donors can assist the alleviation of hunger in Africa. Firstly, there is a need for them to take seriously at the earnest appeal that has been made for replenishment of IFAD's resources. For countries in Africa and other developing countries in Asia and Latin America, IFAD has a lot of potential to assist us. It holds a lot of hope for us. If IFAD is to fulfill the purpose for which it was established it should be given the resources it requires.

Secondly, the developed countries or donors can assist the developing countries in Africa and elsewhere by removing tariff barriers and protectionism against agricultural products, and by helping us to develop regional transport routes so that trade in food is facilitated.

M. J. BLAMEY (Australia): Australia shares the world's concern about the situation in Africa, a situation which has been so ably analyzed and discussed in the documents before us.

We have been heartened to hear about the international response to the agricultural Rehabilitation Programme of FAO for the 21 most seriously affected African countries. It is clear evidence to us of increased coordination and collaboration among donor countries, international agencies and financial institutions to the crisis in Africa.

We wish to express our particular appreciation for the valuable work of the United Nations Emergency Operations for Africa. We would also like to commend the work of the WFP African Task Force and the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System.

I would like to comment more specifically but briefly on some aspects of Section 4 of CL 87/13 which deals with emergency preparedness.

Australia shares the assessment that the food aid requirements of Africa will continue to grow, and is providing about half of its current bilateral food aid to drought affected African countries. The Australian approach is aimed at integrating emergency relief with long-term development activities such as through food for work programmes. Australia is already one of the largest contributors to the IEFER. However, we are reluctant to endorse the stand-by reserve proposal without the establishment of appropriate criteria to guide allocations from the Reserve. We feel that there are complex questions of economic viability and technical feasibility with the concept of pre-positioning of food stocks.

We would also like to note that at the last CFS meeting it was agreed that further work was needed on a proposed food aid insurance scheme.

Finally, document CL 87/13-Sup.1 refers to the Resolution at the last Council to reallocate \$5 million from the regular programme to Africa. While we were not a member of the Council at that time, we nevertheless welcome the decision to reallocate the resources from areas of lower priority to areas of higher priority. However, we would be interested, as we indicated at the recent Committee on Agriculture Meeting, to hear from what areas of the programme these funds were drawn.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Fed.Rep. of): We would like to thank Dr Islam and Mr Lignon for their lucid introduction to the important agenda item before us.

The response of donors, governments or NGOs to the very timely appeal of the Director-General for the rehabilitation of African agriculture, as described by Mr. Lignon, seems encouraging to us. We hope that other potential donors will join in this common effort.

Allow me now to take up some specific issues of the documents before us. My delegation has already stressed at the Eighty-sixth FAO Council Session, as well as during the deliberation of the World Food Council recently in Paris, that we attach great importance to the Harare Declaration of the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa. African governments have stated in their declarations that high priority should be given to food and agriculture, and we feel that this is very encouraging. We hold the view that it should be possible to overcome the present difficult food and agriculture problems in African countries, particularly in the 21 most affected on that basis. Strengthened regional cooperation will play an important role in this context. The efforts of African peoples for greater self-reliance continue to require external support.

We share the opinion expressed in the document that Africa has lost ground in its fight for food security, as stated in paragraph 5 in the introduction to the document and as also seen from the following tables.

We fully support what is stated in paragraph 10 that still greater attention and priority to agriculture and rural development from African governments will be necessary if the aim of greater self-reliance is to be achieved.

My delegation welcomes the statements in Part 2, paragraphs 11 to 17 of the document. The analysis corresponds to our findings. However, we are concerned about the view expressed in paragraph 17 that many countries of the African region are increasingly dependent on outside food aid. We are

also concerned about the falling per caput food production in 40 of 46 African developing countries, as stated in paragraph 18 and in Table 1 of the Supplement to the document. However, we would have been grateful if the Secretariat had also given a total average figure under the heading annual change in per caput food production 1971 to 1981 and 1980 to 1984.

We agree with the statement in paragraph 20 that the hard core of the African food problems is located among the region's low-income countries. My delegation shares the opinion stated in paragraph 26 of the document that in view of the development of the population and the large resources of arable land in Africa, additional effort should be made to avoid a further decline in arable land cultivated per agricultural worker, in addition to continuous drought, growing population, pressure on arable land causes further problems as mentioned in paragraph 31 of the document. This also applies to the problem of urbanization, which is referred to in paragraph 32.

It seems to us that it is important for the solution of the African food crisis to raise the technological level of African agriculture by education, training, extension and a better integration of women into rural development activities could play an important role in this context.

We associate ourselves with the statement in paragraph 40 that it is necessary to develop national preparedness plans to cope with major food shortages. However, it seems to us that further details are necessary in connection with paragraph 43 and the proposal made with regard to a pre-positioning of food stocks in disaster prone areas. The representative of Kenya to the Eleventh Session of the World Food Council in Paris was very eloquent in describing stockholding practices and policies in his country. The essence of his position was that stocks should be held nationally and distributed adequately all over the country, preferably down to the village and community level. We feel that this is a worthwhile approach.

We have taken note of the references made in paragraph 47, which in our opinion need further clarification, although they have been dealt with previously in other discussions where we have stated our position. The further strengthening of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, an area which was strongly supported also by the delegate of Japan seems of great importance to us.

While recognizing the value of traditional methods and structures of African agriculture, we fully share the view expressed in paragraph 65 of the document that changes and adjustments are necessary to cope with the present situation and also with future requirements.

We agree with the statement expressed in paragraph 68 that it is in the first line the task of Africans themselves to overcome the present problems. There is particular need for greater regional cooperation, as previously mentioned. We welcome the efforts taken by the Director-General in view of the emergency situation in Africa to refocus during the current biennium some of the FAO's Regular Programme to support the rehabilitation of African agriculture, to which the Council gave its full support at the Eighty-sixth Session.

My delegation, at the meeting convened by the Director-General on the rehabilitation of African agriculture at the end of March, gave a detailed account of the action and activities in support of African peoples by my country. I shall therefore refrain from again giving detailed figures, but I would just mention the following:

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany shifted a considerable amount in the Budget of the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation in favour of its financial and technical cooperation with sub-Saharan countries. The share of commitments to Africa rose from 30 percent in 1982 to 45 percent in 1985. In absolute terms, that would mean that commitments for projects and programmes in the field of agricultural development rose from DM 387.4 million to DM 527.7 million respectively. The bulk of the resources is earmarked for measures towards increasing agricultural production. As its contribution to a special fund for sub-Saharan Africa of the World Bank, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany set aside DM 100 million for the co-financing of projects together with the Bank. Most recently, our Government responded favourably to the appeal of the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, made in mid-April 1985, to provide additional emergency food aid to the International Emergency Food Reserve. Additional food products in favour of the African countries most affected by drought and hunger will therefore be made available to the IEFR, a total of DM 8.5 million. Out of this, DM 5 million will be used for purchases of cereals, preferably in African food surplus countries, and, in this case, taking up the idea which was raised by the speaker before me, the distinguished delegate from Malawi, that food should be purchased as close as possible to those who need it.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of:) (Original language Arabic): I would like to begin by thanking Professor Islam and Mr Lignon for the very excellent, clear, and precise introductory statement which they made to these two documents.

Africa does have considerable natural resources, which are mentioned in the Lagos Economic and Social Development Plan. This continent does indeed have 97 percent, of the world reserves of chrome, 85 percent of world reserves of manganese, 25 percent of world reserves of uranium; 13 percent of the world rubber production and many other natural resources. But the African continent, which has given without counting and which continues to provide those resources to its colonies, has paid in its very flesh and blood. Most unfortunately, this continent has received nothing in return - indeed, the contrary. The continent of Africa has now to deal with acute and extremely serious economic crises, and its population is now wrestling with famine and food deficits.

The food crisis is forced by the drought which has stricken Africa but it has been coupled by a chronic shortfall in food production, which of course means that the income of African countries has continued to slide downwards. Therefore, we are now in the middle of a situation which is deteriorating and absolutely unsustainable.

We are convinced that the situation in which Africa now finds itself places us squarely face to face with one of the most serious challenges which we have ever encountered. In such circumstances we must find the ways and means of completely assuming our responsibilities, and fulfilling them. It is not only that the African situation is dangerous: it is also a situation which could repeat itself and which can strike any other region in the world, although the causes - and possible repercussions - could be different. But whichever way we look at it, we have to act, and act quickly in the right direction and upon the most solid base that is possible.

A number of years ago - and I am sure you Mr Chairman and members of the Council will recall this - from the rostrum of this Council, and indeed from similar many other fora, an appeal was launched so that the African countries more than any other developing countries, could benefit from the upswing in the world economy as a whole. An appeal was made for priorities to be allocated to agriculture and food development in those countries of Africa so that they could overcome the problems and constraints with which they have always had to struggle. I concur with my colleague from Senegal who said that most African countries require agricultural inputs. He talked about basic inputs such as road construction ... etc. We fully support what he said, and what was also said by our colleague and friend, the Ambassador from the Congo, to the effect that the African countries had already begun to take the necessary steps to develop their agricultural and food productions. The African countries are fully aware of the requirement of ranking their priorities correctly in development plans, so that they can achieve these objectives.

But the African countries still need technical assistance if they are to hit the target, which is to step up food and agricultural production.

We support fully what was said by his excellency the Ambassador of the Congo. Therein lies the true basis upon which the donor countries, the international organizations, the non-governmental organizations, and the African countries themselves have been working together. It is a necessary basis upon which we can build a structure to overcome the constraints and difficulties from which these countries have continually suffered: Studies on the availability of ground water, on geological structure, on the digging of wells, on the supply of the appropriate technology and inputs; all this work is necessary, but we must also help these countries to produce inputs themselves. They must have improved seed strains, build the necessary access roads, overcome the different constraints if they are to build a basis for self-sufficiency and life in dignity.

The international community has come to the aid of Africa in the face of this terrible crisis, but what Africa requires at the present time is not just food aid. Africa requires technology - real, appropriate technology which will allow the citizens of Africa themselves to produce. It is therefore within the responsibility of the technologically advanced countries to provide these technologies and these resources which Africa needs. Let us not lose sight of the role which the African countries must play in this process - and here I refer to paragraph 68 in the document, which this delegation fully supports.

I would now like to praise the magnificent role FAO has played under the leadership of its Director-General. The FAO rang the alarm bell more than ten years ago with respect to this developing situation in Africa: it said that the African countries would run headlong into the most serious food crisis. The Director-General acted. He acted quickly, he acted within his limited resources. He organized meeting after meeting with the donor countries and with the African countries. He mobilized all the resources which the FAO had to hand, in spite of the fact that - as we know - those resources are limited. But the aim was to supply something, anything, to the African countries so that they could at least be helped in their distress, and although we know that what the FAO can supply is a mere drop of water in an ocean, nevertheless it is clear demonstration of the fact that the Director General has assumed fully his responsibilities, and we can but thank him most warmly for the generosity with which he has assumed that responsibility and carried out those tasks.

Mr Chairman on document CL 87/13 supplement 1 we would like to support fully the content of this document and we support everything that the Director-General has done and is doing for the benefit of the African countries. We have to really thank him for that, and this is the least we can do.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of)(original language Arabic): I would like to begin by congratulating the Secretariat for the noteworthy effort which they have made so as to present us with these papers on the food situation in Africa. In his opening statement the Director-General of the FAO, Dr Edouard Saouma, sketched out a picture of the food crisis in Africa and the way in which it had to be dealt with, with all the frankness and generosity which is characteristic of him.

Thanks also to Professor Islam and to Monsieur Lignon for the excellent presentation of these documents. Like previous speakers I would like also to express my deepest sympathy with the African countries in their period of distress and crisis, and I thank all the donor countries and all organizations which have gone to the help of Africa. It is a demonstration of international solidarity at times of such crisis.

This delegation would like to support what was said by my colleague, the Ambassador of Congo, who drew a very complete and excellent picture of the situation in Africa and discussed the domestic problems of transport, of storage in those countries, problems which of course require solution.

I have asked for the floor to offer a comment which I think to be of some importance, and that is the role of the international organizations, and at the head of them the FAO, in responding to the challenge of this crisis. Like previous speakers I think that the international organizations, particularly this one, the FAO, have done a fine job through these stages of the crisis. Their work has borne fruits, and I think it is only right and proper that the African countries expect these efforts to go on. Well before the crisis broke the FAO, as we know, launched an appeal towards the whole international community and warned the community that the crisis was on its way. Then programmes and projects for the medium-term to rehabilitate African agriculture, programmes involving technical cooperation, were defined by this Organization above and beyond assistance supplied by other international organizations, and was a supplement to the generous aid coming in from donor countries.

The lesson I believe we should draw from all these activities is that the international organizations have a prime role to play, the FAO above and beyond all of them, in helping these countries, not just in terms of emergency aid but also by technical cooperation with a long and medium-term prospect to it. These international organizations must continue to work along these lines in helping these African countries so that they can achieve self-sufficiency. The present situation does show that there has been a slip back in assistance supplied by the international organizations, and if the present trend is that the developed countries are tending to pull back or threatening to pull back some of the assistance which they intend to supply to the international organizations and the FAO, then I think our conclusion must be that increased assistance must be provided to the organizations working internationally so that they can accomplish their job. I propose that the resolution concerning the appeal which we must make with respect to the world international food situation should include a paragraph which would invite the donor countries to increase the backing which they provide to the international organizations, particularly our Organization, the FAO, as part of their general efforts which they must deploy to clear away hunger and malnutrition from the world.

H. REDL (Austria): The document CL 87/13 and CL 87/13-Sup. 1 before us is, in our opinion, a valuable compliment to the deliberations of the FAO Council in November 1984. As already mentioned by the Austrian delegation on that occasion, the Director-General of FAO had pointed out years ago that the situation in Africa was precarious. However, these appeals have not always found adequate attention. If we talk about the food situation in Africa it seems to be necessary to consider primarily the opinion of the countries concerned and give to them any possible support. The Thirteenth Regional Conference for Africa, and in particular the Harare Declaration, deserves mentioning in this context. At the moment it seems to be advisable to take measures aiming at a solution to problems. This will be possible in a joint effort of all of us. We therefore welcome that FAO within its Programme of Work attributes particular importance to the African region, and I can assure you that Austria will constructively contribute in the future as we did in the past.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Después de las excelentes presentaciones de los señores profesores Islam y Lignon, el debate sobre este importante tema fue iniciado con la declaración afortunada, de nuestro distinguido colega y amigo señor Hutton, de Canadá, quien dijo con razón que la crisis africana representa un desafío para la comunidad internacional.

Todos oímos con el respeto y la admiración de siempre la emocionada declaración de la distinguida Embajadora Fenwick, de los Estados Unidos, quien al hablar con su corazón confirmó el profundo sentimiento social y humano que inspiran sus actitudes personales en favor de los pequeños campesinos. Esas y otras declaraciones importantes nos hacen pensar que de veras los integrantes de este Consejo, aquí, y luego todos los Estados Miembros en la próxima Conferencia vamos a demostrar que la tan anunciada solidaridad hacia Africa no quedará convertida en discursos, retórica y literatura, emociones y buenas intenciones, sino que va a materializarse en hechos concretos y positivos, como lo pidió mi distinguido vecino y colega de la derecha el Embajador Tchicaya, del Congo, quien solicitó a los países donantes que anuncien y cumplan su respectivas contribuciones y medidas; así complementaríamos la lista de los países donantes que han respondido a este llamado reiterado, lista en la cual parece que aún faltan algunos importantes países donantes.

A ese respecto confiamos que por unanimidad el Consejo va a apoyar las medidas pragmáticas adoptadas por el Director General quien, como dijo el distinguido Embajador Bukhari de Arabia Saudita, fue el primero en dar el grito de alarma sobre la difícil situación que amenazaba al Africa.

Particularmente todos vamos a manifestar nuestra complacencia por la forma como se está llevando a cabo la labor de la FAO en favor de la rehabilitación de la agricultura africana a la luz de la Resolución 1/86 de nuestro pasado período de sesiones y la más reciente acción positiva y eficaz del Director General al hacer la propuesta aprobada por el Comité de Finanzas de transferir 15 millones de dólares, fruto de una buena y sana administración, al PCT para ser invertidos en proyectos de rehabilitación en Africa.

Si en realidad la discusión de este tema tendrá, como lo esperamos, un resultado específico, la delegación de Colombia piensa igualmente que apoyaremos los esfuerzos del Director General en favor de la movilización de recursos que permitan colmar el déficit de cerca de 80 millones de dólares para ejecutar los proyectos en 21 países africanos, entre los más afectados.

Convendrá destacar también que todo esto representa un esfuerzo adicional pues, como lo dijo el señor Lignon esta mañana el Programa de la FAO para Africa se sigue cumpliendo sin alteraciones.

Reconoceremos los esfuerzos de los países donantes que han sido citados; Francia, Bélgica, España, Dinamarca, y todos los altruistas países nórdicos; República Federal de Alemania, única organización con Japón, y destacaremos esencialmente la contribución de dos grandes países en desarrollo, India y nuestro vecino de la izquierda, China, que ha dado muestras de gran sentido de solidaridad.

A propósito hemos dejado para el final a Italia, el querido país que nos hospeda, porque el caso italiano merece señalización especial. La suma destinada y la designación de un alto comisario para administrar la ayuda confirma una actitud verdaderamente positiva. Con pleno respeto de su libre autonomía, abrigamos la esperanza de que el Gobierno italiano se preocupará por que esa asistencia se destine en buena parte a los aspectos agrícola y alimentario, basados en la positiva experiencia de colaboración con la FAO. Las autoridades italianas podrían considerar la posibilidad, en la medida de lo posible, de utilizar los buenos servicios de nuestra Organización.

Las declaraciones de los destacados exponentes de países africanos nos han puesto ante la evidencia de que, no obstante las generosidades de la Comunidad Internacional, no se han cumplido todos los compromisos, aún subsisten graves dificultades de congestión en los puertos, escasez de medios financieros, bajo abastecimiento en relación con las grandes necesidades, problemas de distribución y otros, todos los cuales siguen configurando una situación de preocupación y angustia, con la posibilidad de más muertes de seres humanos inocentes, algunos de los cuales pudieron haber sido salvados. Como dijeron Congo y Senegal, se requiere ahora acciones concretas e inmediatas para mejorar esa situación.

Con el deseo de contribuir a que se obtengan estos objetivos mínimos, la delegación de Colombia, siempre solidaria con Africa, apoya la propuesta esbozada por nuestros colegas y amigos de Congo y Senegal, en el sentido de que la importancia de este tema justifica la adopción de una resolución, lo que hace excepcionalmente este Consejo sólo en casos de importancia transcendental como éste.

En nuestra calidad de copatrocinadores de la anterior Resolución 1/86 hemos pedido a nuestros hermanos africanos que nos permitan contribuir con ellos en la redacción del citado proyecto de Resolución, cuyo texto aún no hemos terminado porque, como es natural, estará basado en el resultado de este debate que aún no ha concluido.

De acuerdo con su praxis, la delegación de Colombia bosqueja brevemente las líneas principales, las orientaciones y principios de ese texto, cuyo contenido será discutido por el Comité de Redacción primero y luego por el Plenario cuando considere el proyecto de Informe. Entendemos que así nos ajustamos a los procedimientos tradicionales. En el proyecto de Resolución se agradecerá a los donantes la ayuda alimentaria, la asistencia logística y todos los demás aportes. Haremos notar las necesidades más por atender y, por consiguiente, la indispensable necesidad de más ayuda de emergencia, especialmente de apoyo logístico. Sin embargo, reafirmaremos el principio de que África no puede seguir dependiendo de la ayuda, sino que necesita demandas y exige recursos y asistencia para lograr su propia rehabilitación agrícola. Reconoceremos los notables esfuerzos hechos y continuados por el Director General al organizar las reuniones de 30 de enero y 29 de marzo pasados, ofreciendo a los donantes proyectos concretos de rehabilitación y textos para poner en ejecución, así como la excelente propuesta aprobada por el Comité de Finanzas acerca de la transferencia de 15 millones, al igual que la reasignación de 5 millones dentro de los recursos del Programa Ordinario. En ese mismo texto del proyecto de Resolución señalaremos la responsabilidad y seriedad con que en esta crisis están actuando los gobiernos africanos, a los que se debe ofrecer más asistencia, sobre todo ayuda logística, para que esos gobiernos puedan seguir adoptando todas las medidas eficaces necesarias, dirigidas a asegurar el suministro alimentario oportuno a las poblaciones más afectadas, sin graves retardos. Reiteraremos nuestra llamada a todos los donantes para que concedan altas prioridades a África en sus programas de asistencia externa.

Finalmente, pediremos que este Consejo apoye la máxima prioridad que el Director General ha concedido a los países africanos en el proyecto de Programas de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87. Confiamos que este Consejo aprobará por unanimidad ese Proyecto de Resolución, y pensamos que con ideas concretas, como indicaban nuestros colegas africanos y todos quienes les acompañamos solidariamente, creemos ofrecer a este Consejo la oportunidad única de cumplir un acto serio y positivo en favor de las nobles y sufridas poblaciones de África para que no pierdan la batalla en la que todos estamos a su lado.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos comenzar expresando nuestro agradecimiento al señor Islam y al señor Lignon por la presentación que nos han hecho de los temas de la situación africana.

Señor Presidente: nosotros coincidimos totalmente con el distinguido representante de Dinamarca cuando expresó que el carácter estructural de la crisis africana es necesario tenerlo en cuenta en forma prioritaria, pero además creemos que es necesario esperar que la crisis africana es estructural en todos los países, que está agudizada donde los problemas de la sequía se han presentado, y que no sólo es así en los países donde hay sequía. África, que además de hacer frente a los problemas estructurales, se ha ido empobreciendo cada vez más porque sus exportaciones han ido bajando y han ido tropezando con la severa política de precios en los mercados internacionales y su población ha ido aumentando considerablemente, mientras que el PNB baja. La sequía se ha instalado en el Continente donde se hallaba el 85 por ciento de los países menos desarrollados y donde el servicio de la deuda ha llegado a 115 millones de dólares en 1984 y no es el continente más endeudado. Se ha dicho muchas veces que África atraviesa la quinta crisis. A pesar de su potencial económico, África en estos momentos está en crisis, sigue siendo el menos desarrollado de todos los continentes y sus indicadores económicos expresan un gran retraso. El comportamiento económico de muchos países africanos se caracteriza por la disminución de la renta "per capita" y por no tener su tasa de crecimiento económico estancado y negativo. De acuerdo con todos los pronósticos, la perspectiva de recuperación, de crecimiento y desarrollo está muy poco definida. A menos que los esfuerzos que se realizan actualmente dentro de los países africanos y por la Comunidad Internacional cuenten con un apoyo total, no creemos que con apoyos medios se resuelva el problema de África. Además, África es el continente en crisis en medio de la grave situación internacional, que continúa afectando adversamente a los demás países en desarrollo y que particularmente ha hecho un efecto devastador en las ya frágiles economías africanas. Esto se manifestó en el deterioro de las relaciones de intercambio, en la fuerte disminución de los ingresos por concepto de exportación y, como dijimos, en la fuerte carga de deuda externa y fundamentalmente en el estancamiento de los flujos de recursos hacia los países africanos, entre otros. A todo esto debemos decir que los rendimientos de cultivo de esta región, se ven afectados por serias limitaciones climáticas que incluyen elementos tales como intensas y prolongadas sequías de algunas zonas, variabilidad de lluvias, de otras plagas y enfermedades que han encontrado próspero ambiente para su desarrollo en muchos países de África.

No podemos tampoco dejar de señalar el papel nocivo de la desertificación, ya que solamente en los países subsaharianos existen más de 685 millones de hectáreas desérticas. Asimismo, el aumento de la población y el crecimiento de los rebaños actuando en las críticas condiciones climáticas de esta región provocan, mediante el pastoreo, la destrucción irreversible de la pobre vegetación allí presente.

Se ha cortado así no sólo la vegetación, sino las escasas fuentes de agua disponibles, con lo que se termina por hacer desaparecer prácticamente toda la forma de vida.

Podemos hablar también de la necesidad de leña y otros residuos vegetales por parte de ciertos grupos de población que necesitan vivir para cocinar, calentarse contra la obra destructora del hombre. La FAO ha calculado, por ejemplo que en una sola provincia desértica de uno de estos países se queman actualmente 548 millones de árboles o arbustos para estos fines. Todo ésto es necesario verlo en el contexto africano que coyunturalmente ahora hablamos de sequía, pero, repito es un problema coyuntural la sequía, porque el otro es un problema inmanente en todas las crisis de Africa y que la FAO ha alertado con suficiente tiempo y que recordamos que hubo momentos en que se llamo alarmista a la FAO, hoy cuando la FAO presenta sus programas de rehabilitación, programas de rehabilitación, que como bien dice el Director General tienen que ir coordinados con la ayuda alimentaria de urgencia, ya que solamente de este modo podrán los países africanos recuperar la capacidad de producción perdida y superar la situación de esta urgencia, evitando una dependencia cada vez mayor de la ayuda de emergencia.

Creemos que el programa especial que la FAO ha presentado constituye un grupo concreto de proyectos elaborados por los propios países interesados y listos para ser financiados y ejecutados. Esperamos que, como se ha expresado por el señor Lignon, este grupo, pueda estar en funcionamiento y se irá materializando en la medida que la decisión política lo decida.

Me ha precedido en la palabra el colega que ha conducido con mucha claridad la situación. No creo que debamos cansar con una situación que es de todos conocida por su gravedad, y que no debemos seguir retóricamente siendo expresión de ella. Apoyamos en todas sus partes la proposición que han hecho los representantes del Congo y del Senegal respecto a que hay que tomar también en consideración la declaración de Harare, que es la voluntad de Africa hacia la producción agrícola, la voluntad para enfrentarse con garantía a la participación activa del africano en su lucha. En la misma posición estamos cuando apoyamos como copatrocinadores que fuimos de la reunión anterior, la número 1/86. Creemos que Tchicaya y B. Said tienen totalmente razón para presentar, en nombre de Africa, otra Resolución especial que nos permita actualizar y que nos permita profundizar en el mecanismo a través del cual la FAO y los donantes puedan resolver el problema del Africa. Queremos no perder la oportunidad de saludar y felicitar a los donantes que han dado ya ejemplo de acción en función del programa especial que FAO ha presentado: Francia, Bélgica, España y Dinamarca, representando a los nórdicos. Especialmente también, como ha dicho nuestro querido colega de la izquierda Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, a Italia que ha dado muestras de generosidad y altruismo en estos momentos en que Africa necesita estas acciones.

Finalmente, queremos expresar que nuestra delegación apoya en todas sus formas la decisión tomada por el Comité de Finanzas, por medio de la cual los ahorros de 15 millones de dólares se utilizarán para financiar proyectos del programa de rehabilitación para Africa. Apoyamos ésto por considerar que en estos momentos es la mejor forma de utilizar el ahorro disponible y creo que debemos sentirnos honrados con la proposición del Director General, aprobada por el Comité de Finanzas, para contribuir así a salvar seres humanos del hambre y de la miseria.

El percurso del cosmos es ya una realidad; sin embargo en la tierra mueren niños de hambre por falta de caminos, de ferrocarriles, de camiones, de carretas e incluso de caballos y muías para llegar a donde viven y han vivido olvidados de los defensores hoy de los pequeños agricultores, los cuales, a través de sus grandes oligopolios y monopolios, dominan el mundo.

Creo, que el reconocimiento que Africa le dá a la FAO por el liderazgo que tiene para implementar sus proyectos de rehabilitación de la agricultura y para coordinar los programas de esta materia, en la cual no existe otra experiencia organizada ni acumulada de un cuerpo especializado de funcionarios como tiene la FAO para apoyar una situación crítica como la de Africa, es acertado.

Esperamos también, como ha expresado nuestro querido Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, que este Consejo apruebe en su totalidad la Resolución presentada por Africa.

G. FRADIN (France): A mon tour, je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Dr. Islam pour l'introduction qu'il a faite de ce point de l'ordre du jour et féliciter M. Lignon pour son excellente présentation accompagnée de précisions nombreuses et fort utiles.

Au cours de son intervention sur le précédent point de l'ordre du jour, ma délégation a déjà exprimé des observations générales sur le document relatif à la situation alimentaire de l'Afrique.

A propos de ce point très important de nos débats, je voudrais maintenant insister brièvement sur certains aspects fondamentaux, dans le cadre de la recherche d'une relance de l'agriculture en Afrique, points qui ne sont pas toujours développés comme ils le mériteraient dans le document du Secrétariat.



Le premier concerne les politiques agricoles. Le paragraphe 38 s'élève fort justement contre l'éventuelle discrimination que peut encourir le secteur agricole, et plus particulièrement vivrier. Ma délégation est intimement persuadée qu'il importe en premier lieu, pour chaque pays, de définir clairement une politique agricole et alimentaire, et de choisir en particulier le degré d'auto-suffisance alimentaire qui lui semble optimal.

Il est clair que l'objectif d'autosuffisance alimentaire n'est pas à la portée immédiate de nombreux pays. Le problème est donc de définir, en fonction de considérations politiques et économiques, l'équilibre à atteindre entre une dépendance alimentaire qui peut éventuellement s'accompagner d'un accroissement de la vulnérabilité économique, et une dépendance alimentaire qui peut devenir politiquement insupportable.

Le deuxième point concerne les acteurs du développement agricole, c'est-à-dire les paysans eux-mêmes.

Je voudrais rappeler que le développement agricole doit bien entendu permettre aux agriculteurs eux-mêmes de se nourrir mais il faut aussi qu'il permette l'alimentation des populations non agricoles. Dans les pays peu urbanisés, quand la population rurale représente 80 pour cent du total, l'exploitation de subsistance fournit emploi et nourriture à la plus grande partie de la population. Comme il faut quatre agriculteurs pour nourrir un urbain, la petite exploitation traditionnelle est souvent capable de fournir ce supplément de 25 pour cent.

L'urbanisation croissante et la diversification des activités économiques entraîne une augmentation très rapide du commerce et des produits vivriers avec un taux d'urbanisation de 40 à 50 pour cent. Chaque famille agricole doit produire deux fois plus qu'elle ne consomme. Dégager de tels surplus exige une véritable révolution du mode d'exploitation traditionnel. L'émergence d'un type d'exploitation agricole orienté vers la production de surplus vivriers ou des cultures destinées à l'exportation conditionne la modernisation de la paysannerie et ses possibilités d'assurer une certaine autosuffisance alimentaire. On ne peut trop souligner qu'il ne peut y avoir d'autosuffisance sans exploitation agricole vivrière très nettement excédentaire.

Enfin, je voudrais encore une fois souligner l'importance de l'organisation des producteurs agricoles. Il ne s'agit pas d'organiser les agriculteurs, mais de les aider à s'organiser. En fait, on a pu constater, par exemple dans les pays du nord, que l'existence d'organisations paysannes fortes a conditionné le processus de développement agricole. Cet aspect a peut-être été quelquefois négligé dans certains pays en développement qui ont préféré renforcer l'emprise de l'administration plutôt que favoriser l'organisation des paysans et des zones rurales. Dans les pays du nord, ce sont les agriculteurs, leurs associations, leurs coopératives, qui, en plein accord avec les services de l'Etat, ont pris en charge non seulement la fourniture de services mais aussi la commercialisation des produits. La vulgarisation et les expérimentations sont sous la responsabilité des agriculteurs eux-mêmes. Les administrations délèguent de larges pouvoirs aux collectivités locales et aux autres organisations agricoles. Les champs d'intervention offerts aux initiatives locales incluent la planification du développement et l'utilisation de crédits d'équipement. L'intégration des exploitations agricoles au marché se manifeste aussi dans les activités coopératives de transformation et de distribution des produits, prolongeant ainsi la filière agro-alimentaire qui est le fondement des agricultures performantes.

Cette remarque n'a évidemment pas pour objet de mettre en avant les mérites des pays du nord, mais de souligner l'importance de l'initiative locale et d'une organisation efficace des agriculteurs. Suivant les pays, ce pourraient être les groupements villageois de coopératives de services, des mutuelles de producteurs, des associations d'usagers qui seraient encouragés par les autorités centrales. Le succès des programmes gouvernementaux dépend plus de la solidarité paysanne et des possibilités d'initiatives locales que de l'adoption de ces programmes par les bénéficiaires que d'un programme difficile à organiser de manière efficace compte tenu du nombre d'agriculteurs.

Pour conclure sur ce dernier point ainsi que sur ma déclaration, permettez-moi de citer le Ministre français de l'agriculture, M. Henri Nallet, Président du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, dans une déclaration prononcée à ce Conseil de l'alimentation la semaine dernière:

"La croissance démographique, l'exode rural, le changement des habitudes alimentaires, ont profondément modifié la structure et rendu caduques bien de prévisions et les politiques de développement dont elles résultaient. Il est vain aujourd'hui de penser que l'Etat puisse déterminer et satisfaire les besoins des acteurs du développement que sont les paysans. S'il peut fixer les règles du jeu, définir les objectifs, dégager les moyens budgétaires, l'Etat - l'expérience le prouve - ne peut se substituer à l'initiative des agriculteurs, assurer les activités de production. Là où s'arrête l'action de l'Etat commence celle des agriculteurs et notamment de leurs organisations."

CHAIRMAN: If no other Council member wishes to speak, the floor will be open to the observers.

E. BONEV (UNDP): I read with interest the documentation prepared on this very important item, and I have listened carefully to, and was impressed by, the numerous interventions which have shown once again the concern and interest of the world community in this important issue of the problems confronting Africa today. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I will give a brief account of what the UNDP is doing to assist Africa in alleviating the problems confronting it.

Worsening conditions in Africa greatly occupied the attention of the international community in 1984, placing urgent demands on the resources of the UNDP and underscoring the need for renewed programming efforts throughout the United Nations system. The severity of the situation requires no elaboration. Its basic implications are there for all to grasp. UNDP offices in the region and our agency partners are playing their full part in assisting immediate relief efforts, often acting as centres for logistical support and coordination as well as for important country information. But, as the Administrator of UNDP informed delegates to the Second Committee of the General Assembly last November, "the only way to deal effectively with these kinds of emergencies is to anticipate them and address the underlying development issues before they reach crisis proportions. Longer-term solutions are required or these crises will recur". I am glad that this issue has been re-emphasized in this meeting by many speakers, as well.

UNDP recognizes the close link between emergency assistance and the medium-term and longer-term programmes of development which are the only foundation for avoiding emergencies in the future. UNDP field offices in the affected countries have been reorganized so as to ensure that work on the emergency does not preempt the continuation of development activities by temporarily enlarging their capacity to cope with these pressures. Within our available resources, steps towards those longer-term solutions are already being taken through our current and planned programmes for Africa.

Core indicative planning figure (IPF) inputs to sub-Saharan Africa for the period 1982-1986 will total nearly \$1 billion of which \$200 million was budgeted in 1984. Supplementary inputs provided through the year from the Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries, the liquidated United Nations Emergency Operations Trust Fund, from our Special Programme Resources and from the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) bring the total up to \$255 million. These figures do not include a \$27 million Italian Government contribution to the UNDP Trust Fund to Combat Poverty and Hunger in Africa that the Administrator established last December, and which will go towards rehabilitation measures in Ethiopia, nor do they include resources from cost-sharing and parallel financing, on the increase since 1983, when UNDP projects attracted nearly \$17 million in third-party support.

Nevertheless, Africa's long-term rehabilitation needs will require further efforts by UNDP, the agencies of the United Nations system and the international community. The present momentum must not be lost when new rains reach the continent or new claims command our attention. On the contrary, it must be expanded to ensure that fresh initiatives under way to increase our effectiveness in Africa indeed have their due chance of success, and that the fundamental task of reactivating affected African economies can be carried forward.

In this connection, I can mention UNDP's redoubled support for the round-table process which has assumed critical importance in the context of Africa. Following a systematic evaluation of some 20 meetings conducted in the last three years, we are now implementing a number of careful reforms in the total process. The object of these reforms is to base such consultations on a more thorough sectoral survey of country-requirements, conditions and resources and to place findings within a macro-economic analysis of the country's situation. It is hoped that these modifications will provide donors and recipients with a more rigorous framework for identifying programmes for support; and early observations of this enhanced process in action confirm its greater effectiveness.

With regard to our main programme thrust in Africa, we have drawn up a threefold plan of action to be carried out in cooperation with our agency partners. Existing programmes are also being reexamined critically in the light of these new plans. Briefly summarized, our programme elements, in collaboration with agencies of the United Nations system are the following: (a) the focusing of existing regular and supplementary resources on projects in agricultural development and food production, processing and storage, in forestry development, meteorology and drought management, and in development planning and public administration. Where justified, resources are being reallocated to these priority sectors; (b) the redirection of inputs towards production-oriented activities involving grassroots communities and aimed at stimulating their income-generating potential. United Nations volunteers are being deployed to particular effect in this area; (c) the reinforcement of macro-economic policy formulation capabilities, and the strengthening of planning mechanisms in governments. Coordinated with World Bank and bilateral measures, this long-range effort offers the most vital hope for enduring results.

These and related actions are reviewed in greater detail in the main programme section of the report of the Administrator to the present session of the Governing Council of UNDP in New York, while budgetary proposals for strengthening our field offices in Africa are the subject of a separate paper. I am sure that the documents are in possession of all Member Governments, but if some of the delegations are interested, such documents are available.

D. YOMAN (Observateur de la Côte-d'Ivoire): La délégation de Côte-d'Ivoire que j'ai l'honneur de représenter ici voudrait vous présenter toutes ses félicitations, Monsieur le Président. Nous sommes très heureux de vous retrouver à l'occasion de cette quatre-vingt-septième session du Conseil. Votre très grande compétence est mondialement connue et respectée et c'est avec beaucoup d'intérêt que nous écoutons toujours vos analyses pertinentes et vos conseils sur la situation actuelle de l'agriculture.

L'examen des documents CL 37/13 et 87/13-Sup.1 relatifs à la situation alimentaire en Afrique ne peut laisser indifférent mon gouvernement, solidaire de tous les autres pays africains et particulièrement de ceux de plus en plus nombreux qui souffrent le plus de la famine et de la pauvreté. Oui, pauvreté car c'est aussi de cela qu'il s'agit quand on aborde n'importe quel aspect de la crise africaine, autant les causes de cette crise que ses conséquences. N'ayons pas peur des mots, c'est un problème de ressources d'abord et avant tout qui nous font cruellement défaut. La volonté politique: là il n'y a aucun gouvernement africain qui ait déclaré que nous soyons contre l'augmentation de la production vivrière et contre l'autosuffisance alimentaire. La FAO doit être à juste titre félicitée et encouragée. Faut-il répéter ici que M. Lignon et le Prof. Islam ont annoncé au Conseil la décision du Directeur général de préparer un programme de relance de l'agriculture africaine en concertation avec nos propres pays. 4,8 millions de dollars débloqués au titre de l'exécution des projets, 4,8 millions de dollars qui ont dû être prélevés sur les ressources ordinaires de l'Organisation après 5 millions et avant 15 millions de voyages dans les pays donateurs pour sensibiliser et obtenir un soutien technique et financier de la part de ceux qui possèdent.

Une mobilisation constante au sein du système des Nations Unies et dans toute la communauté internationale voilà concrètement ce que fait la FAO pour aider l'Afrique bénéficiaire de 40% du maigre budget de l'Organisation parce que la conjoncture économique et sociale de ce continent l'exige. Ne soyons pas longs et bavards au cours de cette 87ème session car tout ce que l'imagination des experts et des diplomates peut avancer comme solution au drame de notre continent est là sous nos yeux dans les documents, dans nos bureaux et ici même à la FAO. Seule une très grande détermination d'aboutir fait encore défaut. Mesdames, Messieurs les délégués, notre rôle, votre rôle, est de persuader nos gouvernements, vos gouvernements, en plus des gros sacrifices déjà consentis pour l'Afrique, de commencer de financer les 146 millions de dollars restants du programme de relance de la FAO, d'accélérer les livraisons d'aide, de souligner les logistiques, puis d'établir avec nos gouvernements et de financer les projets de développement, projets que vous pouvez financer. Voilà ce que notre Conseil devrait nous recommander et recommander à nos gouvernements. Puisque nous sommes réunis dans le cadre de la FAO, est-il dramatique de commencer par solutionner ce que la FAO nous a proposé le 29 mars? Y-a-t-il un danger à rendre la FAO plus opérationnelle sur le terrain? Faut-il que je revienne sur la question liée à l'environnement économique et monétaire international qui influence et détermine le degré de pauvreté de l'Afrique. Je vous en prie, Madame, Messieurs, Monsieur le Président, j'ai entendu dire ce matin avec beaucoup de franchise qu'il y avait parmi nous des grands-pères voire des grand-mères; c'était très touchant. Eh bien, nous ne sommes pas encore arrivés à ce stade. C'est une grande responsabilité que vous risquez de nous transmettre. En effet quels seraient l'avenir et la responsabilité que nous sommes entrain de laisser à nos petits-enfants, à nos arrière- petits-enfants si déjà en 1985 personne, dans une partie du monde, ne mange à sa faim? Je vous pose la question. Nous aurions perdu notre temps et gaspillé nos énergies si nous n'arrivions pas à faire passer le message de la solidarité agissante auprès de chacun de nos gouvernements, solidarité envers 21 - j'allais dire seulement -pays sans défense qui sont tous membres de l'Organisation et que la FAO doit aider et à décider de le faire à travers son programme de réhabilitation agricole et vivrière. L'Afrique veut sortir de cette dramatique situation avec l'appui de la FAO et des autres organisations internationales FIDA, PAM et PNUD entre autres. Elle a les terres et les hommes qu'il faut pour cela. Certains pays comme le dynamique Cameroun et d'autres sont aujourd'hui pratiquement autosuffisants sur le plan alimentaire. Rappelez-vous les remarques pertinentes de M. Eugène Whelan à l'ouverture du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation à Paris: Donnez-nous les moyens financiers, techniques, technologiques et la formation dont nous avons le plus urgent besoin, vous verrez que nous consacrerons moins de temps à parler de la faim en Afrique.

T.F.F. MALUZA (Observer for Zambia): Since this is the first time I have taken the floor, my delegation would like to welcome you back to Rome to chair this august Council. As usual, we are convinced that you will guide the deliberations of this Session to a successful conclusion.

My delegation would also like to congratulate your three Vice-Chairmen on their election.

The food crisis in Africa has reached an alarming stage and calls for all time effort and war-like mobilization of political, financial, technical, social and concerted effort for all donors, developed countries and the affected countries themselves, to combat the situation.

The initiative which has been taken by the Director-General of FAO and his call for rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa is a move in the right direction and should be fully supported by the world community so as to bring hope and life to this continent. It is essential that the African countries should be given the means to make the people there produce food for themselves. The rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa should go along with human resource development. Programmes should be worked out for training of people in improved methods of agriculture. The countries should have their people trained in food crisis management and in food policy analysis.

In the light of this, more and more aid should be directed towards better agricultural management. The time is now ripe to consider using food aid in strengthening and upgrading of agricultural extension systems in Africa. While the Train and Visit system has been introduced in a number of African countries, its effectiveness is still questionable due to logistical problems which need to be addressed. As a result of this, the small farmer, the man whom we all want to receive the goods, is left out. The extension services should be directed more for the benefit of the small farmer, the peasant upon whom the cries for eradication of hunger and malnutrition in the world lies.

If we need the farmer to produce food for himself, this man should not only be given the seed and fertilizer but also the training and advisory services. There should be visits to the farmer both in time and space. The farmer has to be encouraged. It is in this respect, Mr Chairman, that my delegation is requesting the Director-General of FAO through this Council to see how food aid could be used in this respect.

My delegation supports the Director-General's call for prepositioning of stocks in strategic places or in areas most vulnerable to calamities. This is the only way in which the international community could answer emergency food aid calls and ensure the delivery of food at a time when it is mostly needed. The practical possibilities of the prepositioning of stocks should be worked out soonest and action taken.

The call for a new world economic order is timely and my delegation supports it. It is now common knowledge, Mr Chairman, that debts and very high interest rates are very important among the reasons why third world countries, especially in Africa, become desperately short of foreign exchange which is a self-reinforcing process. A shortage of foreign exchange in the import dependent modern sector of our economics leads to a shortage of agricultural and industrial inputs, spares, transport and so on. Because African countries have no foreign exchange, they cannot afford purchasing the vital equipment, requisites and the fuel required for development and rehabilitation of their agriculture. Because Africa has no forex, it cannot possibly import food for its nationals thus resulting in famines, hunger, malnutrition and ultimate deaths. The food and economic crisis in Africa today is a result of this.

Africa needs a breathing space, a space to make it come out of this dilemma, the food crisis. In the call for a new world economic order consideration should be given to putting a moratorium on debt repayment by the overburdened countries. Through you, Mr Chairman, perhaps FAO could bring world awareness to the huge debt burden which is being carried by the developing countries.

It is sad to note that while the world community is all talking about the problems in Africa, no effort has been made to ensure and secure the existence of IFAD. The effectiveness of IFAD in servicing the needs and the well-being of the peasant, the small-scale farmer, being echoed in all independent evaluations and studies carried out so far. In this respect, my delegation is appealing to donors to bring about the survival and existence of this youngest and most effective United Nations agency. As the delegate of Malawi said earlier on, IFAD has a lot of potential to help Africa and IFAD has the secret of success in helping the small farmer, the landless and the poor.

Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate Professor Islam and Mr Lignon for their impressive presentation of the documents under discussion.

Mme M. LOURDES DUARTE (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Tout d'abord ma délégation voudrait vous féliciter ainsi que le Vice-Président et vous demander de me permettre aussi de féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document et la présentation du Prof. Islam et de M. Lignon.

La crise alimentaire de 84-85 éprouve terriblement les populations africaines et encore ce n'est que la moitié de l'aide promise qui est déjà arrivée dans les pays sinistres, vu que la plupart des pays africains sont exposés aux risques d'une crise alimentaire, il est urgent que l'on se prépare à y faire face et toutes les mesures doivent être prises pour faire démarrer la production vivrière dans les secteurs de l'agriculture de l'élevage et des pêcheurs. La relance est donc d'une urgente nécessité.

A cet effet, le Directeur général de la FAO, à la réunion du 29 mars dernier, a présenté aux donateurs un certain nombre de projets reconnus à l'unanimité comme s'agissant de projets bien choisis et bien préparés et dont le mérite était de permettre de pouvoir être mis en œuvre immédiatement par les bénéficiaires et les donateurs. Il est préoccupant que 21 des 30 pays victimes de pénurie alimentaire exceptionnelle se trouvent en Afrique et aillent augmenter le nombre de pays africains ayant besoin d'une aide exceptionnelle dont 13 ont eu des besoins exceptionnels pendant toute la période considérée. Il faut donc se préparer à faire face aux crises alimentaires non seulement à cause de l'augmentation du nombre de pays à pénurie exceptionnelle mais aussi à cause de l'augmentation de leur besoin d'aide alimentaire. Un effort accru doit être fait non seulement pour être prêt à faire face aux crises mais surtout pour améliorer les disponibilités alimentaires nationales et les moyens de distribution. De 1980 à 1984 la production vivrière a baissé dans 40 des 46 pays africains. Les terres ont été exploitées plus intensivement sans que l'emploi des engrais ait augmenté de façon uniforme et l'irrigation y reste peu développée. La situation nutritionnelle de l'Afrique, notamment celle des pays à bas revenus qui sont les plus frappés est préoccupante. Les problèmes alimentaires forment vraiment un ensemble très complexe qui varie d'un pays à l'autre. La délégation du Cap-Vert consciente que les pays africains doivent agir de façon concertée avec l'assistance internationale pour faire face aux crises alimentaires apporte son soutien aux principales mesures proposées à cet effet au point 4 du document CL 87/13.

Pour terminer, tout particulièrement et une fois de plus, ma délégation voudrait féliciter le Directeur général de la FAO pour le programme de relance au profit du continent africain et les mesures adoptées pour réorienter les programmes de la FAO et aussi pour sa persistante intervention auprès de la communauté internationale et les pays donateurs.

G. LAZARE (Observateur du Burkina Faso): Permettez-nous également de féliciter le Secrétariat pour la présentation des documents CL 87/13 et CL 87/13-Sup. 1. Ces deux documents traduisent directement les problèmes alimentaires en Afrique. On peut se demander, sinon affirmer comme l'indique le document du Secrétariat, que l'Afrique perd effectivement du terrain dans la lutte pour la sécurité alimentaire. Notre continent est de plus en plus tributaire de l'aide alimentaire extérieure pour nourrir ses populations. Le nombre des pays ayant des besoins exceptionnels d'aide alimentaire ne fait que croître. La production vivrière par habitant a diminué dans 32 des 46 pays africains en développement considérés au cours de la période 1971-1981 comme l'indique le document du Secrétariat. Il y a donc nécessité de se préparer aux crises.

Au niveau du Burkina il a été élaboré un programme de réhabilitation du nord du pays durement éprouvé par la sécheresse et les pénuries alimentaires. L'exécution de ce programme est placée sous la tutelle de la Commission régionale de lutte contre les effets de la sécheresse et les traits principaux de ce programme visent à la réalisation de certains projets avec la participation effective des populations intéressées dans les domaines de l'hydraulique, petite irrigation, forage, production agricole, restauration du cheptel, désenclavement de la zone par la construction de routes, ouverture de pistes, constitution de stocks de céréales suffisants dans la zone, constitution d'une brigade mobile dans la zone dotée de moyens de transport et de personnel adéquat pour intervenir efficacement au secours des populations intéressées en cas de nécessité.

Bref, tous les 21 pays dits les plus gravement touchés sont intéressés par chacun des programmes tendant à les libérer de cette situation inconfortable par une relance de leur agriculture qui engloberait des domaines très variés comme l'approvisionnement en intrants, les semences, les engrais, l'irrigation, les vaccins, l'augmentation de la production agricole. Mais cette relance exige des moyens financiers et techniques tels que les pays africains malgré leur bonne volonté ne peuvent à eux seuls se mobiliser.

Au-delà de toute rhétorique, le vrai problème pour ces pays africains est un problème de moyens financiers et techniques que seule une prise de conscience et une solidarité de la communauté internationale peut résoudre. C'est pourquoi nous tenons à rendre hommage à la FAO et au Directeur général pour leur effort en faveur de l'Afrique. Je pense en particulier aux différents

appels du Directeur general depuis près de dix ans sur la situation précaire de l'Afrique. Je pense à la proposition du Directeur general, approuvée par le Conseil à sa session de novembre 1984 de réorienter durant l'exercice en cours une partie des ressources ordinaires de la FAO jusqu'à concurrence de 5 millions de dollars pour appuyer les efforts de relance des pays sinistrés. Enfin je pense à la relance de l'agriculture en Ethiopie, à la réunion spéciale tenue à Rome le 29 mars 1985 sur la relance de l'agriculture dans 20 pays africains, dont le Burkina Faso sur la base de projets simples bien élaborés en collaboration avec les gouvernements intéressés.

Je ne saurais terminer sans témoigner notre gratitude à tous les pays et organismes qui ont déjà manifesté leur disponibilité à financer ces projets.

Je terminerai par un appel: donnez à l'Afrique les moyens financiers et techniques et le reste se fera comme sur des roulettes. Donnez à l'Afrique les moyens financiers et techniques et vous verrez que les petits exploitants, pour reprendre un mot d'un de nos délégués, vous seront très reconnaissants.

K. MAÏGA (Observateur de la Banque Islamique de Développement): Monsieur le Président, la Banque islamique de développement se réjouit de participer à ce Conseil de la FAO traduisant ainsi l'excellence des relations qui existent si heureusement entre la FAO et la Banque .

La qualité des documents présentés par la FAO, la clarté des exposes de vos collaborateurs et de vous-même Monsieur le Président, sont une légitime source de satisfaction. La Banque saisit cette opportunité pour vous présenter toutes ses félicitations. Le Président de la Banque islamique de développement et le Conseil d'administration de cette banque, les directeurs executifs, ont le même souci que la FAO pour imprimer une véritable accélération dans la réalisation de projets agricoles, donnant ainsi la plus haute priorité à l'agriculture.

Ceci se traduit, pour la Banque Islamique de Développement, par: 1. la création d'un comité d'ingénieurs agronomes au sein de la Banque; 2. le contact d'organisations regionales s'occupant des problèmes de sécheresse et de lutte contre la sécheresse, telles que le Comité inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse ayant son siège à Ouagadougou; le Comité inter-Etats d'études hydrauliques qui, avec les organisations gouvernementales se charge de la réalisation des études pour les cours des fleuves et la réalisation des études d'eaux souterraines. Dans le cadre du programme ordinaire de la Banque, il y a la participation dans le financement des ouvrages de maîtrise de l'eau à des fins agricoles. C'est ainsi que la Banque a participé aux financements des barrages de Gorgol, en Mauritanie, de Mantali sur le fleuve Sénégal, pour le compte de l' OMVS, des projets d'agriculture tels que le projet intégré du Manchoum au Cameroun et a participé également au projet d'inventaire de forêt en Guinée-Conakry, (la forêt de Lola); ainsi que le projet de reboisement au Sénégal dans la région du Cayore. La Banque a participé également à la Conférence ministérielle sur la désertification, à Dakar les 18 et 29 juillet 1984, où est né le vocable de "pays agressés par la désertification" (les PAD) devant lutter globalement et de façon coordonnée contre la désertification. 4. Devant la sévérité et la persistance de la sécheresse, la Banque a conçu et réalisé un programme d'aide d'urgence à neuf pays sahéliens Membres, que je cite dans un ordre dispersé: Niger, Tchad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Sénégal, Mauritanie, Guinée-Bissau et Gambie; ce programme d'un montant de 50 millions de dollars E.-U. se subdivise ainsi: 20 millions de dollars sous forme de subventions et 30 millions de dollars sous forme de prêts, sans charges administratives et pour un remboursement d'une durée de 30 ans. Il sert à financer, dans un premier temps, que nous appelons la première phase, pour 20 millions de dollars E.-U. des aliments de bétail constitués de graines de coton, de tourteaux d'arachide, etc. qui seront achetés localement ou dans la sous-région, permettant ainsi aux opérateurs économiques de pouvoir utiliser cet argent sur place; ensuite l'acquisition de vaccins pour la santé animale, vaccins et produits biologiques avec tout le système de conservation, donc achat de congélateurs, achat de véhicules de transport pour les aliments de bétail - véhicules de gros tonnages et petits véhicules pour les campagnes de vaccination.

Ensuite, toujours en ce qui concerne les subventions, il y a l'acquisition d'intrants agricoles, semences, engrais, fongicides, petits outillages, etc., qui pourront être achetés localement, tant sur le plan régional que sous-régional ou même international.

Cette première phase s'achève en ce moment, puisque nous avons déjà lancé l'opération dermis mars 1984.

La deuxième phase, qui commence actuellement, c'est la phase qui consiste en la réalisation de petits ouvrages hydrauliques: réalisation de puits de forages dans les zones critiques, avec installation de pompes à main, ou d'électro-pompes immergées qui permettraient à des régions telles que le Niger ou la Mauritanie, qui ont des forages assez profonds, d'utiliser ces électro-pompes immergées. Cela, c'est ce que nous appelons la petite hydraulique villageoise.

La deuxième phase consiste également en la réalisation de petites irrigations qui comprennent l'acquisition de moto-pompes, pour utiliser l'eau des rivières et des fleuves et dans certaines régions, telles que le Niger et la Gambie, d'utiliser des forages à titre expérimental pour l'irrigation.

Cette expérience de la petite irrigation permettrait de faire un programme-pilote pour accroître la production pour les petits agriculteurs. Ce qui, nous pensons, pourrait améliorer la qualité de la production agricole en vue de l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Dans cette deuxième phase la Banque pensait également à un programme que nous appelons : "Etude de surveillance des nappes" puisque, à cause de la sécheresse, les nappes ont baissé.

Ensuite nous avons vu dans certaines régions telles que le Sénégal l'intrusion d'eau marine, ce qui rend inaccessibles, ou bien même inutilisables, les eaux de forages et des puits. Nous avons donc consenti pour ce volet des nappes environ 500 000 dollars par pays pour qu'à partir des piézomètres nous puissions suivre les fluctuations de la nappe et déterminer l'intrusion des eaux marines et ainsi maîtriser ce fléau pour permettre de savoir comment utiliser rationnellement cette eau, qui est quand même assez précieuse pour la survie de l'homme et de son environnement.

Ensuite la Banque islamique de développement, en raison de sévérité de la sécheresse dans un pays tel que le Soudan est en train de concevoir un programme spécial pour ce pays et elle a déjà effectué une première investigation. Actuellement nous sommes en train de concevoir un programme pour venir en aide au Soudan, et par voie de conséquence, pour essayer de l'étendre aussi à d'autres pays.

Monsieur le Président nous pensons que cette action de la Banque est déjà positive et c'est une information que nous pensons donner pour compléter déjà celle très intéressante de M. Lignon qui a fait un exposé extrêmement clair. Je crois qu'il est bon, dans cette phase, que ces informations soient portées à la connaissance de l'assemblée pour constater qu'à ce niveau, la Banque est en train d'épauler également l'action des organisations nationales et internationales.

I. KABA (Observateur de la Guinée): Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président et je vous félicite, ainsi que vos vice-présidents. Que le Directeur général trouve ici l'hommage de ma délégation guinéenne pour sa déclaration importante.

Les documents soumis à notre examen méritent des éloges pour leur pertinence, leur précision et la clarté de leur présentation; que le Secrétariat en soit félicité.

Après les interventions qui m'ont précédé, auxquelles je joins ma voix, je serai très bref.

J'interviens pour insister sur l'inquiétude qu'éveillent la non-livraison des aides promises et le non-acheminement vers les nécessiteux du stock d'aide alimentaire accumulé aux portes des pays bénéficiaires. La menace du mauvais temps risque de rendre inutilisable cet important stock d'aliments. Cette perte serait plus considérable que les moyens actuellement nécessaires à l'acheminement des aliments tant attendus par les affamés de la campagne.

Nous nous tournons encore vers ceux qui en ont les moyens pour que le nécessaire soit fait dans le temps très court qui reste encore avant les grandes pluies. Cela est une situation qui souligne la nécessité d'une infrastructure appropriée tant pour le stockage que pour le transport. Ceci rejoint le fait évoqué aux paragraphes 42, 43 et 44 du document CL 87/13 que nous appuyons.

Les différents paragraphes des points 5, 6 et 7 du même document traitant de la relance des mesures à long terme du défi relevé, sont ceux qui répondent de manière définitive aux problèmes de fond qui se posent au continent africain d'abord et ensuite à la solidarité internationale.

Nous félicitons le Directeur général et, à travers lui, la FAO, pour ses initiatives et ses démarches appropriées tendant à la mobilisation de l'opinion internationale, à l'obtention des moyens pour la réalisation des projets de développement.

Que les donateurs trouvent ici la reconnaissance de notre pays qui depuis quelques années s'efforce réellement à travers une restructuration efficace, avec l'application de stratégies de développement dynamiques, d'améliorer leur production pour réaliser leur autosuffisance alimentaire. En tous cas, mon pays, la Guinée, s'y ingénie avec tous les moyens à sa disposition; en témoigne le plan intérimaire actuellement exécuté et auquel collaborent la FAO et d'autres organismes internationaux.

Mais le succès des efforts des pays africains dépend beaucoup de la conjoncture internationale, du commerce, de la dette extérieure et aussi de la contribution au renforcement des organismes internationaux tels que le FIDA.

Permettez-moi de terminer mon intervention en espérant que le Conseil approuvera le projet de résolution proposé par l'Afrique.

C. KAREKEZI (Rwanda): Monsieur le Président, comme c'est la première fois que ma délégation prend la parole, je voudrais tout d'abord me joindre aux délégués qui m'ont déjà précédé pour vous préciser que ma délégation est heureuse de vous revoir présider ce Conseil.

La délégation rwandaise a été fort encouragée par la déclaration du Directeur général de la FAO qui présente la situation alimentaire mondiale en général et d'une manière particulière la crise alimentaire de l'Afrique, ainsi que le programme de relance à entreprendre pour satisfaire les besoins alimentaires.

Permettez-moi de remercier le Directeur général et ses collaborateurs pour les efforts énormes qu'ils déploient constamment en vue de contribuer efficacement au développement de l'agriculture et d'assurer une meilleure alimentation des populations des pays en développement en particulier.

Comme il a été souvent démontré au Conseil de la FAO, depuis dix ans, l'Afrique ne parvient pas à réussir son programme d'autosuffisance alimentaire. De 1950 à 1984 la production vivrière a baissé dans 40 des 46 pays africains en développement et la situation nutritionnelle, notamment des pays à bas revenu, reste préoccupante.

Le rapport de la FAO indique également que l'apport calorifique par habitant n'a augmenté que

de 4 pour cent dans 23 des 46 pays africains en développement et qu'il a diminué dans les 16 autres.

Comme les crises alimentaires deviennent de plus en plus inquiétantes et que les besoins annuels d'aide alimentaire ne cessent d'augmenter, ma délégation invite les pays développés à accorder une aide alimentaire d'urgence suffisante à toutes les populations menacées par la famine.

Compte tenu qu'aucun pays africain, même en dehors des déficits dûs aux calamités naturelles et aux aléas climatiques, n'a pu satisfaire complètement les besoins de sa population, ma délégation estime que l'aide alimentaire est nécessaire pour combler les déficits de nos productions.

Mais, par définition, cette aide alimentaire doit devenir, sauf en cas de calamités, la cause de sa propre élimination en servant essentiellement à l'augmentation de la production nationale par l'utilisation judicieuse, par exemple en constituant des fonds de contrepartie dans les projets de production vivrière et d'élevage.

Ma délégation soutient sans réserve le programme de relance agricole proposé par le Directeur général de la FAO.

Tout en reconnaissant que ce programme ne pourra être réalisé sans l'effort continu des différents pays en développement, ma délégation pense néanmoins que les modestes ressources de ces pays et l'insuffisance de cadres nationaux qualifiés constituent des obstacles majeurs qui nécessitent encore des interventions extérieures, aussi bien dans le cadre multilatéral que bilatéral.

C'est dans ce cadre que le gouvernement de la République rwandaise est fort préoccupé de la dégradation constante de l'équilibre entre la production vivrière et les besoins alimentaires de la population. Cet équilibre devient d'autant plus difficile du fait de la mise en culture de la quasi totalité de terres cultivables et de l'augmentation constante de la population.

En même temps qu'un programme de planning familial est en train d'être instauré, le gouvernement cherche toutes les voies et moyens pour augmenter la production vivrière en vue de satisfaire les besoins nutritionnels de la population.

La mesure de premier ordre qui est prise est la protection du patrimoine sol qui se dégrade au fil des ans, compte tenu de la topographie accidentée.

Dans cet ordre d'idée, mon gouvernement mène depuis plusieurs années une campagne visant à intensifier la production vivrière en mettant en oeuvre tous les facteurs indispensables, à savoir notamment l'utilisation de semences sélectionnées, l'association de l'agriculture à l'élevage, l'utilisation des engrais organiques et minéraux. Cet objectif figure en tête du deuxième plan quinquennal du développement économique et socio-culturel 1977-81, ainsi que du troisième plan quinquennal 1982-86.

Pour accomplir cette mission, les ressources locales ne peuvent à elles seules suffire. C'est la raison pour laquelle mon gouvernement prend contact avec les pays développés et les organisations internationales pour qu'ils y contribuent.

En 1984, le Rwanda a connu une période de sécheresse intense qui a provoqué un déficit alimentaire de 120 000 tonnes de céréales et légumineuses.

L'appel urgent lancé par mon gouvernement à la communauté internationale a été heureusement compris et une partie du déficit a été comblée.

Je saisis cette occasion, au nom de mon gouvernement, pour remercier les pays et organisations internationales qui nous ont apporté un appui dans cette période difficile.



S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I wanted to be one of the last speakers so that I could listen and learn and make some short comment. The agonizing situation in 21 African countries for a long time is a challenge to the international community to show their solidarity and also to solve the problem so that the African people can come out of this serious problem and become self-reliant.

It appears from the document that there is a shortfall in the requirements by more than one million tons and that 40 percent of the food has not reached its destination. There is port congestion and there are internal difficulties which means that the food is not reaching the hungry people and the food is rotting. As Professor Islam has said in his introduction, if the food does not arrive in time and comes at a time when the crop will come up that will be more disastrous than it is now, and again this food will be rotting at the port. So this is a challenge for the international community to see that the food reaches the people in time and to see what they want and for an effort to be made by all international communities, including FAO and the donor countries, to resolve this situation.

The Director-General of FAO has through his dynamic leadership and his tireless effort done his best and is still doing his best to mobilize the world community to meet the requirement of the emergency need of the African countries. Now that he has taken up the job of helping the agriculture of African countries we are thankful to the Director-General of the FAO for all that he has done and we support all that he has done for the African countries and the action that he has taken.

Mobilization and the rehabilitation programme should go hand in hand so that the African people can get out of this problem as quickly as possible. In this connection the programme of work undertaken by the FAO in the Regular Programme has our fullest support. Also the \$15 million which is being allocated with the approval of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee has our full support.

We thank the international community for the generous support that they have given. Also my delegation would support the proposed resolution being brought up in this connection.

T.D. DA COSTA (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Monsieur le Président, c'est avec une très profonde satisfaction que la Délégation de la République démocratique de Sao Tomé-et-Principe à la 87ème Session du Conseil de la FAO prend la parole. Que ce soit tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, pour vous adresser nos plus vives félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection comme Président de cette Session, dont les travaux seront, nous en sommes convaincus, couronnés de succès, dirigés par votre coutumière sagesse, en collaboration avec les deux Vice-Présidents élus, que nous félicitons également.

Nous avons analysé très attentivement le Document de base présenté par le Secrétariat; pour sa richesse, tant en terme d'objectivité que de clarté, nous voudrions ici féliciter et remercier tous les membres du Secrétariat pour avoir réalisé ce travail si important, et plus particulièrement MM. Lignon et Islam pour leurs brillants commentaires qui nous aideront à mieux situer et éclairer les débats.

Nous avons également écouté avec beaucoup d'attention la déclaration de Monsieur le Directeur général, déclaration qui a fait naître en nous de profondes réflexions. Encore une fois, nous sommes en possession d'un grand document d'orientation, fruit de l'effort gigantesque et incessant de ce tiers-mondiste qui, inlassablement, étudie et analyse en profondeur les problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation en Afrique, proposant des solutions toujours valables et durables pour que ces problèmes soient progressivement dépassés et leurs effets constamment minimisés, là où ils peuvent exister.

Nous remercions et félicitons Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO pour cette grande contribution à la recherche continue d'une solution aux problèmes de l'agriculture, de la faim et de la malnutrition en Afrique.

Nombreux ont été avant nous les orateurs qui se sont exprimés sur le sujet en discussion, abordant ses aspects les plus variés. Dans leur essence, toutes ces interventions ont révélé des préoccupations sur la situation alimentaire grave dans laquelle se débat aujourd'hui l'Afrique. Pour nous, le sujet que nous discutons est un sujet vital, parmi ceux que la présente Session doit analyser. Il est vital en effet, parce qu'outre le fait d'aborder des sujets qui ne sont pas nouveaux, il recouvre des préoccupations, oh combien inquiétantes, quant à ses effets qui ont causé et causent encore des préjudices sociaux et humains incalculables dans le Continent africain, préjudices auxquels il nous faut trouver une solution.

Ainsi que nous le constatons, les multiples interventions faites ici attirent l'attention de l'opinion publique sur la situation vraiment grave et sur l'urgence de prendre des mesures décisives et plus pertinentes, puisqu'aujourd'hui cette situation se révèle être non seulement un problème africain mais un problème que la Communauté internationale se doit de traiter avec fermeté, ainsi que l'a exprimé une des délégations présentes.

La situation alimentaire difficile que connaissent aujourd'hui les Peuples africains et plus particulièrement ceux des Pays au sud du Sahara qui sont victimes d'innombrables calamités naturelles et des effets persistants de la crise économique mondiale, constitue le point culminant d'une situation qui évolue dans le temps.

Si nous nous référons aux antécédents historiques, nous pouvons dire que le Continent africain a déjà vécu dans l'abondance et non dans la pénurie alimentaire qui se constate aujourd'hui. Eu égard à cela, nous dirons que l'Afrique vit actuellement une période de transition, puisque les problèmes qui se posent maintenant, nous en sommes convaincus, peuvent être résolus.

Cette solution viendra d'abord de la conviction de l'Africain qui doit ne pas ménager ses efforts et ses sacrifices dans le travail pour développer l'agriculture, en cherchant sans désespérer le véritable noeud de l'étranglement qui étouffe ce développement, ce qui nous permettrait d'être plus conséquents dans les mesures à prendre.

Ensuite, et compte tenu de notre degré de pauvreté, il nous faut pouvoir sentir le soutien de la Communauté internationale, dans tous ses aspects: appui financier, matériel, en cadres qualifiés et, enfin, en tout ce qui peut contribuer à relancer le développement pour une agriculture plus moderne, c'est-à-dire capable de nous donner une croissance constante de nos productions agricoles, piscicoles et d'élevage, pour aller de paire avec notre croissance démographique.

Enfin, nous avons besoin que la FAO poursuive ses efforts et sa lutte, avec la participation active de tous ses membres pour atteindre avec une efficacité sans cesse accrue, les objectifs qu'elle poursuit actuellement.

La bonne volonté de tous, pour que, tous, nous sortions de cette situation, est évidente. Il faut toutefois que nous accélérions la prise de décisions pratiques de telle sorte que nous puissions avant la fin de ce siècle, enregistrer des résultats extraordinaires qui permettront de reléguer le souvenir de la faim dans les tréfonds de la mémoire humaine.

Sao Tomé-et-Principe est parmi les Pays Moins Avancés qui lutte avec le problème de la famine et de la malnutrition. Cette situation a des causes diverses dont l'inadéquation d'une structure agraire héritée du passé, les effets de certaines calamités naturelles et les effets de la crise économique mondiale persistante. Des actions pratiques sont en cours, sur base de l'effort national et grâce aux appuis multiformes de la FAO et des autres Organisations des Nations Unies, ainsi que des Pays et Organisations Non Gouvernementales avec lesquelles nous avons une coopération, visant à l'accroissement de la mise en oeuvre de la politique de diversification de l'agriculture telle que définie par le Gouvernement et pour la réalisation des objectifs définis dans la Déclaration des Chefs d'Etats africains à Lagos et la Déclaration de Harare. Toutes ces actions sont en train d'avoir des effets, dont nous n'osons encore dire qu'ils constituent les préludes d'une solution aux problèmes auxquels nous avons à faire face à court terme. Cependant, les résultats sont encourageants et nous incitent à redoubler d'effort, certains que nous sommes de la réussite. C'est pourquoi nous voulons, au nom de notre Gouvernement, au nom de notre Délégation et en notre nom propre remercier très sincèrement et très profondément tous ceux qui, directement ou indirectement, contribuent à appuyer Sao Tomé-et-Principe dans l'effort de développement de son agriculture et qui, par conséquent, l'aident à combattre la faim et la malnutrition de sa population. Nous voudrions ici, et parce que cela exprime notre sentiment profond, rendre un hommage particulier à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO qui n'a, à aucun moment, épargné ses efforts pour d'une façon ou d'une autre, nous encourager et nous offrir son meilleur appui.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, nous voulons exprimer le plein accord de la Délégation de la République démocratique de Sao Tomé-et-Principe avec le programme de la FAO pour la relance de l'agriculture en Afrique.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I have only one or two points to respond to. A number of delegates have questioned whether the Secretariat distinguishes clearly enough between current food emergency and long-term food problems and prospects in Africa. By the nature of this document heavy emphasis is placed on the discussion of the current food emergency and the rehabilitation programme and not on long-term problems and policies, even though reference has been made to these aspects as well. The in-depth study of Africa's food production constraints which is under way now and which will be discussed next year is expected to go into these details of the long-term aspects.

A question has also been raised as to whether we have distinguished clearly enough between countries suffering from the current food emergency and those which are suffering from chronic food problems. As pointed out earlier, current food emergency in most countries in Africa is superimposed on the long-term food problem. This is explained in paragraphs 28 to 30 on page 9.

In fact there is some analysis in this document about the characteristics of those countries which have persistently encountered food emergencies in recent years. Such an analysis was provided to the Council last year in November. It is pointed out in that document that 15 African countries recurrently suffered acute food shortages between 1977 and 1984. All but five were low-income countries with declining or stagnating per capita income. Secondly, in all these 15 countries average dietary food and energy supplies were low. Thirdly, in ten out of these 15 countries declining per capita food production was present since the 1970s, and in 13 of them further declines took place between 1979 and 1983. In all of these 21 countries which FAO has identified for 1984/85 as facing exceptional food aid needs, food production has been adversely affected in 1984 by drought or other unfavourable weather conditions. Thus these countries face emergency food aid needs over and above any structural food aid requirements which could exist even in a normal production year.

It is true that in some of these countries exceptional food aid needs have arisen as a result of other factors, such as internal civil strife, influx of refugees, etc.

We also recognise the usefulness for analytical and operational purposes of estimating separately the emergency food aid needs and structural food aid needs. This subject was discussed at a recently held expert consultation in March 1985 here in FAO and was also stressed in the recent meeting of the Committee on World Food Security. I would add that we are considering this position and hope to be able to make some progress in the near future.

A number of delegates referred to paragraph 47 in the main document which mentions a number of international measures which are needed to improve the responsiveness of the international community to emergency needs. These measures, such as stand-by for IEF, improvement of food aid convention, internal food reserves, etc. were discussed at the last meeting of the Committee on Food Security.

The Secretariat recognizes that some of these measures need further study. In fact they will be so studied and elaborated for further discussion and consideration in the future sessions of the Committee on Food Security.

R.S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Je ferai aussi deux brefs commentaires pour répondre à des préoccupations qui ont été évoquées par certains délégués.

Le premier de ces commentaires portera surtout sur les questions suivantes: certains délégués ont souligné l'importance de la formation, de la promotion des ressources humaines, d'autres délégués ont souligné l'importance des facteurs de production dans la relance de l'agriculture en Afrique.

Je crois que l'originalité du programme qui vous a été présenté réside dans le fait qu'il est constitué d'un ensemble de projets qui tous contiennent une composante d'assistance technique, qui, sous diverses formes, prennent en charge des problèmes de formation, de transfert de technologies, des problèmes d'organisations paysannes, de sorte que cette originalité du programme de coopération technique le différencie d'une simple évaluation des besoins disant: il y a besoin de six millions de dollars d'engrais pour tel pays d'Afrique, etc. Chaque projet est constitué pour être efficace en lui-même et pour être réalisable dans la situation qui prévaut dans le pays. Je pense qu'il était important de le souligner.

Ceci me permet de passer au deuxième commentaire qui est le suivant: je pense que la gestion de la crise africaine ne peut pas se faire en tranches séparées en disant que l'on s'occupe maintenant de l'urgence et que l'on s'occupera demain de l'agriculture et que plus tard on s'occupera du long terme ou réciproquement. Je pense que la FAO, par son mandat, par sa vocation et par les moyens et les instruments dont elle dispose, englobe tous les problèmes qui se posent à l'agriculture africaine et le programme de relance s'intègre dans le continuum qui va de la prévision de la crise, avec le système d'information et d'alerte rapide, jusqu'aux problèmes d'investissement à long terme, action que la FAO mène par le Centre d'investissement avec les banques de financement. Je pense que dans ce domaine la FAO est prête à coopérer avec tout le monde. Vous avez vu que beaucoup de donateurs et d'institutions internationales ont déjà participé à ce programme. Lorsque le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies a créé le Bureau des opérations d'urgence en Afrique, la FAO n'a pas ménagé sa coopération puisque c'est sur la base des recommandations et des évaluations faites par le Système d'alerte rapide et les groupes spéciaux que la liste des pays qui sont dans le champ du Bureau des opérations a été faite. Ce sont encore les projets menés par la FAO qui ont été examinés pour le secteur agricole et pastoral à Genève, et c'est encore maintenant dans le cadre des réunions qui se tiennent dans les pays que ces programmes sont examinés.

Je peux donc dire que dans le cadre du mandat général de la FAO qui va de la prévision de la crise jusqu'aux problèmes de développement à long terme, nous pensons que ce programme a une place particulièrement spécifique et comble une lacune qui existait jusqu'à maintenant.

Le DIRECTEUR GENERAL: J'ai écouté avec beaucoup d'attention tous les orateurs, ils étaient nombreux, je les remercie. Je voudrais les assurer que je ne ménagerai aucun effort en vue de mobiliser une aide en faveur de l'Afrique touchée par la sécheresse.

Ce n'est pas la dernière fois que nous allons discuter de la situation agricole et alimentaire en Afrique. J'ai d'autres rendez-vous. Le Sommet des chefs d'Etat africains en discutera du 18 au 21 juillet à Addis-Abeba; j'y serai présent pour faire entendre la voix de la FAO. L'ECOSOC consacre quatre jours pour discuter de la situation alimentaire de l'Afrique du 22 au 27 juillet et ce point est à l'ordre du jour de la Conférence de la FAO en novembre.

Le drame de l'Afrique n'est pas dû seulement à une conjoncture, à une sécheresse. Ce n'est pas la sécheresse d'une année; c'est une sécheresse qui dure depuis dix ans: cela a commencé par l'Afrique de l'Ouest, puis à l'est, puis l'Afrique australe. Les causes sont aussi beaucoup plus profondes: elles sont structurelles. Les remèdes que nous utilisons en ce moment consistent essentiellement à fournir une aide alimentaire. Il n'y a pas de bateau qui emporte des sacs d'engrais ou des sacs de semences qui vont en Afrique, ce sont surtout des produits alimentaires. Ces remèdes prolongent l'agonie, mais ne mettent pas fin à la maladie.

Il faut des facteurs de production. Je voudrais voir les producteurs européens faire les semailles sans mettre d'engrais! Ils mettent 110 kilos d'engrais à l'hectare alors qu'en Afrique on met 8 kilos d'engrais à l'hectare, et surtout pour des cultures de rente et non pas pour des cultures vivrières. Je voudrais voir l'agriculture européenne sans subvention! L'agriculture africaine n'est pas subventionnée. Les gouvernements sont pauvres, les particuliers sont pauvres.

Au début des années quarante, l'Afrique était exportatrice de produits alimentaires. Qu'est-il arrivé? En quarante ans la population africaine a triplé. Elle doublera encore dans vingt ans. Le taux d'augmentation de la population est de 3,2 pour cent par an. Est-ce que les terres cultivées ont doublé? Non, parce qu'il y a très peu de terres de bonne qualité. En Afrique, seulement 12 pour cent des terres sont des terres de bonne qualité. Le reste c'est le désert: le Sahara, le désert de Kalahari dans le sud, et au milieu le "désert Vert" où il y a la trypanosomiose et la mouche tsé-tsé. Si les terres africaines étaient bonnes, il y aurait peut-être trois milliards d'habitants comme en Asie. L'Afrique n'a que 580 millions d'habitants parce que les terres ne sont pas bonnes, les conditions de vie ne sont pas bonnes. La nature fait les choses d'elle-même et il ne peut pas y avoir deux milliards et demi d'hommes. Donc il y a au départ une situation très défavorable pour les pays africains. On doit le dire et le répéter. J'ai fait toutes ces remarques parce que certains délégués ont fait des discours, ont donné leurs idées sur la façon dont les choses devaient être organisées en Afrique. La FAO fait aussi une étude qui sera prête l'année prochaine, comme l'a dit l'Ambassadeur du Congo, qui illustrera la situation et proposera des schémas.

Que faut-il faire? Il faut intensifier l'agriculture, parce qu'on ne peut pas conquérir de terres nouvelles ou tout au moins les possibilités sont très limitées. Il faut mettre des engrais, c'est la seule façon d'améliorer l'agriculture. Combien en faut-il? Il en faut des quantités énormes pendant plusieurs années. Il faut donc produire les engrais. Or, toutes les usines qui ont été faites en Afrique sont fermées aujourd'hui. Il faut pendant plusieurs années fournir des engrais, fournir des pesticides. L'Afrique ne représente que 5 pour cent de la consommation mondiale de pesticides. Il faut aussi avoir de bonnes semences comme font les Européens et les Asiatiques. Il faut une irrigation: il y a seulement 5 pour cent de terres irriguées en Afrique et cela coûte quatre fois plus cher qu'en Asie.

C'est un travail gigantesque de plusieurs années. Qu'on ne me parle pas de nos pauvres millions de dollars: il faut des milliards de dollars. Il faudrait être vraiment malhonnête pour ne pas savoir que le remède ce n'est pas des sacs de blé qui font leur effet momentanément, mais c'est le développement de la production vivrière avec les intrants. Aujourd'hui on n'a pas d'agriculture sans engrais, sans semences. On ne peut pas semer des graines dont 15 pour cent seulement vont germer. Il faut que 80 pour cent des graines germent. Il faut des vaccins: l'Afrique est très riche en cheptel, c'est une des plus grandes richesses de l'Afrique.

Evidemment, le climat économique mondial et la situation politique ne sont pas favorables pour lancer ce qu'on pourrait appeler un "Plan Marshall" pour l'Afrique. Je suis réaliste, je sais que le moment n'est guère propice. D'ailleurs il y a un "grippage" dans l'aide; l'aide diminue, l'aide baisse. Dans certains pays, l'aide publique au développement est constituée maintenant par 40 pour cent d'aide alimentaire ...

Il ne faut donc pas se leurrer; nous allons continuer à discuter de la situation en Afrique pendant longtemps, ici même et ailleurs, parce que l'aide à l'Afrique ne va pas dans le sens voulu et parce que ça coûte très cher. Je comprends les pays donateurs: on a parlé de 35 milliards; on ne peut guère aller au-delà. La Banque mondiale a bien compris qu'il faudrait un fonds spécial pour l'Afrique. On a parlé de deux milliards; on a peut-être obtenu un milliard et encore dans des conditions qui ne sont pas ce que la Banque souhaitait, pour trois ans.

Encore si l'Afrique pouvait recevoir une plus grande partie du commerce mondial. Mais pas du tout. Tous les produits de base, agricoles et non agricoles, qu'exporte l'Afrique ont vu leurs prix diminuer en termes réels de 20 pour cent en vingt ans, que ce soit le café, le sucre (c'est une catastrophe : 3 cents la livre), les autres produits tropicaux, que ce soit le cuivre, l'uranium pour le Niger, le fer ou la bauxite pour les autres pays.

Les projections de la Banque mondiale et de la CNUCED sont très claires. La demande pour les matières de base agricoles ou non agricoles va rester stationnaire dans les pays occidentaux. Le prix des matières premières est fixé par les pays occidentaux. Les prix baissent.

Il va donc falloir continuer l'opération que j'appelle "charité". On va dire dans nos prochains rapports "il faut cette année 5,6 millions de tonnes de céréales". Il y a là un grand danger, comme je le dis souvent. En effet, aujourd'hui l'Afrique reçoit plus de la moitié de l'aide alimentaire, près de 60 %. Heureusement que nous n'avons pas de catastrophe dans les autres régions. Mais savez-vous que cette année le Pakistan, qui avait atteint l'autosuffisance en céréales et même était exportateur de blé, doit en importer cette année 2 millions de tonnes? Voyez comme la situation est précaire. Ceci fait que si nous avons des situations de baisse de production alimentaire en Asie, il faudra choisir quelles populations sacrifier. Sait-on combien de personnes cette année sont mortes en Afrique, d'enfants et de femmes morts de la faim? On nous parle de millions en Ethiopie. Je ne sais pas. On parle de centaines de milliers au Soudan, au Tchad, au Mozambique. Est-ce qu'on n'aura jamais de statistiques officielles? Quel organisme va afficher ces statistiques? L'Afrique a fourni cette année sa part de morts, la majorité meurt avant 35 ans, la moindre maladie les fait mourir et la longévité est tout-à-fait diminuée. Il y a un drame africain qu'il faut regarder en face avec lucidité. L'avenir africain est en péril. Le sort de 580 millions de personnes mérite que l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, je l'ai toujours souhaité, un jour puisse s'occuper de ces problèmes et y consacrer une semaine, dix jours pour étudier la maladie de A à Z. Ce n'est pas la main, le bras, c'est tout le corps qui est malade. Aux "médicaments" qu'on donne (j'appelle cela des "vitamines", de "l'aspirine"), il y a accoutumance mais il faut aider vraiment le malade dans son entièreté. Je n'ai pas besoin de parler d'une façon sentimentale mais il n'y a aucun peuple qui a été exploité comme en Afrique. On a exploité ses ressources minières, on a exploité ses ressources agricoles, on a même exploité ses ressources humaines, on a vendu des cargaisons d'hommes dans des bateaux, on les a enchaînés et on les a achetés pendant des années et des années. Nous avons tous des obligations vis-à-vis des pays africains.

Ce n'est pas seulement une question de charité, mais aussi une question d'interdépendance économique. Le Président Mitterrand l'a dit, "aider le tiers monde c'est nous aider à sortir de la crise" car l'Afrique peut devenir un marché considérable pour les gadgets qui sont produits en Europe ou ailleurs. Beaucoup d'entre nous ici ont deux télévisions, deux voitures, deux radios alors que de nombreuses usines sont fermées et qu'il y a du chômage.

A ce sujet, un dernier mot sur les engrais. C'est une chose qui me préoccupe beaucoup. Les usines d'engrais travaillent presque à moitié de leur rendement aux Etats-Unis, au Japon et ailleurs parce qu'il y a mévente en raison de la baisse du prix des engrais, alors que l'Afrique souffre de manque d'engrais. Voilà une situation où il y a une capacité de production des engrais qui est sous-exploitée et qui peut être augmentée beaucoup en Europe, aux Etats-Unis et ailleurs. Et en Afrique, tous les jours, les ministres africains, tous ceux qui viennent d'Afrique ou qui nous écrivent nous demandent des engrais.

Je voulais faire ces remarques, croyez bien qu'elles viennent du coeur, ce sont des vérités et nous allons continuer à donner la priorité à l'Afrique et je le dis à nos amis africains, la FAO restera toujours à leurs côtés.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Director-General, for your statement. It is appropriate at the conclusion of a whole day's discussion on this very important topic. I think you have clearly explained the complexity of the problem. We cannot over-simplify the problems or the solutions. Therefore, your message has been very appropriate.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I have been asked to reply to a question from two delegations concerning the \$5 million. I thought this was a rhetorical question when it was asked, but apparently it was not. I think there is still a misunderstanding about it rather like the one that occurred between me and my wife last night. After the party I said to her that I was just about to kiss a lady when a delegate came up to me and engaged me in the most fascinating conversation about the future of Africa, and she would be absolutely fascinated to hear what he was saying. She asked, "Who was it?" I said "The distinguished delegate from Canada." She said: "No! Who was the lady you nearly kissed?" There was a misunderstanding of what we were talking about.

I think it was explained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of CL 87/13 Sup.1 that this was not a case of cutting planned activities and replacing them with something else, but refocussing activities, mostly already planned, for Africa within the Programmes to have a rehabilitation focus rather than a general medium- or long-term focus. You find this explained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of Appendix A,

CL 87/13. Sup.1.

Then in Appendix A there are indications of various points. Paragraph 13 states that "activities to strengthen national research systems... are being reoriented towards providing assistance to rehabilitation". Paragraph 15 states that "Reductions in global activities on alternative energy use and on potato storage has allowed the inclusion of work on food grain storage". So, instead of potato storage, food grain storage. Paragraph 24, "Sub-regional meetings on Women in Agricultural Production ... will focus on the specific role of women in rehabilitation tasks". They were going to take place on other things, but now they are going to focus on rehabilitation tasks. Paragraph 32, "Ongoing training activities have been reviewed in Niger, Mali, Senegal, and resources redeployed for assistance in project formulation, analysis, monitoring and evaluation".

To go beyond a few examples would mean examining the total programme and having a high stack of books on what might have been done if it had not been focussed on rehabilitation and how it is being focussed on rehabilitation. This is not a case of activities which could be described as low priority and therefore perhaps used by some delegations to say that they should be cut in the next biennium. It is nothing like that, it is the refocussing of existing high priority activities, but with a rehabilitation focus.

If the delegations concerned want to have more information they can come and see us: and we will talk, and I hope that they will be satisfied.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): It was just a straightforward simple question. I am grateful for the answer.

CHAIRMAN: I hope Canada is satisfied. I can see that they are. Thank you.

May I once again thank Mr Hjort, the Director-General, Mr West, Professor Islam, and Mr Lignon for introducing this topic and for the information they have given, as well as the 27 Members of the Council who intervened and the 7 Observers who also spoke.

With any problem of this kind there are three components to it. One is the awareness of the qualitative and quantitative dimensions of the problem. The second is the analysis and, finally, the action.

You will agree with me that in all of these areas, that is the generation of awareness, organization of the analytical portion, including the compilation of strategies and, finally, the implementation of the action programmes, FAO under the leadership of the Director-General has done yeoman service during the last year and we are proud of this. FAO has risen to the occasion.

In the past I have often observed that an early warning system has no significance without timely action because the purpose of a warning is to be fore-armed. This is one occasion where early warning and timely action fortunately were synchronised. We hope that hereafter this will become the pattern of further utilization of the knowledge provided by the Global Information and Early Warning System. FAO will not only help by giving warning, it will also help to generate prompt action.

I would like to add only two comments. One of the aspects which worries me is the lack of opportunity for involving the actual producers in the development of action plans. We have meetings of this kind. We have meetings of the World Food Council, meetings of administrators, experts, scientists, but seldom are there meetings of the farmers themselves. One should not underestimate the importance of -even if we do not want to call it expert consultation - consultation among farmers who, after all, are the producers of food.

Just two weeks ago in my institute we had a meeting of rice farmers, both men and women from ten countries, who possess less than two hectares of land each, but who are successful in their own right by producing about 10 tons of rice per hectare. There is always the problem of language and communication. Many of these people are not articulate. However, if we can overcome such problems in a hall like this where we have simultaneous interpretation and an excellent body of people all working together, then if there is a will, there is a way of overcoming the problem of communication among farmers drawn from different countries.

FAO and bilateral donors should provide an opportunity for actual working and successful small farmers from contiguous ecological zones to come together. There is no point in bringing together groups of farmers from diverse ecological zones. If we could do this, it would help us a great deal in giving substance and content to some of FAO's action plans. Several delegates have mentioned the need for technology transfer, education, agricultural extension, and so on. But on so many occasions our diagnoses of what the problems of the farmers vary differently from the farmers' own perceptions. Mention has been made of farmers' organizations. One thing I have seen in many African countries is that there has been a traditionally organized tribal society which we disrupt because they are not individual farmer-oriented. But if we disrupt a group-oriented society and try to introduce an individually-oriented action plan, and then later try to get them back into a group-oriented society, it is like going round and round the mulberry bush.

So there is need for serious attention to be paid in all these rehabilitation plans to the question of the involvement of the small farmers themselves, both in terms of sharing experience and expertise and getting their advice on how these programmes can be best implemented.

The other problem which worries me is location-specific technology development and transfer. We all know that under such diverse conditions there is need for more and more location and situation specific technology. In emergencies people are often asked to supply seeds but do not know what kind of seeds to supply. The seeds supplied may not be appropriate to a particular area. If they get a disease, that brings about a setback for several years and you shatter the confidence of the farmers. It is difficult to transfer varieties unless there has been a lot of pretesting, and this is where one wonders what pattern of technology development and transfer one should foster. We all know that the present method of providing expatriate experts is very expensive, but in fact it is a drop in the ocean. In fact, the gap between national salaries in developing countries and international salaries is widening, with the result that often national experts want to become expatriate experts. How will we overcome this problem?

The representative of the UNDP talked about the United Nations Volunteer Programme. There have been several suggestions of this kind, such as mobilizing young professionals, the Peace Corps kind of idea. But one must give serious thought to a low-cost method of making available high-level expertise. A low-cost method should not mean that we send out persons with inadequate experience or who are unemployable elsewhere and who can just be dumped there. We want high-level expertise with the combination of human motivation. We should give some thought to this question because the dimensions of the technology generation and transfer problem are large.

From the little I know of some African countries the problem is so great that it requires a lot of study, knowledge and work. I believe that in any such large-scale volunteer programme designed for the ecological rehabilitation of Africa a large percentage must be local people. There must be a mixture of locals and people from outside the country, all working together in clusters.

These are tasks for the long term. The immediate task is the alleviation of human suffering and human distress, and providing food for the people who need it most. I join with other members of Council and the FAO Secretariat in thanking the donors for their liberal and generous contributions. There have been difficulties in getting food where it is most needed, but the milk of human kindness has been evident in a large measure. We are grateful to you, Mr Director-General, for arousing that spirit.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous avons suivi avec beaucoup d'attention vos paroles, à la fin de ce débat fort intéressant, mais au terme dudit débat nous aurions souhaité que vous puissiez nous dire quel est le sort que vous avez réservé à l'idée du projet de résolution que nous avons lancé au cours du débat, idée qui a reçu un large appui de ce Conseil. Je crois que les membres de ce Conseil aimeraient être fixés d'abord par vous-même avant de pouvoir poursuivre.

CHAIRMAN: I did specifically not refer to it, because the Draft Resolution is not in our hands; but you and several others - the distinguished delegates of Colombia and Cuba - you all mentioned that it is under preparation and that it should be referred to the Drafting Committee. What I would like to suggest is that as soon as your draft is ready, if you would kindly submit it to me, we will get it into the hands of all members of the Council. Simultaneously it could be examined by the Drafting Committee. I would however like to see that all members of the Council have access to the document at the same time as the Drafting Committee. Thank you very much for your suggestion. I personally feel that the problem is of such great importance that I am happy that these Ambassadors have taken the lead in drafting a resolution.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18h30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas





## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/5

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Eighty-seventh Session  
**PLENARY**

Quatre-vingt-septième session  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

87° período de sesiones  
**PLENARIA**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING  
CINQUIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE  
QUINTA SESION PLENARIA  
(19 June 1985)**

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours,

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

La cinquième seance 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. SITUACIÓN-MUNDIAL-DE-LA-AGRICULTURA.Y-LA-ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)
- 6. Report - of - the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome,-10-17. April-1985)
- 6. Rapport de la dixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 10-17 avril 1985)
- 6. Informe del décimo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial(Roma,10-17 de abril de 1985)
- 6.1 World Food Security Compact
- 6.1 Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire
- 6.1 Pacto-sobre-la-Seguridad-Alimentaria-Mundial

CHAIRMAN: As you will see, item 6 has been structured into two parts, 6.1, World Food Security Compact, document CL 87/10-Sup.1, and other matters. I suggest that in order to help our discussion we should take up item 6.1 first, and then go on to the other points made in the CFS Meeting.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): One of the main items considered by the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security as a follow-up to the proposals relating to the revised concept of world food security was the draft text of the World Food Security Compact. The Committee's discussion on the draft World Food Security Compact is contained in paragraphs 57 to 67 of document CL 87/10.

The Committee gave broad general acceptance to the draft and agreed to transmit it to the Council. However, there have been divergent opinions expressed during the deliberations of the Committee. In view of the inability of the Committee to reach a consensus on the draft Compact, the Director-General submitted document CL 87/10-Sup.1 which indicates possible additions and/or deletions to the draft text of the Compact. This is based on a careful review of the elements which are most common in the deliberations of the Committee.

As you will recall, the Director-General was not specifically asked by the Committee on World Food Security to do so, but he has taken it upon himself to review once more the draft with the hope of helping member countries to reach a consensus. The Council, while considering the draft Compact, might like to review these amendments in the interest of trying to reach full agreement.

As has been emphasized by the Director-General, the draft Compact does not contain any new or binding commitments. It draws on the consensus reached in previous international agreements and understandings in the Committee on World Food Security, the Council, Conference and other concerned bodies. In the light of the revised concept of world food security it consolidates agreements and details relating to world food security which have evolved in the last ten years or so. The Compact is a moral reaffirmation of the commitments and principles for which all men of goodwill strive. It aims at stimulating support for these objectives, improving the general policy on the environment, stimulating action towards attaining them on the part of governments and organizations, including non-governmental organizations and individuals.

As the Director-General reminded the Council at the opening of this session, in these days of disaster and famine in Africa, and deprivation and malnutrition elsewhere, every sign, every gesture, every word towards achieving this ideal is precious and is an encouragement and an incentive for governments of every sort and degree, for organizations, including non-governmental organizations, and for individuals.

Finally, the Director-General hopes that adoption by the Council of this Compact will be an appropriate and fitting action by Council on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of this Organization.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italy): First of all, I congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on being in Rome again in order to chair this important session of the Council. I thank you for the privilege of allowing me on behalf of my country to open the list of speakers on this item of the agenda by reading to the Council a message from the Prime Minister of Italy, Mr Craxi, on this very important initiative by our Director-General. The message from the Prime Minister is as follows:

First of all, I wish to give my most cordial greetings to the members of the FAO Council and to the Director-General of FAO, who are engaged in this session in studying the draft of a world pact on food security, which I consider to be of great political importance.

This year being the one when FAO is celebrating its fortieth anniversary, I believe that all nations must join their forces to proclaim, by approving a pact on the rights of man to food security, their common will to free humanity from the spectre of hunger and malnutrition.

As long ago as my visit to FAO in November 1984 I had occasion to underscore the importance of this initiative. As Italy conceives it, the new pact must be complementary to the Universal Charter of the Rights of Man, and have the same characteristics of being a solemn moral imperative, rather than a legal commitment.

It must concern everyone. Those nations not producing enough of the essential food products must exert every effort to develop their farm resources and aim at self-sufficiency. The developed nations must give technical, organizational and financial assistance, as well as emergency food aid.

But the responsibility is not just of those who govern; it involves all those with responsibility who exercise operational decision-making functions in their spheres, as well as an influence on public opinion.

The contrast between food waste and food scarcity can no longer be accepted. The vicious circle in which poverty and underdevelopment become factors of instability and of conflict can no longer be tolerated. We must encourage economic emancipation and social progress, for these represent essential factors for a greater international political stability."

The draft of a food compact takes its place within this prospect and must reaffirm, simply and clearly, the new solidarity of the destinies of the industrialized and emerging countries. The Compact must be an expression of our faith in the future, and at the same time of the common, serious commitment of every member of the international community to play its part in the construction of a true peace with justice and therefore founded on the respect for the fundamental rights of man, the first of these being the right to existence."

That is the message of Mr Craxi. I am grateful for the opportunity of delivering it. Allow me to request that the representative of Italy be allowed to speak later in the discussion.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for that message.

O. FRIIS (Denmark): On this item, I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries who also took a common position on this issue during the last CFS meeting. I wish to record that we expressed the view at the last CFS meeting that the adoption of such a Compact was not in our view an issue of the first magnitude or urgency. In a spirit of goodwill and compromise, however, we indicated our willingness to go along with the proposed draft, providing a consensus can be reached without major changes to the text.

The reason why we put particular emphasis on the adoption of the Compact by consensus was that a compact of a strictly voluntary nature in our opinion would be of little value unless accepted by all concerned.

The Director-General in his opening statement on Monday expressed the view that the Compact should not be considered an issue of earth-shaking importance. The Nordic countries find themselves in full agreement with the Director-General on that point. Furthermore, it would hardly be possible to satisfy every change in the draft that the Member Nations put forward, and we think that it would be fruitless to turn the Council, and later on the Conference, into drafting committees to resolve the often minor differences. We would again stress this point because we feel that a redrafting exercise at this stage would be counterproductive and that our precious time should be used to discuss subjects which more effectively are aimed at solving the serious problems concerning food security in the world today.

It is our hope that the redrafted version of the Compact might go a step towards meeting various reservations made by some countries last time so that the text could now meet with as broad a general acceptance as possible.

On that understanding the Nordic countries are prepared to accept the draft Compact as it stands.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): The Australian delegation is still concerned about the priority being given to the Compact and about what it might contribute in practical terms to the work of our Organization. It is even possible that the Compact could be counterproductive by giving the world community the impression that our Organization is excessively preoccupied with rhetoric and by emotional discussions about feelings and moral principles rather than the quite practical problems involved in effectively managing programmes aimed at improving food production and food security.

Let me try to say that in another way. Our Organization, like most others, is in a sense selling something. In our case the product is a delivery system for development assistance. If we are to continue to attract buyers for our product, we need to think carefully about the design of our product, the way in which it is promoted, our marketplace and our competition. Over the last forty years a wide-range of development assistance delivery systems have been developed. Many individual countries have sophisticated organizations in this field; non-governmental organizations are active; new systems based on international cooperation have sprung up. Buyers of these systems have more choices than in the past. The market is changing rapidly, and if we are to maintain our position in the market we have to consciously adapt ourselves to these changing circumstances.

We do not want to find ourselves producing Swiss watches based on state-of-the-art mechanical mechanisms when the world is buying digital silicon chip watches from Japan. I am afraid that the Compact could put us in that position. Increasingly it is not simply good enough for us to merely project our concern to the world. We need to find new ways of projecting the real strengths of our Organization, its analytical skills, its organizational and coordination skills, its technical experience, both in-house and through its ability to attract the world's best consultancy skills, and its years of on-the-ground practical experience in food deficit countries.

Today global concern about food security is being projected in a thousand different ways, all more effective than a compact. Television pictures, politicians and even musicians are doing the job very well. Our Organization needs to concentrate on developing and projecting practical programmes which attract buyers in an increasingly difficult marketplace. We need to find a better way than the Compact to create a foundation for the work we must do together in order to achieve world food security in the next forty years.

Mr Chairman, we will not be doing justice to ourselves or to our Organization by going ahead with the Compact.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I should just like to ask the distinguished delegate of Australia whether he approves or disapproves the Compact. I personally did not understand since he did not say whether he supported the Compact, whether he has reservations, or if he does not want it. Would he kindly clarify for our record.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): I think it is clear, Mr Chairman, that we have reservations.

J.C. CLAVE (Philippines): Since it is obvious that one of the end products of this discussion will be the World Food Security Compact, I shall limit my observation at this time to that Compact. My observations will perhaps call for a reply from the Chair later on as these observations seek certain clarifications which may in the end define the position of my Government vis-à-vis approval or disapproval, our endorsement or non-endorsement of this Compact.

The first point is that I wish to call attention to the word "Compact" in the title. In my understanding a compact is an agreement, a contract or a covenant which binds two parties or a number of parties. If we examine the wording of the proposed Compact, our governments will not be entering into an agreement, a covenant, a treaty or a contract. I base this on the phraseology used. For instance, paragraph B.7 of CL 87/10-Sup.1 states that "governments should reaffirm". What happens, Mr Chairman, if this Compact is approved and governments do not reaffirm? That is one danger I wish to point out.

The terms of the Compact generally call upon parties to undertake certain things, and a common danger of them not undertaking these things pervades the entire document. We must not lose sight of the fact that when this document is presented and finally approved it will be approved by plenary representatives or the delegates from our Member Nations to the Conference. Therefore, they are representatives of their governments vested with authority to approve a compact or to disapprove it. Would it not be better, considering the text now before us, to call this a declaration or something else instead of an agreement?

There is a second point that disturbs me. May I quote paragraph 4 of the Preamble to the Compact: "The Governments, organizations and individuals subscribing ..." I attach special importance to the word "subscribing", because what will happen if nobody subscribes to the Compact? The danger that I foresee is this.

Firstly, I believe - I am inspired in this thought by the comments already made by our colleagues from Italy, the representative of the Nordic countries and Australia - this paragraph gives an option or an optional right to every Member Nation of FAO either to subscribe or not to subscribe to it. What happens if they do not subscribe to it? The question of what happens is important. Does a nonsubscription mean that we are withdrawing from FAO? If we look at the objectives sought to be achieved by this Compact, they are the very undertakings that we have undertaken in the covenant under the FAO Charter. So I am worried about the effect of this Compact on our obligations and contractual relations already existing under the FAO Charter.

As I stated previously, these things are very important. I feel that when my country became a member of FAO it bound itself morally, legally, and extra-legally to the undertakings projected under this proposed Compact, which is to achieve greater production. In other words, bringing food to every human being on this earth. I thought that we had already undertaken that when we became a member of FAO.

These are the questions that I initially wish to bring to the attention of my colleagues. They are important in the process of our taking a position on whether to subscribe or not to this Compact. If we do not eventually subscribe, it would perhaps be because of a feeling that we have already become a member of FAO. We have been faithful to our commitments under its Charter, except that sometimes we may have been late in paying our fees but we are making up for our deficiencies. The fact is that I am apprehensive that this document affects the terms and covenants that our Member States have under the FAO Charter.

CHAIRMAN: It might be useful at this point to hear Mr West offer a clarification of the point raised by the Ambassador for the Philippines.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In a way, it is good that this point came up right at the beginning, because it enables us to clear up right away any misapprehensions which may still remain in the minds of some on the Compact, and particularly in the minds of those who, like the representative of the Philippines, appear to support the content of the Compact but are worried about this question of its legal status.

I would like to assure you as completely as I can that this issue has been very carefully studied from the very beginning of the idea which emerged in the Committee on World Food Security some time back, to have a compact. It has been studied by our legal adviser; to my knowledge it has been studied by the legal advisers of many governments present. It was discussed at the last session of the Committee on World Food Security, when the first draft of the Compact was under discussion, and I had thought that as a result of this it was generally completely understood and completely accepted by all that it was not in the nature of an international agreement imposing a legal commitment, any undertaking, binding or otherwise, which governments have not already accepted, whether in the FAO Constitution or in other international or bilateral agreements, and that it was a matter which could be dealt with by the FAO Conference by resolution, or otherwise in the Report of the Conference; and that by supporting it Member Nations would not be accepting any undertaking of a legal or binding character which they had not already accepted. This has been confirmed subsequently by further studies. At least one member government has told me that it submitted it to the highest legal authority in that country before coming here, and it was satisfied as to the truth of what I have just been saying.

As for the word "subscribing", that is used in a general sense. It does not imply that there has to be any signature, either at the time of the Conference or subsequently. The method of subscribing will be whether or not the Conference expresses in its final Report by resolution or otherwise, the adoption of the Compact. It is not necessary at that stage for every government to raise its hand and say "I subscribe" or "I support it" or "I vote in favour". If the Conference, by consensus, agrees to the adoption of the Compact, that will establish the Compact as a voluntary, non-binding, non-legal declaration.

In this connection, I would cite that there is nothing unusual about this - it has happened in the past with other things. I can think of the International Undertaking on Food Security which has already been adopted by the Conference; I can think of the Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment - they were all similar types of voluntary non-binding documents which caused no trouble whatsoever in the minds of the governments or of the Conference as to their implications and as to the method of their adoption.

So I would submit to the distinguished delegate of the Philippines, and to anybody else, that this is a subject which need not detain the Council for a moment further. I hope that we can therefore hear from the distinguished delegate of the Philippines that he supports the text of the document.

J. C. CLAVE (Philippines): I would really support the compact and its purposes. But, as I said, my worries are its implications. Notwithstanding the explanation by our distinguished colleague, I still feel that we must study its implications; and when our colleague says "similar documents in the past have gone through this Council and the Conference" I am also alarmed by such an attitude, because sometimes documents just pass through without being noticed, and they go into the archives later on without being implemented.

My attitude towards this Compact however is different. If my country has to bind itself to it, then we will make it a living reality in my country. I also wish to point out that I think the discussions on this Compact at different levels have indicated to all our colleagues here at FAO how controversial this document really is, indicating that our Member States are not taking it as a routine matter because, possibly, of its legal implications. I wish to reassure the Chairman and the Director-General and the rest of our colleagues that insofar as the purposes are concerned - the achievement of greater production to ensure food for every man, stabilizing supplies, improving access to food by the poor - we are fully behind it.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am rather puzzled by the fact that some delegates at this meeting appear to believe that we are wasting our time on this, whereas others say that it is very important - if I may just make that small remark?

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban): (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais formuler quelques commentaires sur le point 6 de l'ordre du jour, et en particulier sur le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire (document CL/87/10-Sup. 1). Dans ce document nous trouvons le projet de texte du Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire qui a été présenté par le Dr Islam.

La délégation libanaise; ayant pris note des débats de la 10<sup>ème</sup> session du comité de la sécurité alimentaire qui ont porté sur ce pacte mondial, ayant écouté avec attention les orateurs qui l'ont précédé sur ce point de l'ordre du jour, ne peut qu'approuver le Pacte sous sa forme actuelle, tel que présenté par le Directeur général et tel qu'il sera présenté à la Conférence générale de novembre pour approbation.

Il est inutile d'énumérer les avantages et les points positifs de ce Pacte qui vient véritablement à son heure afin de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et veiller à ce que toute personne en tout temps puisse produire la nourriture dont il a besoin. Ce pacte a un caractère volontaire et de ce fait son approbation n'entraîne aucune obligation financière ou juridique. La présentation de ce Pacte mondial et la façon dont le Directeur général en a saisi le Conseil, diffèrent de la procédure adoptée par le COAG pour le Code de conduite pour les pesticides. Le Directeur général a été prié de présenter un nouveau texte à l'attention du Conseil, il a répondu de façon positive aux souhaits du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et nous présente maintenant avec tact un texte judicieux conforme à la décision du Comité et approuvé par lui. Toutefois il convient de souligner que le Conseil peut amender le texte afin qu'il reflète les souhaits de la majorité, si ce n'est de l'unanimité des membres. Nous devons nous féliciter de cette initiative. Ce que nous souhaitons tous c'est d'arriver à l'unanimité sur une question où il n'y a pas de divergence à savoir; renforcer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Nous avons été étonnés, et surpris, comme nous l'avions été lors de la 10<sup>ème</sup> session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, de la réaction et du comportement de certaines délégations, qui font obstruction à ce texte. Le concept de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale est maintenant familier et bien connu et le principe, et concept, de ce Pacte a été accepté. Le Pacte est l'aboutissement des principes, recommandations et résolutions de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation, de la Conférence de la FAO, du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation et des autres conférences. Nous avons toutes les assurances et toutes les indications que c'est devenu un fait.

Il convient de noter qu'il n'y a aucune obligation financière juridique ou autre de la part des états membres. Dans le nouveau texte on a supprimé des membres de phrases, qui n'étaient pas acceptés par certains. Nous devons faire preuve de responsabilité à l'égard du Secrétariat. Il doit y avoir unanimité pour l'approbation de ce texte, tel qu'il nous a été présenté, afin que notre travail puisse donner l'exemple d'une grande réussite alors que la FAO célèbre son 40<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire. Animés de cet esprit positif et fidèles à notre souhait sincère d'arriver à l'unanimité sur ce texte, nous demandons à nos chers collègues membres du Conseil de voter à l'unanimité en faveur de ce texte. C'est, je crois, le minimum que nous devons offrir à notre organisation pour son 40<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): In his persistent effort and search for improving the world food security, the most important and momentous initiative taken by the Director-General is the draft text of the World Food Security Compact which he submitted to the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and which is now before us for consideration. For this initiative the Director-General deserves our sincere and hearty congratulations and greetings.

After hearing the statement of the distinguished delegation of Italy who read out the message of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Italy we have little to add. My delegation expresses its sincere gratitude to His Excellency the Prime Minister of Italy for his kind message on this occasion. We entirely agree with what has been stated in the message.

As explained by Professor Islam in his introduction and further clarified by the Deputy Director-General, the main purpose of the Compact is to mobilize support of governments and enhance public opinion to the objectives of the revised concept on world food security by consolidating and crystallizing the widely held feelings and moral commitment to pursue the cause of world food security. The Compact has appropriately been addressed to governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals with a view to mobilizing support to and action for strengthening food security. We also note that the draft Compact is voluntary in nature, and its acceptance will not involve any financial or legally binding obligation or commitments. Therefore the ultimate objectives of the proposed Compact is a novel and praiseworthy one, that is, to ensure and improve food security and to ensure that all people at all times are in a position to produce and procure the basic food they need so that no child will go to bed hungry. At the same time the Compact will not have any financial or legal obligation.

We note that the Committee has unanimously supported the objectives of the Compact and gave broad acceptance to the draft Compact for transmission to this Council for consideration. However, in view of some divergent opinions, expressed in the Committee's discussions, the Director-General again took the initiative to make the necessary amendments to the draft Compact so that a full consensus can be reached. He has also made an appeal to this effect in his opening statement to this Council. My delegation sincerely hopes that with the present amendments to the draft Compact it will meet with the acceptance of all so that a full consensus can be reached.

This is the most fitting occasion to present the draft Compact for improving world food security, to the next FAO Conference for approval as it is going to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the FAO. We wholeheartedly support the text of the Compact and join with the Director-General in his appeal to reach a full consensus in this important Compact.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): As you are aware the Canadian delegation has not been very enamoured with the idea of a World Food Security Compact. As many delegations noted yesterday in the debate on Africa, what is required is action and not rhetoric. Rhetoric did not turn India from a net importer to a net exporter of grains. Rhetoric was not responsible for the vigorous expansion of agricultural production in China, and rhetoric certainly will not resolve the problems of agriculture in Africa.

It may well be that we are becoming perhaps too cynical when we suggest that action speaks louder than words, and we thus question the utility of adopting yet another set of exaltory principles, particularly when they appear to merely represent a celebration of the fortieth anniversary. To be quite frank, we much prefer to see scarce resources spent on developing useful action programmes, such as the FAO's Early Warning System, rather than adding to the stock of resolutions, declarations and other assorted documents which, while they may be of help to the Canadian pulp and paper industry, do not in our view contribute much to world agricultural development.

Our initial assessment of the value of the proposed Compact was not helped, by the way in which the first draft was presented to the Committee on World Food Security last April. To be perfectly blunt the Canadian delegation found it unacceptable to be told at the CFS that the first and only draft we had seen was the ultimate state of the drafting art, and that any suggestions for change would be irrelevant since the text was already perfect and simply required a rubber stamp. Not surprisingly the Canadian delegation was annoyed that on the one hand we were being asked to subscribe to a voluntary code of principles, and yet on the other hand we were being told that the first and only text that we had seen was there on a take it or leave it basis. It was thus largely because of the way, in which the introduction of the Compact was handled that the Canadian delegation joined with others in reserving its position with respect to the first draft of the Compact. However, we are very pleased to note, that since the last CFS meeting the Director-General has taken the initiative to modify the original Secretariat draft with a view to taking into account many of the concerns expressed at the April CFS meeting.

The Canadian delegation welcomes the new draft. The suggested deletions and additions do represent in our view a significant improvement over the original text.

Having said this we still have some concerns with the second version of the Compact. For example, we do see a contradiction between what is said in Part III, paragraph 2 of the second version, the reference "In particular, developing countries should ensure that city-dwellers do not acquire a permanent preference for imported basic food which cannot be grown domestically", and what is said in the excellent Secretariat paper on the African food situation which we discussed yesterday. I say a contradiction because the African paper clearly makes the point that it is dangerous to generalize as to whether food imports represent a sign of success or failure of the economic development of the developing countries. Depending on the particular circumstances some developing countries may very well find it economically more advantageous to import certain basic foodstuffs for their urban population. In fact we would expect the situation to prevail in the context of a developing country experiencing extremely rapid economic growth. In summary on this particular point, we are suggesting that the Secretariat should be encouraged to review the second version of the text with a view to establishing the sort of balanced perspective that we find in the African food situation paper.

I make one other specific suggestion for change in the second draft. This relates to paragraph 8 where we see the addition - and I begin at the words which are underlined - "their policy decisions on food production, stocks and imports". I would suggest here, that although this is a useful modification, we would suggest changing the word "import" to "trade", thereby taking into account the export practices of countries.

In summary at this juncture, we look forward to hearing the views of other delegations. As I said earlier we welcome the desire of many delegations to work towards achieving a text which, although some of us doubt the utility really of it, may be acceptable to all parties by the time of the November Conference.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La primera intervención en este debate lo ha magnificado porque se nos leyó un importante mensaje del señor Craxi, Primer Ministro del Gobierno italiano, en el que el Gobierno de nuestro país sede ha confirmado el apoyo a este proyecto de texto. Oímos luego con la atención y el respeto que nos merece siempre la declaración de Dinamarca en nombre de los países nórdicos, cuyo contenido apreciamos positivamente y apoyamos de manera decidida.

La tercera declaración no nos sorprendió porque, a través de nuestra participación en los Comités y en este Consejo, estamos acostumbrados a que estos órganos rectores están integrados por representantes de todas las áreas del mundo, América Latina, Africa, Asia, Medio Oriente, Europa, Norteamérica, y también las Antípodas. De manera que hay que reconocer que dentro de esa gama variada siempre existen mentalidades prosaicas y ordinarias que confundan los mercados con los principios intelectuales e ideológicos que nosotros propugnamos. No nos seducen las líneas de menor resistencia ni los halagos fáciles. Seguimos prefiriendo los relojes suizos de alta y refinada calidad. No podemos aceptar la afirmación de que los programas de la FAO deben limitarse solamente a aquellos aspectos materiales porque ello sería desconocer que en la constitución de nuestra Organización se han integrado los principios y los ideales de justicia en favor del tercer mundo. Tampoco podemos aceptar que se pretende desconocer la labor eficiente y pragmática que lleva a cabo la FAO, labor que viene siendo reiterada y ampliamente reconocida. Por todos los órganos rectores de nuestras Organizaciones hemos estado representados todos los países, incluidos aquellos que tienen sus sedes por algunas regiones un poco lejanas. Nosotros podemos asegurar a los miembros de este Consejo que en ningún momento se podrá comprar nuestras conciencias libres y democráticas, ni siquiera al son de música celestial sonada por payasos divertidos. Pero, en fin, señor Presidente, con todo respeto habrá que dejar en paz a aquellos colegas que siguen perdidos allá en su desorientación, con la esperanza de que un día, ojalá no lejano, encuentren el rumbo adecuado que les incorpore a los otros continentes.

¿Cómo es posible también, desconocer que los grandes avances y los progresos y mejoras de India y China, dos grandes países del tercer mundo, han sido logrados sobre todo a base de la fortaleza moral de sus grandes pueblos? Se dice que propugnamos palabras en vez de medidas, pero cuando se trata de lograr el consenso para aplicar medidas, entonces aparece la carencia de falta de voluntad por parte de esos mismos representantes. Tampoco consideramos pertinente que se hable de recursos, del costo del papel, porque eso es insignificante frente al alcance de este documento.

No deseáramos interpretar una declaración que habló del beneficio de la industria del papel de su país, como si esa declaración tuviera el sentido de que sólo se guía por los intereses nacionales.

En el CSA tanto la delegación de Colombia como la de México habíamos manifestado que deseábamos proponer algunas modificaciones para reforzar el texto del proyecto de Pacto sobre seguridad alimentaria. Nos abstuvimos de hacer propuestas en ese sentido particularmente porque los representantes de los países nórdicos llevaron el debate con una intervención que consideramos muy constructiva,



en la que esos países nórdicos, siempre de avanzada, manifestaron que apoyaban el texto tal como se presentaba. La gran mayoría de miembros del Comité apoyaron ese texto, y, tal como aparece en el párrafo 1 del documento, el Comité decidió transmitirlo a este Consejo. No obstante, como lo dijo el Profesor Islam en su excelente presentación, el Director General, en actitud distensiva, de comprensión y entendimiento, presenta ahora este texto con algunas adiciones y algunas posibles supresiones. Esa posición del Director General debe merecer respeto, como muestra de buena voluntad, y no de dogmatismo como trató de sugerir alguna delegación.

La delegación de Colombia quiere destacar la actuación muy responsable del Gobierno de Suiza, que ha retirado la reserva que había expresado cuando se adoptó el informe. Suiza, país de sólida democracia, ha dado un buen ejemplo, que debería ser imitado por los otros países que han expresado reserva. Numerosos representantes de países en desarrollo, como única actitud posible frente a, la reserva injustificada de Australia, Canadá y los Estados Unidos, expresamos también nuestras propias reservas. El distinguido Embajador Ariza Hidalgo, de Cuba, fue el encargado de transmitir esas manifestaciones por parte de numerosos gobiernos. Reaccionamos así porque creemos que se cometió un acto que no era coherente, correcto ni lógico, ya que en el Comité de Redacción se debilitó considerablemente el texto, y luego en la plenaria los representantes de esos mismos países insistieron en mantener sus reservas.

Nosotros quisiéramos sumarnos a lo que manifiesta el Director General en este suplemento, en el sentido de que ojalá ahora esos países retiren esas reservas, o que por lo menos asuman una actitud distinta, es decir que si de alguna manera están en condiciones de aceptar este texto, que entonces tratemos de evitar que se debilite aún más.

No queremos extendernos demasiado en este tema que pensábamos iba a ser considerado de manera tranquila por el Consejo, pero en realidad, ¿Cuáles pueden ser las razones que aún fundamentan las reservas de ciertos países? ¿Es que acaso sienten remordimiento porque son conscientes de que no están aplicando estos principios elementales?, ¿es que acaso saben que nunca van a aplicar en sus políticas estos principios?

Decimos esto, porque convendrá observar que los países que han hecho reservas son los grandes productores, dos de ellos situados en la región en la que están concentrados en más de un 65 por ciento los excedentes, pero podemos asegurar a esos colegas que no van a imprimir este texto en pergamino ni enmarcarlo para presentarnos en él a los graneros de esos países y exigir que se distribuyan esos excedentes entre aquellas poblaciones que los necesiten.

Desde 1974 la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación recomendó que esas reservas se situaran en regiones estratégicas disponibles a los países que las necesitaran, y once años después todo sigue de igual manera y ojalá que estos gobiernos olviden esa preocupación y se tranquilicen. Claro que nos preocupa que no quieran contribuir siquiera, por medio de este instrumento, a la seguridad alimentaria de nuestros países, porque esto indica que insisten en su propósito de perpetuar la eterna dependencia a que estamos sometidos. Se ha hablado de que el pacto no es útil ni urgente. Nosotros consideramos que este pacto es útil, que es importante, que no es nada vinculante, que no tiene carácter obligatorio, que no conlleva ninguna implicación jurídica, que es una reafirmación moral que nosotros debemos utilizar, porque el Director General nos ha ofrecido la oportunidad de dejar constancia ante la comunidad internacional sobre este código de principios, de orientaciones y de líneas que nosotros consideramos esenciales.

Apoyamos la propuesta de los países nórdicos, en el sentido de que este nuevo texto sea transmitido a la Conferencia para su aprobación.

JIN XIANGYUN (China): (original language Chinese): We read the Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) very carefully. We think that it is of great help to us in gaining an understanding of the current situation of world food and food security. It also provides information for the Council about the effective work CFS has done in identifying world food security. The Chinese delegation attended the Tenth Session of CFS in an observer capacity. While we endorse the report submitted to the Council by the Tenth Session of CFS, we wish to make a few remarks regarding the draft Compact on World Food Security.

We studied the draft Compact and we consider that it is positive in its essence and provides a basis to make it acceptable to all sides. Besides, it is actually a generalization of the relevant international documents concerning world food security. Though the Compact does not specify new commitments and does not possess legally-binding force and does not require member governments to go through any procedure for official participation, we believe that it will play its due active role in ensuring world food security with the moral commitment by the international community for world food security and through the conscientious implementation of the principles contained in the Compact by member governments.

We noted that after discussion at the Tenth Session of CFS, no full consensus was reached on the Compact. It is true that world food security is a very complex question. Therefore it is only natural that there are diverse views on the Compact. We know that the Council will not reopen a discussion on the Compact. However, proceeding from the overall interest of enabling mankind to eradicate hunger, the Council can reach a consensus on this issue in the spirit of consultation and seeking common ground while maintaining differences.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Nous voudrions nous aussi vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, du message que nous avons entendu et qu'a bien voulu adresser à notre Conseil le Président du Conseil italien pour nous encourager à faire en sorte que le pacte qui est devant nos yeux puisse être adopté et envoyé à la Conférence. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'un fait important lorsqu'on sait que le Gouvernement italien déploie en ce moment des efforts pour aider les pays qui souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition à sortir de cette situation.

Nous voudrions également féliciter le Gouvernement suisse qui a bien voulu entre-temps retirer ses réserves. D'ailleurs nous-mêmes, lors de la dernière session du Comité, étions quelque peu surpris de cette attitude du Gouvernement suisse à l'époque, parce que nous connaissons les idéaux qui animent ce gouvernement et il nous paraissait anormal qu'il puisse faire des réserves. Nous nous réjouissons donc de ce retrait.

Les autres gouvernements, nous les connaissons, nous connaissons leur attitude et nous savions que les réserves qu'ils avaient faites n'étaient pas des réserves pour la plupart d'entre eux, mais plutôt un refus catégorique. C'est pour cette raison que je ne voyais pas l'opportunité pour le Directeur général de tenir compte de tous ces avis qui ont été exprimés pour refaire le texte qu'il vient de nous présenter. Nous pensions qu'un consensus, ou tout au moins une large majorité s'était dégagée en faveur de l'ancien texte, que nous considérions acceptable. Nous avions dit à l'époque que ce texte nous paraissait faible et que nous-mêmes avions des propositions à faire, mais puisque d'autres avaient estimé que le texte était trop fort, nous étions prêts à retirer ces amendements et faire en sorte que le consensus puisse être obtenu.

Pour cette raison, on est surpris de constater que certains gouvernements continuent à s'opposer à ce texte qui, à notre avis, après la toilette que vient de lui faire le Directeur général, nous paraît avoir encore été affaibli et malgré cette faiblesse on ne l'accepte pas encore.

Je partage le point de vue exprimé par le représentant du Danemark selon lequel le Conseil ne peut se transformer en Comité de rédaction et par conséquent nous devons faire en sorte que le texte, tel qu'il vient d'être amendé par le Directeur général, puisse être envoyé en l'état au niveau de la Conférence.

On nous dit qu'il faut agir et depuis le début de notre session nous n'avons parlé que d'actions. Cela est normal. Mais ces actions doivent être soutenues par un certain nombre de principes et je crois qu'il s'agit des principes qui ont été réaffirmés dans le texte qui est devant nous et que nous n'avons pas le droit de refuser. L'adoption du texte ne signifie pas que la FAO va rester inactive et attendre que les gouvernements agissent d'eux-mêmes pour que la faim et la malnutrition soient éradiquées dans le monde.

Il est normal qu'à la veille du quarantième anniversaire de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture nous puissions adopter un texte qui, comme l'a souligné le Secrétariat, n'a aucune contrainte juridique et ne comporte aucun engagement financier supplémentaire. Nous estimons que toute l'aide qui est actuellement mise à la disposition des pays en développement est basée sur des principes moraux, parce qu'il n'y a aucune contrainte réelle à demander à tel ou tel pays d'accorder telle ou telle aide. Nous savons que les pays qui accordent une aide de manière sincère et objective - parce que nous savons aussi que beaucoup d'aide, et notamment l'aide bilatérale, est soumise à des pressions politiques que nous avons toujours condamnées - nous savons donc que ces pays qui accordent une aide sincère le font sur la base des principes moraux que le Pacte réaffirme. Nous ne voyons donc aucune raison pour qu'on puisse s'inquiéter de l'adoption d'un tel Pacte qui, à notre avis, reflète toutes les opinions qui sont exprimées dans plusieurs instances internationales.

Voilà ce que nous voudrions dire à ce stade des discussions. Nous recommandons par conséquent que ce Pacte, qui nous paraît utile et important, puisse être transmis au niveau de la Conférence pour son adoption.

G.E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): Mi delegación se refirió, Sr. Presidente, con cierta extensión en la última reunión del CSA sobre los aspectos principales que se incluyen en el Proyecto de Pacto; por ello en esta ocasión trataremos de ser sumamente breves.

La Argentina reitera en este Consejo su apoyo al Proyecto de Pacto por entenderlo útil, importante y urgente. Considera que el mismo contribuirá ciertamente a crear conciencia en la comunidad internacional, ya que no tiene otro carácter vinculante obligatorio que su propio valor ético y moral. Hemos escuchado con atención y agradecimiento el mensaje del Sr. Presidente del Consejo de Ministros de Italia, Honorable Bettino Craxi, y estamos seguros de que sus palabras valientes y sinceras nos ayudarán a encontrar una solución adecuada a las aparentes diferencias de enfoque en cuanto al valor y el contenido del Pacto.

Esperamos que el texto con la propuesta de modificaciones introducidas recientemente por el Director General y que tienen en cuenta algunos de los puntos de vista adelantados por varias delegaciones en la última reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial permitan su aceptación definitiva aunque, debo remarcarlo, algunas de estas propuestas debilitan, a nuestro juicio, su texto más allá de lo deseable. Su texto está muy lejos de ser ideal, y como lo señalamos en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, y como lo señalaron varias delegaciones en aquella ocasión, que hoy se reiteró, estaríamos en condiciones de ofrecer numerosas propuestas para incluirlas. Nosotros nos abstenemos de hacerlo pensando en que el Pacto sólo puede ser útil si cuenta con el consenso de la Comunidad Internacional en los aspectos fundamentales. Para la Argentina, por ejemplo, la seguridad alimentaria mundial no se garantiza con políticas de control de la natalidad, sino con el aumento de la producción y con una mejor distribución de la riqueza. Sin embargo, nos adherimos con todo entusiasmo al Pacto, al Proyecto del Pacto, con la salvedad o el entendimiento de que las referencias que allí se hacen a la demografía se relacionen con la política demográfica general excluyendo el tema específico del control de natalidad.

H. REDL (Austria): In considering the Director-General's proposed concept of a World Food Security Compact, we believe that the arguments raised for and against this most interesting draft text are still fresh in everyone's mind. However, what is important in the proposed Compact, in our opinion, is that its principles do not unduly recall any binding obligations, but contribute fundamentally to reinforcing a moral commitment to pursue the course of world food security.

My delegation wishes to make an appeal to the repeatedly demonstrated spirit of mutual understanding which has traditionally prevailed in this Council. We hope that after thorough discussion this Council will come to a full consensus, and will put forward the World Food Security Compact for adoption.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): I am afraid that in discussing this valuable report of the Committee on World Food Security and the Compact which has been recommended almost unanimously by that Committee, we are moving away from the main objective for which this recommendation has been made. We should not spend our time on interpreting the words of the English language. To my mind, coming from a country which does use the English language substantially as a part of its official business, there is a difference between a declaration, a compact and a convention. What this is not is a convention; this is not a convention because a convention, in international parlance, would have required ratification. It is certainly not a mere declaration, because a declaration is merely a declaration of intention. I think no one can agree more with our colleagues from Australia and Canada that what is expected is action in the national and international spheres. I fully support their suggestion that our intentions should be reflected in action, but I think this Council has the right and responsibility to provide guidelines for national and international action in this regard. And if in its fortieth year FAO cannot draw up guidelines to provide food security for the poor of the world, one might ask oneself what is the relevance of FAO to the international community.

The Director-General is seeking to assist us in providing guidelines at national and international levels, more so because international commodity trade has failed to provide the means of giving succour to the poor of the world. If normal commodity trade balanced by the normal movement of food from surplus to deficient countries had been able to undertake more in this dire hour of need, I am sure the Director-General would not have strained himself to give assistance in providing these guidelines. I appeal to all member countries of FAO, and say to them that we should accept this Compact as a guideline for national and international action. This is necessary so that the vast action required, whether it be multilateral or bilateral, by and large is governed by our perception of the basis on which this effort should take place, and of the direction in which it would be channelled.

From paragraphs 58, 59, 60 and 61 of the report of the Committee, it is clear that we seek to provide guidelines for ourselves. In so doing we are crystallizing and I quote, "in a simple way what were widely-held feelings constituting the moral commitment to pursue the course of world food security". This is not just an expression of intention. This is a clear perception of our responsibility. This is a clear indication of the lines on which action should be taken to discharge that responsibility. I can quite see that guidelines, by their very nature, are capable of being a plague in a local context. I think the FAO Charter guarantees to sovereign members of freedom - and I would rather use the word "obligation" - to understand the spirit in which such compacts are made and apply them in their local context for national and international action. I do not see that there is any conflict in providing guidelines for ourselves, and in our sovereignty to apply those guidelines in the context of our own national and international relations.

This being so, it would be appropriate that in the fortieth year of FAO we record this consensus, this commitment to provide food security for the poor of the world and since the Compact would be a broad guideline and on the basis of its national policies and international cooperation could be structured, I appeal on behalf of myself and all my colleagues that we should unanimously accept these guidelines as the basis for future action. We should not unduly concern ourselves about the binding nature of what are described as guidelines, nor should we unduly concern ourselves with the need for action.

We have acted first. In the debate yesterday and the day before, we were unanimous in commending what a number of countries have done, and also what FAO has done, to galvanise support for the world's hungry millions. It is in the context of that experience that guidelines have been evolved. I appeal to my colleague from Australia, and others, that they should not pursue this in the context of good intentions preceding international action. This is a guideline which the Director-General has distilled in the context of international action which is already going on and which has been strengthened at its finest hour by the support of all the member countries of this august Council, and of FAO. Therefore, it is necessary that we continue the action together. It is also important that we provide ourselves with the necessary guidelines by which this support can be marshalled, coordinated and implemented in an organized fashion as befits the international community in general.

I would assure you, that there cannot be any perception other than that to which I have referred on the nature of this Compact. It provides guidelines for action. I would draw attention to an important guideline, namely, that food aid should not be used for political purposes. I am quite sure there is no international organization which can reinforce these guidelines except one like ours, with the commitments we have to democracy, the alleviation of poverty, and a better international agricultural order in general. If we are all committed to this, reservations would destroy the spirit in which we have come to this. There may be reservations about the manner in which the guidelines will be implemented, but in this Committee of nations there cannot be any reservation with regard to the commitment of Member Nations, to the acceptance of useful guidelines for coordinating international support for the hungry millions of the world. If this is so, I have no hesitation in adding the support of my Government to our common resolve in this regard.

J. POSIER (France) : Lors de la dernière réunion du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale ma délégation a exprimé son accord sur le projet de Pacte mondial de la sécurité alimentaire. Elle a en particulier souligné que ce pacte ne manquerait pas de contribuer de façon positive à la prise de conscience par tous les acteurs concernés, pays développés comme pays en développement, des nécessités qu'impose la recherche d'une sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Ma délégation continue d'apprécier le bien-fondé de cette initiative. Elle constate que dans la nouvelle version du Pacte proposée à l'examen du Conseil le Directeur général de l'OAA a tenu compte d'un certain nombre des observations présentées par les délégués au Comité de sécurité alimentaire mondiale. La délégation française a cependant noté que les remarques constructives qu'elle avait faites lors du même Comité n'étaient pas prises en considération. Je pense en particulier aux politiques de prix, à l'organisation des marchés nationaux et internationaux, à la coopération économique régionale et à l'amélioration de l'environnement économique et monétaire international, tous points que la France considère comme étant parmi les plus importants dans le processus de développement agricole des pays.

Cependant la position de la France doit être bien claire. Le texte actuel, s'il ne répond pas à tous nos souhaits, va bien dans le sens d'une meilleure sécurité alimentaire dans le monde et je pense qu'il est urgent de l'adopter. Ma délégation ne souhaite pas que cette session du Conseil s'engage dans une nouvelle rédaction du texte du Pacte et renouvelle l'appel qu'elle a lancé à l'issue des débats du Comité de sécurité alimentaire mondiale pour qu'un consensus s'établisse aussi rapidement que possible.

Y. A. HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation should like to thank Dr Islam for his introduction of this subject, and also the Director-General for his efforts in drafting the World Food Security Compact.

The delegation of my country has participated in the deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security at its Ninth and Tenth Sessions. In the Ninth Session the delegation of my country called for the drafting of the Compact, and in the Tenth Session it endorsed the draft. We approved the Compact because it combined the general principles which constitute some sort of guidelines for the governments, organizations and individuals in order to attain world food security in its three-fold dimensions.

We agree with His Excellency Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister of Italy, that the Compact should be considered an integral part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We also commend the efforts made by the Director-General since the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security to make the Compact an acceptable formula for all States, particularly those who previously had some reservation about it.

Despite the controversy provoked by the revised version of the Compact which we have before us, we do not want to be involved in that controversy because we do not wish the Council or the Conference to act as a drafting committee.

Mr Chairman, since we believe in the basic objectives of the Compact we endorse it and we recommend its transmission to the Conference for adoption.

J.M. WATSON (Panamá): Señor Presidente, señor Director General: La delegación de Panamá desea reafirmar en este foro el hecho de que Panamá, al ser un país pacífico y pacifista por tradición y vocación, cree en los principios que garantizan la paz y considera que uno de estos principios básicos es el de la seguridad alimentaria, tal como lo hemos concebido. Por tal motivo reafirmamos nuestro apoyo al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial propuesto, ya que el objetivo del mismo es el de aumentar la seguridad alimentaria mundial asegurando que todas las personas estén en condiciones de producir o conseguir los alimentos básicos.

Para nuestra delegación el Pacto, aunque no recoge a cabalidad y con la fuerza suficiente todos los aspectos del problema, representa, como bien lo dijese el señor Director General de la FAO, un faro de esperanza para aquellos que nada poseen. Sólo quien sufre puede comprender lo que representa la esperanza, lo que puede significar un principio, la importancia de un ideal que para algunos es romanticismo, falta de resultados prácticos para otros, y de eso los panameños sabemos algo. Puede representar un incentivo, un motivo para seguir adelante, el combustible moral para el logro de un objetivo.

Todos sabemos que la esperanza es lo último a morir y que el fin de la esperanza coincide con el inicio del caos, el fin de la paz.

Es indudable que el proyecto inicial se basó en el consenso de compromisos y acuerdos anteriores alcanzados en el propio Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y en otros órganos interrelacionados con la seguridad alimentaria mundial y que el Pacto se diseñó de tal manera que plasmara e incorporara los principios incluidos en ellos. Sin embargo, a nuestro juicio la propuesta de un nuevo texto presentado por el señor Director General, el cual recoge enmiendas y algunas observaciones expresadas en los debates del 10º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, mejoran el texto inicial con la esperanza de obtener un consenso.

Es por ello que nuestra delegación apoya la propuesta contenida en el documento CL 87/10-Sup.1.

Y para terminar, en nombre de nuestros principios de país que cree en la solución negociada de los problemas, instamos a todos los países para que en base a las nuevas propuestas formuladas por el señor Director General encontremos la solución que permita aprobar por unanimidad un Pacto de tanta importancia para la esperanza de los que tienen hambre, siguiendo el ejemplo de la distinguida delegación de Suiza, país al cual felicitamos por tan digna decisión.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We welcome the draft Compact. We appreciate the fact that the Director-General took it upon himself following the last Committee on World Food Security to review and revise the draft to accommodate all divergent opinions expressed.

We welcome the heart-warming statement of the Prime Minister of Italy, which was read out by the distinguished Ambassador of Italy this morning.

We are aware that the Charter of the FAO designates it as the leading agency in the United Nations system for promoting world food production and alleviating hunger and malnutrition from this world. Since the Charter of this Organization is to banish hunger, to which we all subscribe, then we are only renewing our commitment by articulating that there should be enough food production in the world, that there should be stability in food supplies, and that all of those who are in need should have enough to eat.

It is inconceivable to my delegation that any country, large or small, developed or developing would stop for a fleeting moment and say that it does not believe in world food security. Therefore, I would wish to take comfort from the thought that no country present wishes hunger and poverty to be the law of mankind. The manner in which the major donors, such as Australia and Canada, have so generously responded to the call of the Director-General concerning the African situation, I would believe that they have already affirmed their abiding faith in the concept of world food security, and hence to this concept presented before us.

I have every hope that in the name of international cooperation we will adopt this Compact with universal consensus, which will be a fitting tribute to the forty years of this Organization's creation.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Venezuela en este momento sólo quiere expresar de manera clara y categórica su apoyo a este Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Por una comunicación expresa de nuestro Gobierno hemos recibido las instrucciones de expresar en esta mañana su pleno apoyo al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial como ha sido presentado.

Nosotros creemos en los principios morales; la tradición venezolana ha sido fundada precisamente en los principios morales y no en los principios de la fuerza o en los principios pragmáticos y por eso nos adherimos a la Carta de las Naciones Unidas porque es la Carta de las Naciones Unidas una declaración de principios morales para que todos los países que en ellas se encuentran integrados puedan cumplirlos; si no fuera porque es una declaración de un Pacto de carácter moral, las Naciones Unidas no podrían mantener en su seno algunos países que violan esos derechos por diferentes modos.

Por esa razón, pues, creemos que este Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial tiene que ser un pacto de carácter moral, puesto que no hay ninguna manera de fuerza coercitiva que se pueda imponer a los países miembros de la FAO para cumplir estos principios, pero sí ya han demostrado la mayoría de ellos de manera clara, de manera contundente, mediante su ayuda a los países, como es el caso de Africa, mediante la participación en estos programas de ayuda alimentaria, cuya iniciativa corresponde a nuestro Director General. ¿Por qué en un caso como éste que no es sino la ratificación específica de lo que viene haciendo la FAO durante 40 años, de lo que ha hecho últimamente en el caso de Africa frente a una situación de emergencia, no puede convertirse luego en la conducta normal de estos países integrantes en la FAO para corresponder a lo que ya se viene practicando durante todo este tiempo?

Por esa razón, pues, creo que no hay mucho que argumentar en favor del texto que por los considerandos, sino simplemente hacer una declaración categórica de nuestro respaldo a la adhesión de este pacto, y sólo nos quedaría invitar a los países que todavía no han manifestado su solidaridad con estas ideas que lo hagan lo antes posible.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): México ha sido uno de los países que de manera más firme y decidida han apoyado la idea de establecer un Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Lo hemos apoyado porque su finalidad es revitalizar la acción de la comunidad internacional para continuar luchando contra el hambre en el contexto del concepto revisado de la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Lo consideramos, pues, un instrumento que debe ser útil, en tanto que implica el apoyo de todos los países a ciertos preceptos fundamentales que, aunque no sean vinculantes jurídicamente ni obligatorios, sí conllevan una conciencia universal sobre un problema fundamental, tan fundamental como la vida misma. En consecuencia, nos hubiera gustado que este proyecto de pacto ubicara claramente responsabilidades para enfrentar la inseguridad alimentaria presente y futura. No ha sido así, pero en todo caso deberá desatar acciones en favor de una cooperación internacional más eficaz y orientada.

Apoyamos el Pacto y exhortamos a todas las delegaciones a que lo acepten por consenso.

Queremos felicitar sinceramente a la Secretaría por el esfuerzo realizado para incorporar las opiniones expresadas por los Estados Miembros durante el décimo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Consideramos que esa es la única manera positiva de trabajar para lograr un proyecto que exprese verdaderamente el consenso que buscamos, sin debilitar su contenido y sin el cual el instrumento que nos ocupa perdería toda validez.

A mi delegación le interesa que el Pacto sea un instrumento internacional serio que corresponda realmente a la gran responsabilidad que representa en el mundo de hoy la eliminación del hambre y que al mismo tiempo haga honor al prestigio de la Organización y a su noble tarea. Es por esta razón, señor Presidente, que haré algunas propuestas que en el concepto de mi delegación acercan el proyecto a estos objetivos. Son propuestas fundamentalmente de forma.

En primer lugar, los preámbulos de este tipo de instrumento tienen la ventaja de situar el problema no sólo en su contexto actual, sino en un marco más amplio que incluye las acciones y las decisiones que se han tomado previamente sobre el tema central que se tratará en la parte resolutive o sobre otros factores que inciden en él. Esto tiene la doble ventaja de poner en evidencia que no se actúa de una manera aislada, sino como seguimiento de anteriores decisiones y además facilita la adopción del instrumento porque reafirma que existe ya una base de acuerdo que todos los gobiernos han establecido. Ahora bien, consideramos que el preámbulo actual es muy original y podría mantenerse, 'pero sería muy importante mencionar en él el Artículo 25 de la Carta de Derechos Humanos, el Artículo 11 del Pacto de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales, el Artículo 10 de la Declaración sobre el Progreso y Desarrollo en lo Social, y también alguna referencia a la Declaración para la Eliminación del Hambre y la Malnutrición.

Al referirnos a la parte tercera, estamos de acuerdo en suprimir el título a las Organizaciones Intergubernamentales, ya que no hay ninguna acción que les corresponda en el texto, a menos que incluyera un párrafo en ese sentido. Nos parece también un acierto eliminar los dos subtítulos A y B. Consideramos que esta parte mejora notablemente con las nuevas propuestas y tendría solamente algunas pequeñas modificaciones de redacción o bien de expresión más usual o correcta en español. Por ejemplo, en el párrafo 5, tercera línea, sobrarían las palabras "del país" y en la cuarta línea, para estar de acuerdo con el tono del párrafo, habría que poner "los sectores más pobres", en lugar de simplemente "los pobres".

En el párrafo 7 consideramos sería básico y conveniente dejar después de la palabra "cooperación con los países en desarrollo y entre sí".

En el artículo 9 nos parece sería mucho más adecuado sustituir en la primera línea "países pobres" por "países en desarrollo que lo necesiten". En general, señor Presidente, y esto se aplica también a otros párrafos, nosotros preferimos la terminología "países en desarrollo" y "países desarrollados" a la utilización de "pobres" y "ricos", que no nos parece adecuada y se presta a otras consideraciones. Estaría, además, más de acuerdo con la terminología y clasificación del sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

En lo que se refiere al artículo 11, nos parece que la primera enmienda es aceptable, pero deberíamos mantener en el resto del párrafo la propuesta inicial.

En la parte cuarta ya anteriormente mencioné la conveniencia de sustituir la expresión "pobres y ricos" por "desarrollados y en desarrollo", y esto se aplica también al artículo 2 de esta parte. En el párrafo 3 no estamos muy de acuerdo en que las organizaciones no gubernamentales deben ser las primeras en organizar los contactos. Creo que debemos decir simplemente "deben organizar".

La parte quinta de este documento es la que nos presenta más problemas, ya que no estamos muy convencidos de que las expresiones que se utilizan responden en realidad a las ideas que las sustentan.

En el párrafo 1 nos parece inaceptable la utilización de un lenguaje casi religioso, y en concreto la palabra "sagrado" debe sustituirse por "primordial" o "fundamental". (Debo advertir que el Estado Mexicano es laico).

El párrafo 2 debe decir "opinión pública", ya que no solamente opinan los países más ricos, y por lo tanto debe sustituirse aquí también por "desarrollados o altamente desarrollados". Creemos, sin embargo, que la opinión pública de todos los países tiene un papel importante y podría, por tanto, decirse "la opinión pública, especialmente la de los países altamente desarrollados".

Me he permitido hacer estas recomendaciones porque considero que es oportuno fortalecer este texto, al que damos todo nuestro apoyo.

Finalmente, en ese conocimiento lógico, frío, pasional y patente de los intereses económicos, políticos y militares de los países poderosos, no somos ingenuos ni pretendemos ser románticos. Sucede simplemente que frente a la fuerza los débiles sólo podemos interponer principios, argumentos razonables, producto de negociación y conciencia universal de los problemas. No tenemos nada más que ofrecer y nos negamos a la sumisión y a la postración permanente. Creemos que la conciencia tiene una función en este mundo, así como el diálogo en la negociación tiene una función práctica, no sólo retórica, a pesar de los cínicos. En la medida en que las condiciones objetivas de hambre, violencia y recesión económica muevan a la opinión pública mundial y también tengan en cuenta los intereses económicos de los industrializados, los preceptos y razones del Pacto cobran peso. Nosotros siempre interpretamos el rechazo al proyecto de Pacto como el rechazo a la conciencia universal, al problema evidente que es la gran inseguridad alimentaria. Por tanto, también interpretamos que quienes los rechazan conceden importancia a la función de conciencia y a su consecuente obligatorie-

dad moral, a pesar de que sus intereses prácticos lo contradigan. Interpretamos también que es una clara negativa a la cooperación internacional en su forma más altruista, con lo que se pone en duda los verdaderos intereses detrás de nuestras declaraciones y acciones de cooperación y ayuda.

Nos congratulamos de que Suiza haya retirado sus reservas y felicitaciones al Primer Ministro señor Craxi por su mensaje y solidaridad.

Lamentamos que ciertos países le tengan más temor a la función de la conciencia y el diálogo y reiteramos nuestra exhortación a que reflexionen y acepten por consenso la adopción de este Pacto.

A. LOUCA (Cyprus): The delegation of Cyprus has studied carefully the supplementary document submitted by the Director-General, which provides deletions and additions as suggestions on which the Council could reach a consensus. The Director-General was not requested to do this but, with his well-known frankness and courage, he has taken the initiative and presented this improved document to us. The changes he has suggested seem to us mostly to respond to the views expressed during the debate at the last CFS session and they bridge adequately the divergent opinions.

It is a common feeling that both developing and developed countries should join forces in the common objective of obtaining the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger. The value of the Compact will be in stimulating support for these objectives, and in improving the general climate for action towards attaining them.

Another essential message of the Compact is in pointing out that every individual has a sacred duty to be concerned for those less fortunate, and it indicates the various roles that must be played by individuals in every walk of life in every country, in eradicating hunger and malnutrition. We find the text to be quite moderate and balanced, and we consider the proposed changes to be a substantial improvement to the text.

With these observations, the delegation of Cyprus would like to give its full support to the text. We hope that the Council will transmit the revised text as it stands to the Conference with its full endorsement.

Mrs. M. FENWICK (United States of America): The United States delegation acknowledges and appreciates very sincerely the efforts of the Secretariat to revise the proposed World Food Security Compact to accommodate the concerns expressed by some of the delegations to the Committee on World Food Security, and I would like to say to my colleagues also that in judging my country, I trust you will pay some attention to our actions as an evidence of what our concerns are and what our intentions are.

However, in regard to this Compact, the United States continues to have a number of reservations concerning the Compact which have not been met by the proposed revision. Therefore, the United States delegation cannot associate its Government with the Compact and wishes to maintain its reservation to the Compact as expressed at the Committee on World Food Security in April. We request that our expression of disassociation be shown in the Council Report and that it also appear in the published Compact itself.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): May I start by saying the obvious. Where there is significant international agreement which did not exist before, the United Kingdom is in general in favour of this being recorded in some way to guide our successors. The attention which has necessarily been attracted to food security by recent tragic events may have led us to identify common thinking which did not exist before. If so we welcome the incorporation of these thoughts in a non-binding document of the sort we have before us in the draft form and a non-binding document to which we can subscribe by consensus.

It is a matter of judgement at this stage when work should cease on improving the draft. There seems to be a general agreement that any Compact should be considered for adoption at the General Conference and as a contribution to marking forty years of the world of FAO. So, in theory the document could be continuously improved as the modifications of wording are further considered in detail and new ideas come forward.

As my country's delegate to the Committee on Food Security has made clear, we could go along with the text as it was at an earlier stage. That is on the basis of the understanding repeated today by Mr West, that it is a non-binding document. Of course, had we thought otherwise we would have had to examine it with greater and more legalistic care.



However, we are concerned not merely to get a document with which we can live but one in which we can take some pride, and for this reason we welcome the further work of the Director-General on the text with a view to its obtaining the widest possible support. The changes suggested by the Director-General seem to us in every case, with one minor exception, to be improvements, and we would wish to see them in the text sent forward from this Council to the Conference. The one exception which is a minor one is merely a point of logic, and this concerns the proposed insertion in paragraph 5 of the wording; "Governments should make all efforts so that agricultural work receives a higher status". It seems to me somewhat illogical in a document which is supposed to have a permanent validity to ask that the status of agricultural work should continuously be given a higher status in relation to other activities, and perhaps we can just say "a high status", or use the wording used later "a higher status than it currently receives", although that is really nit-picking.

There is one more substantive improvement in wording which we wish to see in order to avoid inclusion in the draft of statements which could be misleading, and so preventing us from having a document in which we can take the pride that I mentioned before. The one section, which inadvertently I suspect, provides misleading advice to developing countries is in Section III, A.2. An amendment could easily be made without doing mischief to the valid thought behind the Section. The Section calls on governments to ensure that city-dwellers do not acquire a permanent preference for imported basic foods which cannot be grown domestically. This advice is fine for countries where there are possibilities for local production which would provide adequate or nutritious diet, but what about countries where this does not apply; countries say which are coral atolls or city states, or other countries probably mainly small ones, where the welfare of the population as a whole will be maximized by an open trading position as regards all foodstuffs, basic or otherwise. I do not think the draftsmen had in mind that such governments should condemn their countrymen to a diet of the basic products of their own land rather than participate fully in trading with neighbours and trading partners. We would not wish to give international respectability to such a siege mentality. As I said before, this point can be made by amending paragraph 8 to read in a way which would meet this point. It could read as follows: "In particular, developing governments should ensure that city-dwellers do not acquire a permanent preference for imported basic foods which cannot be grown domestically" - that is the same. The new bit is "or which would not be realistically obtainable in the future".

These comments are offered in the hope of making the document a more valid one. It is our hope that the best draft which we can reach today should be sent forward without further amendment after the conclusion of this meeting to the Conference for adoption.

STARIFUDIN BAHARSJAH (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, I shall be brief, but first of all since this is the first time that my delegation takes the floor, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the three Vice-Chairmen.

We are a nation of 150 million, and today we thank God that we are self-sufficient in food, but it has been a long and hard struggle, and during that long period we have experienced a bitter feeling of belonging to that group of the world where there is food insecurity, and food insecurity in our case means food insecurity for 150 million which is bitter indeed.

We have also learned valuable things from our hard struggle towards producing enough food for our population. We certainly agree with our fellow delegates from other countries when they say that what we need is action. However, again and again, in our case at least, we found that action has to be preceded first by a mental attitude translated into strong political will, commitment by all parties, and then translated into guidelines and principles. At least in our case without these strong commitments, without the right mental attitude and political will we would not have been successful.

We have examined the Compact based on our experience during that long struggle. We have found that those principles which were formulated in the previous text and were formulated for the developing countries, have been the minimum principles that we have adhered to too, in our own long struggle, and we also found that those principles that had been formulated again in the previous text to be guidelines for the developed countries, had they been adopted when we were having our struggle we would have been greatly assisted, and the long struggle would have been significantly shorter. Therefore, we are not hesitating in adopting this Compact.

Talking at the regional level, we in Asia, have the Asian food reserve which was founded very much on the principles here again formulated in the Compact. Therefore, I am happy here to say that I have authorization of the Asian countries represented in the Council to voice their support to this Compact. After saying this, however, we feel that the principles as formulated in the Compact are the minimum principles that we think should be adhered to by everybody. We are seriously trying to reach our goal of enough food for everyone. We of Asia stand ready, if required, and we would very much like to do so to strengthen even the Compact and make it an obligation of all countries to adhere to so that we can really step forward towards achieving our goals.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Our delegation views the draft Compact positively. We note the Directors-General's explanation that it is a crystallization of feelings. Of course a crystal can give varying hues depending on the angle from which it is viewed. This in part, we believe, explains the divergence of views and to some extent the reservations which have been expressed. Consensus may well therefore depend upon the skilful twisting of language, while holding the course steady as we secure compromise.

The Compact is intended to be voluntary but nevertheless of rare symbolic value, and must therefore have some entrenched principles which impact upon the conscience. Of course it will not make sense to conclude an attempt to send forward to the Conference a Compact which is not acceptable and implementable. My delegation shares the resolve and initiative which lies behind the Compact. We agree that we know that mere rhetoric will not really help in the fight towards world food security. In like manner, we do not propose to join in rhetoric which is designed to delay acceptance. Our delegation notes the reservations of some countries. We also feel that some of the proposed amendments tend to detract from the loftiness of humanitarian feeling that lies behind this proposal. In this regard we congratulate those who have found it possible to withdraw reservations, and also those who have offered positive suggestions for the drafting committee. We urge the Council to apply broad and noble vision on this issue. It can be done, especially when we recognize the Compact is not legally binding. After forty years of valuable work we trust that this august body will find it possible to adopt, as a fitting tribute to this special anniversary, the proposed Compact which my delegation supports.

F.J. FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España): El proyecto de Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en la formulación corregida por el Director General tiene para nuestra delegación un importante contenido moral que nos hace considerarlo como un paso adelante ante el escándalo del hambre en algunas partes del mundo.

El cultivo de estos valores no tiene por qué ser contrario a la práctica y valiosa ayuda que se viene realizando por parte de numerosos países. Posiblemente la formulación de este texto podría ser mejorado dando entrada a algunas modificaciones propuestas por otros países, consiguiendo de esta forma un consenso en la Asamblea lo más amplio posible.

Consideramos muy positivas las correcciones de léxico propuestas por México al texto en español. Entendemos que la aprobación de este documento sería enormemente positivo para la búsqueda de una mayor sensibilización de todos los habitantes de este planeta, ante los que sufren por hambre, sea cual sea su motivo.

Mi delegación está de acuerdo con este proyecto, aunque estaríamos abiertos a una mejora de su formulación, si esto fuera posible, con el fin de darle mayor fuerza.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My Government takes a favourable view of the Compact. We wish to thank the Director-General for the explanation he has given to us regarding the role and the status of that Compact in his introductory statement. In so doing he dispelled our original fear that the creation of a new human right to freedom from hunger was intended to be put forward. We regretted, however, that it had not been possible during the last session of the Committee on World Food Security to deal with it and to take on board some constructive proposals for amendments submitted by several delegations.

My delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for having taken into account a number of these proposals in the revised draft now before us. Nevertheless we should have liked to have seen some terms used which we had in mind. Those were, for example, in the first sentence of II, to speak rather of a common challenge, as stated yesterday by Colombia and Canada, instead of speaking of a common responsibility. Then in the first sentence of paragraph 2 we would have preferred to be stated there "the moral right", which the delegate of Congo referred to this morning, instead of "the fundamental right". \

Having said that, if the other delegations feel that the version before us is the best common denominator for accommodating all positions, we are prepared to go along with the present text in order to achieve a consensus.

Having stated the constructive position of my country, I should like to take up the idea of the delegate of Lebanon, who stressed the wish that the unanimous position among the Member States should hopefully be reached and that if necessary suggestion for changes be made.

In this spirit, and without of course wishing to convert our Council here into a drafting committee, I should like to draw attention to four points. The first one concerns the introductory sentence in the preambular paragraph. This first sentence sounds to me rather passive. Instead of speaking of insecurity of food supplies, which is something passive, we would say something like: "The need to strive for food has accompanied mankind throughout history". But perhaps this is nothing but wording.

There is another point on the same preambular paragraph, and this is perhaps an essential issue. We would have liked to see a certain positive tone at the outset of that text, making reference also to what the international community has achieved already in improving food security. In this context I would mention two points, first that agricultural production has almost doubled since the early 1950s, and another important issue is that farmers all over the world now do produce food for 900 million people more than in 1974 at the time of the World Food Conference. This seems to us a tremendous achievement which should not be forgotten in the context of the fortieth anniversary of the Organization.

My third point is that we are missing a reference to the need for reducing and preventing food losses. This is without any doubt a very important element in the efforts to achieve greater food security and it concerns all, developing countries as well as developed countries.

My fourth point concerns the pillar of food security, and that is the farmer. I think there is no doubt about that. The farmer appears in paragraph 4 of V. Of course there is another mention of the small farmer in paragraph 5 on page 3 of the English text. We would have preferred that in paragraph 3 of III the idea would be introduced, where it says "so as to stimulate food production", particularly through the small farmers, and then say something about their important role.

Having put forward these thoughts we would like to make another remark, and this is the last one, with regard to the mentioning of the introduction of all the decisions taken internationally in fora and on subjects which might have a direct or indirect bearing on food security and quoting them at the beginning in the preambular paragraph. We feel that this would overload the text and would make it even more difficult to be read afterwards by those mostly concerned, namely the farmers.

K SHIOZAWA (Japan): Our reaction to the original draft of the Compact when it was presented to the Tenth session of the CFS was one of doubt as to whether such an arrangement was really necessary. Even after having heard the prolonged debate at the CFS, we are not fully convinced of the necessity and usefulness of the Compact. At that time, however, my delegation expressed its position that we would not impede any consensus.

Now we have the revised draft text before us and my delegation appreciates the effort made so far by the Director-General in trying to seek a compromise. We have the impression that the revised text has in fact been improved to some extent, taking into account various remarks made by several delegations at the CFS. My delegation can go along with the revised text on the Compact.

At the same time, we have also noticed that several members are still having difficulty in accepting this draft text. They are all very important exporting countries of agricultural products. They are also main donors. We are of the opinion that such an arrangement could bring about a meaningful result if the arrangement were adopted unanimously. My delegation would therefore like to request the Director-General, as the delegate of the United Kingdom and some other delegates have already suggested, to make further efforts in trying to seek unanimous support. We are still open to any improvement in the text if such improvement will facilitate its unanimous adoption.

M. BALLA SY (Sénégal): Je me souviens encore que lors de la conclusion des débats d'hier vous disiez qu'il serait intéressant d'organiser des consultations entre les producteurs eux-mêmes pour connaître leur opinion. Je constate même que dans le document CL 87/10 le Secrétariat a finalement cédé au charme de la fameuse et désormais consacrée pensée selon laquelle nous devons écouter les petits paysans. Ce matin nous avons également entendu certaines réserves sur le Pacte appuyé par des membres nous recommandant de donner la priorité à des actions concrètes sur des actions rhétoriques. A ce propos permettez-moi de faire une petite confidence, c'est que, demander à des pays ou à des gouvernements des pays africains d'écouter les petits paysans c'est presque une recommandation superflue tant il est vrai que dans nos pays nous sommes tous de petits paysans. Personnellement je vous dirais que lorsqu'en prenant congé de ma famille pour venir représenter mon pays au sein de cette Organisation, un oncle, pas très instruit mais tout de même très intelligent, comme vous l'avez toujours dit, et vous-même et ceux qui disent que l'on doit écouter les petits paysans, me demandait pourquoi je devais quitter mon pays pour aller à l'étranger, quand je lui ai exposé l'objet de ma mission et l'objet poursuivi par cette Organisation il était presque amusé et il s'est demandé si on venait de créer cette nouvelle organisation ou si elle existait depuis longtemps et ce que ces pays avaient fait pour ceux qui sont dans nos profondes campagnes.

J'étais un peu découragé par cette observation mais à la réflexion je pense que c'était très pertinent parce qu'il nous disait que si en 1945, lorsque les 44 pays (c'est moi qui l'interprète) avaient déclaré qu'ils s'engageaient à améliorer la production pour mieux répartir les produits agricoles afin d'améliorer le niveau de l'alimentation, je crois qu'à ce moment-là notre Afrique, pauvre aujourd'hui, était très riche en aliments et que c'était peut-être le monde occidental qui avait besoin d'elle.

C'est donc dire que nous devons nous interroger pour savoir, après 40 années, ce que nous avons fait de ce serment qui est d'ailleurs affiché avec beaucoup de talent dans le Hall du bâtiment A et je vous avoue que parfois je me recueille devant ce serment et je pense que vous devriez inviter beaucoup de pays qui nous disent qu'aujourd'hui nous devons mener des actions, à se recueillir souvent devant ce serment qui a été fait dans leur propre pays et que nous devons tous honorer puisque nous sommes les dépositaires de ces valeurs morales et idéologiques de ces hauts responsables qui doivent mériter toute notre estime.

Je voudrais dire aussi que malgré les appels du Directeur général de la FAO et les pertinentes analyses de ses brillants collaborateurs la crise alimentaire mondiale ne cesse d'empirer. Ce qu'il y a de regrettable dans tout ceci c'est que depuis plus de 20 ans nous ne cessons dans les différents comités de répéter que la sécurité alimentaire repose sur l'amélioration de la production et que celle-ci est compromise dans la plupart de nos pays par une insuffisance de moyens techniques et financiers. Pourtant que constatons-nous? Tous les documents que nous avons étudiés - celui que nous étudions aujourd'hui ne fait d'ailleurs que répéter ceux que nous avons étudiés hier - montrent que l'aide publique internationale au développement ne cesse de diminuer. Comment alors allons-nous passer aux actes si les pays pauvres manquent de ressources, de technologies adaptées, d'intrants agricoles, et si leurs produits agricoles n'arrivent plus à pénétrer dans les marchés internationaux jalousement protégés par des mesures discriminatoires. Il ne fait donc aucun doute que devant cette situation nous n'avons plus le droit de nous tromper en continuant à déclarer que nous devons agir alors que nous ne faisons pas ce qu'il faut faire. Nous faisons certes beaucoup, nous donnons beaucoup d'aide alimentaire, compte tenu de sa destination, c'est-à-dire (excusez un terme assez terre-à-terre et peut-être vulgaire) qu'elle va dans les ventres vides pour ensuite être digérée alors qu'il s'agirait plutôt de nous offrir une marchandise qui pourrait fructifier en permanence c'est-à-dire réhabiliter l'agriculture. Le projet de Pacte que mon pays appuie pleinement ne pourrait donc que traduire notre volonté d'agir car aucune de ses dispositions ne nous empêche de le faire. Au contraire, elles nous y invitent. Si nous refusons cette invitation nous ne pourrions plus faire croire à ces pauvres paysans qui semblent tant nous préoccuper et dont nous connaissons mieux que quiconque les préoccupations puisque nous sommes déjà nés et que nous continuerons à vivre à leurs côtés puisque nous ne sommes que des petits paysans si bien que nous ne pourrions plus leur faire croire que nous allons agir alors que depuis 40 ans ils attendent d'être aidés dans le sens souhaité.

Avons-nous donc le droit de continuer à répéter ce que nous avons toujours dit et redit, ce que la FAO nous a toujours montré pour perpétuer de notre côté les conditions de la misère et de la pauvreté.

A ceux qui souhaitent que nous parlions aux petits paysans je dirais qu'en ma qualité de fils de ces derniers nous voulons des moyens financiers, techniques des intrants et des moyens de rentabiliser notre activité.

En conclusion je voudrais me féliciter des déclarations fort constructives des représentants de tous les pays qui ont proposé l'adoption de ce Pacte. A ce propos qu'il me soit permis de citer entre autres particulièrement les déclarations des représentants de l'Italie, du Danemark et de la France dont l'exemple déjà connu dans ce domaine doit être suivi. Aux autres, qui ont manifesté une bonne volonté en essayant tout simplement d'améliorer le texte, je voudrais également adresser toutes mes félicitations et ma profonde admiration. Je pense enfin qu'il est du droit de chaque pays souverain d'exprimer une réserve sur un document de cette nature, mais de le faire d'une manière aussi préemptoire aussi bien sur le rapport que sur le document lui-même est une action que nous ne pourrions pas regretter puisque le pacte en réalité ne devrait pas comporter de réserves mais ce serait plutôt le rapport du Conseil.

Je voudrais donc encore une fois inviter tous les pays ici représentés et qui ont toujours manifesté le besoin de contribuer à ce monde de paix et de solidarité, mais avec peut-être des idées et des intentions différentes, que ce Pacte est une occasion pour notre Organisation de coller d'une manière beaucoup plus sincère et significative au serment que les 44 pays fondateurs de l'Organisation avaient déjà fait il y a 40 ans.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos comenzar felicitando y adheriéndome totalmente a la extraordinaria y profunda intervención que acaba de realizar el representante de Senegal. Creo que ha hablado con el corazón en la mano de las realidades por las que atraviesa el continente mas afectado de los que aquí queremos, con un Pacto, tratar de dar un impulso a sus soluciones; esto es lo que el Pacto puede hacer y tratar de impulsar su solución.

Señor Presidente, nosotros participamos con bastante actividad, y por que no decirlo, con pasión en el 10º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Discutimos nuestro apoyo total al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria porque consideramos que es el momento en que la humanidad tome conciencia de la necesidad de pactar, por lo menos moralmente, en resolver uno de los azotes mas grandes de hoy.

En aquella oportunidad desafortunadamente la discusión fue muy mala; no esperamos una respuesta realmente ante un Pacto inocuo, un Pacto moral, un Pacto de buenas intenciones que se mezclara la moral con el comercio. Me parece que, entonces, si se maneja el comercio sin moral, ese comercio no puede tener mucha alternativa.

Aunque participe con fuerza en el anterior Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, no quise hablar de los primeros, no quise, mi silencio creo que se iba a interpretar como falta de interés, sino como actitud constructiva para esperar realmente una reacción positiva después de los esfuerzos que hizo la Secretaría de la FAO y el Director General en modificar lo que se ha hecho; es modificar, a nuestro juicio con bastante objetividad, buscando equilibrar las proposiciones que dieron lugar a las reservas en el pasado Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Sin embargo, vemos, desafortunadamente, que se repite esta situación. Esta situación se repite y para nosotros es lamentable porque no creemos que en la FAO exista el veto; aquí no existe veto; aquí puede haber criterios encontrados y debe oírse a una gran mayoría porque no creo que podamos paralizar el trasladar a la Conferencia un documento porque tres delegaciones no tengan instrucciones.

A estas alturas, sencillamente, sinceramente no creíamos que tuviéramos que repetir las discusiones anteriores y las decisiones; así que creemos que podemos explicar a aquellos que piensan que esto puede ser inútil, porque nosotros somos de los que hemos preconizado, con todos los que en esta sala han hablado de la conciencia, del llamado a la conciencia y a la moral que son realmente las fuerzas que deben impulsar la voluntad política de nuestros gobiernos. Y si los que plantean esto olvidan después de un buen almuerzo aquí en Roma que hay cifras espeluznantes de muertes por hambres y que yo digo que son resultado de esa capacidad analítica practica y administrativa de los mas grandes países industrializados; ahí esta la causa del hambre y de la muerte y de la inseguridad alimentaria: la capacidad analítica, administrativa, practica, superinteligente, prepotentes. Hay que empezar a manejar la moral y la conciencia; hay que empezar a manejarlas porque es posible que este Pacto haya puesto en evidencia que en el mundo la historia se ha escrito con razones ciegas e inconscientes pero también con razones morales y racionales. Esto es lo que este Pacto ha puesto en evidencia, todo expresado por los hombres dotados de conciencia que han actuado por la reflexión o por la pasión, persiguiendo unos fines. No trato de negar que cada uno de nosotros aquí habla expresando los intereses de sus fines; creemos que es fácil, que hay colegas que han hablado de que son laicos, otros que son religiosos, pero creo que es fácil acomodarse cada uno a su religión y con una confesión periodica limpiar su conciencia después de analizar la responsabilidad que tenemos con el hambre, con la miseria, con la malnutrición, con el desempleo, con el analfabetismo histórico y técnico, pues hay dos analfabetismos, con la insalubridad, con la mortalidad infantil.

Mientras no hagamos todo esto parte de nuestra conciencia somos cómplices de la malnutrición y de la muerte. Si tenemos que hacerlo parte de nuestra conciencia creemos que el homo sapiens esta formado por su acción a base de su conciencia, todo lo hace conscientemente.

El inicio de la reunion para mí fue realmente maravilloso y fue una de las cosas que me impulso a no pedir la palabra al principio. Las palabras expresadas por la representación de Italia me causaron efecto porque creemos que hay que felicitarla por la interpretación cabal de los objetivos de este Pacto.

Creemos que ademas hay demostraciones palpables de que no todos los grandes no tienen conciencia; hay respuestas aquí muy pausibles, muy felicitables, la de los nórdicos en nombre de los cuales hablo la distinguida representación de Dinamarca, el enfoque que hace la distinguida representación de Francia, la de Austria, y no se si olvido algunas de las que realmente han dado un enfoque certero y constructivo

Nosotros, en función -lo dijimos la otra vez, igual que la distinguida representación de Mexico-, en función de lograr un acuerdo, lo apoyamos en todas sus partes, igual que el anterior, en todas sus partes; sin embargo, debemos aclarar que hay cuestiones que consideramos debían ser mas fuertes porque son problemas que no va a resolverlos la sola expresión. ^ Por ejemplo, en los principios generales del párrafo 4 se ha suprimido el "deben" por el "podran". Se le ha quitado la palabra "deben" y se ha puesto "podran".

Yo creo que moralmente no deben utilizar los alimentos como medios para ejercer presiones políticas, porque poder tienen para hacerlo, realmente tienen poder, lo están haciendo por su poder, utilizando

los alimentos para ejercer presiones políticas. Por eso creo que aquí, si se va a discutir, se debe incluir la palabra "deben", no "podrán", pero repetimos, si esto trae problemas para la adopción, no lo proponemos.

Igualmente, en el párrafo 5 de la tercera sección, después de pequeños agricultores, nosotros estamos de acuerdo en poner "y campesinos sin tierra", que son los mayores y la preocupación de mi distinguido amigo Grabisch. Creo que es correcto con respecto a los pequeños agricultores, pero me trae Grabisch en seguida a colación unas ideas después de oír las maravillosas palabras del Senegal, pero aquí faltan también los mas poderosos, porque los pequeños y los sin tierra son pobres producto del orden económico impuesto, son productores de subsistencia, no son los que fundamentalmente van a resolver la situación alimentaria en el mundo, son beneficiarios, son sujeto del beneficio. ¿Por que no incluimos a los transnacionales y a los grandes poseedores, los que mejores tierras regadas tienen y con todos los insumos, y que ayer maravillosamente redefinió el Director General en su ultima intervención sobre Africa? A esos que tienen es a los que tenemos que pedir. A los pequeños debemos ponerlos como beneficiarios. Pero, repetimos, si esta proposición de Cuba puede traer algún problema para retrasar la adopción de este Pacto, no queremos que se tome en cuenta. Creemos que la vida avanza, somos convencidos de que el mundo debe ir cambiando porque en el mundo todo cambia. Nacemos y nos morimos y nacen regímenes y se mueren regímenes y tendrán que seguir cambiando. El río jamas va a dejar de seguir fluyendo. Por el momento hay tiempo para algún día poner "deben" y algún día poner "transnacionales". Ahora lo aceptamos como esta.

Queremos expresar que la reserva expuesta por el distinguido representante de Estados Unidos no debe incluirse en el Pacto; debe ser incluido en el Reporte, porque el Pacto no debemos mancharlo con una reserva de esa naturaleza, independientemente de que en ultima instancia creemos que la oposición del mas grande productor refuerza el Pacto. Refuerza el Pacto realmente, pues si el gran productor se siente responsable moral y por conciencia la solución es esta y reacciona en esa forma tan fría, tan decidida, no entrar a discutir sencillamente la reserva, refuerza el Pacto, pero no debe en ninguna manera detener que este Pacto pase a la Conferencia porque por suerte aquí no hay veto.

Con estas palabras, señor Presidente, quiero pedir que incluya a Cuba entre los países que pueden trasladar a la próxima Conferencia la adopción de este Pacto en la forma que ha sido presentado por el Director General.

CHAIRMAN: The United States wishes to intervene on a point of order.

Mrs. M. FENWICK (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I feel that when a country has been mentioned by name it is right for that country to respond.

We are not the largest producer, we are the largest donor. I think that our request that the position of the United States should be clearly and, I think, very moderately stated is a reasonable one. It expresses what has happened here. It expresses the view of my Government concerning the Compact, and I trust that that request will be honoured.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.

## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/6

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**SIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**SEXTA SESION PLENARIA**  
(19 June 1985)

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

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

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

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14 h 45, 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)
- 6. Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 10-17 April 1985) (continued)
- 6. Rapport de la dixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 10-17 avril 1985) (suite)
- 6. Informe del Décimo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 10-17 de abril de 1985) (continuación)
- 6.1 World Food Security Compact (continued)
- 6.1 Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire (suite)
- 6.1 Pacto sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (continuación)

C. KAREKEZI (Rwanda): Après examen du document révisé du Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire présenté par le Secrétariat, ma délégation veut tout simplement déclarer qu'elle appuie ce projet de pacte, qui n'est qu'une suite logique des recommandations de ce Conseil, visant à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire des pays en développement avec le concours des pays développés.

Les mesures proposées rencontrent la volonté politique des pays qui ont déjà commencé la mise en application de ce plan. Cependant, les efforts nationaux sont restés insuffisants face aux travaux à réaliser. Par exemple les paysans ont à souffrir du manque d'intrants. Ils ne parviennent pas à s'en procurer. C'est dans ce cadre que les pays développés devraient nous aider pour atteindre l'objectif fixé d'augmentation de produits alimentaires dans les pays en développement.

En terminant mon intervention, je félicite les représentants des pays développés qui ont approuvé ce Pacte et invite ceux qui ont encore des réserves à réexaminer le fond du document, car nous pensons que c'est dans le cadre de ce document que nous pouvons trouver les mesures destinées à améliorer l'état nutritionnel des pays en développement. Les crises qui sont actuellement permanentes dans les pays en développement ne pourront jamais être résolues si les pays en développement restent seuls.

Pour cette raison je demande aux pays qui ont encore des doutes de réexaminer leurs réserves comme certains l'ont déjà fait, par exemple la Suisse.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I wish to place on record the position of my delegation. Uganda participated in the 10th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and in regard to the World Food Security Compact our delegation then accepted the Compact as presented. I am therefore taking the floor merely to reiterate the support that we have given, because it merely reaffirms the principle of banishing hunger from the face of this earth.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): First of all I would like on behalf of my delegation to thank the Secretariat, and also the Director-General. They have examined the question over a long period and have drawn up this World Food Security Compact; therefore they deserve our congratulations. I would also like to congratulate Mr Bettino Craxi for his statement, and for the intervention of the Italian Government - and in particular for their generosity concerning the African crisis. I agree with everything that has been said in favour of this World Food Security Compact, because it is the basis for any measures aimed at ensuring that there is world food security.

Many opinions have been expressed. Some have expressed reservations, and this is quite natural, deriving from the nature of things. However, some countries have been able to accept the World Food Security Compact as drafted, in spite of slightly differing opinions, whereas other countries have not accepted this Compact, and we deplore this because in fact this Compact is simply the result of a review of several general principles and several conventions and has been derived from several other agreements, and is not of an obligatory or compulsory nature. That is why my delegation once again would like to give its favourable view of this World Food Security Compact. We would like this to be sent on to the Conference for approval.

T.D. DA COSTA (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Monsieur le Président, en prenant la parole pour la première fois, je tiens à vous assurer de la considération de ma délégation. Comme plusieurs délégations l'ont déjà fait, je voudrais remercier le Directeur général et les membres du Secrétariat pour l'excellent travail qu'ils ont réalisé.



Ma délégation fait siens les objectifs du Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire, et souhaite que ce texte soit envoyé à la Conférence. Pour terminer, je veux lancer un appel aux délégations qui ont émis des réserves pour qu'elles reconsidèrent leur position.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): My delegation has listened to the deliberations on the World Food Security Compact with great interest. In fact, my delegation has given support to the Compact since the beginning when the idea was brought up to the Committee on World Food Security by the Director-General.

Unfortunately the idea brought up and the outcome at present are quite different from what was proposed to the Committee at the beginning. The Compact proposals as we thought were to be in the form of compilation of decisions and resolutions made in the field of food and agriculture by various international fora which does not require an annual commitment. For us, we consider that the Compact would be very helpful in paving ways for our work in the future, and would avoid repetition of our work in trying to reach the same goal.

However, we do not want to bring up any more debate on this matter, and owing to the spirit of compromise and cooperation we have to support the Compact as it is, even though this Compact could be further strengthened if it would be as proposed first by the Director-General, and we endorse what has been said by the distinguished delegate from Indonesia.

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): The Director-General's Report on the World Food Situation, and especially the parts regarding the critical situation in Africa and other effected countries of the world, show the importance of a System of World Food Security.

I would like to emphasize three points. First, in connection with world food security one can never sufficiently repeat that security is closely related to the programme of international tensions and the need to stop the feverish accumulation of arms. The second, for the indisputable significance of the FAO Early Warning System for any multilateral, bilateral action, fast and accurate information is needed, and the third, coming back to the discussion on Africa, the Rehabilitation Programmes are extremely important in this context. We believe that food security contributes to the resolving of basic economic programmes and the progressive building-up of a structure of agriculture and food production and self-reliance. In that connection, however, I should like to say that our country considers the food aid only as a temporary solution which does not eradicate the basic causes of hunger and malnutrition.

We have studied carefully the improved version of the draft text of the document World Food Security Compact and we followed the discussion to this issue with great interest. There are many aspects of world food security which have not yet been fully established despite the Resolution passed by the World Food Conference in 1974. We are persuaded that the draft text of the World Food Security Compact would contribute in a positive way to the effective solving of the world food security problems. The new version of the draft document has a progressive character in comparison with its former version. We consider very topical and important, especially paragraph 4 of the General Principles which says that food should not be used as a means of exerting political pressure either within countries or internationally. The general keeping of this principle will contribute to the improving of the food programmes in all developing countries. On the other side we agree with some comments and supplements already said by some delegations regarding some results in the document.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Simplement pour vous demander Monsieur le Président de donner la parole au représentant de la Communauté Européenne qui pourra illustrer au Conseil la position commune, soit la position de la Communauté Européenne en tant que telle soit la position des pays membres.

G. DESEQUELLES (Observateur de la Communauté économique européenne): Après les déclarations des états membres de la CEE permettez-moi de vous faire part de la position commune à laquelle sont parvenus la Communauté et ses 10 états membres. Compte tenu des observations que nous avons formulées lors du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire. Nous aurions souhaité que le texte révisé porte davantage attention à certaines questions, notamment au problème démographique comme l'ont d'ailleurs reconnu les ministres du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation lors de la 11ème session du CM à Paris la semaine dernière. Ils ont en effet souligné, je cite, qu'il convient d'accorder une plus grande attention au problème démographique dans le contexte économique et social propre à chaque pays. Nous notons par ailleurs que des modifications ont été apportées au présent texte par rapport au projet soumis lors du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire et qui vont dans le sens souhaité par la CEE.

C'est pourquoi, devant la non-satisfaction dramatique des besoins alimentaires dans de nombreux pays du monde, en espérant que ce Pacte mobilisera toutes les énergies et afin de ne pas retarder les travaux, la CEE et ses états membres marquent leur accord sur le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire en souhaitant qu'un consensus puisse se réaliser.

H. CARRION (Observador de Nicaragua): Deseo simplemente ser consecuente con la posición de mi país tomada en el noveno período de sesiones del C.S.A. en que aprobamos el proyecto de texto presentado para nuestra consideración. Vemos que actualmente las modificaciones sugeridas por la Secretaría y el Director General de la FAO incluidas en el texto que tenemos ante nosotros demuestra gestos positivos y conciliatorios que tratan de lograr el más amplio consenso de este Consejo. Deseamos felicitar en este sentido al Gobierno de Suiza por haber levantado sus reservas al Pacto, lo que demuestra su espíritu de cooperación internacional en el campo alimentario.

Deseamos reconocer el mensaje tan positivo del Presidente del Consejo de Ministros de Italia, Honorable Craxi, en boca del embajador de Italia ante la FAO señor Francisci di Baschi. Esperamos que la actitud positiva que se ha demostrado en este Consejo, por la gran mayoría al menos, en relación a este Pacto Alimentario haga reconsiderar a aquellos que todavía tienen reservas para poder lograr una unanimidad de esa aprobación en la Conferencia. Por último, deseamos coincidir con el contenido de las intervenciones tanto de México como de Senegal y Cuba de esta mañana.

P. WIESMANN (Observer for Switzerland): I will be very brief but I feel that as the representative of Switzerland I owe this session a short intervention. As you know my country is figuring in the document in front of you, and it was also mentioned by the Director-General in his introductory speech on Monday.

During the discussions of the first draft Compact in the CFS, the Swiss delegation was quite active making comments, asking questions and proposing alterations. We were declaring that we could go along with the idea of a compact but would like to see its content and wording improved. Our decision to make a reservation was therefore not out of fundamental disagreement but due to the fact that we felt that we were not given the opportunity for a fruitful dialogue, be it for reasons of time or for any other reasons. The decision of my Government to withdraw the reservation was done out of the desire to de-block the situation and to offer our willingness for a constructive dialogue. We are therefore very pleased and thankful that the Director-General has submitted to the Council this new revised text in which we find quite a few proposals we made during the CFS. We would therefore like to state that we can go along with the new text.

At the same time we would like to endorse the views expressed by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany, of the United Kingdom and of others, expressing the wish that the Secretariat seriously studies the possibility of further elaborating on the World Food Security Compact, hoping that thereby a total consensus could be reached at the Conference in November.

Mme M. LOURDES DUARTE (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Le projet de Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire présenté par le Directeur général sur demande du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale à sa 9ème session traduit vraiment l'engagement moral de se battre pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Son texte, très simple, n'imposant pas d'obligations ou engagements ni financiers ni juridiques, s'adresse à tous dans le sens de mobiliser l'appui et les initiatives en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale de façon que tout être humain ait accès aux aliments essentiels dont il a besoin. Nous réaffirmons notre appui à ce texte tel qu'il est pour qu'il soit accepté par consensus.

Nous félicitons le représentant de l'Italie pour la teneur de son message et aussi le représentant du gouvernement suisse d'avoir retiré sa réserve et les autres délégués dont l'intervention a été dans le sens d'une approbation sans réserve.

Pour terminer nous déclarons être d'avis que son adoption, l'année où on célébrera le 40ème anniversaire de la FAO et le 10ème du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, serait particulièrement opportune, traduisant la solidarité de toute la communauté internationale avec les souffrances et l'insécurité alimentaire de millions de personnes.

G. GANSORE (Observateur du Burkina Faso): Le Burkina Faso en tant qu'observateur tient à joindre sa voix à celle de plusieurs délégués pour apporter son appui au texte comme notre délégué l'avait fait lors de la dernière session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Notre délégation ne comprend pas vraiment l'attitude des pays qui émettent des réserves sur le texte du Pacte. Curieusement les pays qui émettent des réserves sont ceux-là mêmes qui depuis le début de nos travaux n'ont cessé d'indiquer les efforts que déploient leur gouvernement en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Oui, nous sommes d'accord qu'il faut des actes à la place de rhétorique mais si l'on éprouve des difficultés à adopter un tel texte qui ne comporte aucune contrainte juridique ou financière, qui nous rappelle seulement nos devoirs, qu'en sera-t-il lorsqu'il faudra passer aux actes qui, eux, nécessitent des moyens financiers. Nous sommes sceptiques sur les arguments que développent ceux qui émettent des réserves sur le texte du Pacte qui, rappelons-le, a surtout un caractère moral.

D. YOMAN (Observateur de la Côte-d'Ivoire): En tant qu'observateur à cette session je dois déclarer ici la surprise de mon pays. En effet, les délibérations du dernier Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale avaient conclu à la présentation telle quelle du premier projet de Pacte avec les réserves de quelques pays et la réaction d'autres face à ces mêmes réserves. Nous pensons donc qu'à ce Conseil, les Etats Membres réexamineraient à nouveau les conclusions du CSA pour se prononcer. Notre surprise a donc été d'être mis en face d'une nouvelle mouture du projet de Pacte.

Après les explications données par les membres du Secrétariat et connaissant le sentiment profond du Directeur général qui a toujours voulu qu'ici un consensus sanctionne nos travaux, nous nous sommes inclinés et avons parfaitement compris le sens de cette démarche même si le texte actuel modifié a sans conteste été rendu beaucoup plus faible. Toutefois la délégation de Côte-d'Ivoire, toujours soucieuse de l'impératif de solidarité entre nations indépendantes appuie ce nouveau projet et lance un appel aux quelques pays qui ont émis des réserves pour qu'ils permettent à nos travaux de recueillir une approbation unanime. Nous espérons que la Conférence de novembre prochain mettra un point final à cette discussion sur le Pacte dont la principale finalité est d'ordre moral, Pacte qui devrait avoir une portée universelle.

B. KOUESSEU (Observateur du Cameroun): Le Cameroun assiste à cette réunion en tant que pays observateur et se félicite de prendre la parole pour apporter sa contribution sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. Mais comme c'est la première fois que nous prenons la parole, excusez-nous du retard, nous tenons à présenter nos félicitations à vous Monsieur le Président pour le tact avec lequel vous conduisez les débats. Permettez-nous aussi de féliciter les trois Vice-Présidents qui ont été élus pour vous seconder dans vos tâches. Nous n'allons pas non plus faillir à notre devoir qui est de remercier le Directeur général, le Dr Saouma, ainsi que l'ensemble de son équipe de collaborateurs pour la qualité des documents qui sont soumis à l'étude de notre Conseil.

La dernière intervention hier soir du Directeur général de la FAO, quand nous nous séparions, intervention empreinte d'émotion et de franchise, n'a pas manqué de nous pénétrer. Je dois avouer que durant la nuit elle m'est revenue plusieurs fois à l'esprit quand nous voyons les points sur lesquels nous achoppons souvent dans les réunions internationales, que ce soit ici à la FAO ou dans d'autres organismes des Nations Unies, on ne peut s'empêcher de dire que la plupart des délégués ou des Etats n'ont pas une conscience claire de la situation spécifique du continent africain.

Permettez-moi, dans cet élan de cœur dans lequel notre Conseil baigne, de donner notre opinion sur le problème du Pacte alimentaire mondial que nous étudions. Le Pacte de sécurité alimentaire mondial est vu par nous comme un acte de foi. Je ne voudrais pas, ce disant, porter une opinion contraire à celle du délégué du Japon, qui est un pays ami avec lequel mon pays entretient de très bonnes relations. Le Pacte alimentaire mondial est un acte de foi parce qu'il est appelé au moment où nous allons célébrer le 40ème anniversaire de la FAO à réaffirmer la vocation et l'habileté de cet Organisme à résoudre le problème des inégalités dans le monde et plus spécialement de celui de la famine qui sévit sur notre planète. Le Pacte alimentaire mondial constituera donc l'occasion de réaffirmer solennellement la volonté unanime de l'humanité à construire un monde dans lequel certains ne meurent pas de faim alors que d'autres détruisent des vivres pour éviter que leurs prix sur le marché puissent baisser, car telle est la situation que nous vivons actuellement.

Pour ceux qui se demandent si un Pacte est nécessaire, puisque déjà des aides alimentaires ont pu être mobilisées sans qu'un Pacte existe, nous répondons que le Pacte sera la codification, je pourrais dire l'expression solennelle de cet élan de générosité qui s'est élevé dans le monde au profit des populations menacées par la faim. Le projet sur lequel nous parlons actuellement n'a en grande partie fait que reprendre l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, les conclusions de la Conférence

mondiale de l'alimentation, les conclusions de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural que nos gouvernements ont déjà approuvés. Tel qu'il est présenté il offre l'avantage de réunir dans un seul document, à caractère d'ailleurs non contraignant, toutes les idées qui ont été émises pour réhabiliter l'agriculture dans les pays en développement. Tel qu'il est rédigé il indique non seulement l'obligation qui revient aux pays riches de venir en aide aux pays plus pauvres, mais aussi les actions à entreprendre par les pays pauvres eux-mêmes pour leur permettre de sortir de leur mauvaise situation.

Il s'agit donc d'un texte équilibré. Les hésitations de certaines délégations des pays plus avancés ne se justifient dès lors pas. J'ai dit que le texte est équilibré, je l'ai dit parce que dans différents pays développés les opinions publiques, même si elles ne le disent pas très clairement, ont tendance à croire que si la famine sévit à l'heure actuelle en Afrique c'est du fait des Africains eux-mêmes. Laissez-moi vous dire que nos pays font le maximum de ce qu'ils peuvent avec les moyens limités qu'ils ont, pour promouvoir leur agriculture. Le Docteur Saouma, qui a été l'invité de mon pays à une fête agricole il y a environ six mois, peut témoigner ici des efforts que nous faisons, par exemple au Cameroun, dans ce sens. Si l'agriculture africaine est à l'heure actuelle attardée, si nous vivons la famine actuellement, je dois dire que nous ne devons pas perdre de vue que l'Afrique est un continent qui a été ébranlé dans ses fondements par les vicissitudes de l'histoire. Nous ne souhaitons pas que l'on aille fouiller dans les poubelles de l'histoire, mais ma délégation souhaite que nous puissions confirmer, dans le Pacte que nous venons de rédiger, l'élan mondial de générosité qui s'est soulevé dans plusieurs pays et que même les chanteurs, les gens du show-business ont pu promouvoir pour venir en aide à nos pays.

Je terminerai en disant que ma délégation soutient fermement le Projet qui nous est soumis même si celui-ci a été modifié et est un peu trop affadi. Disons que, faute du mieux qu'aurait été la première version, nous nous décidons à soutenir la version actuelle.

I. KABA (Observateur de la Guinée) : La délégation de la République de Guinée en approuvant en bloc le projet de Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire en appelle au sens moral, à l'attachement du monde au respect et à l'application des droits de l'homme pour trouver dans ce projet la manifestation de l'engagement de la solidarité internationale pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire à ceux qui en ont besoin. A notre avis ce texte répond effectivement à l'objectif commun que notre Conseil soutient de toutes ses voix venant des cinq continents.

En effet, la déclaration de conclusion faite hier par le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Saouma, situe on ne peut plus moralement, la signification profonde de ce Pacte. C'est pourquoi nous félicitons l'Italie pour son attitude hautement positive, ainsi que la Suisse. Que les Etats Membres ayant formulé des réserves reconsidèrent leur position avec l'espoir de faire de ce document un acte important pour le 40ème anniversaire de notre Organisation.

Sra. M. E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (Observador de El Salvador): Señor Presidente, nos alegra mucho verlo presidir nuevamente nuestros trabajos. No podemos dejar pasar la ocasión para ratificar el apoyo que nuestro Gobierno da al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Dicho apoyo lo hemos manifestado desde que el mismo fue propuesto por el Director General en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial hace dos años.

En nuestra calidad de observador queremos, por lo tanto, unir nuestra voz a la de aquellos que han dado su aprobación al mismo e instamos a los países que aun tienen reservas a que las levanten y que sigan el ejemplo de Suiza y logremos un consenso que nos permita llevar este Pacto a su aprobación a la Conferencia de noviembre de este año. Es una magnífica oportunidad para ratificar nuestra confianza en la FAO en la celebración de sus 40 años de intensa labor a favor de nuestros países.

Sra. R. ZUÑIGA De SANDOVAL (Observador de Honduras): En nuestra calidad de observador, Honduras desea manifestar la posición de nuestro Gobierno, dando su apoyo al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial e insta nuevamente a los países que han manifestado sus reservas hacia el mismo para que reconsideren sus posiciones 1/.

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1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Mrs O. DORIA (Observer for the Ad Hoc Group of NGOs): I make this intervention on behalf of the Ad Hoc Group of Non-governmental Organizations. At a meeting specially convened in April to discuss the original draft of the World Food Security Compact the following recommendations were drawn up. In general, the NGO representatives consider the draft text useful in the context of the worsening food situation in the world today and as a reaffirmation of the goals of FAO food security policy. We especially appreciate the recognition accorded to the role of NGOs in mobilizing and securing people's participation at different levels of economic development. However, we consider that this Compact would have no value unless it leads to the strengthening of the political will to generate positive action.

National food strategies and food security measures should pay priority attention to the socioeconomic welfare of small farmers and ensure that sufficient funds are channelled towards this, the security of the farmers being a precondition to food security. Stability in the international cereal market is essential for a regulated world food system. FAO and the international community should step up efforts to ensure this.

Special attention was drawn to the fact that more than 50 percent of food is produced today by women. Concrete action programmes addressed to their special needs therefore should be formulated and implemented. No development project can be a success unless it is carried out with the collaboration and the active participation of the people concerned through their own representative organizations at the grassroot and higher levels.

Also in this context, the Non-Governmental Organizations call for closer cooperation to be developed between governments and people's organizations at national level as well as between FAO and the NGOs at international level.

We also noted that the draft text does not specify action by inter-governmental organizations under item III Closer cooperation and coordination of activities of the various inter-governmental organizations are essential to ensure lasting food security.

J.C. CLAVE (Philippines): I have to speak again because it has become obvious to me, after my intervention this morning, that the Philippine position is not clear to some of our colleagues, I wish to state now, therefore, that the Philippines are in favour of a World Food Security Compact - I wish we could call it by another name. My country is also in favour of FAO providing means - all the means, in fact, especially if it recommends these for means of approval by all Member Nations - in order to achieve food security for all our fellow human beings everywhere in the world.

We have the document that is before us today, and I expressed the hope this morning that it could be further improved. I raised the possibility that through this document we are getting less than what we already have in terms of moral commitment by Member Nations to FAO.

At this point, may I say my country places as much respect, regard and weight to its moral commitment as it gives to its legal commitments. I say this because of certain observations this morning that this Compact does not create any legal or financial obligations on the part of Member States, implying that rural commitments are of less value. Therefore, I am compelled to say that my country places as much, if not more, weight, reverence and respect to its moral obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, as the FAO and other international organizations.

This morning I was hoping for the possibility that, considering the Council is the highest governing body of this Organization, we would be able to introduce some of the ideas brought up during our deliberations. Since this is not possible, I conclude by saying that, as expressed by the Chairman of the Asian Group of Nations, my country goes along with whatever carries the vote of the majority, or the product of the consensus. However, I feel a little sad and frustrated that the Council is left in a position where it has to accept "this or nothing", or accept a situation that "is better than nothing", because I thought our collective genius should be able and should be allowed to produce something better. Before I am misunderstood again, may I say that the Philippines is in favour of a World Food Security Compact.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): Picking up from what the delegate from the Philippines said, I would be very grateful if the Director-General could elaborate somewhat. As I understand it, the Compact was originally a Secretariat initiative. I would be grateful if the Director-General could indicate how he envisages it going forward.

For our part, like several other delegations, we would encourage the Director-General to use his good offices between now and the Fall to work towards achieving the broadest possible consensus on the text. I do not think this is outside the realm of possibility, but we would regret - and so would several other delegations, I think - if once again in the context of a drafting group exercise

we were told, "It is this text or nothing". We believe the Director-General's work over the last several months has been useful. Virtually all delegations have agreed that the second version is the much improved version. For our part, we would be grateful if he would make one more attempt, at least to see if he can get the broadest possible consensus before submitting the document to Conference.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que habría que considerar el hecho de que este Consejo está integrado por 49 Miembros de los cuales sólo tres han expresado algunas reservas. Además muchos observadores han apoyado también este documento. Nosotros no quisiéramos que se repitiera la triste experiencia que ya padecimos en el CSA cuando la versión que había sido presentada en esa ocasión fue debilitada por intervenciones de las mismas delegaciones que luego se opusieron cuando ese texto llegó a Plenaria. Por eso quisiéramos que usted, Sr. Presidente, y ésta es una solicitud respetuosa, preguntara a esos tres países si están o no dispuestos a retirar sus reservas, ya que si no las van a retirar en ningún caso, como es la impresión que tenemos, no podemos pedirle al Director General que haga nuevos esfuerzos cuando ya el CSA y la gran mayoría de los Miembros del Consejo han estado en favor en general de este texto.

Yo creo, por tanto, que ése es el mejor método de proceder y de lo contrario deberemos adoptar la propuesta de los países nórdicos según la cual este Consejo adopta este texto, lo transmite a la Conferencia y, obviamente, en el Informe constarían las reservas de esos tres países; pero mientras no haya las garantías de esos países de que van a considerar la posibilidad de retener sus reservas, creo que no es justo que se incida en debilitar este texto.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier une fois encore le Président du Conseil des ministres d'Italie, M. Bettino Craxi, pour son appui au Pacte mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire. Il l'a fait à deux reprises, et encore aujourd'hui d'une façon solennelle.

La situation mathématiquement est la suivante : il y a 36 pays qui ont pris la parole, il y a 33 pays qui acceptent le texte. Certains d'entre eux auraient voulu faire accepter des amendements comme l'Allemagne, le Mexique, le Royaume-Uni la France avait aussi des remarques à faire, de même que la Communauté européenne. Mais tous ont dit qu'ils étaient prêts à accepter le texte pour ne pas prolonger l'agonie.

Pour qu'on se mette d'accord sur un texte - qui n'est pas parfait, parce qu'on ne peut pas satisfaire 156 pays - il y a trois groupes régionaux, la Communauté européenne qui rassemble 12 pays, les pays nordiques, l'ASEAN aussi, qui ont indiqué qu'ils acceptaient le document.

Il reste le cas de trois pays qui sont les Etats-Unis, le Canada et l'Australie.

Je voudrais être franc et dire que c'est dans l'intérêt de tout le monde que ces trois pays, qui sont parmi les plus gros fournisseurs d'aide, puissent se rallier au texte. C'est pour cela que j'ai amendé le texte peut-être en l'affaiblissant pour essayer d'avoir l'appui de ces trois pays. Je n'ai pas réussi aujourd'hui; je vois que c'est difficile pour certains pays de donner leur adhésion. Je comprends très bien l'attitude des Etats-Unis que je respecte. Je ne comprends pas l'Australie. Son représentant a indiqué semble-t-il que ce texte ne vaut rien, que nous sommes intéressés à l'action, alors que vous ne parlez que de principes, et que nous ne sommes pas là pour perdre notre temps à parler de principes. Le Canada a commencé par mettre en question la valeur et l'utilité du texte, ensuite il a dit qu'il avait deux amendements à présenter; nous en avons pris note.

J'ai l'espoir de gagner le Canada à notre cause. Le Dr Islam et moi-même nous sommes réunis à la fin de la séance de ce matin, nous avons analysé chacun des amendements proposés et nous allons répondre à chacun d'entre eux. Mais c'est le Conseil qui décide. Nous pouvons peut-être obtenir que le Canada se joigne au consensus.

Pour l'Australie, son attitude semble rejeter en bloc le Pacte. Encore si elle avait dit : nous désirons changer tel ou tel paragraphe, mais non.

Quant aux Philippines je n'ai pas très bien compris ce qu'elles voulaient.. L'Ambassadeur nous a dit : il faut améliorer le texte, mais je suis pour un pacte. Mais il n'a pas dit qu'il était pour ce pacte-ci. Il nous a dit : on peut améliorer le texte en tenant compte des amendements. S'agit-il de tous les amendements? Mais à la fin nous avons compris qu'il se ralliait à la décision du groupe de l'ASEAN.

Je me trouve donc dans la situation où trois pays ont des réserves. Il y a peut-être un des trois, le Canada, si j'interprète correctement sa pensée, qui accepterait le Pacte si ses deux propositions d'amendements pouvaient être acceptées par tout le monde. Mais ce n'est pas moi qui accepte ou qui refuse. Par contre je ne vois aucun horizon s'ouvrir du côté de l'Australie. Je respecte l'attitude des Etats-Unis : ce pays généreux peut avoir des raisons bien à lui et que je n'ai pas à connaître, mais il continue à être le plus grand fournisseur d'aide alimentaire dans le monde. Les Etats-Unis n'ont pas critiqué le texte, ils n'ont pas cherché à le dénaturer, ils n'ont pas fait de polémique. Ils ont dit très clairement : nous faisons des réserves. Ce n'est pas la peine de donner des arguments extraordinaires pour rejeter quelque chose.

Mais je peux vous dire que nous avons fait un travail sérieux et très consciencieux. Il faut de la morale en tout. Sans morale, le monde deviendrait une jungle. Un texte comme celui-ci devrait être sculpté dans le marbre comme l'Acte constitutif.

Ce texte est en effet important, il nous donne une force morale, une identité. Ce n'est pas un "gadget" que nous avons fait pour le quarantième anniversaire de la FAO. Il faut bien qu'il y ait une déclaration de principes de l'Organisation à l'occasion de ce quarantième anniversaire. Tous nos principes moraux viennent de McDougall qui a joué un des rôles les plus importants dans la création de la FAO, au Québec. En fait, nous ne faisons que répéter des principes moraux déjà énoncés.

Je vais demander au Prof. Islam d'expliquer la portée de chacun des amendements qui ont été proposés. La chose la plus simple est que ce texte soit accepté par le Conseil et que la décision revienne à la Conférence. Peut-être pourrions-nous trouver un texte qui puisse satisfaire le Canada. Le Mexique aussi a fait beaucoup de remarques. Il peut y avoir sept ou huit points par-ci et par-là que l'on peut préciser sans changer la substance. C'est une question d'interprétation, mais pour le moment écoutons le Prof. Islam.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I should like to respond to some of the comments and suggestions made in the course of today's debate on the draft World Food Security Compact, with the exception of those of the nature of drafting improvements.

Firstly, the delegates of Canada and the United Kingdom have referred to section III, second paragraph, last sentence. I shall read the entire paragraph: "Governments of developing countries should promote domestic food production as the first line of attack on food insecurity. They should avoid, as far as they can, the [dangers] risks that result from an excessive dependence on food imports, notably for feeding urban populations. In particular, they should ensure that city-dwellers do not acquire a permanent preference for imported basic foods which cannot be grown domestically."

In referring to the last sentence of that paragraph the delegates of Canada and the United Kingdom pointed out that there are countries which would or may need to depend on imports for both economic and ecological reasons. Of course, this is assuming that they have exports of non-food commodities or non-agricultural commodities to sell at efficient and competitive prices in order to buy food imports.

In principle we do not see any serious disagreement with this observation, and recognize that there are, obviously, countries where the possibilities of growing food are depleted because of ecological and other factors, countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, and others. But this last sentence should be seen in the context of the whole paragraph where the reference is made to excessive dependence and the risks attendant upon excessive dependency. This sentence also refers to permanent preference for imported basic foods. These are the operative phrases, hence the reference to permanent dependency and basic foods. It does not imply that under no circumstances would the countries depend on imports. It does imply that basic foods which can be substituted by domestic food crops should be a desirable alternative in many places. Therefore the comments by the delegates from Canada and the United Kingdom do not seem to seriously disagree.

The second point mentioned by the delegate of Canada refers to Section III, paragraph 8: "Governments of developed countries, whether they be exporters or importers should consider the interests of the World as a whole when making [decisions on such matters as target levels for food production and stocks.] their policy decisions on food production, stocks and imports." The question here is with regard to the phrase, "Governments of developed countries, whether they be exporters or importers". The reference there is to imports, and therefore the last word in that sentence should be changed by substituting the words "trade involving both exports and imports". Here again we have no basic disagreement with this proposition as it is not contradictory to what is implied in this formulation.

I now come to the comments made by the delegate of Mexico, who suggested that reference should be made in the Preamble to various United Nations resolutions, declarations and charters which are relevant to this Preamble. There seem to be other delegates who think that reference to various resolutions will make the Compact more cumbersome and heavier reading. Therefore, in the interests of brevity and conciseness, we thought that we might forego references to these resolutions and charters even though the principles contained therein are fully expressed in the Preamble.

The delegate from Mexico also commented on Section III, paragraph 7, with regard to the reference to "commitment to cooperation", suggesting that the deletion of "with developing countries" should be reinserted. If you look at the reformulated sentence, it says "Governments both of developing and developed countries". That is why, once we have deleted governments of developed and developing countries, the reference to "commitment to cooperation" is not only between developed and developing but also among developing countries. So it is the general formulation of all types of cooperation between developed, developing, among developed, among developing. That is why the specific reference to cooperation with developing countries has been deleted. We thought that this was the sense of the comments of delegates at the last meeting of the Committee on World Food Security.

The question whether reference to poorer and richer countries should be substituted by reference to developed and developing countries we again thought was not so critical a matter of importance since often these terms are used interchangeably and, after all, a difference in income is the most distinguishing characteristic between developed and developing countries.

The delegate of Mexico also pointed out in paragraph 11 that the original reference to "moral dimension to certain trading problems" was a better formulation than the revised formulation in which the moral dimensions have been shifted to "trade relations with a view to striking an equitable balance". We thought that this second formulation was possibly a more relevant one in the light of various comments made at the last meeting, and we would have thought that it does strengthen the reference to the moral aspect, which is now in terms of trade relations.

Section V, paragraph 1. The delegate of Mexico referred to the words "sacred obligation" stating that this implies some kind of religious connotation. This is not meant to imply any such connotation. It is only intended to emphasize exactly what the delegate of Mexico had in mind, the primary and fundamental nature of this obligation.

The delegate of Cuba suggested additional reference to landless labourers in the second sentence of paragraph 5, Section III. Paragraph 5 states; "Rural development activities, oriented specifically towards the needs of the poor, should be promoted with special emphasis on the participation of the small farmer." Again, we have no difficulty with this interpretation. In fact, in the second sentence where reference is made to the purchasing power of the poorest strata of the population, and reference is made to the Programme of Action, which is all comprehensive and all embracing, including landless labour, we thought this would create no problem as far as reference to landless labourers is concerned.

The delegate of Germany suggested an addition to the Preamble of past achievements in the field of food and agriculture. Again, in the interest of brevity we thought that the principles are illustrated in the Preamble. We thought that reference to factual and political achievements in the last 15/20 years might not be quite appropriate. If achievements are referred to, other may wish to make reference to the failures and shortcomings. Therefore, in order to resolve this problem we thought we would mention neither past achievements nor failures.

Because the preamble is an enunciation of principles not an analysis of past achievements or past failures.

A suggestion was made also by the delegate of Germany that the reference to small farmers should have been made earlier. As we refer to small farmers in various places, we thought that whether they are referred to earlier or later is not critical as long as they are referred to in appropriate places.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Professor Islam, In the light of what you heard do the delegates of Canada, Australia, or the United States want to make a comment?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Sr. Islam ha tenido la amabilidad de hacernos un analisis tan preciso sobre las posibilidades de algunas modificaciones o de las que se plantearon, y que nosotros expresamos que no íbamos a crear problemas con ellas de aceptarse el Pacto tal como esta; pero nos parece que se ha olvidado la más importante observación que yo hice. Es en el punto 4 los alimentos Generales, en cuanto decía que debían mantenerse las palabras, no deben utilizarse los alimentos como medio para ejercer presiones políticas", en vez de "no podrán, ya que poder pueden y están pudiendo, lo que no deben es hacerlo. Creo que eso para nosotros es más importante que lo



N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I think there may be some difference of interpretation between the Spanish and the English. We have used the same words as were used in the 1983 report of the FAO Conference - the words used there were "food should not be used as a means of exerting political pressure". It is exactly the same as was approved by the entire Conference, and we have followed the exact language of the 1983 FAO Conference.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Si he entendido bien la explicación del Sr. Islam, en la versión española y en la francesa aparece entre corchetes "deben", que es lo que se nos ha planteado que se va a suprimir. En la primera versión aparecía "deben" y ahora incluyen subrayado "podrán", esto es lo que nosotros proponemos.

CHAIRMAN: As I said this morning, I think that we should not convert the whole conference into a drafting session.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): We are not going to nickle-and-dime anyone to death over this. We have indicated two of our concerns. I think perhaps Professor Islam has not completely appreciated the point, but I regard the present draft as being in effect agricultural fundamentalism disguised by one remove, and I much prefer the formulation which our United Kingdom colleague articulated. I have made a reference on the question of trade, and, as I say, we are not going to nickle-and-dime everyone to death on this, but those are two concerns that the Canadian delegation has specifically raised.

A more fundamental problem though is the way in which this Compact has evolved. There was absolutely no dialogue at the Committee on World Food Security. To the credit of the Director-General, he did come back on his own initiative with a revised version which I think virtually everybody agrees is an improvement. It does not detract from the original version - in fact it improves it substantially. What I find difficulty in is accepting the usefulness of this Compact if it cannot be subscribed to by all - and I mean all. It seems incredible to me, for example, that it has not been possible to accommodate the interests of the United States. It is, I think, the world's largest agricultural exporter, the world's largest donor of agricultural development assistance. I do not believe that it is salutary for an international organization such as FAO to develop resolutions or compacts which in effect do not take into account the fundamental interests of all, the small and the large. For that reason I was seeking, I think, the agreement of the Director-General that he would make at least one more attempt before the Conference to see if he could manage, through his negotiative skill and diplomacy, to develop a text which is acceptable to all. I think that is the major issue and not the issue of whether or not Canada can agree to a particular text. As we say, we are not going to nickle-and-dime on this one.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am grateful to the delegate of Canada for his second intervention. I doubt I could satisfy him but I am, I think, to be congratulated if I can produce a text which is approved by 95 percent. I cannot have it approved by 100 percent - nobody can, it does not exist. At the Conference, let's hope, I shall have 99 percent: I know fundamentally that the USA cannot accept this text: their position is very sincere and honest, and we have talked together. All that I have done is mainly to satisfy the USA and Australia and Canada, not to satisfy Cuba and Mexico - on the contrary. But if you say "try again", - if the Council asks me to I shall try. But I doubt I could satisfy you.

You say that you are unhappy with "the manner" - what is "the manner"? Here we are acting democratically. The manner has been accepted by everybody. It is possible to have a document approved by 95 percent - everyone except three or four perhaps. This is democracy. We have to respect the difference, but you are a minority. Please try to understand - I am speaking very frankly in front of everybody here. You have to recognize the views of others; you have to try - as some delegates say - to go along with the others. But if you cannot do it, you just say so. I am not being naive, but I have a good heart! I believed that we could perhaps satisfy everybody by making some changes in these two paragraphs - but that is not the case. You wonder why this Council cannot accommodate - but it is just impossible - not on this issue, and we have had experience on other issues as well.

So, if the Council asks me to try again, I shall try again - but without much hope. I know the positions and I do understand and respect the views of the United States. Australia seems to have rejected it en bloc; they don't believe in it. And as regards the delegate of Canada - remembering the way it has been discussed, I feel from my experience that it may be very difficult to satisfy you. It might be possible on those two items - but it is not those two items only, it goes much beyond that.

J.C. CLAVE (Philippines): I was raising the Philippine flag earlier to enquire into the parliamentary situation - but I think I should forget about that. I am now intervening in the light of the Director-General's enquiry as to what the Philippines' proposals could be to improve the text.

The Philippine position has been a little misunderstood, perhaps, in view of the practice in certain parliamentary bodies. I was hoping that we would have a period of debate, to be followed by a period of introducing amendments: but that does not seem to be the case - so pardon me if I do not know the procedures.

To illustrate the Philippine position, and its eagerness to help improve the document if possible, may I say first of all that this morning I called attention to the word "Compact" and in the process of this morning's deliberations our distinguished colleague from India for instance used the phrase "guiding principles". In the light of this observation I was ready to propose that after the original title, in brackets, we should insert something like "Guiding Principles for Future Action on Food Security". I would have proposed that had there been an opportunity to introduce amendments.

My second point would be a structural one. We have paragraphs "A. Governments of developing countries" and "B. Governments of developed countries". I understand that this has been omitted in the final draft, and I think the omission of those two phrases is a good step to take, because by including A and B we have drawn a line between developed and non-developed countries. If that was the decision of the Committee and we now adopt it, I would have proposed that paragraph 7, "Governments should reaffirm their moral as well as" become the first paragraph, because it would then serve the purpose of calling upon every Member Nation, developed or not developed, to reaffirm their moral commitment. It is only a structural change, but it follows the wisdom of the omission of the two phrases.

That is why I thought we would have had this opportunity. Our colleague, Dr Islam, now says for instance that the Preamble is a statement of principles. A closer examination may perhaps be necessary, because is this in fact a statement of principles? I wish to invite the attention of this body, for instance, to the words "the World Food Security Compact brings together general principles and suggestions for action by governments". I do not see how that can be a statement of principle. On the other hand, in the course of the intervention this morning our colleague from Pakistan said something like "reaffirming the beliefs of this body and providing" - or "making provision for" - "food security for all men". I thought that was a declaration worth including in the Preamble, and if I had been permitted I would perhaps have suggested that everything we say here be tied back to the Charter of FAO. In other words, I would want it to appear - if only we could - that everything we declare here emanated from, or is the result of, our commitment to the United Nations Charter -- let us say for instance, "Considering the provisions of the FAO Charter, we now declare this to be so".

As I say, perhaps I shall not have this opportunity but, if I do, I hope that you, Mr Chairman, and the Director-General and my colleagues, will please understand that the efforts of my delegation have really been towards making our modest - shall we say - contribution to the improvement of the document.

So again may I say that we are for such a document. The Director-General says, "am I for this document?" - I am, but I am still hoping that after this intervention we may find a way to improve it, probably by transferring the contents of paragraph 7 to paragraph 1, or somewhere else in the document.

Mame BALLA SY (Senegal): Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais, après avoir eu une consultation avec certains pays africains, vous dire toute notre surprise devant la tournure que vient de prendre ce débat, après toutes nos explications depuis qu'a eu lieu le Comité de sécurité alimentaire.

Je crois que le Directeur général n'a plus le droit, pour essayer de réussir un compromis, de soumettre la majorité, en tous cas des membres favorables, à ce pacte, à cette gymnastique interminable qui n'aboutira, en fait, à aucun résultat concret.

Monsieur le Président, si vous vous rapportez au rapport du Conseil de sécurité alimentaire rédigé dans le document CL 87/10, vous verrez que la suppression de la distinction des responsabilités entre les gouvernements a été seulement demandée par une délégation et je dois vous dire, pour avoir présidé le Comité de rédaction, que la proposition de cette délégation a été totalement rejetée par le Comité. Or, Monsieur le Directeur général, dans un esprit de compromis, a donné satisfaction à cette délégation, mais si on lui demande encore d'essayer de faire d'autres modifications, même si, après, ces modifications devaient nous amener à adopter un texte, le texte n'aurait aucune valeur parce que la volonté en serait totalement absente, puisque, pour adopter déjà un principe de pacte, on a autant de difficultés même si on arrive à un résultat, nous pouvons dire qu'il n'aura aucun sens. La peine nous aura découragé au point que nous sommes certains que même ce document qui sera adopté n'aura aucune utilité ni aucune efficacité, ne nous y trompons pas.

Pour revenir aux amendements qui nous ont été communiqués, à les étudier, on se rend compte déjà qu'il n'est pas utile d'essayer d'autres tentatives parce qu'il s'agit d'amendements qui, en fait, n'apportent rien de nouveau à ce texte. Ce sont des amendements qui n'auraient pas dû justifier une opposition aussi ferme; ce n'est donc qu'une manoeuvre dilatoire. Pour donner un exemple, Monsieur le Président, prenez le paragraphe 2 de la section III, dernière phrase, il est dit que "les gouvernements doivent veiller à ce que les citoyens n'acquiescent pas de préférence permanente pour les aliments de base importés qui ne peuvent être cultivés dans le pays". On nous dit qu'il y a des situations où l'on n'a pas la possibilité de produire suffisamment, mais si l'on considère le sens étymologique de l'expression "n'acquiescent pas de préférence", c'est qu'il y a un choix. Une préférence ne peut pas être indiquée en l'absence de choix. Donc cela est très évident, il n'y a aucune confusion. Si l'on marque une préférence, c'est vis-à-vis de quelque chose, donc par le biais des pays qui peuvent avoir une préférence. Je crois donc sincèrement que c'est là un amendement qui ne fait que nous retarder dans un consensus que nous ne voulons pas donner en essayant de faire durer la manoeuvre. A quelle fin ? je ne saurais le dire.

Peut-être puis-je accepter la modification au paragraphe 8 concernant les importations alimentaires en mettant: "le commerce alimentaire". Cela c'est vrai. Ce n'est qu'une modification légère qui peut être acceptée.

Venons-en maintenant à ce fameux titre de "Pacte mondial". D'aucuns disent que le titre ne sied pas. En fait, je suis très gêné de devoir discuter de cette situation, compte tenu de ma modeste expérience et devant la très très grande expérience des personnes qui soutiennent cette idée, mais je me demande vraiment si dans les véritables actes juridiques internationaux au sens du droit international, le pacte a là l'aspect obligatoire que l'on veut lui donner par comparaison avec les traités et les conventions. Pour moi personnellement un pacte, même si on prend le terme dans son expression ordinaire, peut même être oral, peut même être un engagement de quelqu'un vis-à-vis de quelque chose ou de quelqu'un. Je pense généralement que l'on pourrait même le situer dans le mode de règlement des confrontations militaires ou des belligérances. En tous cas, après certaines conséquences négatives de conflits, les pays arrivent à passer un pacte dans l'intérêt réciproque. Donc je crois qu'en fait le titre ne dérange nullement et ne peut explicitement dire qu'il s'agit d'un engagement juridique obligatoire. Le remplacer par "principe" ou par "déclaration", à mon avis signifierait purement et simplement renoncer à l'idée même que nous avons mise avec beaucoup d'efforts et de persévérance. Le mot "adhérer" a également beaucoup gêné, alors que je pense que cela risque de nous mener à des conclusions peut-être de certains termes comme "la ratification", "l'approbation", qui ont des sens assez précis en matière de droit international, mais je crois qu'ici on n'a pas pensé à "adhérer" comme "ratification" ou "approbation" avec toute la procédure solennelle que cela implique, mais simplement au fait d'épouser les idées conçues dans le texte qui nous est présenté.

En tous cas, en conclusion Monsieur le Président, je pense très sincèrement qu'il y a une ironie du sort parce que l'on n'a jamais cessé de nous répéter que nous devons agir et que nous devons écouter ces petits paysans. Je pense que nous devons aussi sur la scène internationale enseigner à certains pays que les grands pays doivent écouter les petits pays et qu'ils doivent se préoccuper en tous cas de leurs objectifs et de leurs aspirations, parce que leurs attitudes pourraient même justifier ce qu'ils reprochent, à tort ou à raison, à certains de nos pays à qui ils semblent dire qu'ils ne se préoccupent pas de leur population. Mais voilà que l'on a une preuve, qu'également sur la scène internationale, on ne semble pas, au niveau des grands pays, écouter la voix des petits pays. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je serai très bref pour rappeler que ce matin, en intervenant, j'ai clairement laissé entendre que les efforts qu'a déployé le Directeur général entre la dernière session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et notre session du Conseil, me paraissaient vains parce que nous ne pensions pas, en-dehors de la Suisse, que les pays qui avaient émis des réserves, étaient, en fait, prêts à se rallier à un texte quel qu'il soit. Nous avons la ferme conviction qu'il s'agissait là de questions de principe et que ces pays ne changeraient pas. Je crois que mon ami du Sénégal l'a dit; on ne peut pas nous mener en bateau pendant longtemps. Je crois que le Directeur général a fait ses efforts, nous les avons, à juste titre, loués. Je crois que l'on nous a dit tout à l'heure que tout le monde a reconnu que le texte actuel est meilleur que celui qu'avait arrêté le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Je dirai non; nous n'avons pas dit cela. Je crois que cela doit être clair. Au contraire nous avons dit que ce texte a été encore affaibli par rapport à celui dont le Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale avait demandé la transmission au Conseil. Il a été affaibli, mais pour des raisons que nous connaissons, pour essayer d'obtenir l'aval d'un certain nombre de pays. Nous avons jugé bon, ou plutôt acceptable, les dernières propositions faites par le Directeur général.

Je crois que c'est dans cet esprit qu'il faut interpréter notre adhésion à l'actuel texte qui est proposé en dernier recours. Donc il ne s'agit pas d'une amélioration, mais il s'agit bien d'un affaiblissement du texte. Je crois qu'il faut que le Secrétariat essaye de rappeler aux membres du Conseil le cheminement suivi par ce Pacte dont l'élaboration a été précédée par un long processus de consultations. Je crois qu'il faut que les membres du Conseil en soient imprégnés pour que l'on ne pense pas que ce texte n'a pas été mûri et discuté. Nous pensons que ce texte a été bien mûri, à tel point qu'au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, nous avons considéré qu'il s'agissait là d'un texte fini et qu'il était possible de le transmettre au Conseil. Nous savions aussi que les pays qui avaient émis des réserves resteraient figés dans leur position.

Monsieur le Président je vous demande que tous les membres du Conseil ne pactisent pas avec le diable.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban)(langue originale arabe): Je voudrais féliciter M. Edouard Saouma, non pas en tant que compatriote et ami mais en tant que Directeur général de cette Organisation qui déploie tous ses efforts, qui offre tant de services à tous les pays et notamment aux pays en développement. La ténacité, l'assiduité et la grande compétence de cette personnalité, qui se sont exprimées dans la réponse qu'il a donnée à l'intervention du délégué du Canada, en sont la preuve.

En dépit de tout cela nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer ce qu'a dit notre ami Bula Hoyos, délégué de la Colombie, au sujet de ce pacte. Nous ne pouvons revenir aux tergiversations que nous avons entendues lorsque l'un des délégués avait demandé, lors de la dernière session du Conseil, de discuter d'une question qui n'avait pas été à l'ordre du jour, et vous savez bien à quelle situation cela avait abouti. Nous avons beaucoup trop discuté de cette question, nous sommes en démocratie et c'est la majorité qui doit l'emporter. Nous sommes déjà en retard alors que nous ne sommes qu'au début de notre chemin et c'est pour cela que je vous demande de clore cette discussion et de passer au point 7 de notre ordre du jour et, au pire des cas, de passer au vote.

Je vous remercie.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I could be in agreement with what was just stated by the honourable delegate of the Lebanon, but since you gave me the floor, I would like to say that I have at least something, may be much more than I think, in common with the distinguished delegate of Senegal. We both seem to have the same rural producer background if I may say so and that is exactly why we always have in mind what may be the feelings and interests of those who work the field and who produce the food, when we go into our discussions here. We had put no reservations. We had suggested some little improvements for the text, but when we did so, we did it in a constructive spirit and not with the aim of delaying our proceedings.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I had rather hoped to come in earlier to say that it is disappointing that two or three major exporting countries cannot be associated with this Compact and this does substantially reduce the value of it. For this reason we would argue strongly that serious attention should be given to the views of one major exporter which is specifically exerting itself to trying to find a draft it can accept. Therefore I ask your indulgence to consider the proposal which emanated from Canada on this side. It would be a major advance if one major exporter could be associated with this, if not all.

We have heard from Dr Islam that one of the two proposals by Canada which was echoed by ourselves could be dealt with by making clear what was meant by the third sentence of paragraph III A 2. Dr Islam has said that the sentence should be linked with the idea of excessive dependence. I did not read it in that way. If it could be made clear that it was linked with excessive dependence, I would be happy to drop my proposal for an amendment and say that the United Kingdom would be happy if it were recast in such a way that this was made clear. I think this could be resolved by removing the words "In particular, they" and substituting "Where there is such a danger governments should ensure". That makes it quite clear that it is linked to excessive dependence and misunderstandings would be avoided. With this our own reservations would be withdrawn.

O. FRIIS (Denmark): I am sorry, I have to admit that I am somewhat confused as to what the present situation is. Early this morning and this afternoon I have been taking notes of the different suggestions of amendments to the text. But I am not quite sure that I am completely able to understand my own handwriting on the conference paper. At the same time I am not quite sure what is the position of the Secretariat on this matter. I did not understand whether the Secretariat, by the voice of Professor Islam, was endorsing the different proposals for amendments or just referring the

amendments. I wonder if it might not be wise if we could see them and if you could circulate the different suggestions for amendments in writing to the Council so that at a later stage we could return to this question knowing exactly what we are discussing.

I would also like to recall that the Danish delegation - and we were speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries - expressed that we were able to go along with the text as it stands, or I should say now, as it stood this morning.

There are a number of amendments now and I would very much like to look at these amendments and be allowed to reconsider our position in this new light.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The decision has already been made by the overwhelming majority to go along with the text. This is the logic and the justice. I do not think the Chairman would deny this. If the Chairman is going to open the discussion again, this is different. But if we stop now 90 percent of those present have adopted the position and will go along with the text.

We as a Secretariat do not have to accept or not accept amendments. We are just the Secretariat who propose the text. I was not requested last time. The amended text may have weakened by 20 percent the original one. This was suggested in order to reach a consensus. I realize now that it is just not possible to have a consensus. The delegate of Australia has been silent the whole time. The delegate of Canada has made two points on the text but generally he appears not to like it. The U.S. delegation made reservations in a sober manner and I understand their attitude. They have an attitude of principle. They cannot go along with the text.

Now Mr Chairman, the situation appears as follows: either to weaken the text further or, as others want, to strengthen it. The delegate of Congo says it is a weak text and he doesn't seem to like it. The U.K. Delegation asks for amendments which might weaken the draft.

It is not the Secretariat who is approving or disapproving amendments.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Voy a intervenir muy brevemente en mi condición de miembro del Comité de Redacción porque comparto la confusión expresada por el colega de Dinamarca. Yo creo que el Director General ha sintetizado muy bien el punto en que nos encontramos. Estoy seguro de que usted, con su competencia habitual, hará un resumen acertado; sin embargo, yo creo que la conclusión de este debate es muy clara. El Consejo, en general, adopta este texto revisado y decide transmitirlo a la Conferencia. Luego, en el proyecto de Informe que será elaborado por el Comité de Redacción, del que forman parte muchos de los países que han participado en el debate, se harán reflejar los comentarios, los elementos de algunas de esas propuestas, y a la luz de ese informe y de su propia convicción y competencia, el Director General decidirá qué acción tomará frente a la Conferencia.

CHAIRMAN: I think the former Independent Chairman has tried to do my work. Let me say that as far as I am concerned I think Professor Islam was trying to reply or clarify some points made.

My notes say that this draft which has been circulated and which we have been discussing over the past five hours has been supported by Italy, along with a message from the Prime Minister of Italy, Denmark on behalf of the Nordic countries, Lebanon, Philippines, Bangladesh, Colombia, China, Congo, Argentina, Austria, India, France, Egypt, Panama, Pakistan, Venezuela, Mexico, Cyprus, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, on behalf also of the ASEAN countries, Trinidad and Tobago, Spain, Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Senegal, Cuba, Rwanda, Uganda, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Sao Tomé and Principe, Thailand and Czechoslovakia, and among observers, the European Economic Community on behalf of ten Member States - Nicaragua, Swaziland, Cape Verde, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Guinea, El Salvador and on behalf of the non-governmental organizations by the representative. Australia, Canada and the United States have expressed reservations and some concern. This is the situation among those who have spoken. If there is further argument I am afraid it will have to be taken up in the Drafting Committee, but as far as we are concerned, that is the position of the delegates who have spoken. Tanzania wants to be included. I am sure all the other members are in favour. We take it that all the other members here who have not spoken are in favour. It is very kind of you to have saved time. I am very grateful to all the delegates who have spoken. As the Director-General says, no such draft can be satisfactory to everyone, but as far as we can see the compactness of the Compact is very important because the fact that a prime minister of a country can get time to read a document of this sort is very important, otherwise we will never get the attention of the highest people in the government who ought to read this and use it as a reference point in the direction of their national policy.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Lebanon) What is the result of the whole discussion?

CHAIRMAN: So many people have approved.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Lebanon) why do you not say it?

CHAIRMAN: I have already said it. Do you want me to repeat it? I said the countries which I have named have all approved. Three countries have expressed reservations. Naturally we will have to find a place for that in the report when the Drafting Committee prepares the report, and you will have the fruit of the Drafting Committee's report on the last day when we consider the report.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I remember that last time there was a big discussion whether it was approved by the majority, whether the Council has approved it. I think it is up to you to announce it.

CHAIRMAN: The Council has overwhelmingly approved. I only said that the Drafting Committee's job is to put it in a formulation when it comes to us with the reservations of the three countries; otherwise it has the support of all the members of the Council.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): I would like to confirm, with your approval, that the Council has endorsed the draft of the World Food Security Compact which has been presented by the Secretariat to this Council. And it will be the responsibility of the Drafting Committee to draft the recommendations of the Council to the Conference and not to redraft the Compact. I am sorry that you have not put it on the record because the Drafting Committee should be clear on its mandate, which is to draft a resolution to transmit the Compact to the FAO Conference, and the Drafting Committee should not be burdened with the responsibility of tampering with this draft. I think I am speaking for all of us who have debated this Compact and supported it.

CHAIRMAN: The Drafting Committee only prepares the report of our discussion. I would like to indicate to you the scenario. I find I have not been so very successful in keeping time. So I am going to take the help of my distinguished Vice Chairman, Ambassador Francisci di Baschi, and I hope he will be more successful than I am.

We are still at item 6.2. We have item 7, the Committee on Agriculture, which ought to have been introduced today. Then we have the Commission on Fertilizers and the Committee on Fisheries, and if we finish all these three items by tomorrow evening, on Friday morning we can start with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. So my suggestion is that you should be prepared to stay tomorrow evening until such time as we get through item 9, so that we can start with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget first thing on Friday morning. So kindly realign your programme in such a way that we can complete this.

I now request the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Francisci di Baschi, to come over and take up item 6.2, and Professor Islam will introduce it.

M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair

M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la Presidencia M. Francisci di Baschi, Vicepresidente del Consejo

6.2 Other Matters

6.2 Autres questions

6.2 Otros asuntos

LE PRESIDENT: Nous reprenons nos travaux. Avant d'entrer dans le vif des questions, je voudrais remercier le Conseil, et personnellement M. Bula-Hoyos, mon ami, et le délégué du Danemark pour avoir respectivement proposé et appuyé ma candidature. Je remercie également le Conseil pour cette manifestation de confiance. Je donne la parole au Prof. Islam.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Agenda item 6 is the Report of the 10th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and is presented in document CL 87/10. In its 10th Session, the Committee on World Food Security dealt with a number of important issues.

The first heading of the Report is the "Assessment of the World Food Security Situation and Recent Policy Developments". As a follow-up to the proposal of the Director-General relating to world food security, the Committee considered four major items, namely, the Report of the Symposium on World Food Security, the contribution of food aid to food security, the existing arrangements for meeting urgent import requirements of the low-income food-deficit countries, and the draft text of the World Food Security Compact.

In addition, the Committee considered the role of forestry in food security and reviewed the purposes and operational modalities of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture.

As the draft World Food Security Compact has already been discussed, I will limit my introduction to the deliberations and conclusions of the Committee on the other items. When considering the current world food security situation, the Council noted that the food situation in Africa, particularly in 21 drought-affected countries, remains precarious. The Committee expressed grave concern over the continuing series of food shortages in these countries, and welcomed and supported the efforts made by the Director-General to draw the attention of the international community to the African food emergency, and to mobilize international assistance. The Committee expressed appreciation of the positive response by the international community, and of the substantial efforts made by the countries concerned to facilitate the distribution of supplies to the affected people. The need for assistance to ease internal transportation bottlenecks was underlined, and the Committee reiterated that the achievement of food security over the longer term depended primarily on a sustained increase of production at national level.

Next, the Committee considered the Report of the Symposium on World Food Security, convened on the initiative of the Director-General, and presented for information. In its deliberations on this Report, the Committee underlined the conclusion of the symposium that world food insecurity stemmed in part from global causes external to the food and agricultural sector, including financial, monetary, trade, energy and population factors. The Committee reiterated the conclusions of the symposium that action at national level was of primary importance in strengthening food security, although complementary action at regional and world levels was also necessary to make national action effective. In this connexion, the Committee agreed that bilateral and multilateral donors could play a role in promoting and implementing cooperative regional schemes among developing countries.

Noting the various reasons identified by the symposium for the limited use of the International Monetary Fund Cereal Financing Facility, the Committee suggested it would be useful to analyse the reason why those countries who qualified for credit under this Facility had not resorted to it. Noting further the suggestion made at the symposium for a food aid insurance scheme and an alternative insurance scheme to be administered by the developing countries themselves, the Committee felt that this idea required further study and clarification.

The Committee welcomed the document on the contribution of food aid to food security and considered the comprehensive plans were timely, particularly in view of the African food crisis.

The Committee endorsed the actions proposed by the Director-General to be taken by the recipient countries in order to make the contribution of food aid to food security more effective. This is related to the need for integrated food aid within national food security programmes and strategies and the need to create national food aid units. Food aid plans should give priority to the improvement of infrastructure facilities and food security objectives in deciding on the allocation of revenue generated from the sale of food aid.

The Committee endorsed most of the proposals for action by donor countries to enhance the contribution of food aid to food security. Noting the proposal of prepositioning of stocks in advance for possible emergencies in disaster-prone areas or alternatively in strategic locations with good shipping connexions, the Committee requested the Secretariat to develop this proposal further for consideration at a future session, taking into account the experience of some donors in this respect.

Other proposals for action to be taken by donors related to promoting triangular transactions and multilateral programming, discussed in paragraphs 40 and 41 of the document. The Committee considered a number of proposals for multilateral action, including proposals for increasing dependability of food aid as well as improving its responsiveness to large-scale shortages. The views of the Committee on this were many, and are given in paragraphs 42 to 51 of the document.

As regards the proposal for improving international emergency food reserves, a large number of delegates supported the suggestion of dividing the IEFER into two components, one with an existing minimum target of 500 000 tons and a stand-by pledge of 1,5 million tons to be called forward to meet identified needs wherever the basic reserve was fully committed. The Committee stressed that this was conceived as an international mechanism to respond effectively to food crises, and the recent experience of meeting the needs in Africa clearly demonstrated the need for a large multilateral emergency reserve with a stand-by in order to facilitate the response of the international community. The Committee invited the Committees on Food Aid Programmes and Policies to consider a proposal for a stand-by reserve for IEFER, bearing in mind views expressed by delegates at the 10th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

The third item was a follow-up to the proposal of the Director-General to implement the revised concept relating to the review of existing arrangements for meeting urgent input requirements of low-income food-deficit countries. The Committee reiterated the general support for an interim system of national food reserves and urged all governments which had not already done so to earmark within the context of national systems of legislation the necessary resources and funds for this. The Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to monitor and report on progress in this regard.

The Committee welcomed the inclusion of the item on the role of forestry in food security and requested it continue to be reviewed periodically. The Committee noted that forestry contributed to food security through its productive and environmental role, through the creation of employment and income, as a source of fuel wood for cooking, and as a source of foreign exchange. The Committee recommended *inter alia* that FAO increase its work in the area of agro-forestry systems, which integrate trees, crops and livestock production, and strengthen the related information base.

Finally, the Committee reviewed the purpose and operational modalities of the Global Information and Early Warning System. In its review, the Committee expressed its strong support for the work of the system. The Committee considered that in the sixteen years of its operation, the system performed effectively its unique role in continuously monitoring crop developments at both global and national levels, and in issuing a warning to the international community whenever food supplies were threatened. The Committee urged all governments participating in the system to provide the system with all the available data for its proper functioning. The Committee also fully considered the proposals of the Director-General for strengthening the system in the 1986-87 biennium which it considered to be a high priority.

S. M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I am pleased to see you in the chair on this occasion, Mr Chairman, when we are discussing the very important subject of world food security. We are confident that under your chairmanship we will be able to make an improvement in this regard.

The Bangladesh Delegation would like to thank Professor Islam for his excellent introduction of the report of the Tenth Session of the CFS. We would also like to commend the Committee for presenting this balanced and valuable report, which contains important conclusions and recommendations for strengthening world food security.

My delegation, on careful examination of these recommendations, has found them well thought out and timely. We are of the strong opinion that implementation of these recommendations will strengthen world food security. We therefore generally endorse all the recommendations and conclusions contained in the document. However, in doing so, my delegation would like to take up some of the major points of conclusions and recommendations for specific comments.

While agreeing with the Committee's assessment of the world food security situation and sharing its concern about the continuing critical food situation in Africa as contained in Section II of this report, my delegation would like to point out that despite the welcome economic recovery in the developed countries of the world, its beneficial impact has not commensurately reached the developing countries with its inherently adverse repercussions on the food security situation particularly of the developing countries.



Food security of the developing countries depends not only on their increased domestic production but also on their capacity to import food and essential agricultural inputs for investment in agriculture.

Free and growing export trade is one of the important foundations for establishing food security. But the continuing and aggravating external constraints like protectionism, the heavy burden of debt servicing, weak demand and low prices of their export products, lack of purchasing capacity and access to supplies, etc. are adversely affecting food security, particularly of the low-income food-deficit countries.

In order therefore to improve food security of the low-income food-deficit countries through increased production and import of food and essential agricultural inputs. We therefore stress the need for import liberalization, improvement of access to markets for developing countries and removal of other external constraints so that these countries can earn necessary foreign exchange for importing required food and essential agricultural imports to inputs domestic production.

For improving food security of the developing countries it is also essential that the IMF Cereal Financing Facility should be liberalized to enable more developing parts of the world and there is facility for importing not only food but also essential agricultural inputs like fertilizers.

At a time when most of the low-income countries are faced with a chronic and grim food shortage and food insecurity situation in Africa and other developing countries of the world, there is more crucial need for investment in food production and agricultural development, the decline in flow in the concessional part of external assistance to this sector is a cause of particular concern to my delegation, because it will further adversely affect these countries that rely heavily on such concessional external assistance for investment in their food production and agricultural development. It is therefore urgent that the present declining trend of concessional assistance should not only be reversed but substantially increased for investment in agriculture and improvement of food security of these countries.

In this connection my delegation would like to reiterate its views that the low level of replenishment of IDA resources as well as the present uncertainty and probable low level of replenishment of IFAD resources will also have serious implication for the investment and development of the food and agricultural sector, and this will further aggravate food insecurity.

We would also like to emphasize that, for improving world food security, a new International Wheat Agreement with necessary economic stock and price provisions should be negotiated early, after taking into account the interest of developing countries. In this connection my delegation also agrees with the emphasis given by the Committee to the value of regional sub-regional cooperation among developing countries for strengthening their self reliance and food security.

Turning to the subject "Assessment of the Contribution of Food Aid to Food Security" my delegation welcomes and commends the Director-General for his usual initiative in submitting this valuable study in his quest for improving food security and as a follow-up to his famous report on the revised concept of world food security.

In view of the critical and worsening food supply situation in many developing countries food aid will continue to remain as an essential and increasingly important component of development assistance. Moreover, in view of the controversy about the impact of food aid, this initiative on the part of the Director-General in his constant search for ways and means to increase the effectiveness of food aid as a development resource is timely and commendable.

The Study made specific proposals for action by the recipient and donor countries, as well as actions to be taken at multi-lateral level for enhancing the contribution of food aid to increasing production, stabilizing supplies and improving access to food by the poor in the developing countries.

Our delegation to the last session of the CFS considered these proposals as very practical and important measures for enhancing the contribution of food aid to improve food security, and supported these proposals in the Committee Session. Our delegation therefore reiterates its support to these proposals. We strongly feel that if these proposals are implemented food aid will continue to play a more important and positive role in support of each of the three components of the concept of food security.

However, while approving all these proposals for action, my delegation would like to emphasize a few points, among others, particularly on the proposals of integration of development food aid within national food security programmes and strategies, promoting triangular transactions and for providing more cash resources for the purpose, multi-year country programmes in respect of development food aid, prepositioning of stocks for food emergency aid, establishment of national preparedness plans and early warning system, strengthening the FSAS of FAO, and raising the present level of FAO and IEFR is also essential to make it more predictable and dependable.

In this connection my delegation also wholeheartedly reiterates its support to the Committee's request for earmarking reserves or funds in the interim system of national food reserves to ensure meeting the urgent import requirements of low-income food-deficit countries in the event of food supply shortfalls.

The idea of a food aid insurance scheme is of great interest to my delegation as the scheme is intended to enhance food security of low-income food deficit countries. We would therefore request FAO Secretariat to submit a more detailed and developed proposal in this regard to a future session of the CFS.

Lastly, the Global Information and Early Warning System on food and agriculture has proved its worth, its fullness and unique role, and hence my delegation strongly supports the proposals for strengthening the system in the 1986-87 biennium.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): At its Tenth Session in April 1985 the Committee on World Food Security made again a useful contribution to the international discussion about world food security. This is fully appreciated by my Government. My delegation particularly welcomes the objectives and realistic picture given in the document in assessing the present situation of world food security. The increase in world cereal stocks in 1984-85 to a level which is considered by the FAO Secretariat to be adequate for world food security, is a positive incentive. This also applies to the substantial efforts made by donor countries to improve the food situation in Africa.

The study for determining the contribution of food aid to world food security which was prepared by the FAO Secretariat in cooperation with CFA and WFP is in our view useful. Regarding a follow-up to that study, and with reference to paragraph 38 of the document before us, we should like to stress that such follow-up must be pursued in the competent forums.

We agree with a great number of other conclusions which are spelled out in the document, but there are also other proposals in the document about which we have a certain amount of scepticism and which will have to be further discussed, as stated by Dr Islam. Let me mention the following: the prepositioning of food stocks in hunger-prone areas; the establishment of food insurance schemes, as well as the earmarking of stocks or funds for aid purposes.

As regards the proposal for multi-year country programmes of food aid contained in paragraph 41 of the document, I should like to restate that my Government's budgetary and approval procedures restrict such multi-year country programming of food aid.

Concerning a suggestion for separating the international agreement from the food aid convention, we continue to hold the view that these important elements should not be separated from each other. We continue to maintain our constructive position towards the negotiation of a new international agreement.

As regards the suggestion of strengthening the International Emergency Food Reserve by a standby pledge in the amount of 1.5 million tons, my Government maintains its position that we see no urgent need for such action. In 1984 the International Emergency Food Reserve again had a surplus, and in 1985 the level of that Reserve was surplus by February of this year. This shows that donors have responded effectively to an emergency situation without having previously raised the level of that Reserve. Therefore we should like to restate that the volatile character of that Reserve and its level should be kept at its present level.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nos complace muy sinceramente intervenir bajo la dirección de nuestro distinguido colega y amigo Marco Francisci di Baschi, Embajador de Italia. La magnífica presentación del profesor Islam facilita nuestra intervención, que va a limitarse a los asuntos que requieren la atención del Consejo que aparecen en la primera página de este documento.

Antes de hacer algunas referencias a esos puntos específicos quisiéramos compartir con el colega y amigo Wolfgang A.F. Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, la importancia del diálogo que pueda contribuir a definir opiniones importantes. Esperamos que las propuestas sobre las cuales

nuestro colega Wolfgang A.F. Grabisch expreso tímidamente algunas consideraciones puedan ser, como el lo dijo, estudiadas mas a fondo para que desaparezca su escepticismo. Nos complace que sobre el párrafo 41 la República Federal de Alemania haya tomado medidas presupuestarias; como siempre, es el país sumamente constructivo y positivo en la cooperación internacional.

Compartimos también las inquietudes del colegas Wolfgang A.F. Grabisch de la República Federal de Alemania sobre la necesidad de que se elabore un nuevo Acuerdo Internacional sobre el Trigo; el actual Acuerdo, que data de 1971, esta ya muy superado y ha sido generalmente reconocido como inútil. Sabemos que la Comunidad Económica Europea adopto una actitud muy positiva al solicitar a una de las ultimas reuniones del Consejo Internacional del Trigo que se llevara a cabo un grupo de reflexion para ocuparse de las posibilidades de reanudar el dialogo para elaborar un nuevo Acuerdo Internacional sobre el Trigo. Si el Observador de la CEE pudiera informar a este Consejo acerca de que rumbo ha tomado esa propuesta de esa importante comunidad creo que nos haría un favor que le agradeceríamos.

En relación con los problemas de hambre y malnutrición que afectan a millones de seres humanos en Africa creo que ya a la luz del debate amplio que celebramos ayer, el Consejo va a reconocer y a apoyar los esfuerzos que viene haciendo el Director General por mejorar la situación africana, y asimismo convendría que en nuestro Informe apoyemos el llamado que aparece en el párrafo 11 de este documento, a fin de que la asistencia a los países africanos se ofrezca de manera realmente eficaz.

El párrafo 1-3 se refiere a los niveles de la ayuda alimentaria. No compartimos las opiniones del colega Wolfgang A.F. Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, sobre ese párrafo 13; por el contrario, pensamos que ha llegado ya la hora de que este Consejo apoye la estimación FAO/PMA de 20 millones de toneladas de ayuda para 1985. Los 10 millones de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación quedaron atrás hace once años, las necesidades se han multiplicado muchísimo mas. El objetivo de la RAIE también debe ser aumentado a un mínimo de 2 millones de toneladas. Este y todos los objetivos han sido rebasados sustancialmente y deben ajustarse a las reales necesidades. Proponemos que el Consejo en su Informe apoye estos objetivos revisados.

Sobre la RAIE en el CPA el Director General hizo una importante propuesta acerca de un segundo componente, debe ser analizada y puesta en práctica. Sobre la contribución de la ayuda alimentaria la delegación de Colombia opina que este Consejo debe reiterar la conveniencia de que esa ayuda contribuya a obtener los tres elementos básicos de la seguridad alimentaria citados en el documento.

Los párrafos 33 y 34 tratan de la función de los gobiernos beneficiarios. Apoyamos la conveniencia de que la ayuda se integre en los Planes Nacionales de Desarrollo y de que los gobiernos adopten medidas para lograr la mayor eficiencia de la ayuda, pero la delegación de Colombia considera que todo ello debe ser potestativo de los gobiernos y adoptado por cada país dentro de su libre soberanía.

Creemos que la FAO, como ya lo viene haciendo, debe apoyar particularmente a los países de bajos ingresos a fin de que éstos establezcan programas nacionales de preparación y sistema de alerta. En general, la FAO, los demás organismos y los donantes deben ofrecer asistencia financiera y técnica que complementen los esfuerzos de los países beneficiarios para mejorar sus infraestructuras generalmente deficientes.

La delegación de Colombia concede gran importancia a la función del sector forestal en la seguridad alimentaria, de lo cual se trata a partir del párrafo 68 en este documento. Estamos de acuerdo en que se necesita una mayor integración entre la agricultura y la silvicultura. Pensamos que el Departamento de Montes de la FAO debe ser reforzado para que nuestra Organización intensifique su labor sobre sistemas mixtos de producción forestal, agrícola y ganadera, como lo dijo el distinguido representante de Bangladesh.

Pensamos que el Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta de la FAO es una de las mejores realizaciones de nuestra Organización; por lo tanto, apoyamos el contenido del párrafo 85 acerca de la conveniencia de que se dictaminen atentamente las recomendaciones y sugerencias hechas por la Consulta de expertos de marzo pasado. Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia cumple el imperativo político y moral de señalar ante este Consejo un hecho que afecta a la seguridad alimentaria de un país de la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

El Sistema económico latinoamericano, SELA, en reunión extraordinaria del pasado 14 de mayo celebrada en Caracas, Venezuela, adoptó la decisión 222 mediante la cual, cito: "se reafirmó el derecho soberano de todas las naciones a transitar su propio camino en lo económico, social y político en paz y libertad, libre de presiones, agresiones y amenazas externas".

Igualmente el SELA reafirmó la condena de los Estados Miembros a la aplicación contra cualquiera de ellos de medidas económicas coercitivas que amenacen su soberanía y su seguridad económica y atenten contra sus derechos a un desarrollo independiente.

El Artículo 6 de la misma decisión del SELA, dice, y cito: "instar al Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América a revocar el embargo comercial total y las otras medidas coercitivas adoptadas en contra de Nicaragua, así como de aplicar en contra de los Estados Miembros cualquier medida violatoria de los principios y normas que rigen en la comunidad internacional."

La delegación de Colombia piensa que un embargo comercial como éste afecta gravemente la seguridad alimentaria de un país en desarrollo y no contribuye al logro de la paz en Centroamérica, en favor de la cual, a través del Grupo de CONTADORA, Colombia, México, Venezuela y Panamá, están seriamente empeñados. Por ello, la delegación de Colombia propone que este Consejo, eminentemente político, apoye en su informe esa decisión de la gran mayoría de los países de América Latina y el Caribe.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie la Délégation de la Colombie et l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos. Je comprends son intervention mais je voudrais rappeler que je ne suis pas tout à fait d'accord sur le fait que ce Conseil soit l'endroit le meilleur pour soulever cette question. En tout cas je le remercie parce qu'il a soulevé cette question d'une façon exacte. Mais je ne voudrais pas que par le biais de cet argument éminemment politique il y ait des liaisons entre la part commerciale et la sécurité alimentaire. Je pense que cela vaudrait mieux pour l'atmosphère de nos travaux de ne pas insister sur cet argument.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): La delegación de México reitera en este Consejo la importancia que concede a las labores del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial como órgano de composición universal en el que pueden discutirse todos los factores y problemas que le atañen y conformar, dentro de un contexto amplio y enriquecido por ese análisis completo, las estrategias válidas que vayan encauzando la acción de la organización.

Durante el décimo período de sesiones del Comité se puso en evidencia el agudo contraste entre la escasez alimentaria en muchas zonas, las inmensas disponibilidades en el plano mundial y la excesiva concentración de suministros de cereales en América del Norte. Mi delegación propuso entonces, y lo reitera ahora, que la FAO elaborase un estudio sobre las implicaciones de la reducción en la producción del principal productor de cereales, ya que esta medida puede tener consecuencias muy graves, si no nefastas, y debemos estar preparados para ella.

El informe que nos ocupa nos satisface, ya que refleja adecuadamente las discusiones que se produjeron en el Comité; sin embargo, consideramos útil para este Consejo y sobre todo para la Conferencia, enfatizar algunos de los puntos más importantes que se trataron.

En primer lugar, señalar la interacción que se da entre diferentes Comités que dependen de este Consejo. A mi delegación le ha complacido notar en el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio la prioridad que se concede en el Programa principal de agricultura a la utilización y producción de insumos. Consideramos que el enfoque de la FAO es muy válido, ya que el incremento de la producción, nuestro principal objetivo, se verá facilitado por la utilización de esos insumos. Ahora bien, esta propuesta de la FAO viene a corroborar una posición que mi delegación ha mantenido y, lo que es más importante, la traduce en hechos. Para ser congruentes no nos queda más que plasmar en la teoría lo que ya estamos haciendo en la práctica. Reitero, por tanto, nuestra propuesta de incluir en el concepto ampliado de seguridad alimentaria a los insumos agrícolas, es decir, fertilizantes, plaguicidas, semillas mejoradas y créditos, entre otros.

Consideramos también, ya que nos estamos refiriendo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que es necesario reforzar el Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta, dada su gran utilidad para los Estados Miembros. No se puede resolver ningún problema si no se cuenta con la información adecuada. Los medios de acción son básicos y el sistema sin duda nos ayudará a tomar las decisiones oportunas en el momento adecuado y tendrá, además, un efecto positivo en otro de nuestros objetivos, es decir, la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo.

Con la misma intención de conectar nuestros planteamientos con la puesta en práctica efectiva de ellos, apoyamos la importancia que se da al sector forestal en la Seguridad Alimentaria con los beneficios que pueden representar tanto directamente a través de la producción de alimentos como indirectamente a través de la creación de empleos y la generación de energía. A mi delegación le preocupa el deterioro del ecosistema y el inevitable incremento del uso de los bosques para la agricultura y, por tanto, está dispuesta a participar y apoyar todo esfuerzo que se haga para que este importante sector sea debidamente considerado. El mejor ejemplo de ello será la celebración, a principios del mes de julio, del Congreso Forestal Mundial a celebrarse en la ciudad de México. Esperamos tener la honra de dar la bienvenida a todos los Miembros del Consejo y, naturalmente, de la FAO, a ese importante evento.

Nos congratulamos de que este Consejo haya propuesto el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que es un instrumento serio que deberá traducir la voluntad de la comunidad internacional de resolver el problema del hambre en el mundo. En este sentido consideramos que el 40 aniversario de nuestra Organización no puede ser causa de festejos, sino de reflexión, para tratar de encontrar fórmulas prácticas que nos permitan el logro de nuestros objetivos. La base teórica de los mismos sería el reconocimiento por los Estados Miembros de FAO y la proclamación consecuente por la Organización del Derecho a la Alimentación. No hemos encontrado un solo instrumento internacional donde este derecho prioritario esté consagrado como tal, a pesar de que lo hemos reiterado enfáticamente en todas las ocasiones en que ha sido posible. Se habla siempre de la eliminación del hambre, que viene a ser lo mismo, pero en términos negativos, o bien de la alimentación, como parte integrante del bienestar. Propongo, pues, enfáticamente, en nombre de mi Gobierno, que el lema que guíe los trabajos del 40 aniversario, sea el Derecho a la Alimentación y los mecanismos para hacerlo efectivo.

Esta intervención no estaría completa si no nos refiriéramos a la ayuda alimentaria, ya que fuimos una de las muchas delegaciones que consideramos que el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, debía tratar este tema, que ha cobrado tanta importancia en los últimos tiempos. Es de todos conocida la posición de México en cuanto a la ayuda alimentaria. Creemos que puede resumirse simplemente en nuestra insistencia en que, para evitar sus efectos negativos, debe estar integrada en los planes nacionales de desarrollo. Ahora bien, y lo mencionaba el distinguido delegado del Senegal, este concepto es ya generalmente aceptado; sin embargo, estamos concientes de que su aplicación se complica enormemente cuando se trata de la ayuda de emergencia y la actual crisis de África nos ha demostrado que la situación de la alimentación en el mundo está tan deteriorada que es necesario utilizar el recurso de la ayuda alimentaria tanto para fines de desarrollo como para fines humanitarios de sobrevivencia. Esto es un hecho y desafortunadamente no se prevé que en un futuro próximo desaparezcan las condiciones que la hacen necesaria. Nosotros hemos imputado muy buena parte de la responsabilidad a la inexistencia de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional. Es indispensable, por tanto, que aun la ayuda de emergencia se inscriba en alguna estrategia de largo plazo para que sus efectos coadyuven a superar el problema. Es en este punto cuando debemos insistir en que la ayuda alimentaria forma parte de la estrategia global de seguridad alimentaria; la interacción y la interdependencia entre el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y el Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria es evidente. Me parece tan evidente que la ayuda alimentaria beneficia no sólo a los receptores, sino también a los donantes. Analicémosla, pues, conjuntamente para tratar de que produzca solamente beneficios, no para una organización u otra o un grupo de países diferente a otro, sino para la humanidad entera. Me temo, señor Presidente, que repetiré este mismo llamado en los temas 10 y 11 de nuestra agenda.

Reiteramos nuestro interés en que se establezca un nuevo Acuerdo Internacional sobre el Trigo, como medio fundamental de la estrategia internacional de seguridad alimentaria. Coincidimos, por tanto, con lo dicho por la delegación de Colombia. Asimismo concordamos con el aumento del objetivo de la RAIE, así como también a elevar el objetivo de ayuda alimentaria de 20 millones de toneladas, como ha sido mencionado.

Los trabajos y la orientación futura del Comité no aparecen de una manera muy clara en el Programa de Labores. Independientemente de cualquier aclaración que la Secretaría pueda hacer al respecto, la delegación de México propone que se dé seguimiento de una manera más amplia al informe que el Director General presento al octavo período de sesiones. En su oportunidad apoyamos ese informe. La tarea de seguir identificando y negociando las medidas a nivel nacional, regional y mundial que podrían ser aceptables, reafirmará el papel preponderante que es obvio muchos países concedemos.

Finalmente al reiterar el principio de no usar los alimentos como instrumento de presión política - este Consejo, así como la Conferencia de la FAO, han hecho referencia a estas cuestiones fundamentales que tienen un carácter político evidentemente pero que afectan estrictamente las condiciones del desarrollo y la posibilidad de desarrollo de la seguridad alimentaria y también ante acontecimientos recientes que conllevaron a imponer un embargo contra un país centroamericano - México expresa su grave preocupación de que los procesos de negociación en el área hayan sufrido un grave deterioro y con ello también que la seguridad alimentaria de ese país centroamericano se vea seriamente amenazado. México insiste en dirimir las diferencias entre los Estados por la vía de la negociación y el diálogo político, único medio para superar las tensiones prevalecientes. Aplicar la coerción económica no resulta compatible con los objetivos del Grupo de Contadora. México reafirma la obligación de todos los Estados de cumplir con los principios de Derecho Internacional establecidos por la Carta de Naciones Unidas, y por la Carta de la Organización de Estados Americanos y consagrados también en el contexto de Seguridad Alimentaria. Igualmente llamamos la atención sobre la Resolución 39/210 de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas y la 222 del SELA, que repudian este tipo de acciones, como ha mencionado ya la delegación de Colombia.

Para terminar, México exhorta a las partes interesadas en la solución pacífica de las cuestiones centroamericanas, a renovar la gestión diplomática como único instrumento político que permitirá, en la dignidad y en el respeto recíprocos, relaciones amistosas que destierren el uso de la fuerza y el de los alimentos como instrumento de presión política, que restablezcan la paz, la cooperación entre las naciones del área y que garantice en general las condiciones de seguridad alimentaria que todos aquí deseamos para nuestros pueblos.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie l'Ambassadeur Portillo. Avant de donner la parole à l'orateur suivant je voudrais dire que nous continuerons nos travaux jusqu'à six heures; normalement ce devait être 5 heures, mais puisque nous sommes très en retard, comme l'a fait remarquer plusieurs fois notre Président, je pense qu'il convient de poursuivre un peu plus avant nos travaux, d'autant plus qu'à la clôture de cette session il y aura la réunion du Comité de rédaction. Je donne maintenant la parole aux Etats-Unis d'Amérique pour un point d'ordre.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I regret very much having to take the floor and preempt other speakers but since two of the previous speakers have mentioned the United States by name I thought it only right that I reply at this time.

I regret very much that these sorts of simply political issues have been introduced into this forum. I think that it does not do credit to the Food and Agriculture Organization to see such issues introduced in a discussion that takes up such serious matters as we are taking up.

In terms of the embargo that the United States has placed against Nicaragua, the two previous speakers and others who may take up this point should clearly understand that donations of food, medicines and clothing are exempt from the embargo. I think, as our actions elsewhere in the world have demonstrated, the United States believes that in cases of emergency we should help alleviate the suffering of hungry people without regard to the policies of their government. I hope that with this intervention we can put aside this issue and continue on with the very important and significant work of this Council.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Lamentablemente tenemos que expresar, que no comprendemos por parte de la delegación norteamericana la expresión del distinguido delegado de México, que no mentó su nombre, y la delegación de Colombia ha expresado un párrafo de un Consejo extraordinario SELA, pero quiero expresar una cuestión que me parece que puede aclarar esta situación. La caracterización política de esto no lo niego. ¿Por qué no lo negamos?. Porque realmente es la utilización política de los alimentos como arma, porque un embargo comercial que impide llegar a puertos los alimentos es una utilización política de las armas y de los alimentos. Nosotros queremos decir que la Asamblea de Naciones Unidas en su 39 período de sesiones, en la Resolución 210, aprobó una Resolución referida a las medidas de coacción económica que con motivos político o económicos aplican los países desarrollados contra países en desarrollo. Esto es acuerdo de Naciones Unidas. Estamos totalmente de acuerdo que esto es un ámbito eminentemente político, pero su aplicación está en la Resolución, en los organismos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, incluida la FAO, que tiene especialmente problemas de alimentación; una señalización de esta situación para que soberanamente la FAO pueda ejercer su derecho de alimentar a todos y no solamente a los que políticamente un país decida hacer, no podemos negarlo en el ámbito de la FAO.

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai déjà exprimé mon point de vue sur cette question. Je pense que, fondamentalement, c'est une question politique et je n'ai pas la conviction que nous soyons un organe éminemment politique. Ce n'est pas l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies ou d'autres instances où ces questions pourraient être traitées correctement. J'invite donc les délégations qui sont intéressées par cette question à la développer dans des termes très généraux. Nous n'avons rien à gagner à une politisation du problème. Je ne pense pas qu'il faille insister sur les effets de l'embargo. Personnellement je ne les connais pas, mais je pense que nous devons nous en tenir au fait que notre Conseil n'est pas un organe politique. Je vous invite donc à vous modérer sur cette question.

J'ai l'intention de poursuivre nos travaux jusqu'à six heures parce que nous sommes en retard. Tout de suite après la clôture de cette session il y aura la réunion du Comité de rédaction. Je donne la parole au délégué de l'Argentine et j'espère que tout se passera calmement.

G.E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): En primer lugar permítame expresar nuestra satisfacción de verle a usted, Sr. Presidente, presidiendo esta importante sesión del Consejo. Deseo también agradecer la muy clara y concisa presentación del tema que nos realizara hace poco el profesor Islam.

Mi delegación entiende que los principales temas involucrados dentro del punto 6.2 han sido objeto de un largo y profundo análisis en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, y en esa oportunidad mi delegación se refirió ampliamente a cada uno de ellos, por lo que me limitaré ahora, teniendo en cuenta sus palabras y con mis mejores deseos de cooperar con la Presidencia, a señalar y a remarcar sólo algunos de los aspectos en los que tengo particular interés.

La Argentina obviamente apoya el contenido del Informe y en este sentido deseamos destacar la validez del párrafo 14, en especial lo referente a la necesidad de liberalizar el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas que, como ya se ha señalado al discutir el tema 4 de nuestra agenda, se ve gravemente perturbado por la aplicación de medidas proteccionistas y otras cláusulas análogas. Asimismo se reitera dentro del capítulo correspondiente a la contribución de la ayuda alimentaria a la seguridad alimentaria mundial, lo señalado en el párrafo 40 de dicho informe sobre las posibilidades que ofrecen las transacciones triangulares. Creemos que la FAO puede contribuir positivamente mediante la promoción de este tipo de operaciones difundiendo información acerca de las disponibilidades de alimentos en los países en desarrollo.

Reiteramos también la importancia que mi país asigna a los párrafos 49 y 50 en el sentido de fortalecer la relación complementaria entre el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, el Comité de Políticas de Ayuda Alimentaria, CPA, y también con el Consejo Mundial de Alimentos.

Finalmente deseo dejar expresa constancia de nuestro especial interés y apoyo para que la FAO continúe reforzando sus trabajos en el campo agrosilvoforestal como un instrumento de gran importancia para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

En otro orden de ideas permítame decirle, que lamento tener que intervenir después de dos mociones de orden, pero cumplo una instrucción de mi Gobierno en el sentido de señalar nuestra preocupación por la aplicación de medidas económicas para un país de nuestra región, ya que a nuestro entender afecta a la seguridad alimentaria de dicho país. Quiero destacar que la República Argentina no acepta como válida la aplicación de medidas coercitivas de carácter económico y político que son incompatibles con la disposición de la Carta de Naciones Unidas de la Organización de los Estados Americanos y el Acuerdo General sobre Aranceles Aduaneros y Comercio, así como de numerosas Resoluciones de la Asamblea General, de decisiones del Consejo Latinoamericano del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y de recomendaciones que hemos adoptado en este mismo foro.

Al respecto además de deplorar la aplicación de esas medidas, recordamos el párrafo 4 de la Resolución 39/210 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas por la que se solicita a las organizaciones internacionales que informe al Secretario General acerca de las medidas económicas incompatibles con los instrumentos jurídicos antes mencionados. Quiero asegurarle, Sr. Presidente, a usted y a todos los miembros de este Consejo que esta posición de principio de la República Argentina ha sido expuesta en diversos foros ya que estamos firmemente convencidos de que los alimentos no deben ser utilizados como instrumentos de presión política. En ese sentido apoyamos lo señalado por los distinguidos Embajadores de Colombia y de México de la misma manera que apoyamos en París hace pocos días la inclusión de este tema en el Informe del Consejo Mundial de Alimentos.

H. ZANNETIS (Cyprus): During the last session of the CFS many interesting issues were discussed, as is reflected in its report and precisely introduced by Dr Islam. While being in agreement with the Committee's conclusions following the discussions of the last two days, there are only two points in the report to which I would like to refer.

In considering the role of forestry in food security the Committee expressed concern at the scale on which afforestation is taking place in the tropics. The delegation of Cyprus fully shares this concern.

The fact that the CFS has unanimously recommended work to be carried out by FAO for the improvement of the situation (paragraph 72) and the need for education, training and creation of awareness (paragraph 77) is reason enough, we believe, for the Council to give its strong approval to these recommendations.

Another important item to which the Committee has devoted its time is the review of the purposes and operational modalities of the Global Information and Early Warning System on food and agriculture. After an in-depth review of the performance of the system the Committee expressed its appreciation about the way the system has been operating. The message that the Committee is sending to the Council for the future operation of the system is clearly stated in paragraphs 84 and 85. The delegation of Cyprus fully supports these recommendations and hopes that the Council will endorse them so that the system will be strengthened in the 1986-87 biennium.

J.M. WATSON (Panamá): Sepa usted, Sr. Embajador de Italia ante FAO, Sr. Francisci di Baschi que nos complace sobremanera que en su condición de Vicepresidente dirija los debates de este Consejo.

La delegación de Panamá al reafirmar su tradición de país amante de la paz y siguiendo los lineamientos y principios del Grupo de CONTADORA, que en estos momentos se reúne en la capital de Panamá, y que realmente representa la única alternativa posible de paz duradera para la región Centroamericana, desea manifestar su total desacuerdo con que los alimentos sean utilizados como instrumento de presión política y de prácticas coercitivas de cualquier parte que provengan y vengán a afectar la seguridad alimentaria de cualquier país del mundo, en especial de la región de América Latina. Es indudable, sin demérito de los otros asuntos fundamentales tratados por la FAO, la importancia creciente de los aspectos de la seguridad alimentaria dentro de la temática de esta organización; ello no podría ser de otra manera sobre todo desde la aceptación por parte de los Estados Miembros del nuevo concepto ampliado sobre seguridad alimentaria y de su correlación con los objetivos del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional.

En efecto, la seguridad alimentaria ha dejado de ser objeto de divagación académica y ya no representa sólo la estabilidad y la continuidad del mercado común de cereales, ni significa tampoco simplemente encontrar los mecanismos que garanticen la existencia de reservas para el abastecimiento mundial de dichos cereales durante situaciones de crisis o sencillamente el alcance mediante la aplicación de medidas nacionales, la estabilidad de los precios de los alimentos en el mercado interno. Concediendo su justo valor a estos aspectos, el concepto de seguridad alimentaria viene considerado dentro de un contexto más amplio que tiende no solamente a disminuir la dependencia alimentaria de fuentes externas no siempre seguras y continuas, como la experiencia nos demuestra, por nuestra vulnerabilidad política y económica, sino también a lograr el desarrollo socioeconómico de nuestros países como aporte fundamental para alcanzar el fin último de todo proceso de desarrollo: el bienestar de los pueblos.

La delegación de Panamá luego de esta breve premisa necesaria para la correcta interpretación de las preocupaciones y comentarios que el análisis del documento CL 87/10 y sus anexos le merecen, desea, en primer lugar, insistir sobre la paradoja por todos conocida de que mientras algunos países, especialmente en el continente africano, luchan desesperadamente contra el hambre, en términos generales en el mundo reina la abundancia, lo que según el documento CL 87/2 Sup.1 representa un incremento del 4,4 por ciento de la producción mundial de los alimentos básicos durante el año de 1984 en relación con el año anterior.

Resaltamos lo expresado en el párrafo 8, del documento objeto de nuestro debate, en el sentido de que si bien se preveía que las existencias remanentes mundiales de cereales se mantendrían a un nivel que la Secretaría de la FAO consideraba suficiente para la seguridad alimentaria mundial, esas existencias estaban sumamente concentradas en unos pocos países y que se consideraba que no estaban realmente a disposición de los países que las necesitaban.

Nuestra delegación considera propicia la ocasión para reconocer una vez más la oportuna y correcta participación que en el contexto de la crisis alimentaria que padece África, y muy especialmente 21 países de esta región, ha tenido y tiene la FAO a través de sus numerosas actividades. En tal sentido estimamos oportuno evidenciar el enfoque que se le ha venido dando a la solución de la grave crisis africana mediante la rehabilitación de la agricultura con miras a resolver problemas estructurales heredados que han significado, entre otras cosas, la destrucción de recursos tales como el suelo, los bosques y el agotamiento de las aguas.

Destacamos asimismo los esfuerzos tanto a nivel nacional, como regional, que estamos haciendo los países en vías de desarrollo en materia de seguridad alimentaria, como se puso de manifiesto durante la reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en su décimo período de sesiones, estos esfuerzos que como todos sabemos se han venido dando bajo difíciles situaciones económicas y financieras, con problemas de alto costo del servicio de la deuda, proteccionismo creciente y deterioro de nuestras relaciones de intercambio, está incidiendo negativamente en la economía, no sólo de los países de bajos ingresos y déficit de alimentos, sino también en la de países en vías de desarrollo. Por estas razones resaltamos la necesidad de que los países desarrollados al formular políticas agrícolas o alimentarias presten especial atención a las necesidades en materia de seguridad alimentaria en los países en vías de desarrollo.

Por otra parte insistimos en la necesidad de profundizar en el análisis sobre la evolución alarmante y negativa de la asistencia internacional, especialmente en lo relativo a la disminución de la cuantía de los compromisos oficiales de ayuda a la agricultura, así como al crecimiento de la ayuda en condiciones de favor, a la disminución de los niveles de recursos de las Asociaciones Internacionales de Fomento, AIF, así como a la drástica reducción de los recursos del FIDA en su segunda reposición.



Para esta delegación es un deber reconocer, como ya lo hemos hecho en otras ocasiones, los esfuerzos que realiza la FAO en la promoción mundial, sea en el marco conceptual, como en el operativo de todo lo referente a la seguridad alimentaria en el mundo, y muy particularmente el esfuerzo realizado en lo referente a la interrelación existente entre este concepto y el de ayuda alimentaria.

En efecto, para nuestra delegación, aunque, como ya lo señalamos al inicio de nuestra intervención, el concepto de seguridad alimentaria se extiende mucho más allá del de ayuda alimentaria, queda bien claro que se viene a representar en muchos casos un elemento fundamental para el logro de dicha seguridad.

Así, pues, para nosotros es evidente el hecho de que, aunque puedan ser criticados los métodos o sistemas con los cuales se ejecutan algunas veces la ayuda, los principios de la misma siguen siendo válidos y representan, si es utilizada adecuadamente y con una correcta motivación, un importante recurso para promover la producción, el desarrollo social, estabilizar el consumo y mejorar la nutrición en los países en desarrollo. Sin embargo, la ayuda como tal, y es obvio, no es suficiente, por lo que viene a ser de vital importancia integrar dicha ayuda con otros recursos destinados a promover la utilización de la misma para que sirva a los principios de los componentes básicos de la seguridad alimentaria antes citada.

Consideramos igualmente pertinente el reforzamiento del Sistema Mundial de Información y Alerta sobre la alimentación y la agricultura y reiteramos nuestro decidido apoyo a sus trabajos a fin de que incrementen su función de vigilar continuamente la evolución de los cultivos a nivel mundial y nacional y de alertar las comunidades internacionales cuando se vean amenazados los suministros de alimentos.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): Mr Chairman, may I first congratulate you on becoming Chairman during the deliberations on this item. My delegation wishes to thank Dr Islam for his comprehensive introduction of the document.

From the report, we can see that the Committee on World Food Security made substantial progress in its endeavour to achieve a better level of food security. From studying the report, my delegation has a few comments to make. First of all, we share the concern expressed in paragraphs 10 to 13 concerning the food situation in Africa. As a developing food-exporting country, Thailand can only respond humbly to the calls for increased assistance to the continent of Africa. Apart from our contribution to IEFR recently, and our bilateral contribution to certain African countries, Thailand is prepared to extend our aid programme towards the developing countries in Africa. The details of the programme have already been submitted to the FAO Secretariat.

Secondly, my delegation fully supports the setting up of the national early warning system which should be linked in as part of the network of the Global Information and Early Warning System. We support the proposal of the Director-General for the strengthening of this early warning system during the 1986-87 biennium.

Thirdly, in paragraph 40 we entirely agree with the support for promoting triangular transactions. These will save transportation costs and will ensure, moreover, that food aid commodities are compatible with the traditional food habits of the recipient. We agree that FAO can make a useful contribution by disseminating information on food surpluses in developing countries.

My delegation fully agrees with paragraph 74. Natural foods from forests, such as wild animals and plants, are much more important in the food supplies of many countries. To give an example, wildlife farming programmes, such as to preserve and expand one of the pheasant species in Thailand, have proved satisfactory. This has also contributed to family income by the recreational utilization of wildlife resources, which has proved to be successful in our country. We are grateful for the assistance of FAO, and hope for continuing support in the project. In conclusion, my delegation endorses the Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and commends its splendid preparation.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation is also quite happy to see you, Mr Chairman, conducting this session of the Council. We are pleased to contribute our views on this critical issue of world food security.

I have had the experience of at least two FAO Conferences and various meetings of the World Food Council. You will therefore understand my chagrin when I realized that in spite of the many laudable contributions which have been made, and continue to be, on the basic issue of providing food for all mankind, it is still very far from being fulfilled. Of course, we fully accept that we must press on assiduously with the fight against hunger, since it still remains with us. Item 6 of our agenda highlights the enormity of the problem we face today; we cannot let up, quite obviously.

Those of us gathered here as representatives of various governments and organizations - indeed, even the full Conference later this year - cannot achieve meaningful action on the issue of food if we are not truly sensitive to the particular problems and concerns of individual nation states. Nevertheless, we would not be true to ourselves if we did not acknowledge the significance of the basic fact expressed in paragraph 8 of document CL 87/10. This refers to: "... a sharp contrast between the existence of ample supplies at the global level and of widespread and acute food shortages in many developing countries". It is a fact that stocks are in certain areas; but the real issue focusses on how to create and to sustain a comparable capability within countries of the developing world.

My delegation wishes to give full weight to those proposals aimed at enhancing the capability of developing countries to produce more indigenous food types. The level of production must be at least close to that which is required for minimum security. Vulnerability and dependency of sizeable proportions of the population on imported food must be reduced.

I am aware that trade between developed and developing countries must continue to be influenced by questions of comparative advantage in some areas - availability and use of land space, water supplies, climatic conditions, and so on. In addition, some of our developing countries do export indigenous foods to the developed countries. These indigenous foods originally were, and perhaps still are to a large extent, the staple foods of our peoples in the metropolitan countries. So today, we know there is an increasing demand for these exotic food types by the citizens - and I do not refer to the immigrants - of the countries to which these foods are sent.

The fundamental need for developing countries to concentrate their efforts on food security on indigenous-type staples, as the developed countries have done, remains sacrosanct. The point of view to which I am now giving emphasis gains validity, and I am sure the representative of the United Kingdom understands this point of view. He will no doubt mitigate his sentiments on what he referred to earlier as the siege mentality. May I say that I also understood his explanation.

What is even more frightening, when considering some of the data in the document before us, is the indication that in spite of increased imports, per capita consumption in some countries could be reduced by up to one half. Against this background, the Council - and therefore the November Conference - must give full backing to the conceptualization and implementation of efforts aimed at rehabilitation or improved structural capability of the agricultural sectors, such that there may be achievement on the three planks of effective food security - production, stability of production and access.

There can be no real debate on this principle. The burden of debt servicing which is now categorized in some fora as being an impossible task, and the consequential non-availability of foreign exchange to purchase food at current levels, make it clear that this principle must be the basic premise of the future thrust for food security.

On behalf of the Caribbean countries, we request the Director-General to ensure that the food security situation of the small and therefore highly vulnerable chain of Caribbean islands is duly examined. In a more general sense, we also wish to suggest that FAO conduct, or assist countries in conducting, analytical reviews of subsidy programmes in developing countries, especially where these countries administer programmes of a multiplicity of input subsidies. Such programmes can be costly in the context of limited resources, and there can be real concern as to the effective application of the resources utilized in this manner. Of course, this is closely tied to pricing policy. There can be real difficulties in arriving at a judicious combination of appropriate elements in a total incentive package expanding and/or limiting production levels of selected crops or livestock products. Where the effects of these programmes are negative from a global point of view the studies must so conclude. But FAO and other bodies must also explore real alternatives for bringing the various elements in the scenario into unison in the total thrust for food security at national, regional and global levels.

We wish to indicate our firm support for special initiatives in relation to forestry, as they may be directly related to food production. The highest level policy-makers must be sensitized to the real cost of decisions on forest lands which often affect the determination of critical environmental conditions, including reduced water supplies. More particularly, we feel that there is real merit in the facilitation of research and development work related to integrated crop, forestry and livestock programmes, such as would focus on interdependent rather than on competitive systems of resource management within ecological areas.

Programmes on wildlife farming are to be encouraged. But it is my understanding that due attention must be given to potential problems relating to diseases harboured by these animals which can be detrimental to mankind. In our country, we have embarked, with the help of FAO, on an initial effort in this regard. Accordingly, we would really appreciate guidance.

It is against the background of these principles and of real concern on the issue of world food security that my delegation endorses the initiative of the Director-General.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/7

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Eighty-seventh Session  
**PLENARY**

Quatre-vingt-septième session  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

87° período de sesiones  
**PLENARIA**

SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING  
SEPTIÈME SEANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
SEPTIMA SESION PLENARÍA  
(20 June 1985)

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence  
de M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la séptima Sesión Plenaria a las 09.45 horas, bajo la presidencia  
de M. Francisci di Baschi, Vicepresidente del Consejo

- II. WORLD FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SITUATION (continued)
- II. SITUATION MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- II. SITUACION MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 10-17 April 1985) (continued)
- 6. Rapport de la dixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (Rome, 10-17 avril 1985) (suite)
- 6. Informe del décimo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (Roma, 10-17 de abril de 1985) (continuación)
- 6.2 Other Matters
- 6.2 Autres questions
- 6.2 Otros asuntos

LE PRESIDENT: Nous ouvrons la séance plénière du Conseil. Je constate que la ponctualité n'est pas très bien respectée, c'est peut-être un défaut italien mais je vois qu'il est très répandu sur la planète. Je dis cela parce que je voudrais rappeler que nous sommes très en retard dans nos travaux et il y a une menace qui plane sur vos têtes, c'est la séance nocturne, peut-être ce soir ou demain, mais je pense que si on procède avec pour ainsi dire cette lenteur on ne pourra pas éviter des séances nocturnes dans l'avenir.

Je donne la parole au délégué du Congo, mais je pense qu'il n'est pas présent.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): Mr Chairman, I sympathize with you because we are really behind schedule. I shall be very brief and say that we have discussed this Report at length. The cornerstone of our discussion was in regard to the Compact which we adopted yesterday. Briefly, I endorse this Report.

Le PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie beaucoup pour votre brièveté et je donne la parole au délégué du Brésil.

O.R. da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I should like to be as brief as the previous speaker, but unfortunately I am afraid that I cannot.

As you know, Brazil attended the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security as an observer. This was not an expression of lack of interest regarding the relevance of the matters under consideration by the Committee. On the contrary, we have studied carefully the Report and wish to express our deep concern with the critical food situation in Africa, as well as the contrast between large food supplies in developed countries and the food shortage in the developing world.

My delegation would also like to express its support for the need to increase the effectiveness of food aid as a development resource. Likewise, we give great attention to the study of the ways and means of coordinating donors and recipients in order to improve the development of the impact of food aid.

Further, the Brazilian delegation is pleased to express its support for the conclusions of the Committee as regards the role of forestry in food security. We are convinced that the development of agro-forestry integrated initiatives will represent an important contribution to the achievement of food security in the developing countries with large forestry potential. We look forward to actively participating in the World Forestry Congress to be held in Mexico City next July with contributions on the role of forestry in food security.

I should like to endorse the Committee's recommendation contained in paragraph 84 to strengthen the Global Information and Early Warning System of FAO. My delegation believes that this System has proved to be of great value to the international community in order to provide timely supplies of food aid to Africa.

We share your view on the importance of limiting debates in the FAO to economic lengths. On the other hand, Brazil has consistently tried to adopt a moderate position in debates in this forum. I trust that you will accept the following statement in that light. My delegation wishes to express its full support of declarations made yesterday by some delegations. In fact, Brazil deplores the use of unilateral economic measures which are incompatible with the United Nations Charter, which represent a serious limitation on the efforts of developing countries towards the difficult task of full economic and social development. Such measures particularly affect developing countries struggling against hunger and malnutrition by impeding their access to international markets and limiting the availability of food. Consistent with the position that Brazil has always held, Brazil could not avoid expressing its disagreement with measures such as those recently taken against Nicaragua which greatly harms the food security of the Latin American countries.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais m'associer aux félicitations qui vous ont été adressées et vous dire combien nous nous réjouissons de vous voir présider ce point de notre ordre du jour. Le Congo a activement pris part aux travaux de la 10<sup>ème</sup> session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui a adopté ce rapport soumis au Conseil sous la cote CL 87/10.

Nous devons en remercier M. Islam qui, en le présentant, a attiré l'attention du Conseil sur les points essentiels de ce document. Tout ou presque a déjà été dit hier et certainement encore ce matin par ceux qui sont intervenus sur ce point de notre ordre du jour. Aussi nous contentons-nous de vous livrer nos commentaires sur les points qui nous préoccupent et sur lesquels nous voudrions insister spécialement, étant entendu que nous approuvons d'une manière générale le rapport qui est ici présenté. Bien entendu, nous apprécions et approuvons l'évaluation contenue dans ce rapport, concernant la situation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et partageons bien sûr les inquiétudes qui sont relevées face à la persistance de la crise alimentaire en Afrique sur laquelle le Conseil s'est abondamment exprimé au point 5 de notre ordre du jour. La contribution de l'aide alimentaire à la sécurité alimentaire qui y est analysée de manière exhaustive et nous insisterons ici sur l'importance de la composante aide alimentaire dans l'aide au développement et, ce faisant, relevons la nécessité de l'intégrer dans les stratégies aux programmes nationaux de sécurité alimentaire pour en optimiser les effets.

Nous appuyons ce qui est dit au paragraphe 35 sur la nécessité d'accorder une priorité élevée à l'élimination des obstacles qui limitent les pays en développement et de tirer pleinement parti de l'aide alimentaire, ainsi que sur une assistance financière et technique extérieure qui serait la bienvenue pour aider ces pays à se tirer d'affaire.

La situation qui prévaut en Afrique a, certes, démontré que la communauté internationale pouvait mobiliser plus d'aide d'urgence que l'objectif minimum de 500 000 tonnes de la RAIU qui de toute évidence ne cadre plus avec la réalité et devrait être révisé à la hausse sur la base des 2 millions de tonnes, en deux volets, proposés par la FAO. De même, l'objectif minimum de 10 millions de tonnes, atteint pour la première fois, me semble dépassé et le Conseil devrait appuyer l'objectif révisé des besoins d'aide actuellement chiffrés à 20 millions de tonnes.

Monsieur le Président nous voudrions insister sur le rôle fondamental des forêts dans la sécurité alimentaire et, en tant que ressortissant d'un pays forestier, nous ne pouvons que confirmer ce qui a été dit aux paragraphes 68 à 77, que nous appuyons entièrement.

Monsieur le Président, l'aide alimentaire est certes importante pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays déficitaires. Mais nous sommes convaincus que la sécurité alimentaire ne peut être garantie que par un accroissement de la production dans les pays à déficit vivrier. C'est pourquoi toutes mesures coercitives prises contre un pays et qui l'empêchent de s'équiper en vue d'accroître sa capacité agricole et alimentaire, devraient être réprouvées par notre Conseil.

Voilà pourquoi ma délégation, dont le gouvernement est attaché aux principes de liberté et de dialogue pour régler les conflits entre pays, ne peut rester sans réaction devant la situation qui est imposée au Nicaragua et elle souhaite s'associer aux pays latino-américains et Caraïbes, Membres de notre Conseil, qui se sont exprimés hier et aujourd'hui sur la session, pour lancer un appel à ce pays, dont le peuple est attaché aux droits de l'homme, de lever son embargo. Certes, hier, le délégué de ce pays s'est voulu rassurant en indiquant que l'embargo ne concernait pas les produits alimentaires, mais nous savons que depuis l'embargo, les échanges sont quasi nuls entre les deux pays et, surtout, le fait qu'il vise des produits nécessaires à l'accroissement de la production agricole nous semble à cet égard suffisamment préoccupant.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nuestra delegación participó activamente en el Décimo Período de Sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Por consiguiente, al estar de acuerdo con el documento que nos ha presentado brillantemente el profesor Islam, no vamos a extendernos mucho, ya que consideramos, realmente, que recoge todos los aspectos fundamentales que se acordaron en esa reunión.

Queremos llamar la atención sobre este documento, que consta de 94 párrafos, 88 de ellos refrendados por el Comité. Apoyando, tomando nota, considerando, reconociendo, lo que nos quiere decir que la discusión del Comité fue bastante unánime en cuanto a los documentos que se han presentado. De los 94, 84 fueron refrendados por el Comité; unos 4 aparecen aprobados por la mayoría, 4 párrafos más aparecen "con muchos países", dos párrafos aparecen con "algunos países" y un pequeño párrafo, el último creo que es, el punto culminante del Comité, ya a las 11.30 de la noche, que es la historia del draft, no recoge en toda su realidad, pero sobre ese punto nos referiremos posteriormente cuando lleguemos al punto.

Nosotros queremos, en virtud de esto que hemos expresado, apoyar plenamente este documento y recalcar algunos aspectos que consideramos de sumo interés. En primer lugar, quisiéramos elogiar y apoyar nuevamente los esfuerzos desplegados por el Director General por señalar a la atención de la Comunidad Internacional la situación de urgencia en muchos países, especialmente el continente africano y para movilizar la asistencia internacional. El segundo aspecto al que quisiéramos referirnos es el volumen de la ayuda alimentaria, puesto que consideramos que el mismo sigue siendo muy inferior a las necesidades. Al respecto nos parece que las secretarías del PMA y la FAO han dado orientaciones muy certeras y precisas, las cuales mi delegación apoya totalmente. El tercer aspecto al que nos referiremos es al papel de la distribución de alimentos para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria en el plano general. No basta con que se incremente la producción de alimentos en determinados países si después se ponen trabas a que los mismos lleguen a los países más necesitados y a todos y se bloquean los convenios internacionales de los productos básicos más importantes. Esta es una realidad que durante años de trabajos de FAO se ha podido constatar cómo los convenios básicos más importantes en estos momentos están totalmente paralizados. Como cuarto aspecto, quisiera subrayar la importancia de algunas medidas consideradas como complementarias, pero que mi delegación estima muy importantes para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria. Me refiero a la capacitación, a la investigación, a los créditos, a los pequeños productores y a la atención directa a los campesinos sin tierra. Creemos que éste es un punto en el cual debemos hacer hincapié puesto que vemos que hay mucha insistencia en que sean los pequeños productores, los campesinos sin tierra, los que todavía trabajan en condiciones semif feudales en muchos de nuestros países, los cuales resuelven una seguridad alimentaria cuando apenas pueden producir para subsistir.

Creemos, por ejemplo, que la capacitación de los créditos específicamente a los pequeños agricultores es necesario darles relieve si queremos que contribuyan en parte no a resolver la seguridad alimentaria, sino en parte ya que todos sabemos que las mejores tierras están en manos de los grandes productores, en las grandes empresas, las nacionales, que sí tienen todos los recursos para producir. Consideramos también que la limitación con que tropiezan los países en desarrollo debido a la escasez de recursos técnicos y financieros, fuerza de trabajo, capacitación e insumos agrícolas, así como una estructura inadecuada, son obstáculos que seguirán gravitando fuertemente sobre la seguridad alimentaria. Sobre la función de los gobiernos beneficiarios, recalcamos que los mismos deberían introducir la ayuda recibida dentro de sus respectivos planes de desarrollo nacional dentro de los límites de su soberanía nacional y la decisión soberana de cada país.

Otro aspecto que presenta este Informe es el papel de la silvicultura en la seguridad alimentaria, al cual concedemos gran importancia y esperamos que en el próximo Congreso Forestal Mundial que se celebrará próximamente en México se ofrezcan ya mayores aportes en este sentido. Estamos seguros de que el Departamento de Montes de la FAO trabaja con denodado esfuerzo por lograr, junto con la Dirección Agrícola de México, que este Congreso sea un hecho descollante en el análisis de la situación forestal en el mundo.

Finalmente, queremos expresar nuestro respaldo total a lo propuesto fundamentalmente por el Grupo de CONTADORA, al cual respaldamos en todas sus partes. Referente a la decisión número 222 del Consejo del SELA que reafirma el derecho soberano de toda la nación a transitar su propio camino en lo económico, en lo social, en lo político, en paz y libertad, libre de presiones, agresiones y amenazas, y que no hemos reconocido todavía a ningún país en el globo que se pueda convertir en gendarme y decisor de si dejó pasar o no dejó pasar, respetando la soberanía de cada uno de nuestros países independientemente de su tamaño, ya que no se puede ponderar la moral, la conciencia, la justicia y la libertad a través de millones acumulados. Eso no se puede ponderar así. Por lo tanto respaldamos a los países, que han sido unos cuantos, que han pedido en este Consejo que se reconozca una decisión política de Naciones Unidas, en la que se plantea que las medidas económicas y sociales no se pueden aceptar.



Por lo tanto creemos que el bloque comercial al cual está sometido el pueblo de Nicaragua es una afrenta y es una limitación a la seguridad alimentaria de este pequeño país que, sencillamente por desobedecer está sometido a unas medidas políticas utilizando los alimentos, porque son los alimentos los que están utilizándose.

Ayer se nos decía aquí, me parece que un poco ingenuamente, que se habían dejado pasar medicinas y se estaba dejando pasar comida. Nosotros, Cuba, sí sabe lo que es un bloqueo, y Cuba sabe lo que es decir dejar pasar 20 años bloqueados. Actualmente, los proyectos de cooperación técnica son bloqueados para nuestro país cuando tiene algún componente en una pequeña maquinita, porque hay leyes en países que prohíben cosas sencillamente porque tenemos un criterio que no es el de ellos.

Dentro de su concepción democrática no existe ya otro criterio. Y eso de dejar pasar, queremos dar un solo dato muy sencillo: después del decretado bloqueo contra nuestro país lo único que ha entrado es comida procedente de Estados Unidos con las compotas que exigimos en cambio de los mercenarios que nos tiraron.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais rappeler ce que j'ai dit hier. Chacun de nous a ses idées, ses opinions, mais la présidence a des règles à respecter et à faire respecter.

Je dois inviter encore une fois tous les délégués qui représentent ici les pays de l'Amérique latine à s'exprimer sur le thème de la sécurité alimentaire sur un plan très général. Autrement je serai obligé de les priver de la parole. Je le regrette parce que j'ai des principes démocratiques, mais je dois respecter certaines règles parlementaires. C'est avec un très grand regret que je fais appel à votre modération.

H. LAUBE (Austria): The Austrian delegation followed with great interest the discussions of the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security and found especially noteworthy among the large number of topics dealt with CL 87/10 the report on Assessment of The Contribution of Food Aid to Food Security, the draft text of the Global Food Security Food Compact, as well as discussion on the contribution of forestry to food security. Allow me to dwell shortly on these matters.

We have noted with satisfaction the Director-General's assessment of the contribution of food aid to food security, which, in a very useful and timely manner, reviews the history and evolution of food aid policies and important issues arising from the use of food aid, and provides a valuable framework for the continuing search for better, more appropriate, and efficient ways to deal with food aid and development. The importance of the three components of world food security - that is, increased production, stabilization of supplies, and improved access to food by the most vulnerable groups - was appropriately highlighted. The Austrian delegation favours the arguments and measures proposed for donor and recipient countries, but would however like to point to the necessity of safeguarding against the risk of disincentives to local production brought about by increased dependency on food aid. The Austrian delegation would like once again to express its support for triangular systems, and believes that a timely assessment of available supplies in developing countries could contribute to a more effective action.

We fully endorse the proposal to increase the IFR target from 500,000 tons to 1.5 million tons which in the light of the most recent emergency needs in drought stricken Arica seems fully justified.

Regarding the proposal of an interim system of national food reserves so as to meet urgent import requirements of low-income food deficit countries to ensure against the event of food supply shortfalls, we believe that such measures can effectively contribute to the stabilization of supplies, but here again could also lead to increased dependency on food aid and thus act as a disincentive to production. We therefore think it advisable for the Secretariat to further examine whether the benefits derived from such action could outweigh the possible drawbacks.

R.M. MUPAWOSE (Zimbabwe): Thank you for this opportunity, Mr Chairman, to make our contribution. Zimbabwe as a member of SADCC, Southern African Development Coordination Conference, has been tasked with the responsibility of coordination of food security. We appreciate the views and ideas proposed in the document being discussed. We have, in fact, in our region and particularly in our country, been using food aid which we have so far received to develop some of our irrigation potential. We have established what we refer to as an irrigation fund which provides evolving financial assistance for the development of irrigation. Comments were made previously on the failure of the irrigation in Africa. We only ask that analysis be made on why those schemes have failed and also why others have succeeded.

With the development of our irrigation fund we hope to alleviate the deleterious affects of drought. We believe FAO can assist some of our countries with whatever remedies there may be.

For food security to be a meaningful concept it is important that transport and communications also be improved. These will enable farmers to transport the inputs and also their produce to the markets. Mr Chairman, why should small farmers produce beyond subsistence if they cannot get the produce to the market, or have available goods to purchase with whatever money they may accrue from their produce.

We fully endorse the sentiments in paragraph 72 of section IV on joint forestry, crop, livestock production systems and on the information base which is needed to strengthen these. Excessive deforestation not only leads to environmental degradation but to poverty. Attempts should be made to examine the use of other sources of energy although some of these at this stage may be at a cost beyond the reach of our peasant farmers. Mention was also made of the development of special stoves that maximize the energy use and reduce wood consumption. Regional SADCC Forestry Training Centre is currently being developed and will be established in Zimbabwe.

Mr Chairman, we also compliment the emphasis being placed on the setting up of an Early Warning System. The Global Early Warning System has been useful to our region at times when there has been an outbreak, be it of army worm or at times of red locust. We must place on record our thanks to the Director-General and to FAO for this service. The SADCC region is currently looking at reexamining the existing national early warning systems and the setting up of a regional system. Mr Chairman, it must be realized that we are not starting from scratch. What we hope for is that FAO, with financial assistance to our region by donor agencies, should assist us in improving our existing systems. We need the training of our technicians and professionals. We need to set up our own machinery which will be largely composed of local manpower so as to have indigenous capable personnel.

Mr Chairman, Africa has food problems but I submit we do not wish to be patronized. Let the developed countries assist us to improve our capabilities. In our region we suffer the plague of tsetse fly and also in other countries. We also have the problems of rinderpest which were very well recently highlighted at the Harare African Regional Conference. However, we note that some elements in the developed countries have tended to deprecate our efforts. We shall not however be deterred from fighting these pests.

I must mention a word of caution, Mr Chairman, that technical assistance should be genuine. There are at times attempts to use our plight as an excuse to foist on us unskilled and inexperienced personnel who, it seems, only wish to gain experience at our expense. Africa has become, it seems, a haven for consultants in numerous studies; one study after another consuming large sums of money, often going to nationals of the aid countries. At the end of the day we have very little to show in practical terms on the results of these studies. Assist us to emphasize our priorities and those which we consider essential at this stage, which will lead to practical development projects giving additional produce. There are in many of our countries numerous separate interest groups carrying out disjointed projects which at times are not compatible with our own efforts; projects which are too parochial and cannot be replicated in the wider parts of our countries. They do not only place recurrent budgetary constraints on us but become of value only in themselves. We cannot afford this luxury at this stage. One team after another of consultants descend on us, tying up valuable time for our small manpower. Is it not time international agencies attempt to coordinate their visits and assistance to Africa? It is regrettable that an agency like IFAD seems to be allowed to struggle for funds. I hope it will not be allowed to be starved of the funds which they have so far put to very good use.

Bilateral aid has its merits and is often subject to quick and easy disbursements but suffers from being subject to too parochial interests and the politics of the donor countries. It is because of this tendency to tie aid that multilateral aid is at times preferred. It is surprising that even begging institutions do sometimes forget that what they bring are only loans which at the end of the day must be paid. The question can be asked why not then give priority to those projects of our choice which stand a fair chance of success. When projects are foisted onto countries and fail, it is the recipient country that is blamed. Of course we appreciate that to every agreement there are two signatures. However those who wish to experiment on us should shoulder the major part of the blame.

The role of women, small farmers and mothers needs to be given emphasis. How can we talk of population growth without their involvement? I cannot resist Mr Chairman, to express our interest in the views expressed by the Independent Chairman of the Council, Dr. Swaminathan, on the participation of farmers. I cannot forget an FAO Workshop that I attended in Nairobi a couple of years ago where the most practical contribution was by the only farmer participant from Zambia. We should sometimes stop and listen to these farmers. We in Zimbabwe make an attempt to give recognition to all farmer groups, big or small. We give them adequate participation in the formulation of objectives and even in devising producer prices. The farmers should play their active roles shoulder by shoulder with the bureaucrats and the professionals and the technicians, if the tide of poor agricultural performance must be contained. We give our support and thanks to FAO and the Director-General for this document.

A. M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): My delegation, Sir, has taken note of the document under consideration and of the discussions in the CFS on various points. I do not wish to repeat here what has just been said by the delegations who spoke before me. Very briefly what I want to say is that my delegation fully agrees with the assessment made by the CFS, and we once again would like to reaffirm the role of forestry as it appears in the document. We support the points underlined in the document on the various activities of the Global Early Warning System, and in particular the Director-General's proposal to consolidate this System in the biennium 1986/87.

I should also like to mention two points to which my delegation attaches great importance. First, we consider that peace and security can play a very important - in fact a vital role to prevent situations damaging to food production therefore food security, and this is why we fully agree with what was said reaffirming the rights of all the people to choose their way of life without any outside intervention.

Our second point; this concerns the role of international organizations in food production and their role in food security in developing countries. Here I would like to mention the crisis in certain international organizations today, in particular IFAD, the lack of resources and the drop in contributions from donor countries. This is why I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to all donor countries to ask them to support this Organization, to enable it to continue to serve the cause of world food security.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, queremos expresar, uniéndonos a las anteriores declaraciones de otros delegados, nuestra complacencia por verle a usted dirigiendo extraordinariamente esta sesión y nos congratulamos por ello.

Asimismo debemos declarar nuestra satisfacción por la excelente presentación que ha hecho el profesor Islam del documento que nos ocupa, el cual hemos leído cuidadosamente dándole nuestro apoyo.

Este documento, estudiado también por nuestro gobierno, debe declarar Venezuela en este sentido que nuestro gobierno concede especial importancia, dentro del 7º Plan de la Nación vigente en este año, a la estrategia alimentaria que comprende la preocupación por un programa de consolidación del desarrollo agrícola en el Plan de producción de abastecimiento agrícola para los próximos cinco años. A tal efecto ha venido tomando una serie de acciones conducentes a dar cumplimiento a las previsiones del Acuerdo de Cartagena, y en ese sentido fue convocado en Caracas un seminario técnico que tuvo como objetivo recabar información sobre el sistema alimentario nacional de los países miembros, cuyos resultados fueron presentados durante la 9ª reunión del Consejo Agropecuario del Grupo Andino.

Asimismo, Venezuela participo activamente en la segunda reunión técnica en la cual presentaron los avances logrados en relación con el desarrollo de los Planes Alimentarios y de la organización institucional, así como la programación de las actividades que desarrollara el grupo nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria en cada uno de los países miembros. Para ello se ha establecido un convenio subregional de seguridad alimentaria para dar cumplimiento al compromiso contraído con el resto de los países andinos de Sudamérica y con la población venezolana en el presente 7º Plan de la Nación.

Este sistema alimentario así concebido aspira a alcanzar los siguientes propósitos dentro del marco del concepto de seguridad alimentaria que responde a los principios del documento que estudiamos. Estos propósitos, entre ellos, citamos: proteger a nuestro país contra los riesgos de desabastecimiento de alimentos, coadyuvando a la integración subregional a través de acciones en el marco del Acuerdo de Cartagena, que genera la instrumentación de un sistema de seguridad alimentaria bajo los principios de la FAO, como corresponde a los países miembros de la Organización.

De la misma manera, para alcanzar este propósito se ha designado a un grupo de especialistas que se dedicara exclusivamente a la integración de estos proyectos para consolidar el plan alimentario subregional andino. Nuestro país, al adherirse a este convenio, adquirió los siguientes compromisos: promover la creación del sistema de seguridad alimentaria nacional, evaluar la situación alimentaria del país, elaborar un plan alimentario, que esta actualmente en vigencia, establecer la estructura organizativa que garantice la coordinación institucional de las acciones de seguridad alimentaria.

Este grupo de especialistas, citado anteriormente tendrá como tarea primordial el perfeccionar los mecanismos que nos permitan dar fiel cumplimiento a los compromisos contraídos con la Organización de alimentación, la FAO, y con el resto de los países andinos, puesto que estamos seguros que el sistema nacional de seguridad alimentaria debe ser un mecanismo que permita articular la producción de alimentos y materias primas, su transformación comercial y distribución, con el consumo de productos alimenticios de la población.

Con la puesta en práctica de este sistema así concebido aspiran los países del Pacto Subregional Andino, y Venezuela entre ellos, a proteger al país contra los problemas de desabastecimiento que periódicamente se presenta en nuestro país, atender los requerimientos alimentarios y nutricionales de la población con menores ingresos y coadyuvar a la integración subregional a través de las acciones en el marco del Acuerdo de Cartagena y de los principios de la FAO que generen la instrumentación del sistema de cada uno de los países de la región sudamericana.

Finalmente no puedo dejar de anotar que Venezuela, como miembro del Grupo de Contadora, debe expresar su preocupación frente a los planteamientos hechos ayer por los delegados de los países latinoamericanos y que da su apoyo a la Resolución del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano en relación con los acontecimientos de Nicaragua.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Many of the issues which this paper is dealing with have been covered in discussions which have preceded this one, so it is possible for me to be brief.

We wish to restate our concurrence on the need for the establishment of international preparedness plans in order to be able to monitor the changing supply and demand conditions continuously, also the need for setting up early warning systems to give adequate warning for proper action. We consider that this should be a good way of bolstering the food security through the normal rehabilitation of agricultural production.

However, it must be recognized that in all these respects we, the developing countries, have a well-recognized weakness or inability to implement any of the programmes connected with any of these actions and in this respect we depend on the goodwill of the developed countries to assist us.

We would like to endorse the idea of pre-positioning of stocks in the famine-prone areas, this especially in the light of experience so far gained, when the relief stocks have stockpiled at the ports while people are starving to death where the food is required.

We also endorse the idea of promoting triangular transactions, if nothing else to encourage the consumption of the type of foods that are traditional in the affected areas.

On the question of forestry, we fully endorse the Committee's observation that the principal cause of the deterioration of food production is in land use practices that lead to environmental degradation because of excessive deforestation. We therefore share the view that stronger links be developed between agriculture and forestry services. We agree that inter-disciplinary research is required in order to develop innovative approaches to land use that promote stable, sustainable, diverse and more productive systems.

Finally, we wish to commend the Director-General for his efforts in alerting the international community to the serious food situation in these countries.

M. BALLA SY (Senegal) : Je voudrais à mon tour comme les délégations qui m'ont précédé répéter l'inquiétude de ma délégation devant la gravité sans cesse croissante de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale surtout en Afrique et plus particulièrement dans les pays situés comme le mien dans la zone sahélienne. Je saurai cependant reconnaître que, grâce aux appels répétés du Directeur général et grâce à la perfection du système de l'aide rapide que la FAO a mis en place, la communauté internationale, je veux parler des pays donateurs parmi lesquels je voudrais citer le votre, Monsieur le Président, ces pays donateurs ont consenti des efforts considérables, ont fait tout ce qu'il était en leur pouvoir pour soulager les difficultés et les misères de ces pays. Mais il demeure tout de même que, compte tenu de l'effet de surprise que j'avais déjà souligné et de l'ampleur du fléau, les besoins restent encore très importants.

C'est pourquoi je voudrais, très brièvement, appuyer le rapport du Comité de sécurité alimentaire mondiale, pour une raison assez particulière du reste puisque j'ai eu l'honneur de contribuer un peu à son élaboration, compte tenu également des points importants qui ont été soulignés dans ce document. C'est ainsi que je mettrais l'accent sur le problème de la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence pour souhaiter que la proposition faite d'augmenter son plafond à 2 millions de tonnes qui seraient réparties en 500 000 comme initialement prévu à 1,5 million mobilisables à la demande.

Je souhaiterais également appuyer le système des réserves intérimaires dans les zones menacées. Certes, certains pays ont justement posé la complexité du problème compte tenu des difficultés de gestion que cela aurait supposé. Mais je crois très sincèrement que si l'on se rend compte des difficultés qui ont un peu affaibli les efforts consentis dernièrement par la communauté internationale pour secourir dans les délais souhaités des populations qui étaient en détresse devant une famine particulièrement mortelle, je crois que l'on peut se rendre compte que, compte tenu également des preuves que la FAO a déjà données en incitant certains pays à mettre en place des stocks de

sécurité, cette Organisation a l'expérience et les compétences qu'il faut pour en tout cas contribuer à une parfaite gestion de ces stocks s'ils venaient à être mis en place. Il suffirait simplement qu'on lui donne les moyens nécessaires.

Je voudrais également dire que mon pays souhaiterait que les négociations relatives à l'accord international du blé soient accélérées de manière que les espoirs placés dans ce contexte soient exaucés.

Je crois que nous ne pouvons pas non plus ne pas évoquer le problème assez important du système FMI pour le guichet, en tout cas céréalier, dont l'utilisation a été peu efficace, et n'a pas répondu aux espoirs des pays que nous sommes pour des raisons qui ne sont pas essentiellement dues à cet Organisme mais à d'autres circonstances, et souhaiter que tout cela soit étudié dans le sens d'une amélioration.

Je pense également que la mobilisation des ressources nécessaires pour l'aide alimentaire d'urgence et les moyens de renforcer les structures des pays concernés afin d'en accélérer la livraison jusque dans les zones les plus touchées sont autant de mesures sur lesquelles notre Conseil devrait insister et surtout appuyer la FAO, le PAM et toutes les organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales concernées pour que ce mal soit enfin atténué sinon supprimé.

Voilà très brièvement ce que je voulais dire d'autant plus que le rapport que nous avons étudié a été particulièrement complet et intéressant.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): The views of my delegation were well articulated at the last meeting of the Committee on World Food Security. I would like to make reference, however, to three or four points.

The first point is to wholeheartedly concur with the view expressed in the document that food aid must be integrated into a country's over-all development strategy. The second point is that we still have reservations with respect to certain proposals contained in the document, particularly those relating to a revised IEFR, and the idea of an interim system of national food reserves. In that context, I cannot help but comment that although numerous delegations made reference to the revised definition of world food security, I am struck by the fact that virtually all the comments made almost exclusively related to the same Malthusian preoccupation of the World Food Conference in terms of preoccupation with grains internationally, and wheat in particular. We had a problem of scarcity in the early 1970s; we have had that situation since 1973/74. We have had a recurrence of surplus in the 'seventies and' eighties such as we had in the 'fifties and 'sixties. Perhaps we need to put the grain situation into a longer-term and perhaps more accurate perspective.

Thirdly, we certainly concur with the need to pay increasing attention to the role of forestry in food security, particularly with respect to the context of the African situation where deforestation has had such a fundamental effect on the soil and water base.

Lastly, I would like to close my remarks by once again endorsing the value of the Global Information and Early Warning System to which Canada attaches major value, as you are well aware, Mr Chairman. The System served us well, and we look forward to further improvements, including the work being done on a balance sheet approach to the presentation of the reports.

F.J. FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España): El Documento CL 87/10 es muy interesante, Sr. Presidente, pero abarca demasiados temas importantes por lo que mi delegación prefiere hacer hincapié en uno de ellos. Nos referimos al apartado IV destinado a la Función del Sector Forestal en la Seguridad Alimentaria y esto lo hacemos por los múltiples efectos que el bosque ejerce como elemento físico y como elemento económico sobre las poblaciones más marginales de cualquier país y sobre el conjunto de todas las regiones del globo como estabilizador de las bases de recursos de aguas y suelos imprescindible para la producción alimentaria.

En este sentido, Sr. Presidente, nos preocupan los desastres ecológicos que por diversos motivos están ocurriendo en el mundo y creemos que la FAO, a través de su Departamento de Montes debiera dedicar una participación más activa en la vigilancia de estos fenómenos de degradación. Por esta razón hemos hecho sentir en otros momentos en el Foro de la FAO la necesidad de crear dentro del Departamento de Montes, un sistema de alerta y denuncia de estos hechos para lo que, lógicamente, sería necesario potenciar la capacidad de dicho Departamento.

Ahora, Sr. Presidente, quisiera comentar otros puntos sobre el Documento que estamos estudiando en el apartado IV: Función del Sector Forestal en la Seguridad Alimentaria. En el punto 69 se dice que en las zonas tropicales las prácticas provocaban una deforestación excesiva y provocaban la erosión del suelo en las tierras roturadas en las partes altas de las cuencas hidrográficas y, esto lógicamente, constituye una serie de desastres. A continuación se dice: "En las tierras áridas y semiáridas donde era el viento y no el agua, el principal agente de erosión, la vegetación leñosa no sólo atenuaba los efectos del viento y ofrecía mejores reservas" (así continua la frase). Mi país, como país de la cuenca mediterránea tiene grandes áreas de su territorio y usted, Sr. Presidente, lo sabe porque su país también está en la misma cuenca, tiene grandes partes del territorio con zonas áridas y semiáridas. Y aquí los efectos de la deforestación producen las causas que se le atribuyen a las zonas tropicales. En muchas ocasiones a lo largo de nuestra historia hemos tenido graves, gravísimos incidentes, ocurridos precisamente por las lluvias torrenciales que arrastran no sólo grandes cantidades de agua, sino también el lodo y las piedras. Los últimos desastres, por ejemplo, están aun muy recientes en la zona valenciana. Por eso creo que era interesante que este punto se corrigiera en el Documento porque a cualquier profesional que lo lea le creará ciertas dudas su redacción.

Por otra parte en el punto 76 se dice que: "Había que mantener un equilibrio entre los valores ecológicos y económicos del bosque". Después se continua diciendo: "El olvido de estos últimos", se refiere a los valores ecológicos "era una de las razones de la insuficiencia de las inversiones en el sector forestal".

Nuestra opinión, Sr. Presidente, es todo lo contrario, es precisamente el saber que el monte no es rentable por lo que no se repuebla, como no se repuebla por valor ecológico, mucho menos se repuebla por valor económico. Por esta razón creo que también este párrafo sería interesante revisarlo. Para nosotros la importancia del sector forestal en la seguridad alimentaria sigue siendo de enorme trascendencia.

G. FRADIN (France): Monsieur le Président, en demandant la parole tardivement, ma délégation ne souhaitait pas allonger le débat qui s'est déjà un peu éternisé, mais il m'est difficile de ne pas intervenir sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Toutefois, compte tenu des retards que nous avons pris, je m'abstiendrai de vous faire part de la totalité des commentaires que nous avons préparés à ce sujet.

Comme vous le savez, nous approuvons dans l'ensemble le document qui nous est soumis et qui constitue, à notre sens, une bonne illustration du concept élargi de la sécurité alimentaire. Je me contenterai de me référer à la déclaration de ma délégation lors des travaux du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, ainsi qu'à celle que nous avons faite sur le point 6 de l'ordre du jour.

J'insisterai seulement rapidement sur deux points qui nous apparaissent très importants:

1. Les opérations d'aide triangulaire: Le paragraphe 40 du document rappelle leur intérêt et ma délégation en est intimement persuadée. Mon pays s'efforce de favoriser ce type d'opérations, pour mobiliser les productions céréalières et, là où elles sont disponibles, aider à leur redistribution. C'est pour nous un moyen privilégié de participer au renforcement de la coopération régionale à laquelle nous avons déjà exprimé notre attachement.

2. Les forêts: Je tiens à confirmer notre satisfaction d'avoir vu traiter le thème du rôle des forêts dans la sécurité alimentaire. Ma délégation espère que les travaux du prochain Congrès forestier mondial permettront d'affirmer à nouveau l'importance du secteur forestier et surtout la nécessité

de mettre en place des politiques intégrées de manière optimale au développement du secteur forestier, à celui de l'agriculture et de l'élevage.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): Allow me first of all, Mr Chairman, to apologise: we are very sorry that we were unable to attend the meeting yesterday because we were celebrating the end of Ramadan: Al Fitr. This is a very important celebration for all Moslems, as I am sure you realise. So we regret our absence yesterday and we believe it is our duty today to briefly submit our remarks on what was debated yesterday. Especially, we would like to refer to the Compact.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gives its full support to all the points listed in this World Food Security Compact. We consider this Compact to be of great importance, especially as the food and agricultural situation is deteriorating day after day in many countries of the Third World, and particularly in Africa.

It is our view that such a Compact can provide firm grounds for world food security. We are absolutely convinced that this Compact will provide an important framework for the sharing of responsibilities between developed and developing countries, with the participation of intergovernmental, governmental and other organizations and individuals as such. That is why I take this opportunity of offering my congratulations and thanks to the Director-General for this document, which we believe to be a very interesting and excellent document. We fully agree that this Compact should be forwarded to the general Conference for adoption. We are convinced that national efforts, are the basis of world food security, even if these efforts are inadequate and insufficient. Therefore it is necessary that they be completed by international efforts and contributions. I apologise for having to say this at this late stage.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I wish to emphasize the value that we place on FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System. We were glad to have been invited to participate through an expert consultation in March of this year. Our views on technical matters remain known in other fora.

As we have said elsewhere, famine prediction can only operate effectively at national level. It requires the output of the Early Warning System as we presently know it and observation on the grounds of other factors of food production, such as distressed sales of livestock and local migration.

We welcome the assistance which FAO is giving to the establishment of national early warning systems. We regard the Early Warning System as a first priority in the allocation of resources.

May I be permitted to refer to the remarks that the delegate from Zimbabwe made recently about the provision of experts. The Overseas Development Administration places particular importance on understanding the relationship between recruiting sections and the manpower or user department of overseas governments. Our recruitment department and our personnel department have recently been reorganized on a geographic basis specifically in order to ensure that they are sensitive to the requirements of overseas partners, particularly in relation to skills and sophistication required. Training is also being expanded so that potential staff may gain overseas experience in junior capacities so that the experience is already there before they take on appointment as experts.

As regards the engagement of firms of consultants, I think the general experience is that this has to be done on a functional basis so that the user country is assured of having a firm of consultants with the best available skills and expertise in the discipline required, as well as that of considerations of equity. However, the wishes of the overseas government and the track record of the consultant firm in overseas assignments is an important factor in the selection process.

J.C. CLAVE: (Philippines): Mr Chairman, may I congratulate you on your elevation to the post of Vice-Chairman of this Council.

I wish to start my remarks today by reiterating my congratulations and great satisfaction with the Report prepared by the staff and the Director-General on food security. My comments on this point reflect my country's feelings and attitude towards the Report.

To elaborate my thoughts as an adviser on agricultural and other related facilities, I think that FAO has done a job par excellence. However, FAO has embarked through its technical and economic programme on the role of a field worker, and organization in the field. I am happy about this development because I think we all agree that ideas could be restless and until they are properly tested and implemented in the field, they will not rest.

I wish to state that perhaps I have been very lucky in the sense that I was an early believer of the great leader Gandhi, who I think at one time said: "Open all your windows so that fresh wind may come in from all directions". It is for this reason that I wish to state that my remarks are inspired not only by the report but by my colleagues in this hall as well, because I have been greatly benefited by their observations.

Our general focus as a nation is on providing food security for all mankind, and we join all of you in this concern. Somehow, however, I feel that as I make these observations on food security and on other matters, I wish to focus on some concrete aids to the situation in Africa.

My country is concerned with the food problem in Africa. I wish we could help but, obviously, we are in the same predicament, although not as seriously.

I should like to invite the attention of my colleagues once again to paragraph 11 of the report on the Food Situation in Africa. It is pointed out in this Report that FAO invited attention to the developing crisis in Africa as early as 1976. It is now 1985, and it appears that the situation has become one of emergency proportions. 1976 to 1985 is a period of ten years, and I wish to invite the attention of my colleagues to the time that has elapsed, because ten years in the face of an emerging food situation is a long period of time. A lot of people could have died during that time.

I would like to ask if it was the media or was it FAO that finally brought international attention to the food problem in Africa. If it was the media, then perhaps we should have programmes to coordinate our efforts of bringing emergency food situations to the attention of the international community. Perhaps we must forge some agreement. Was it our own media organization in FAO that did it? How effective are they?

For my second point I must refer to some of the observations in the report as well as the statements of some of my colleagues, not in a contentious manner but to contribute our views.

Firstly, there have been voices here which would call upon the developing countries such as mine to first put our houses in order so that aid may be given. There are those who would advocate structural changes, and there are those who would advocate breaking away with the past. These are beautiful words, but if we insist on them, we might be establishing some kind of obstacles to helping the development of underdeveloped countries. What do I mean?

Firstly, what do we mean by putting our houses in order? One of our colleagues pointed out that some developing countries are not only facing agriculture or food development problems, we also have some political problems, security problems, and other problems. What is really meant by asking developing countries to put their houses in order? Is it our economic development, is it our eagerness? Is our skill properly to develop our economy part of putting our house in order? Secondly, when developing countries are asked to put their house in order, perhaps they could say, precisely, but our house is not in order because there is international disorder.

This Organization and other United Nations Organizations have made outcries for a new economic order, new legal order, new information order, and other things. Perhaps we should really re-examine this because I am afraid that it is serving as an obstacle rather than an aid to hasten development.

Structural changes also will be difficult because many of us from the countryside know that our traditional societies would rather preserve their traditional values, most of which are morally, ethically and philosophically based, rather than have a piece of bread or butter. Perhaps I have pointed out the need for a balanced spiritual and economic development. Breaking away from the past is the same.

Some of our colleagues have pointed out the fact that some of the things that the world community is doing in Africa are disjointed activity. Some complain - and I do regard the views with the highest respect - that some of the experts who are sent to Africa are not really experts. I think we should listen to these voices. Therefore, in the light of these observations, I was thinking that instead of piecemeal projects of having a total project, something like an Africa to feed Africa plan or an Asia to feed Asia plan, or a South America to feed South America plan.

If I remember my history correctly, after the war in Europe the United States set up what they called the Marshall Plan. I think the Marshall Plan contributed greatly to rehabilitation of Europe. I feel that many of my colleagues from developing countries share my view that what we really need is an integrated, coordinated plan for our development, because the piecemeal efforts of so many agencies do not really converge sometimes and do not integrate well into the national plans of the governments.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I wish to believe, as stated in the report, that this plan for Africa has been discussed and considered with the concern of national governments. I feel that it is important that any plan in any given country must be coordinated with that country, must be integrated into the national plan. I have been an administrator in my country of a national plan, but notwithstanding the proximity of the national government to the local government and the people, any plan that was conceived at a top level without the consultation and participation of the people below has not been very effective. I think it is necessary for us to consult more thoroughly with the people who are affected. When I say consult, I do not mean the consultation that we sometimes see taking place in some international organizations where a plan is prepared by an international organization which then approaches the national government saying that this is the plan that they have for that government.

This has happened where the recipient country has just been, shall we say, an entity which stamps approval onto a plan conceived by higher international organizations. I think that experience shows that this has not been well appreciated by developing countries. I base that conclusion on the observations I have made, where certain delegates have said "some of the plans brought to us were disjointed plans", or "some of the experts sent to us are not relevant to what we need".



LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant des Philippines. Je trouve ses remarques et ses observations très justes et je les partage en grande partie, sinon comme président, mais en tant que représentant de l'Italie.

Mme M. LOURDES DUARTE (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

Tout d'abord, ma délégation voudrait vous féliciter, M. le Président, pour votre nomination. Elle voudrait également féliciter le Secrétariat et le Prof. Islam pour la présentation du document CL 87/10.

Dans l'évaluation de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale on note que de graves pénuries alimentaires persistent dans plusieurs pays africains dont les besoins en aide alimentaire sont estimés à plus du double de l'aide reçue en 1983-84. D'où l'urgence de secours pour les aider à relancer au plus vite leur agriculture et leur élevage afin de réduire les dépenses à l'égard de l'aide alimentaire.

On a évoqué les efforts du Directeur général pour appeler l'attention du monde sur la crise alimentaire de l'Afrique pour mobiliser l'aide de la communauté internationale qui a réagi positivement et aussi les efforts des pays touchés pour faciliter la distribution des vivres. L'objectif annuel minimal de la RAIU devrait être porté à deux millions de tonnes mobilisables à la demande. Les politiques de stabilisation des prix agricoles et d'autres mesures de soutien, telles que l'aide aux organisations de producteurs, crédit, systèmes de commercialisation, moyens de transport et de stockage, devraient encourager la production.

La contribution de l'aide alimentaire à la sécurité alimentaire a été minutieusement appréciée à la dixième session du CSA. Elle peut jouer un rôle important à l'appui des trois volets de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et son effet global dépend surtout de la façon dont elle est fournie et utilisée. Il est important qu'elle soit intégrée dans les stratégies et programmes nationaux de sécurité alimentaire. Des programmes nationaux de prévention des catastrophes et des systèmes d'alerte rapide doivent être créés. La FAO est en mesure d'aider à cet effet les pays intéressés.

Une assistance technique et financière devient prioritaire pour faire face aux problèmes d'infra-structure, notamment l'entreposage et la distribution.

L'efficacité de l'aide pourrait être accrue par des apports de ressources tels que des contributions en espèces et l'assistance technique. Le Secrétariat de la FAO a été invité à étudier la proposition de mise en place anticipée de stocks alimentaires dans des zones sujettes à des catastrophes ou dans des points stratégiques.

L'accroissement des opérations triangulaires a été déclaré important afin que des produits conformes aux habitudes alimentaires traditionnelles puissent être fournis et nous soutenons fortement ce point.

Tout en reconnaissant le rôle des forêts dans la sécurité alimentaire, ma délégation aimerait présenter son plein appui à la proposition du Directeur général de renforcer le Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide pendant l'exercice 1986/87 tel que cela est proposé au paragraphe 84.

H. CARRION (Observador de Nicaragua): Deseo unirme a la felicitación de los demás delegados por haber sido usted, señor Embajador, electo como Vicepresidente de esta sesión del Consejo de la FAO.

Especialmente nuestra delegación, a nombre de nuestro Pueblo y Gobierno, desea agradecer la solidaridad expresada por distintas delegaciones del Consejo en relación al embargo comercial decretado contra Nicaragua. Es solidaridad basada en principios contenidos en la declaración 222 del 5° Consejo extraordinario del Sistema Económico Latino Americano y la Resolución 39/210 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas. Ambas deploran el uso de medidas económicas coercitivas por motivos políticos.

Sin embargo, deseo mencionar que aquí no tratamos, ni mucho menos, de tener una confrontación con ninguna delegación, simplemente señalamos un hecho de carácter concreto que viola el concepto de la seguridad alimentaria adoptado por la Conferencia de la FAO.

El impacto de este embargo contra Nicaragua tiene un doble efecto negativo; en primer lugar se limita un mercado a nuestras exportaciones agrícolas de carácter tradicional, por lo tanto limita también nuestra adquisición de divisas para la compra de insumos agropecuarios y afecta el poder adquisitivo de miles de familias que trabajan en el sector de la producción agrícola de exportación.

La segunda fase de este impacto negativo es que también se nos cierra un mercado para la compra de insumos agropecuarios incluyendo en particular maquinaria agrícola, puesto que ese mercado que se nos cierra era el que tradicionalmente nos suplía de maquinaria y repuestos para la producción agrícola y afecta a nuestra seguridad alimentaria.

Finalmente, para ser conscientes y consecuentes, como mencionaba en la primera intervención relacionada con el tema del Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial y la crisis alimentaria en Africa, deseamos apoyar el informe y las recomendaciones contenidas en el mismo, del 10° CSA, en virtud de que participamos (de sus debates y en su Comité de Redacción.

A. YILALA (Observer for Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation is pleased to see you in the Chair and would like to congratulate you on your election. It would also like to thank Professor Islam for his excellent presentation, and the Secretariat for the preparation of the document and the report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security. The continued critical food situation of the world, particularly Africa, makes discussion of world food security very relevant and appropriate, and we consider that the document has pointed out most of the serious issues in this regard.

The serious food supply problem encountered by a number of African countries which has lead to deaths from starvation has diverted the attention of the international community to increased emergency operations and rehabilitation of agriculture. The efforts of the Director-General to draw the attention of the international community to the African food emergency and the rehabilitation of agriculture is both commendable and noble. We therefore join others in congratulating the Director-General, and we convey our due regard for his achievement and effort. The positive response of the international community to both of these matters is remarkable, and we consider that this will contribute towards international understanding and peace.

The report indicates that production of food in most of the African countries was below that of the previous year in 1984, and that for 1985 has yet to be seen, though some signs of improvement are being reported. Ethiopian food production for 1985 depends on the rain which is expected during June to September of 1985. This directs our attention towards consideration of increased food production as a means of long-term solution to world food security. In this regard the need to develop supporting services for increased food production deserves our attention. Among these, service and development for the forestry component is one area which we consider very important and essential, and which will lead towards long-term food security objectives. The inter-dependence between forestry and agriculture requires greater integration therefore, further damage of existing forestry resources should be averted. As we have gone too far in the destruction of forest resources and in creating an imbalance of nature, the afforestation reclamation process will require the greatest attention. In this regard, research, training and the actual afforestation programme will require the utmost consideration.

The Ethiopian delegation is pleased to note the interest of many countries to assist in this regard, and would like to see further development and cooperation. We anticipate that the present land use practice and an increase in the area of cultivable land is one of the principle causes for the deterioration of food production, and could be improved through the conservation process. For this, forestry becomes one of the major actions to be considered.

We therefore would like to support the idea of FAO's increased participation in the area of joint forestry, crop and livestock production systems and strengthen the related information base and increasing resources for it.

The food aid requirement for 1984-85 estimated at 6.9 million tons is short by 1.2 million tons at a pledging stage and therefore the need for additional food aid requires further attention.

While appreciating the response and also the request for further pledges, the need of facilitating the distribution of the food aid which has been delivered to affected countries, and its urgent dispatch from the source needs urgent attention and action.

The need of a logistic support so that the food could reach those in need as fast as possible will assist the effort of saving lives of those endangered by the horrors of hunger.

The Ethiopian delegation considers that the raising of the level of the International Emergency Food Reserve from its present level of 500 000 tons to 2 million tons will improve the timespan for responding to the food needs in an emergency situation. Further improvements in this regard could be made through the prepositioning of food in drought-prone areas.

Contribution of food aid and the important role that it could play in food production, stabilizing supplies and improving access to food is significantly important if used in a planned manner. The Food-for-Work Programme that is being carried out in Ethiopia has indicated its potential contribution in the development of forestry, soil and water conservation schemes and its continuation therefore is supported.

Mr Chairman, the need for establishing a national preparedness plan by organizing a food reserve for emergency purposes was recognized by my country and plans to stock 180,000 tons over a period of five to six years was considered and planned. However this could not go beyond the existing 17,000 tons due to the emergency situation of food over the last 3-4 years, and most of the resource had to be diverted for the situation that was facing us. While we do support the need of establishing a national preparedness plan we would like to indicate that the realization of it depends on easing up of the present food shortages and the assistance that we get in this regard.

Mr Chaman, in talking about food security, the setting up of national early warning is another area that we consider extremely essential and preparation of strengthening the existing organization has already been considered by FAO. We hope that the present study made by FAO will get its final implementation phase and completion.

Along with this, the development of infrastructures, which will include storage and inland transport network, will increase the use of food aid and cooperation in this regard is of great importance.

In this connection we would like to indicate our recognition and support of the Global Information and Early Warning System on food and agriculture because of its contribution over the last ten years, and its further contribution will depend on the extent of its further strength, with the resources required, for its effective functioning of the international undertaking on world food security, and we would like to express our willingness to participate in the system.

The Ethiopian delegation would also like to indicate its support for triangular transaction and FAO's role in identifying and disseminating information about availabilities of food surplus in developing countries.

Finally, we would like to raise a point that we should have raised yesterday in the discussion on the World Food Security Compact. We express our pleasure in joining those who supported the endorsement of the World Food Security Compact in its present revised form, and due regards to the Prime Minister of Italy for his support and the Swiss Government for withdrawing their reservation.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Since this is the first time I have had the opportunity to speak with you in the Chair, I want to thank you very much for your efforts to keep the discussion on this agenda item related to the issue at hand, and intend to do so myself in terms of my intervention.

On the report of the Tenth Session of the CFS, I think that Dr Islam has presented an accurate summary of the areas of agreement and disagreement by the Committee. I would like to make several observations about particular chapters in that report.

We agree that the various ideas for food insurance schemes as discussed in paragraphs 23 and 48 require further study and clarification. The Secretariat should submit a more developed proposal to future sessions of the CFS. Similarly, we support the Committee's request to develop the proposal for prepositioning of food stocks described in paragraph 39, again for further consideration at a future session of the CFS. This, of course, should take into account the experiences that donor countries have had in this regard.

While the United States opposes increasing the target for IEFER, as I mentioned on Monday, because we see no need for standby pledges in view of the facility's existing flexibility, we accept the Committee's recommendation, however, to the CFA to consider the proposal as reported in paragraph 46 bearing in mind the views that were expressed by various delegates at the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

We also accept the Committee's reiteration of general support for an interim system of national food reserves as reported in paragraphs 52 and 56, and indeed agree with the Committee's view that such a system does not require the adoption of a uniform set of measures by all countries. We underscore again that US food reserves are governed by specific statutes which do not permit a linkage to other country's reserves with respect to release provisions. Nevertheless, we are willing to share information on US reserves and to work towards improved coordination among all food donors.

The report of the CFS notes that the Committee did not reach agreement on several measures including the following: first, the International Wheat Agreement with economic provisions, paragraph 20\$ while the United States opposes those economic provisions, we believe that other improvements can be made in the International Wheat Agreement. There are a number of proposals in paragraph 44 regarding the FAC: to increase FAC commitments to 10 million tons; mandating that FAC aid to low-income countries should be in the form of grants; asking for a separate FAC financing window

to provide minimum cash commitments by donors; the proposal in paragraph 45 to de-link FAC from the International Wheat Agreement, and in paragraph 47 to revise FAC Article IV to trigger semi-automatic responses in the event of large-scale food shortages. We believe that such measures as I have noted could be counter-productive, and that we must maintain existing FAC flexibility.

Mr Chairman, I have waited until this point in the discussion to try to cover all the points that many delegates have raised. I know that a number have mentioned or complained that the large budget deficits in some developed countries, and I take that to include the United States, have led to high interest rates and movement in exchange rates, and have been detrimental to the economies of some developing countries. I was happy to note as I read yesterday's International Herald Tribune that the prime rate in the United States had dropped to its lowest level since 1978, and this should indeed be of some assistance to those countries who have a large international debt.

We want also to point out that governmental expenditures on agricultural price and income support programmes have been for many years among the largest contributors to the US budgetary deficit. We, indeed, take the concern of our own budget, deficit as our first priority in setting our house in order. We do think that that reducing deficit and the curtailment of expenditure on agricultural programmes is an essential and indeed a primary goal of US economic policy. We believe that the unintended effect of such domestic agricultural policies has been to help support the price of cereals in international trade at a higher level than they would be otherwise and that this has been at the expense in the first instance of the US taxpayer, and in the second of food consumers all over the world. It should be clear that the ability of the US Government to gain support for expenditures on food aid and agricultural development overseas is directly related to the size of that tax burden, so to the extent that we are able to reduce the burden of expenditure under our domestic agricultural policies we may indeed be able to do more in the areas we have heard so much comment on over the last two days.

I might add that the United States has no objection to the proposals that several delegates have mentioned for FAO to conduct an analysis over the potential impact of changes in US agricultural policies on the economies, the agricultural economies of other countries. Indeed we would hope and expect that the Secretariat would investigate such matters in other economies as well. We presume that the FAO agricultural price study to be presented to the Conference this November already gives consideration to some of these matters, to the extent that the Secretariat, perhaps better than ourselves, can foresee the actions of the US Congress, and we would be happy to cooperate in any way we can with the Secretariat in this effort.

Finally I do want to come back to the issue that has occupied the interest of a number of speakers this morning and yesterday afternoon. I do intend very much to abide by your often repeated desire to keep any comments on certain political issues that have been discussed at a general level and of relevance to the issues at hand. Mr Chairman, I would note in starting that the United States is not the only country today or in the past to have had trade embargoes, and I believe indeed that some members of this Council today have trade embargoes. I would make three very general points in response to issues that have been brought to our attention in this unfortunate debate. First, customary international law does not require that a State trade with any other State. My second point: nothing in the UN Charter prevents a State from exercising its right to terminate trade. My third point, Mr Chairman: Article 21 of the GATT expressly permits measures that a party - and here I quote - "considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests taken in time of war or other emergency in international relations". I would note, Mr Chairman, that this Article has been cited by other countries in imposing similar trade boycotts.

In addition, I believe that discussion of UN Resolution 39/210 belongs in New York where it has been discussed, and is inappropriate for a meeting of the FAO.

Finally, I would add my deep personal regret, since this is the first time that I have had an opportunity to participate in a meeting of this very important and vital institution, that we have had such unhelpful discussion as we have heard in the last few days on certain issues, and that we have had countries named by name, as my country has been. I think, Mr Chairman, we have all been diminished by that.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'il serait sage maintenant de demander au Dr Islam de bien vouloir répondre aux remarques, aux observations, aux questions qui ont été posées par les délégués.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The Secretariat has carefully noted the various comments and suggestions made by the delegates in the course of the debate. We note that the Council has agreed with the analysis made by the Committee on World Food Security on the current world food security situation, which has further been elaborated during the discussions of the last three days in this Council. The delegate of the Philippines raised the question whether it was FAO or the media that brought the emergency situation in Africa to the attention of the World community.

As the members of the Council are aware, the Director-General of FAO has on many occasions at intergovernmental meetings and press interviews stressed the emerging African food problem over a period extending for more than a decade.

As regards the current emergency, FAO through its Global Information Early Warning System alerted the international community as early as 1983. Following this the Director-General convened meetings of donors and affected countries in order to mobilize the necessary relief action in time. These meetings, started in mid-1983 with the representatives of both donors and recipient countries, were followed by ministerial level meetings during the 1983 FAO Conference here in Rome, and subsequently in 1983/84 the Director-General also drew attention to this at various international meetings, at United Nations meetings, ECOSOC, FAO Council and Conference, as well as special meetings called in this direction. Indeed some action did follow these efforts. Unfortunately it was too little and in some cases, such as in Ethiopia, not only too little but also too late. Regrettably this lack of adequate attention coincided with another poor crop year in Ethiopia leading to starvation and deaths.

It was at this point in time that the media intervened, beginning with the now well-known BBC TV coverage of the Ethiopian situation. By that time the situation had worsened to a great extent, but the powerful media in mobilizing public opinion did succeed in prompting a response from the donor community.

This chronology of events shows one thing very clearly, that FAO through its Early Warning System was and is in a position not only to detect but also to alert the international community in time of impending emergencies. However, actual action, at least on the scale needed, requires increased pressure of public opinion, which the media can help build up.

Coming to other items on the report of the Committee on World Food Security, the Secretariat has also noted the Council's agreement with the comments of the Committee on World Food Security on the report of the symposium on world food security. We have carefully noted that the Council endorses the recommendations made by the Committee regarding the need for analysis of the work of the International Monetary Fund's real financing facility and the proposals for food aid insurance scheme.

The Council recognizes the contribution which food aid can make to the promotion of world food security. It endorsed the action proposed by the Committee to be taken by recipient countries in order to make the contribution of food aid for food security more effective. It also supported most of the proposals for action by the donor countries to enhance the contribution of food aid to food security, including the need for a systematic approach to the programming and management of food aid in order to increase the stability and predictability of food aid as well as timeliness and better donor coordination of food aid shipments.

The Council agreed with the Committee's suggestion that the proposal for pre-positioning of stocks in disaster-prone areas or strategic locations be further developed by FAO Secretariat for further consideration at a future session, taking into account the experience of some donors in this respect.

The Council also agreed with the Committee's recommendations or proposals for multilateral action for increasing the dependability of food aid as well as improving its responsiveness to large-scale shortages, including the proposal to invite the CFS to make a study of a proposal for a stand-by reserve for IEF, bearing in mind the views expressed by the delegates at the Tenth session of the CFS.

The Council also endorsed the Committee's general support for an interim system of national food reserves and agreed that the Secretariat be requested to continue to monitor and report on the progress in this regard.

The Council also endorsed the need for triangular transactions for effective utilization of food aid.

The Council further recognized that forestry contributed to food security through its multiple roles and recommended and supported FAO's work in this area of agro-forestry systems which integrate trees, crops and livestock production at the farm level.

Finally, the Council expressed its strong support for the work of the Global Information and Early Warning System and appreciated that during the last ten years of its operation it has worked effectively and flexibly in its unique role of continuously monitoring national and global crop developments and in providing timely warning to the international community.

The Council also fully supported the proposals of the Director-General for strengthening the System in the next biennium, which it considered to be high priority.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense M. Islam que votre remarque constitue un excellent résumé de nos discussions. Je me limiterai à souligner certains éléments de notre discussion. J'ai vu que le Conseil, en général, approuvait les suggestions et analyses du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; le Conseil s'est montré vivement préoccupé par la situation alimentaire mondiale, surtout en Afrique, et par le déséquilibre qui continue dans la situation alimentaire mondiale, caractérisée, d'un côté par des excédents, et de l'autre par la famine. On a beaucoup insisté sur l'intégration de l'aide au service du développement. On a aussi noté la grande utilité des opérations triangulaires, le rôle des petits pays qui doivent être mis dans les conditions, non seulement de produire, mais de vendre, ce qui comporte aussi des problèmes de caractère plus général, de l'environnement, de l'économie mondiale, naturellement de la commercialisation et pas seulement de la production. Le Conseil a aussi noté le rôle fondamental des forêts dans la sécurité alimentaire, l'insuffisance de l'aide alimentaire au développement et l'insuffisance de l'aide publique. Il a noté aussi que beaucoup dépend, pour la sécurité alimentaire, des structures et pas seulement du volume de l'aide mais de la possibilité de la faire arriver à temps, à ceux qui en ont besoin.

Donc je pense que nous pouvons conclure ici nos travaux sur ce point de l'ordre du jour et nous pouvons passer au point suivant, le point 7 :

III ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP

III ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM

III ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA

7. Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 18-27 March 1985)

7. Rapport de la huitième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 18-27 mars 1985)

7. Informe del Octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (Roma, 18-27 de marzo de 1985)

LE PRESIDENT: A ce propos je voudrais dire que pour faciliter nos travaux et pour tenter de les accélérer, je suggérerais que l'on aborde les arguments du document CL 87/9 en trois phases :

1. Je pense qu'il faudrait d'abord s'occuper du code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides;
2. passer à d'autres arguments qui sont les plus importants dans ce rapport, c'est-à-dire le rôle des cultures vivrières dans la nutrition, la sécurité alimentaire et la politique agricole des prix;
3. Voir finalement la transformation des produits agricoles alimentaires et non alimentaires.

Je pense qu'en acceptant cette méthode de travail on pourra faciliter nos travaux et éviter une répétition des interventions parce qu'il y a beaucoup d'arguments qui pourraient être discutés ultérieurement dans les jours qui viennent, peut-être demain dans le contexte du sommaire du programme d'action budgétaire.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I would like to mention that this introduction is also on behalf of Dr Islam. We both take responsibility to the Director-General for the COAG meeting.

You might recall that at its previous session the agenda of the Committee on Agriculture included three main parts: (1) review of FAO's Programme of Work in the food and agriculture sector, (2) food and nutrition, and (3) selected development problems. This year's session included an additional major item, namely the proposed International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of pesticides.

Following its review of the implementation of the activities during 1983 to 1985 by the Agriculture Department and the Economic and Social Policy Department and the joint activities with the regional offices and joint divisions which fall under the Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture, the Committee had expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive overview of FAO's work. It welcomed under this major programme the further increase in direct support to member countries through FAO staff and consultants and commended the greater proportion of technical staff time, over one-third, devoted to backstopping of food projects under the major programme of 1984.

As in the past, the Committee discussed jointly the medium-term and long-term outlook for food and agricultural development and the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986/87. It agreed that the objectives and strategies proposed under Major Programme 2.1 - Agriculture fully covered the problems of the food and agricultural sector and were designed to support the efforts of developing countries to improve rural incomes, levels of nutrition, security of food supplies, and the balance of trade.

The Committee approved the priorities submitted under the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the 1986/87 biennium and agreed in general with the balance and priorities of the various programmes.

Many comments were expressed on each of the eight programmes contained in the report submitted to the Committee. It fully endorsed the priority activities of the natural resources programme. In particular it approved the focusing on improved assessment of data on land and water resources, greater use of renewable resources of plant nutrients combined with fertilizer use, improved water in irrigation systems and organizations and supported soil conservation programmes.

The Committee also agreed with the reorientation of farm management activities towards strengthening farming systems development, especially for small farmers. The Committee recognized the important contribution made by FAO in its crops programme in increasing food crop production. Stressing the paramount importance of the programme the Committee supported the established priorities which focused on increasing crop production in food-deficit countries and encouraging member countries to adopt modern production processing and marketing techniques, especially in the small farm sector.

It also adopted the proposed activities to assist member countries in crop production and in the development of comprehensive agricultural mechanization strategies.

Concerning the livestock programme, the Committee endorsed the proposed priorities of that programme with its major components on animal disease control, animal production improvement and meat and milk development. The Committee fully supported the actions regarding the important socio-economic role of livestock development in the farming pattern of developing countries, and commended FAO for the prompt action taken in regard to rinderpest in Africa and the Near East, as well as for the assistance provided in the preparation of the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

The Committee reiterated its support for the International Meat Development Scheme and the International Scheme for Dairy Development. It welcomed the assistance provided for those schemes to a large number of developing countries. The Committee endorsed the role of the newly established Division on Research and Technology Development as a focal point of FAO activities in this important area.

It supported the emphasis given to research management and training in this area and approved the active role of FAO in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and the support provided through its Technical Advisory Committee.

The Committee stressed the need to intensify efforts to develop appropriate technologies for crop production, particularly for integrated dryland farming systems. It endorsed the efforts of FAO in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency in furthering the use of irradiation for food conservation and disinfection.

With reference to the rural development programme, the Committee supported the emphasis given to programmes towards the alleviation of poverty and hunger in rural areas, and agreed that such orientation should continue. It therefore welcomed the efforts of FAO in assisting countries in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action, and endorsed the importance given to projects for people's participation, and emphasized the need for collaboration with non-governmental organizations in this regard.

The Committee welcomed the importance given to the programmes concerning women in development and the promotion of activities supporting women as agricultural producers and active participants in development. The Committee stressed the importance of continued work to ensure the access to rural women of agricultural credit.

The Committee endorsed the nutrition programme and its priorities. It recognized the importance of integrating nutritional aspects into strategies for agricultural and rural development, and also the fisheries sector. The Committee supported the assistance given to countries in nutrition planning training and food quality control. The work of the Codex Alimentarius Committee was appreciated, and the need for dealing with the nutritional issues concerning urban populations highlighted.

Regarding food and agricultural information and analysis, the Committee commended FAO for issuing timely early warning of widespread food shortages in Africa in 1983/84. It agreed with the high priority given by the Director-General to a substantial strengthening of the Global Information and Early Warning System in 1986/87.

The Committee also agreed that governments needed assistance in setting up national and regional early warning systems. The Committee supported the effort being made for the improved collection and analysis of food and agricultural data. It urged additional emphasis on training in data collection processing and analysis. The Committee concurred with the objectives of the food and agriculture policy programme in the medium-term and appreciated in particular the fact that two of the Director-General's priorities, namely, increased food security and enhancement of economic cooperation between developing countries, were reflected in the major activities of the programme, and it supported activities planned for 1986/87 in both of these areas.

The Committee also supported the proposal to maintain as operational the "Agriculture: Towards 2000" system, and endorsed the programme of activities planned in the area of commodity policies and trade. The Committee has supported the proposals made regarding agricultural policy analysis and planning assistance, including training.

Turning now to the standing item on nutrition, the Committee considered the topical role of minor crops in nutrition and food security. The Committee welcomed the emphasis on minor crops as essential for improving nutrition and food security, as income-earning crops for rural women, and for relieving pressure on food imports. It stressed the need for more information on their nutritional and socio-economic significance, and in this respect welcomed the preparation of two FAO manuals.

The Committee emphasized the need for more agricultural research and recommended urgent action be taken for the promotion of these crops by various means. It further recommended that governments should develop appropriate agricultural policies for possessing technologies to increase production, improve storage, marketing, and better utilization of these crops.

Under the agenda item regarding development problems, the most extensively discussed subject was agricultural price policies. The Committee emphasized the importance and complexity of agricultural price policies in countries at all stages of development. It drew attention to a number of issues of primary importance on price policies, for instance multiplicity and ranking of objectives, agricultural price policy and the economy as a whole, complementarity of prices and other policy measures, input subsidies, criteria for price support levels, consumer food pricing, regional pricing and implementation of price policies, and agreed with the proposed work programme of FAO and with price policies emphasizing the importance of its role in helping countries to improve these policies, giving particular importance to the training role of FAO in price policy analysis.

The Committee endorsed the intention of the Director-General to submit the revised Report on Agricultural Price Policies, taking into account its views and suggestions, to the FAO Conference in November 1985. It agreed that the document being submitted to the FAO Conference should be a basic guide to all countries, particularly developing countries, in their formulation and application of food and agricultural price policies.

In discussing the subject of processing of food and non-food agricultural products, the Committee agreed on the importance of the role played by agro-industries in the economic development of countries. It expressed appreciation for the efforts of FAO in assisting member countries in this area. The Committee emphasized that the successful establishment of agro-industries required that full attention be given to several factors such as relevant statistical data, infrastructure, sufficient raw material supply, manpower of appropriate skills, the respective roles of public and private sectors, the selection of appropriate technologies, and so on. It endorsed the proposed strategies in policies recommending that FAO continue to strengthen its activities in agro-industrial development.

The Committee examined the proposed International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The Committee unanimously agreed with the need for such a code in view of the continuing increase in the use of pesticides essential for agricultural production, and the risks involved. The Committee endorsed the basic objective of the Code, namely, to identify potential hazards in the distribution and use of pesticides, to establish standards of conduct and to define responsibilities for all those engaged in the regulation, distribution and use of pesticides. The Committee appreciated that the Code adequately covered such important aspects as training and instruction for users of pesticides. While not perfect, the Code was an important first step to further improvement.

The Committee gave broad general acceptance to the Code, agreeing that it should be submitted to the Council. Noting that it would be for the Council to consider and decide on the transmission of the Code to the Conference, the Committee recommended that the Director-General take into consideration the comments in its report and take such initiatives as he deemed favourable to achieving consensus in the Council.

Following the review of COAG, we have carefully re-examined the draft in the light of the comments and suggestions made by member governments. The Director-General considers that as a whole, the text should remain as it is. However, in order to meet certain preoccupations, to express certain points more clearly and to facilitate consensus in Council and Conference, a number of amendments have been incorporated in the text of the draft Code. Document CL 87/9-Sup.1 contains the revised text of the Code with the changes underlined, as well as the text of the draft resolution. The Director-General stresses that this revised version will find the support of the whole Council resulting in the agreement of all and a clear recommendation that it be adopted by the Conference.



In conclusion, I would like to draw the attention of all representatives here to the specific development topics selected by the Committee for possible inclusion in the agenda of the next COAG session in the Spring of 1987, namely, dryland farming systems, the effect of tenure and fragmentation of farm holdings on agricultural development, and requirements and strategies for improved production of roots, tubers, and plantains given in paragraphs 222 and 223 on page 28 of the English version of the report.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie, Monsieur Bommer, pour votre présentation exhaustive et très complète.

Je vous propose d'organiser nos travaux en deux phases: dans la première phase nous pourrions nous occuper du Code international de conduite sur la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Nous sommes déjà à la huitième édition de ce texte, qui est contenu dans le document CL 87/9-Sup.1. J'espère que le Conseil pourra trouver un accord sur ce texte car la nécessité de la mise en vigueur de ce Code est ressentie par tout le monde. J'espère donc que ce texte, avec les amendements que certaines délégations retiendront nécessaires, pourra être approuvé par notre Conseil.

Dans une deuxième phase, nous pourrions aborder les autres problèmes d'importance majeure qui sont contenus dans le document CL 87/9, c'est-à-dire le rôle des cultures vivrières dans la nutrition et dans la sécurité alimentaire, la politique agricole des prix et la transformation des produits agricoles alimentaires et non alimentaires.

Si vous êtes d'accord, nous pouvons commencer nos travaux sur ce point de l'ordre du jour en concentrant tout d'abord nos interventions sur le Code de conduite sur les pesticides.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr Chairman, I should like to congratulate you on the fair and efficient manner with which you have been chairing the sessions of the Council yesterday and today.

I should also like to thank Dr Bommer for his clear and comprehensive introduction of the Report of the Committee on Agriculture.

Having chaired the COAG, the Philippine delegation is very much aware of all the conclusions and recommendations of the report, and affirms its support for such conclusions and recommendations.

There is, however, one matter which I should like to draw attention to which was of concern to many delegations when it was discussed in the Committee on Agriculture.

The Philippine delegation supports the Code as presented in document CL 87/9 Sup. 1. I believe the Code provides general guidance regarding the manufacturing, distribution and use of pesticides. More importantly, it creates an awareness among governments, traders, users, and the general public that pesticides are a two-edged sword. Used properly, they help to eliminate undesirable pests, but otherwise they can poison the environment and harm human beings. We believe that the Code should be regarded as a living code. If required by new developments and greater social consciousness, it should be updated and revised.

When the Code was approved by the Committee on Agriculture many delegations expressed concern over Article 9 regarding the provision of information on pesticides banned in exporting countries. The pertinent paragraph is 9.6: "It is the intention that, insofar as possible, the information should be provided prior to export, but it is recognized that this may not always be possible. It is also recognized that the procedure of the country of export might not be such as to permit delay or control the export of the product in question". I underscore the words "but it is recognized that this may not always be possible".

Mr Chairman, these pesticides are dangerous products; they can poison, they can do a lot of harm to the environment and to human beings. Why would it not be possible to provide the information? The paragraph goes on to say "that the procedure of the country of export might not be such as to permit delay or control the export of the product in question". I do not understand these provisions. I hope that they will not be used by traders to dump banned pesticides without providing the proper information, but the danger is there. Therefore, the matter deserves to be watched closely.

I believe that the matter could be handled in several ways. One would be to include in the report of our debate a request to the Secretariat and to all countries to monitor the implementation of the Code, particularly Article 9. Should implementation of Article 9 prove unsatisfactory, measures should be taken to incorporate appropriate provisions, including the provision of prior consent.

Another way would be to include in the Resolution a provision requesting the Director-General to review the provisions of Article 9 which relate to prior informed consent in order to take into account the concern of many countries, both developed and developing, which a view of incorporation of that principle in future editions of the Code, and further request the Director-General to report on the review at the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

A third way would be just to delete the words "but it is recognized that this may not always be possible. It is also recognized that the procedure of the country of export might not be such as to permit delay or control the export of the product in question".

These are my proposals to the Council. I hope that the Council will give these proposals due consideration so that we may take a decision on this important matter of a code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides.

HARTAWAN ADANG (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, at the outset my delegation would like to congratulate you on being Vice-Chairman of this session.

I should like to make a short comment on the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, and in particular on the issue of an International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, as my delegation considers that this is an important subject for all of us.

In the effort to increase food production so that we can provide enough food for our population of 150 million, we have rapidly increased the use of pesticides. As high yielding varieties of field crops are being planted by millions of our farmers over extensive areas, the danger of disease and pest explosion has become very large. As you personally are well aware, Mr Chairman, the explosion of the brown plant hoker in 1976 had a serious effect on our efforts to increase rice production. In order to avoid such catastrophes in the future, our farmers have had to use even larger quantities of pesticides. Also, they are required to handle increasingly varied and more specialized insecticides and pesticides, each of which is the product of multinational firms through the application of advanced technology. Therefore, out of necessity we have exposed our farmers, their families and the rural population, and they are in an unsafe position due to this rising use of chemicals. When we consider the effect on the environment, we are risking the health and well-being of our future generations as well.

It is in this light that we come to the formulation of an International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. It is our opinion that in order for such a code of conduct to be useful, it should serve at least two main purposes: minimize the risk arising from the use of bad pesticides; and facilitate the channelling and distribution of effective but safe pesticides. Much has been said about the effects, however, my delegation feels that the second purpose, namely, to facilitate distribution is also important. We know that pest and disease control has to be dynamic. We are constantly faced with changing types of pests and diseases. Certainly there is a need that the most effective but safe pesticides should be made available in a timely manner to our farmers.

Coming now to the formulation of the Code of Conduct, we note that in its final form, particularly with regard to the exportation of banned pesticides, the Code of Conduct has lost some of its strength in comparison with the previous formulation. However, we also note that the present format is the result of much intensive deliberation by all parties concerned. Considering the importance of the timely distribution of these pesticides, as mentioned above, my delegation is willing to accept the Code in its final form. However, it will be necessary for all of us and the FAO Secretariat to monitor the implementation of this Code of Conduct accordingly.

It is also necessary for my delegation to invite the attention of the Council to paragraphs 205 and 211 of document CL 87/9.

Finally, my delegation would like to support the proposal that has been put forward by the delegate of the Philippines concerning the implementation of Article 9.

Mrs M. FENWICK. (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I, too, welcome you here. I would also like to thank Dr Bommer for his outline this morning which was so careful, so explicit and clear.

I believe the amendments I have are not controversial, as everyone will be happy to hear.

They start on page iii. We would like to follow item 4 with an added item 5. In other words, the Committee conclusion notes would consist of five items. "5. Notes that the activity by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations related to the Code should be funded within existing budgetary resources or through voluntary contributions.

The next amendment that we offer is on page 2, Article 1. On page 2, Article 1, paragraph 1.1, after the word "establish" in the first line we would like to insert the word "voluntary:" "... to set forth responsibilities and establish voluntary standards of conduct for all public and private entities..."

On page 3, Article 2, Definitions, the third definition, "BANNED": we would like to change the word in line 2 from "registration" to "regulatory". "Registration" is one thing, "regulatory" for us often has the import of law. So it would read "... regulatory action or when requests for all registration or equivalent action for all uses have not been granted because of health or environmental reasons." I have examples of how this would strengthen the definition if anyone questions the amendment in that regard.

Also on page 3, paragraph 1.6, "The Code is designed to be used...": we would like to add "within the context of national law", cutting out as far as the next comma. That would apply widely, both country, import and export - in other words, where there is national law, it must within the context of national law.

On page 6, Article 4, paragraph 4.1.1 we would like to change that a little. In line 3, following "efficacy" we would like to add "regions and countries of use". In other words, leave out "regions or countries", but insert at the end of that paragraph after "anticipated conditions," "comma regions and countries of use", and delete the underlined portion in lines three and four. It makes it a little clearer - instead of putting "regions or countries where the proposed use...", to say, "the safety, efficacy and fate with regard to the various anticipated conditions, regions and countries of use".

On page 10, paragraph 8.1.5, we think the third and last line of that section could read "consistent with requirements of the host country and of the parent company". Both must be satisfied - the host country must be satisfied and the parent country regulations must be observed.

On page 12, paragraph 9.6, we would hope that the whole of the last sentence could be eliminated. We share many of the queries concerning it which have already been expressed, and I think it would make it clearer and tighter if we cut the whole last sentence from paragraph 9.6.

On page 14, paragraph 11.2, "International organizations and public sector groups should promote the objectives of this Article", rather than "should call attention to departures from this Article".

Also on page 14, we would like to suggest a very minor change in paragraph 12.3, just to cut the last line "or to ensure observance by industry" - leaving the paragraph to read "irrespective of a Government's ability to observe the Code." In other words, where some governments have not the structure, the capacity, to observe the Code, the Code must be observed by everybody who can observe it, and not take cover under some government's inability to do so.

In paragraph 12.6, we would like to suggest that after the word "should" in the first line of that section, "review periodically with FAO and other competent international organizations progress towards achieving the objectives of the Code", because periodically it should be reviewed with FAO and other competent organizations.

I would like to say in conclusion that my Government and I do regard this as a most important and necessary piece of business. We are dealing with dangerous and yet essential chemicals and it is essential that they should be properly controlled.

Y.A. HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): We are very pleased to see you in the Chair, and we thank Dr Bommer for his very clear introduction to the report of the Committee on Agriculture. My Government has carefully studied the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We handed our observations to the Secretariat, and we also participated in the debates which took place in the Committee on Agriculture.

We support this Code, and we think that this is the right time to have it put forward. We recommend that it be submitted to the Conference for adoption.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas



# **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# **conseil**

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

# **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/8

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**HUITIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE**  
**OCTAVA SESION PLENARÍA**  
(20 June 1985)

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours

M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30, sous la présidence  
de M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas, bajo la presidencia  
de M. Francisci di Baschi, 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)
- 7. Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 18-27 March 1985) (continued)
- 7. Rapport de la huitième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 18-27 mars 1985) (suite)
- 7. Informe del Octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (Roma, 18-27 de marzo de 1985) (continuación)

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Perdóneme, Sr. Presidente, por haberme retrasado. Nuestra delegación ha escuchado atentamente la presentación que se ha hecho del tema. Agradecemos nuevamente a la Secretaría la última versión del Código Internacional de Conducta sobre Plaguicidas y nuevamente queremos reconocer los esfuerzos que se hacen por mejorarlo y porque su texto no dañe la sensibilidad de ningún país. Creo que es necesario en este específico material muy necesario para nuestra agricultura que logremos la urgencia que requiere este Código. Decimos esto porque realmente los mecanismos son mecanismos bastante retardatarios. ¿Por qué decimos esto? Porque el Código lo estamos discutiendo desde principios de año y repetiremos una discusión más fácil y tendremos que seguir preparándonos para discutirlo en la Conferencia.

Creo que esto debe analizarse teniendo en cuenta todo lo que se discutió y explicó en el Comité de Agricultura sobre la necesidad que tienen los países en desarrollo de poder contar con un código que garantice, si no totalmente, en algunas partes la utilización de este insumo. La nueva versión ha incluido pocas modificaciones, una de ellas el Artículo 1.1 donde la palabra "delinear" se sustituye por "enunciar", en español, por lo menos en la versión española refiriéndose a las responsabilidades. Después continúa estableciendo normas de conducta. Cuando hablamos del Código en el pasado COAG, nuestra representación y la de otros muchos países plantearon que había muchas observaciones que hacer al documento. Por lo general la versión que se presentó en el COAG, que ya era una versión modificada de dos o tres versiones anteriores tendía a disminuir cada vez más la responsabilidad de cada uno. En aras de su aprobación se prefirió no dedicar más tiempo a la discusión y aprobarlo de conjunto, siempre con la conciencia de que no era esa nuestra aspiración y de que éste era totalmente un Código de Conducta obligante.

Como ejemplo y por lo anteriormente dicho, creo que es una prueba fehaciente de ello el párrafo 207 del documento CL 87/9 cuando dice que: "la mayoría de los miembros del Comité, aun deseando que el Código incluyera disposiciones más estrictas, convinieron en que sería realista y práctico aceptarlo en su forma actual, con un espíritu de cooperación y buena voluntad por parte de todos los interesados". Nosotros en el Comité de Agricultura pasado expusimos con mucha fuerza la necesidad de que cada uno de los países en desarrollo que necesitan importar grandes cantidades de plaguicidas, tienen que establecer unas leyes nacionales, disposiciones sanitarias que deben utilizar para cumplimentar la transformación, el almacenamiento, el envase, la manipulación, así como la microlocalización de los almacenes, la construcción e instalación de fábricas específicas y una vigilancia que no puede dejarse a la arbitraria voluntad del que nos exporta. Debemos ser nosotros los que pongamos las condiciones de utilización en nuestros países, conscientes de que la legislación de los países exportadores no atienden los problemas específicos que tenga cada país importador. Nuestro Gobierno tiene en cuenta esto, tiene lo que nosotros llamamos reglamentos sanitarios de plaguicidas, donde se reglamentan estos casos, ya que consideramos que este problema es muy serio para las zonas tropicales donde realmente es necesario en estos momentos el plaguicida si queremos participar en rendimientos y en buena producción y se va haciendo más necesaria a medida que avanza la tecnificación de la agricultura, a medida que se hace necesaria su intensidad por área.

Por eso consideramos que este Código internacional sometido a nuestra consideración representa la necesidad de la gran mayoría de países en desarrollo y subdesarrollados y que se ven en la imperiosa obligación de importar grandes cantidades para lograr buenos rendimientos y que son atacados por plagas y enfermedades.

Nuestra representación aquí en el Consejo está por apoyar en todas sus partes el Código en la version que se nos presenta. Tenetios dos o tres observaciones. La primera quisiéramos decir que no creemos que pueda seguir debilitándose el Cóligo con algunas palabras, porque sencillamente, lo que se está utilizando son algunas palabras. No vemos el objetivo de la proposición de incluir la palabra "voluntario", creemos que esto sea un problema voluntario ya que la utilización de plaguicidas para nosotros no es voluntaria, es necesaria para los países. Otra observación. Es necesario también cuidar a nuestras poblaciones de los efectos de una mala utilización y de una mala importación y, lamentablemente y finalmente, los que mueren por efecto de las plaguicidas no mueren voluntariamente tampoco, no pueden morir voluntariamente como no murieron los de napalm.

Creemos que no se debe abusar de la palabra "posible" ya que un Código de esta naturaleza puede tener elasticidad en su cumplimiento, pero lo que no podemos es dejar todo a la posibilidad porque volveremos a caer en el análisis de que esto no está sobre la base de lo posible, sino sobre la base de la necesidad.

En el párrafo 9.3 del Artículo 9 "Intercambio de información", quisiera que la versión española la uniformáramos con la versión francesa, porque a mí me gustaría la versión que tiene mi amigo de la izquierda J. Tchicaya. Este termina con la palabra "importador" y la versión mía no termina con la palabra "importador" y creemos que debe terminar con esa palabra, igualmente que en francés. La línea siguiente dice para facilitar la información pertinente, etc. etc., como dice la versión francesa.

En este mismo Artículo 9: "Intercambio de información" estamos de acuerdo con la proposición que hace la representación de Filipinas sobre la necesidad de eliminar del párrafo 9.6 la última frase a partir de "exportación", quinto renglón de la versión española. A partir de "exportación" donde dice: "si bien se reconoce que no siempre será posible hacerlo y que los procedimientos del país exportador tal vez no sean tales que permitan retrasar o controlar la exportación del producto en cuestión". Nosotros estamos de acuerdo con Filipinas en que debe eliminarse.

Ahora hablando del punto 7 otra vez, que hablábamos de una pequeña palabra, que era cambiar "enunciar" creemos que sigue disminuyendo las responsabilidades y no llegaremos a establecer normas de conducta, sino normas de arbitrio particular y éstas son normas de conducta que debemos aceptar o no, flexibilizando y discutiéndolas para buscar y verlas como formas enunciadas y no como normas delineadas. Es voluntario el Código, pero se tienen que establecer normas de conducta, pues no entendemos por qué es voluntaria su aplicación. Sin embargo en la introducción se remarca el carácter voluntario en el párrafo 2 y todo esto nos hace a nosotros pensar en la fragilidad de este Código.

Tenemos que destacar también que en el documento CL 87/9, que recoge el informe del COAG en lo relacionado con el Código de conducta, expresa claramente que el Comité ratificó entre los objetivos básicos del Código el establecer normas de conducta y definir responsabilidades.

Ahora, nos referiremos al párrafo 210 del documento CL 87/9. En él se expresa la preocupación de algunos miembros del Comité en relación con que no se hubiera incluido la cláusula del "consentimiento previo". Fue lo que planteó la distinguida representación de Filipinas.

Nos preguntamos entonces ¿tendrá facultades el Comité para hacer observaciones?. Porque, sencillamente creemos que si la Secretaría llegó a una propuesta de modificación y aquí se hace esta propuesta de modificación y sacamos otra propuesta de modificación con vistas a la Conferencia, yo quisiera preguntar ¿Cuándo vamos a tener un Código por estas observaciones?. Nuestra delegación propone la adopción del Código en la forma en que está, independientemente de que posteriormente su aplicación en la vida nos va a permitir hacer las correcciones que tengamos necesidad de hacer y no retrasar más su puesta en funcionamiento.

S. YAMAMOTO (Japon): To begin with I would like to thank Dr Bommer for his lucid introduction of the agenda item. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the documents that are before us. I would like briefly to present our view on the proposal of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. My delegation fully recognizes the importance of safe and efficient use of pesticides. Consequently we believe that the formulation of the Code of Conduct on Pesticides is very useful. Furthermore, we believe that in order to further achieve the objectives of the Code, the Code should be adopted by consensus of all Member States. In this connection my delegation commends the Secretariat for its effort in improving the draft and submitting to us the revised version of the draft. We feel that the revised text is much more articulate, especially with regard to Article 2 on definition. We also support the introduction which specifies that the nature of the Code is voluntary. Therefore my delegation can go along with the revised text of the Code, even though our comments are not all accommodated. However, we are still open to any improvement of the Code if such improvement would facilitate the unanimous adoption of the Code.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): We join our voice in the tributes paid to Dr Bommer for his clear and comprehensive introduction to item 7, including the focus issue engaging our specific attention, namely the draft International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

In approaching this issue we are conscious of several important factors. First, there is general unanimity on the need and urgency for establishing such a Code, whose basic thrust is to serve the interests of pesticides exporting and importing countries, the pesticides industry and users, by identifying hazards in its distribution and use, by establishing standards of control and defining responsibilities for all those engaged in the regulation, distribution and use of pesticides.

Secondly, the draft Code is the result of continuous and concerted efforts to breach an inherent dilemma involved in the use of pesticides, its increasing and indispensable use as an input to enhance food production, *vis-à-vis* human and environmental hazards that might result, and the competing interest between vested groups, espousing free market enterprise concerns on the one hand and environmental protectionism on the other. The resulting Code has been a painstaking compromise reflected *inter alia* in the fact that discussions and negotiations towards this end have spanned twenty-five years, that the views of all interested parties have been taken into account, that the draft itself has undergone eight different revisions, and finally that the Director-General himself, despite general support by the Eighth COAG Session, has undertaken a further effort to accommodate wider agreement.

Thirdly, it is also recognized that the present Code is to serve essentially as a point of reference. It is not a binding document but a voluntary international code, whose basic thrust is to define and clarify responsibilities of various parties involved, to supplement efforts of countries which already have some form of regulatory trade, and to help those who do not, and finally, most important of all, to serve as a useful guideline to inform public opinion so that they have greater understanding of the nature, property, uses and effects of pesticides.

It follows that the Code of Conduct cannot but be viewed as a fluid and flexible document, a living document, as the Philippines delegate characterized it, which must of necessity be subject to monitoring by governments and parties concerned and to a process of periodic review so as to adapt itself to advances in science and technology and to the extent to which new or adverse consequences may arise. It is in the light of these basic considerations that my delegation supported the draft submitted at the Eighth COAG Session.

We note with appreciation the further amendments made by the Director-General in the presentation of the present text CL 87/9-Sup.1 to take account of outstanding preoccupations. My delegation is fully prepared to join in the adoption by consensus by this Council now of the present text before us as well as the draft resolution.

Whilst we appreciate the spirit of conciliation and concerned awareness that has led many delegations to suggest amendments, we are also conscious of the danger that a plethora of amendments could give rise to, particularly in the methodology which will be needed to accommodate them. The end result could well lead to impasse, contrary to the palpable sense of urgency needed in adopting the Code of Conduct. We believe that the draft is a compromise, that it certainly could be improved, depending on the various facets under which it is viewed, but that such improvements should not by disagreement defeat the end purpose. If the Director-General feels that further accommodation would be possible within the time left to this Council perhaps an effort should be made on points of maximum convergence. However, my delegation could go along with the present text of the Code and the draft resolution as it stands.

M. GIFFORD (Canada): First, Canada supports the Code. Secondly, we have a small technical amendment that I believe was provided to the Secretariat in writing several weeks ago, but I will simply repeat for the information of the Council the minor modification that Canada is suggesting.

We note, for example, that Article 9 of the Code has been amended to incorporate the UNEP provisional notification scheme for banned or severely restricted chemicals, as adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in its decision of 28 May 1984. Canada fully supports the provisional notification scheme but recognizes that it is provisional and is likely to be revised in 1986 or 1987. Canada would like the Code to automatically reflect any future changes to the UNEP provisional notification scheme to facilitate a unified international approach to information exchange. We suggest simply that the Secretariat incorporate this aspect in an appropriate manner into Section 9 when the final document is presented to Conference.



As a closing comment, I cannot help but contrast the way in which the Organization has approached the Code on Pesticides as opposed to the Compact. Here, I believe we are on our eighth draft. Obviously there has been a considerable amount of give-and-take in the evolution of the Code of Pesticides. I think many would agree that the Code is better for it; it is unfortunate that we cannot say the same about the Compact.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): Representing a country which is largely based on agriculture and which is deeply devoted to the protection of the environment, we would like to congratulate the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat on having provided us with a draft Code of Conduct which, as I look round this Council I can see has been universally acclaimed. We in India have been through traumatic experiences in this regard and we would like, therefore, to consider this session of the FAO Council in the fortieth year of FAO as a historic session for taking such a forward step, albeit by consent, albeit on the basis of protecting humanity in all parts of the world from the possible ill-effects of pesticides use.

It is inevitable in our thrust towards larger agricultural production that the use of pesticides will be encouraged, will be necessitated, but it is also necessary that by adopting this Code of Conduct we make the objectives of increased agricultural production coterminous with our aim of protecting the environment and the human race. May I therefore take this opportunity of giving our unqualified support to this effort. As several of my colleagues have mentioned, this is the eighth or ninth revision and it is time we went ahead and adopted this Code without any hesitation.

Here, I would like to bring to your notice, certain parts of the draft to which I think attention has to be drawn, not because we are keen to propose amendments which would delay the adoption of the Code of Conduct, because we are keen that it should be adopted, but because we want to ensure the draft does not cause misapprehension or misunderstanding on the basis of certain words used in certain parts of the draft.

I would draw your attention to the draft resolution for the Conference, particularly to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution which requests the Director-General "to assess the extent to which Member Nations are willing to give effect to the Code as a voluntary frame of reference". I am afraid that this no longer requires to be assessed. From what I have heard around this table, Member Nations are already willing to give effect to this Code on a voluntary basis. What needs to be done is to request the Director-General to fulfil obligations he has with reference to Articles 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 which call upon the FAO, along with other competent international organizations, to give support to the full observance of the Code which calls upon the governments to monitor the observance of the code and report on progress made to the Director-General of FAO.

Therefore, I suggest that in order to correctly reflect the intentions of this Code, the resolution in paragraph 3 will have to be amended, to request the Director-General to monitor, in collaboration with governments, the observance of the Code and to report periodically to the Committee on Agriculture. I make this suggestion in order to reflect clearly what the Council, and subsequently Conference, will expect the Director-General to do in pursuance of this Code of Conduct.

Now I turn to the very important clause, Article 9.6, about information exchange. Here I would commend to the Council the unanimous adoption of a proposal made by my distinguished colleague from the Philippines. Referring to his statement on the Code of Pesticides, I would support the last alternative put forward by the Philippines to eliminate from Article 9.6 all references to possibilities, that is, to delete from the penultimate sentence the words "... it is recognized that this may not always be possible". But in order to be consistent with the spirit in which the delegations of the United States of America and the Philippines have made these suggestions, supported by the delegation from Cuba and others, I suggest that in the penultimate sentence the words "insofar as possible" should also be deleted.

I support the last alternative, alternative 3, in the amendment proposed by the delegation from the Philippines, with the deletion of the words "insofar as possible" so that the realms of possibility are not questioned here. Our intentions are clear, that while prior consent may not be insisted on at this point of time, prior information should be provided.

I think there is a reference in Article 9.1 to notification directly or indirectly. I am afraid that to provide for indirect notification without specifying what such channel of notification would be, would betray the very purpose of advance notification of export of pesticides which are banned or restricted. Therefore, I suggest for your consideration, and that of the Council, the omission of the words "or indirectly" and the substitution of the words "or through the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, IRPTC", to which reference has already been made in paragraph 9.5 of the draft Code. That would make paragraphs 9.1 and 9.5 of the Code consistent with each other.

In paragraph 9.3 of the Code it is mentioned that the country of export should ensure that necessary information is provided. This might be interpreted to mean that this responsibility will always be on the government of the country of export. But we have already taken the trouble in Article 2 to define what we call "the responsible authority". So I suggest, after the word "occurs" in Article 9.3, the words "the responsible authority in the country of export" should be added. By this I mean that instead of making the country of export responsible, we specify that the responsible authority in the country of export should ensure, because the responsible authority is already defined under this particular Code. This will enable us to identify the authority responsible in the exporting country for implementing this part of the Code.

Turning to Article 8 and paragraph 8.1.4 the reference there is only to technical grade pesticides. This is inconsistent with the overall tenor of the Article as well as the Code. The Code seeks to deal with all pesticides, as clearly defined in Article 2. Therefore I suggest that the reference here to pesticides in general should not be limited to technical grade pesticides, because it is quite customary - in fact, it is more often the case - that importing countries do take formulated pesticides as part of their imports from manufacturing companies.

I will leave a few points which I am sure the Secretariat will clarify in order that for the record there are no doubts in the minds of participating nations as to what exactly this Code means in terms of actual implementation. In terms of the definitions listed in Article 2, there are a number of definitions which need to be clarified, for example, the reference to extension service. This reference seems to indicate that only government agencies would be involved in the transfer of information and advice to farmers. I support the suggestion made by the delegate of the United States of America that the responsibility for disseminating information, educating people, and promoting the cause of this Code would be shared by Non-governmental Organizations. If it be the intention to associate Non-governmental Organizations may I say this: that in the definition of extension service, after the word "government" we should add "and Non-governmental Organizations"; and after the words "responsible for" we should add "and engaged in", so that both Non-governmental Organizations and governmental organizations would assist in this task as is specified in fact in other parts of the Code.

May I now turn to the definition of "maximum residue limit" on page 4. Here, there is reference to the maximum concentration which is permitted or recognized under law. But it is not clear who will be specifying, whether it will be the governments or, what is more important in my opinion, the international standards organizations, the international organizations charged with the responsibility of specifying such codes or standards for voluntary acceptance. They are more reliable in this regard. May I suggest, therefore, that the maximum residue limit mentioned here should be so defined as to refer to the permitted or recognized limits specified by internationally accepted codes of conduct rather than being related to local specifications which may not conform to internationally accepted codes. This is an area where perhaps the Secretariat can enlighten me.

Then I make a suggestion under the heading "Pesticide Legislation", which refers to all the activities related to pesticides, such as manufacturing, marketing, labelling, packaging and use, but it does not refer to storage. May I remind this Council that the tragedy to which reference was made in the Indian context was due to improper storage. Therefore, may I suggest the addition of the word "storage" after the word "manufacture" so that it is complete as it is intended to be.

In the definition of poison it states "leading to injury or death when absorbed in relatively small amounts". That could give the impression that it would be all right if it is absorbed in relatively large amounts. In order to remove any such impression, may I suggest the addition of the word "even", so that it would read "when absorbed even in relatively small amounts". If absorbed in large amounts, God forbid, but even if absorbed in small amounts the population would be grossly affected in varying degrees.

The last amendment refers to Registration, which refers to human health or the environment. I wonder whether the addition of the words "or animal" would not be appropriate. The sentence would then read "to human or animal health or the environment". We refer to human health because of our special concern, but I might suggest that our concern should be equally for animal health. If that is so, we could add those words to what is already mentioned here.

In conclusion, I would like to share the feelings of my colleagues that in trying to accommodate amendments in order to improve this draft, we should not lose time. Our delegation would call for the acceptance in this Council of the draft International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and its transmission to the Conference for adoption. If it is possible for the Secretariat or for the Council to view the amendments suggested by us as improvements which reflect more clearly our common concern and do not raise any issues of substance, I would commend them for your acceptance. But regardless of what amendments are proposed and finally accepted, we would call upon the Council to hasten their acceptance of this Code of Conduct and to hasten its implementation and monitoring on an orderly basis, albeit on the basis of voluntary acceptance.

Thank you very much for the opportunity we have had of associating ourselves with this historic document and with this historic occasion.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): As I indicated at the Committee on Agriculture, we consider that the area of pesticides is one in which FAO has played and has the ability to continue to play a leadership role. We do believe that adoption of the Code will ultimately lead to practical and useful results for all concerned. We think that the acceptance of the Code is a statement of the responsibility and standards to be followed by governments, industry and users and should be strongly supported.

We also agree that governments should be encouraged to promote the commitment of industry and trade to adopt and observe the Code. We strongly believe that any attempt to produce a formal internationally-binding legal agreement would be counterproductive. We agree that attention should be directed at practical means of seeking assistance for countries to introduce regulations for the registration of pesticides along the lines recommended in the guidelines to the Code.

I recognize that the Code presented to the Council represents a compromise between the preferred positions of various members on a number of issues. It will be remembered that the Committee on Agriculture charged the Director-General to take its comments into consideration and to take such initiative as he deemed favourable to achieve a consensus in Council. We did not propose any changes at the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. Proposals had been introduced for certain changes. However, on the basis of these proposals, we have provided some detailed comments on the text to the Secretariat in order to assist the widest possible acceptance of the Code. These changes are purely of a technical nature and relate to matters of definition in large part and to clarification of matters of fact. I have also provided information to the Secretariat and I would be pleased to provide any information or a list of these proposed changes to any delegation that requires a copy of these comments.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation congolaise voudrait remercier M. Bommer pour l'excellente introduction qu'il a faite du Code. En abordant l'examen du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, nous voudrions dire combien nous sommes reconnaissants à la FAO et à son Directeur général pour cette initiative heureuse qui, à en juger par toutes les interventions, vient combler un vide qui, hélas, a déjà provoqué des catastrophes douloureuses.

Déjà au Comité de l'agriculture nous nous étions prononcés en faveur du texte qui nous était soumis tout en regrettant que ce texte soit faible sur certains points et ne reprenne pas toutes les préoccupations des pays en développement qui, somme toute, sont les premières victimes de cette situation. Ils pâtissent en effet le plus des effets négatifs de la distribution et de l'utilisation non réglementée des pesticides. Cependant, dans un esprit de compromis, nous avons dû accepter le texte afin qu'il soit transmis en l'état à notre Conseil.

Une nouvelle fois le Directeur général a recherché l'unanimité, tout au moins le consensus, et propose ici un texte révisé avec des amendements qui certainement ont dû faire plaisir à nombre d'entre nous. Ma délégation, tout en reconnaissant que ces amendements affaiblissent davantage ce Code dont l'acceptation et le respect par tous en seront les atouts majeurs, est prête à se rallier à ce nouveau compromis, pour autant qu'il en soit un, c'est-à-dire si les autres, ceux qui étaient opposés au premier, l'acceptent. Faute de quoi, nous pensons que le Conseil devrait se prononcer sur l'ancien texte.

La délégation congolaise, à la lumière de ce que nous venons de dire, pense qu'il est nécessaire pour nous de pouvoir adopter et transmettre le projet de résolution à la Conférence avec le projet de Code tel qu'il vient de nous être soumis. Le flot d'amendements m'inquiète quelque peu car je me demande comment cela va être agencé et je crains que notre Conseil ici ne soit transformé en comité de rédaction pour reprendre tous ces amendements. Mais au cas où certains de ces amendements pourraient recevoir l'unanimité du Conseil, je pense que je pourrais me rallier à ce genre d'amendements dans la mesure où cela ne pourrait soulever aucune objection des autres délégations.

LE PRESIDENT: Je suis également un peu préoccupé moi aussi. Finalement on fera la somme des amendements à la fin des interventions et l'on verra ce qu'il convient de faire.

A. ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord exprimer ma pleine satisfaction et mon appréciation de voir le Directeur général appliquer la recommandation du Comité de l'agriculture telle qu'elle a été présentée dans le paragraphe 218 de son rapport et de voir présenter le document CL 87/9 Sup. 1 qui contient le projet de résolution et une nouvelle version du Code de conduite avec les amendements apportés à la version précédente.

Il a été question dès le début d'élaborer un Code de conduite à caractère volontaire et le Directeur général l'a expliqué à maintes occasions. La situation n'a donc pas changé. Le caractère volontaire du Code est même encore plus net et plus prononcé après les amendements qui nous ont été proposés et j'espère que cela mettra fin aux craintes suscitées par ce point précis.

A cet égard certains de ces amendements n'étaient pas vraiment nécessaires mais je pense qu'ils ont été proposés afin de dissiper les doutes qui auraient pu subsister à ce sujet et c'est pour cela que je souhaite que nous en finissions très vite de cette discussion et que nous adoptions ce texte par consensus. J'ai remarqué par ailleurs que le paragraphe 3 du projet de résolution se limite à demander au Directeur général d'évaluer la mesure dans laquelle les Etats Membres sont disposés à adhérer au Code. En réalité ce qu'il est nécessaire de savoir c'est dans quelle mesure les pays membres sont prêts à s'engager à appliquer ce Code de conduite. Les paragraphes 12.6 et 12.7 le spécifient bien par ailleurs et c'est pour cela qu'il me semble que ce paragraphe 3 devrait demander au Directeur général de suivre de près cette application du code en coopération avec les pays membres et qu'il présente des rapports périodiques au COAG.

Le projet de résolution sera mis à l'étude au cours de la prochaine Conférence. Je m'en tiendrai donc à mon propos initial pour éviter d'entrer dans les détails au sujet de ce Code de conduite et c'est pour cela que je propose l'adoption intégrale de ce texte avec les amendements que j'ai proposés, l'adoption par consensus si possible avant de le porter à la connaissance de la Conférence générale.

J.M. WATSON (Panama): La delegación de Panamá considera que la pasada sesión del importante Comité de Agricultura concentró su atención sobre temas de mucho interés, tal como se desprende del Informe que aparece en los documentos CL 87/9 y CL 87/9 Sup. 1, y no hay la menor duda de que uno de estos temas fue el relativo al Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y la Utilización de Plaguicidas. A este respecto, los párrafos 217 y 218 del Informe reflejan muy claramente la posición y recomendaciones del Comité, y en base a estas recomendaciones el Director General de esta Organización nos somete a consideración el proyecto de Resolución, así como sus enmiendas al texto del proyecto del Código.

La delegación de Panamá no tiene ninguna dificultad en aprobar esta propuesta, y no tiene ninguna dificultad porque se trata de un texto que, como bien expresó el Director General en su declaración inaugural, es producto de un largo esfuerzo; no por algo se trata de una octava versión que puede ser aprobada por este Consejo y de esta forma puede ser remitida a la Conferencia. Es por lo que la delegación de Panamá, al dar su aprobación, lo hace convencida de que tal espíritu prevalecerá en todos los miembros de este Consejo.

Mme A. DELLA CROCE DI DOJOLA (Italy): On behalf of the ten Member Nations of the European Economic Community, in my capacity as representative of the Member Country currently holding the Presidency of the Community, I would like to ask you to give the floor to the representative of the Commission, who has a declaration to make on behalf of the Community on this very item.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci. Je pense que le Conseil n'a pas d'objection pour qu'on donne la parole au représentant à ce Conseil des dix pays de la Communauté économique européenne.

G. DESESQUELLES (Observateur de la Communauté économique européenne): la CEE et les Etats Membres qui la composent reconnaissent la nécessité d'un code et se félicite de l'initiative prise par la FAO en établissant le projet contenu dans le document CL 87/9 Sup. 1 de mai 1985.

En effet, nous approuvons les engagements moraux qu'il implique et nous nous efforcerons de respecter scrupuleusement les dispositions qu'il contient. Toutefois la Communauté et ses états membres attache la plus grande importance à la prise en compte des observations suivantes:

Tout d'abord sur un plan général, nous considérons que le texte final du code devrait reconnaître explicitement le principe de base selon lequel il appartient essentiellement à chaque pays de réglementer les conditions de distribution et d'utilisation sur son territoire des produits en cause et selon lequel le code est conçu comme une mesure intérimaire en attendant l'adoption de réglementation ad hoc dans tous les pays;

De reconnaître explicitement qu'un grand nombre de pays développés ont des législations qui peuvent différer dans une certaine mesure des normes contenues dans les diverses orientations de recommandations de la FAO et de l'OMS et qui sont néanmoins tout à fait conformes aux objectifs du code.

En ce qui concerne le texte même du projet de résolution, nous considérons qu'il devrait être amendé dans les conditions suivantes. Il conviendrait d'ajouter un paragraphe 5 se lisant comme suit: "Estime que les activités de la FAO relatives au code devraient être financées dans le cadre des ressources budgétaires existantes ou par le moyen de contributions volontaires".

En ce qui concerne l'annexe du projet de résolution, il est proposé de modifier les points suivants :

Introduction de l'annexe: pour élargir la portée des dispositions du 7ème paragraphe, la deuxième phrase serait complétée par les termes "ainsi que pour l'environnement".

- Article 1, paragraphe 1: dans l'esprit même du code, seraient ajoutés après le verbe "énoncer", les mots "sur une base volontaire". On lirait donc: "énoncer sur une base volontaire les obligations de tous les organismes publics..."

- Article 1, paragraphe 2: Le code devrait prévoir la possibilité d'une participation de la Communauté. A cet effet, l'article 1er, paragraphe 2 devrait être libellé ainsi:

"1.2 Le code proclame l'obligation commune, pour différents membres du corps social -gouvernements, milieux industriels et commerciaux et institutions internationales - d'oeuvrer ensemble pour faire en sorte que les avantages décollant de l'utilisation nécessaire et acceptable des pesticides ne soient pas obtenus au prix d'effets trop préjudiciables aux personnes ou au milieu. A cette fin, toute référence à des gouvernements vaut également pour les groupements régionaux d'état dans la mesure où ils ont compétence dans les domaines couverts par le présent code."

- Article 1, paragraphe 6: la version anglaise devrait être adaptée et l'on devrait lire: "in the context of national legislation", au lieu de "with due regard to the laws of the country".

Parmi les termes dont il est donné une définition, les qualificatifs "interdit" et "sévérement réglementé", devraient être supprimés. En effet, ni l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies ni le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement n'ont accepté une définition satisfaisante et internationalement reconnue. A cet égard, il nous semble préférable que les autorités responsables de la mise en oeuvre du code, satisfassent aussi étroitement que possible aux efforts entrepris pour parvenir à des définitions acceptables par tous.

- 8.1.5- Il est proposé de compléter le dernier membre de phrase, qui deviendrait : "qui soient compatibles avec les exigences du pays hôte de la société mère". En effet, notre proposition nous paraît apporter une clarification dans les responsabilités respectives des acteurs en cause.

L'article 9, qui constitue une partie essentielle du code, nous paraît bien équilibré quant au fond et précis dans sa rédaction. C'est pourquoi nous souhaiterions qu'il ne fût pas changé.

Dans un souci de compromis, s'il fallait supprimer la dernière phrase du paragraphe 9.6, nous considérons, comme d'autres délégations, qu'il faudrait également supprimer la dernière partie de l'avant-dernière phrase, à savoir les mots : "mais il est admis qu'il n'est pas toujours possible de le faire".

- Article 10.3.1 : il nous semble plus réaliste de demander aux industries de veiller au conditionnement et à l'entreposage dans les pays importateurs, car ce n'est pas seulement la responsabilité des industries; il vaudrait mieux affirmer leurs responsabilités en matière d'information et donc lire le début du paragraphe ainsi : "L'industrie doit veiller à ce que les informations concernant la sécurité du conditionnement, de l'entreposage et de l'élimination des pesticides, soient transmises de façon adéquate et conformément aux directives FAO...", le reste du texte reste sans changement.

- Article 11.2 : dans le texte anglais nous proposons de remplacer les termes : "call attention to departure from" par "promote the objectives". Par ailleurs, le texte français n'est pas conforme dans le fond à la version anglaise, qui devrait être adaptée.

- Article 11.3 : il est proposé de compléter la liste des mesures de publicité concernant l'utilisation sans danger des pesticides par les termes suivants : "les premiers soins à donner, les centres antipoison à contacter en cas d'accident".

- Article 12.6 : compte tenu que le code ne constitue pas un instrument juridique contraignant mais qu'il est d'application volontaire, nous estimons que le libellé du paragraphe devrait être modifié dans le sens suivant :

"12.6 Les gouvernements devraient examiner périodiquement avec la FAO et les autres organisations internationales compétentes les progrès réalisés dans la mise en oeuvre du code".

Article 12.7 : il serait opportun de reconnaître le caractère évolutif du code sous la forme suivante : "le code doit être considéré comme un texte vivant qui doit être mis à jour régulièrement en tenant compte des progrès techniques, économiques et sociaux".

En ce qui concerne les références, comme nous l'avions souligné lors du Comité de l'agriculture, les références énumérées à la page 15 sont inconnues de la communauté, au moins dans leur version de 1985, et n'ont pas encore été formellement notifiées et agréées comme instruments internationaux. La communauté ne pourra faire siennes ces normes tant qu'elles n'auront pas été définies de manière plus formelle et que les procédures ad hoc permettant leur finalisation ne seront pas achevées.

Par ailleurs, nous avons relevé quelques différences d'ordre linguistique entre les versions française et anglaise en particulier, qui seront signalées directement au Secrétariat afin de ne pas prolonger le débat.

Telles sont les observations de la CEE et de ses états membres que nous voulons constructives et qui ont été présentées avec un souci de clarification et de coopération.

DATO ALWI JANIAN (Malaysia): I would like to join the other delegations in welcoming you to the chair, and also to thank Dr. Bommer for his clear and comprehensive introduction to the documents before us. This matter of the known practice of some producers and exporters in damming their products which are considered hazardous to their own communities in developing countries has been of concern to my country for a number of years. We have repeatedly raised this issue at FAO Regional Conferences.

We therefore welcome and fully support the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and we hope that it should be implemented as soon as possible after acceptance by the FAO Conference. Since the Code is voluntary in nature and not legally binding on anyone, it is essential that the text be made known as widely as possible to ensure worldwide adoption and compliance.

So far as my country is concerned we will study this Code very closely with a view to incorporating its provisions wherever appropriate into our pesticide legislation. We would urge on the producers that they should do more research in the countries where these chemicals are to be marketed to determine the possible hazards these chemicals may have under local climatic conditions and to social-cultural practices. The collaborative work with the national research institutions would enhance the acceptability and proper application of these chemicals.

We support the suggestion of the distinguished Philippine delegation that the Secretariat and all countries should monitor closely the reimplementation of the Code, particularly Article 9. My delegation is prepared to accept the Code in its present form in order to facilitate its adoption by the Council by consensus. However, if further refinements can be accepted we would support the third alternative suggestion by the Philippine delegation with regard to Article 9.6.

C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus): First of all I would like to thank Dr. Bommer for his clear and comprehensive introduction to the report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. I shall be short and brief, and I shall limit my comments only on the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. In particular I wish to note that the action by FAO to develop an International Code of Conduct provides enhanced confidence to the international community in the distribution and use of pesticides. Cyprus, a developing country, in her efforts during the past ten to fifteen years to develop legislation and a regulatory infrastructure for pesticides, has felt strongly the lack of such a code and has very often looked upon FAO as a source of information and guidance.

The amendments introduced in the text of the Code, as presented in document CL 87/9-Sup.1 aim at achieving a consensus during the Session of the Council. The Delegation of Cyprus is in full agreement with the text of the Code and endorses the draft resolution to be presented for consideration by the Conference.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): I'll be very brief. Last March the Chinese Delegation attended the Eighth Session of COAG. We think that document CL 87/9 very well summed up the views expressed by Member Countries on various subjects and it is a true reflection of the proceedings. It is in general a good report and we agree with it. Now I would like to take this opportunity to dwell on one point on the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

The Secretariat had made full preparations for the drafting before the Session, and the draft was thoroughly discussed during the Session. This has helped to improve the text and paved the way for the implementation of the Code in the years to come. It was unanimously agreed by COAG that considering the increasingly wide use of agro-chemical techniques, the establishment of the Code was highly necessary to ensure the safety of human health and safe production, distribution and utilization of pesticides. The report stated that the Code is neither compulsory nor legally binding and fully respects the laws and regulations of respective countries. We believe that its flexible nature will facilitate its universal acceptance in the world. Therefore, we don't think there should be any problem for the Council to approve it, which will provide guidelines for national governments to follow in pesticide operations in the light of their specific conditions. We agree with the revised Code and the drafting resolution in the document CL 87/O-Sup.1. We suggest, after deliberations, it be proposed to the 23rd Conference. The revised amendments put forward by the Philippine Delegate in paragraph 9 on the Code, we think, is worth considering.

J. MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): In spite of the obvious limitations in practice of any code of conduct anywhere, in some situations a code of conduct may be a specially good thing - or perhaps the only thing to go by. For example, let us draw a picture in our minds, a caricature, of a starving man with a cup in his hand eager to pour out something for himself out of several taps before him. But the problem is that his are not the only hands controlling the taps. There are several other hands on the taps as well more powerful than his own, and, moreover, the taps contain various liquids ranging from pure milk to pure poison, and the man knows little how to identify which one is which. Now in such a situation where the stakes are high, that is the man either starves or takes poison, or takes milk and survives, where there are other hands and minds on the taps, more powerful and less ignorant than his and moreover where there is no law to ensure the most healthy and least destructive outcome from the taps, some code of conduct to regulate the conduct of the various hands and minds may be the most useful and perhaps the only instrument to pin ones hopes on. Of course we are assuming, if we may, that none of the minds are evil in intent - all are basically decent though at times susceptible to follow some divergent, or even petty interest of their own.

Keeping in mind that this is a caricature, we would venture to say that this is in fact the sort of situation we have in the world of pesticides. The starving man is of course the developing countries which, without the various pesticides - represented by the taps - would starve. The other hands are the other parties mentioned in the draft Code of Conduct before us. One should straight away add that there are shades of opinion who would not agree with this characterisation of the situation. For example, at one extreme there is an opinion that no milk comes out of any of these taps; they are all poison. One can do away with all chemical pesticides altogether and the man would still not starve because there are other, better ways of pest control. Some other shades of opinion, while assigning an important role to chemical pesticides, would question the very utility or practicality or advisability of a Code of Conduct. The thinking behind the document before us and the Code of Conduct, on the other hand, is that chemical pesticides have in fact come to play an important role and it is likely to stay so. And although in a long run strategy, increasing emphasis should be given to an integrated pest management system, for the present as well as for the future the dependence of the developing countries on imported pesticides continues to be increasingly so, and since these countries lack the infrastructure and the trained personnel for an effective registration and control system, the pesticide industry itself and the exporting industrialized countries (who at present have the monopoly of the knowledge and of the means) must be persuaded to accept some responsibility for promoting the safe and efficient use of the often lethal chemicals in order to protect the people and the environment in all countries, especially the most vulnerable developing countries. Of course, in the meantime also, attempts should continue to build up the capabilities within the developing countries so that their dependence in all these aspects is progressively reduced.

We consider this a sound and realistic philosophy, and for this reason we support the idea and content of the Code of Conduct. In spite of its shortcomings and weaknesses one, for example, pointed out at paragraph 205 of the Committee report, we may now accept the revised text of the Code unanimously as well as the draft resolution and transmit it to FAO Conference.

The role and utility of the Code would be similar to the other international undertakings which have no legally binding force but are rather like pledges based on mutual trust and good faith, embodying the desire of governments to achieve certain agreed objectives by concerted national and international action. The Code would have an educative value as well as an energizing role, possibly stimulating administrative and legislative action within countries, and in any case increasing awareness on the part of everyone on vital ethical and technical issues.

For those who tend to sometimes decry or underrate such moral instruments as opposed to legislative instruments, though none have done so today, it may be added that in a sense the Code of Conduct can be said to arise from an international legally binding instrument, namely the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted in 1957, Article 11 of which as it now stands, recognizes the right to food and freedom from hunger as a fundamental human right, and enjoins upon all signatory States, among other things, to improve methods of conservation of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, etc. The Code of Conduct being relevant to the conservation of food and sources of food, fits into the framework of the rights and obligations instituted by this Covenant of 1957 which is a legally binding international instrument.

As regards the specific contents of the Code, there are many aspects which can be stressed or commented upon. To take a few which we regard as significant or important: We would like to stress Article 3.8 which calls for the promotion of pest management systems. This should include the re-discovery, as it were, of organic pesticides and of traditional cultural practices used for pest control, such as crop rotation, flooding of rice stubbles, uprooting of maize stubbles, etc. The modern techniques of biological control which hold the greatest potential are yet of limited use at present in developing countries, due to their high research requirements and sophistication requirements on matters such as predator/parasite relationships etc.

We would therefore have preferred this Article 3.8 to be more elaborately stated. Chemical pesticides alone would lead to a dead-end - even a self-destructive end to our conservation efforts. Other more effective methods have to be substituted if the race against the pests is not to be lost, and if an insect pest is not to be the last surviving living thing on planet Earth - beating man by a long margin. The harmful and persistent residual effects of the chlorinated hydrocarbons have been recognized, leading to the banning of DDT in many countries. But the effects of other chemicals on the ecology of plant and animal life, their destruction of useful forms of life, such as pollinating insects, and other friendly bugs, the pollution of the agro-ecosystem, and indeed the entire ecosystem, are still to be fully discovered. Of course the benefits of the chemical pesticides have also to be recognized, some of them can contribute greatly to our fight against population increase by making us all sterile. The importance of Registration is brought out well in the Code, and is inherent in the very definition of the word where it is defined on page 4 as meaning the process whereby the responsible national government authority approves the sale and the use of a pesticide following the evaluation of comprehensive scientific data demonstrating that the product is effective for the purposes intended and not unduly hazardous to human health or the environment. Registration therefore is the important instrument of control and it cannot be done without "comprehensive scientific data".

In this respect to ensure that such data is made available the Code of Conduct lays down some of its most important provisions in several articles, for example, Article 4.1.3, Article 6.2.1, Article 8.1.2 and Article 9.1, making it the responsibility of manufacturers and the exporting countries to provide technical information. Furthermore, since many countries at the present stage of their technical capabilities may not be in a position to even use the information provided, responsibility for providing technical assistance is provided at Article 3.3. And Article 3.4.4 on page 6 goes as far as to say that the manufacturers should retain an active interest in following their products to the ultimate consumer. Though obviously the manufacturer cannot follow up and guarantee the safety of the last individual user and the last inhabitant, the companies should nevertheless have some overall responsibility towards ensuring the safety of their products by the final users, in matters such as the right packaging and the right clothing.

In all these matters the success of the Code will depend on the cooperation and goodwill which is shown on all sides. Like any written instrument, even legally binding and sanctimonious ones like law books and constitutions, they can be reduced to a mere heap of paper if parties fail to honour it in practice. But we would like to avoid making this cynical assumption.

Finally, referring to Article 11.1.8 at page 13 of the Code, one should be warned against the self-absolving role that the phrase "safe when used as directed" can play in reference to some very dangerous chemicals. The injunction "use as directed" may sometimes be too sophisticated and too complicated to be easily implemented by the poor and illiterate farmers. So the use of some pesticides may in actuality prove too dangerous in all practical circumstances.

Before closing, we would like to refer to some of the amendments suggested by the Ambassador of the United States of America. Article 11.2, page 14, "International organizations and public sector groups should call attention to departures from this Article". The proposed amendment, we feel, tends to weaken the article by couching it in terms of a general overall purpose instead of a more specific and definite exhortation.



The difference between the amendment proposed and the original one is like saying, "I would like to feed the whole world" instead of saying, "When I see a single hungry little boy in the street I will call him in". Thus the proposed amendment is like looking at the ceiling in a general way and aiming at the maximum, while the other looks down at the floor ready to pick up anybody who falls low. So we would like to see Article 11.2 remain as it is now.

Regarding Article 9.6, page 12, two proposals were made for the deletion of the last portion of this Article, one by the USA and one by the Philippines. We would prefer the one by the Philippines, not only that the last sentence should be deleted, as proposed by the USA, but also the last part of the second last sentence should be deleted.

With regard to the so many other amendments, I would like to submit that it has been difficult to keep track of all of them, and one could comment on many. But as a general observation, one can perhaps be guided on how this can be handled, whether there should be a discussion on each of them now, or whether it should be taken up by the Drafting Committee. With these observations, we submit that the draft Code be endorsed by consensus and transmitted to the FAO Conference for adoption.

LE PRESIDENT: Quant à nos travaux et à la façon d'aborder les amendements qui ont été présentés, je pense que nous pourrions décider lorsqu'on aura entendu tous les orateurs. Mais il ne faudrait pas transformer cette séance plénière en comité de rédaction, donc il faut choisir une autre méthode. On pourrait peut-être confier la tâche au Comité de rédaction lui-même ou confier au Secrétariat l'évaluation des amendements. Je suis optimiste, je pense qu'il y a des amendements qui ont un caractère purement formel et technique et peut-être pourraient-ils être incorporés sans grande difficulté. Mais cela, on le décidera à la fin de nos discussions.

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal) : Monsieur le Président, je dois vous féliciter et plaindre le Secrétariat. Vous féliciter Monsieur le Président, parce que présider une séance de cette nature, où il aurait fallu un ordinateur pour retenir tout ce qui a été dit, nécessite effectivement beaucoup de courage. Je plains le Secrétariat parce que mettre en forme tout ce qui a été demandé pour un texte qui apparemment n'aurait pas dû soulever beaucoup de difficultés est une tâche particulièrement hardie et complexe.

Beaucoup de délégués n'ont pas pu, à juste raison compte tenu de ce que je viens de dire, se prononcer sur les amendements qui ont été présentés, de sorte que renvoyer ces amendements au niveau du Comité de rédaction ne fera que repousser les complications parce que l'on ne se souviendra pas de tout ce qui a été dit. Cela va prolonger nos discussions finales.

Tout à l'heure, vous avez dit quelque chose d'assez intéressant à propos de ces amendements. J'ai essayé moi-même de les noter et je me suis rendu compte que pour la plupart il s'agit de tentatives d'amélioration du texte qui, même si elles n'étaient pas retenues, ne devraient pas empêcher l'adoption du Code. C'est pourquoi je pense personnellement, et ma délégation également, que nous devrions adopter le texte. Naturellement, le Secrétariat, en présentant ce document à la Conférence, essaiera de le faire dans la meilleure forme possible. Mais il y a certains amendements sur lesquels il faudrait quand même s'entendre.

Je commencerai d'abord par l'un des amendements présentés par le représentant de la Communauté concernant l'article 1.1 quand il dit que les objectifs de ce Code sont d'énoncer "sur une base volontaire" ... Je dois dire que j'ai discuté avec lui et je pense qu'il n'avait pas suffisamment étudié le texte. Si on dit que les objectifs du Code sont d'énoncer sur une base volontaire, juridiquement on ne peut pas comprendre. Le représentant de la CEE lui-même très humblement, et je l'en félicite, m'a dit que c'était un amendement difficile à retenir. Il faut que nous soyons précis. Donc s'il le veut bien, et je pense que cela ne fera pas de difficulté, on pourra écarter purement et simplement cet amendement, sinon on n'a pas besoin d'un code. Parler de base volontaire vis-à-vis de qui? Personne ne saurait répondre.

Cela dit je crois que le deuxième amendement de fond, qui est assez intéressant et que je voudrais appuyer, est celui de l'Article 6 parce qu'effectivement la dernière partie de l'avant-dernière phrase ôte tout son sens à ce par. 9.6. Je crois que là, si on le supprimait, ça ne ferait pas de mal. Personnellement j'aurais pu, si je ne voulais pas respecter mon attitude qui serait d'adopter le texte en l'état; parce que déjà, comme l'a dit le délégué du Congo, c'est un texte qui n'est pas suffisamment satisfaisant pour les pays en développement.

Mais dans un esprit de compromis il faudrait le retenir tel quel parce que nous sommes au moins sûrs d'une chose: tous les pays ici représentés sont d'accord sur le principe d'avoir ce Code parce que, en effet, il n'est pas possible d'accepter que la communauté internationale exige sur le plan pharmaceutique que certaines dispositions soient prises pour que les médicaments n'entraînent pas certaines conséquences pour l'être humain et que pour les plantes, pour lesquelles les pesticides jouent le même rôle que les médicaments pour l'homme, il n'y ait pas certaines précautions à prendre aussi bien au niveau de la fabrication, de la distribution que de l'emploi.

Ce serait peut-être une incohérence de la part de l'être humain parce qu'en fait les plantes dans ce domaine courent les mêmes risques que les êtres humains. Sans compter que les pesticides présentent des dangers pour nous mêmes et nos familles dans nos campagnes. Je tenais à dire cela mais la décision de mon pays, en tout cas de ma délégation, est que l'on adopte le texte tel qu'il aura été présenté et que le Secrétariat ne manquera pas, comme il l'a déjà fait présentement, de tenir compte de toutes les améliorations de forme pour le présenter à la Conférence.

Je voudrais enfin faire une demande pour conclure, c'est, en ma qualité de membre du Conseil et membre du Groupe des 77, que l'on puisse permettre au cours de ce débat au Président du Groupe des 77 de faire une très brève déclaration sur ce point.

LE PRESIDENT: Le représentant du Groupe des 77 pourra faire sa déclaration quand il le demandera.

Sra. M. BRICENO ZEHL (Venezuela) Estamos hablando de insumos, el plaguicida fundamental para el efectivo desarrollo de la agricultura en un país, un insumo que a través del aumento de la productividad que, cuando usado adecuadamente, contribuye a aumentar el nivel de vida de nuestra población rural.

Lamentablemente las características sociales de esa misma población cuya modificación requiere mucho tiempo, muchas veces no permiten la real evaluación por parte del campesino de los riesgos que entraña el manejo de un plaguicida. Por estos motivos queremos agradecer a la FAO la preparación de este código tan importante y darle toda nuestra consideración y apoyo. Entendemos las dificultades que se tuvieron que enfrentar en el intento de tomar en consideración durante su preparación los múltiples aspectos de problemas y los puntos de vista de los países productores y receptores.

Prueba de ésto es el hecho de que este conjunto de normas, tal como nos ha sido presentado en este Consejo, es el producto de varias fases de elaboración a raíz de consultas intergubernamentales y de expertos altamente cualificados. No ponemos en duda que puede ser perfectible, ¿pero existe acaso ejemplo de perfección lograda en un primer momento? Creemos que este código responde a una necesidad impelente y actual de poner de relieve todos los aspectos del problema considerado. Es, como siempre, una cuestión de concienciación de todas las partes implicadas y, por ende, de colaboración.

Así lo consideramos y así nos hacemos partícipes de ella. No puede ser otra cosa un código cuya característica fundamental es la voluntariedad en su aplicación. Nosotros, en Venezuela, hemos tenido casos de envenenamiento grave de campesinos por ignorante manejo de plaguicidas, y es nuestro deber ante todo hacer todo lo posible por evitar que en el futuro esto vuelva a ocurrir.

No creemos en riesgos razonables, y menos cuando se habla de vidas humanas. Me refiero a este propósito al proyecto de Resolución sobre el Código que nos ha sido presentado. Teníamos, en fin, ciertas dudas, al igual que las delegaciones de Filipinas, la India, y otras, sobre el Artículo 9 y las definiciones contenidas en el Artículo 2, pero consideramos más constructivo en este momento dejar a la Secretaría la posibilidad de aportar mejoras tomando en cuenta todo lo que se ha sugerido durante nuestros debates. Concentrarnos sobre los puntos de convergencia que permitan la adopción del código y su tramitación a la Conferencia.

CA. FERREIRA GUIMARAES (Brazil): My delegation wishes to express its support for the Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture, as presented in document CL 87/9. I also want to give our support to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. These objectives are in line with our concern for the protection of humans and the environment. We should also contemplate the immediate interest of the developing countries, and suggest a testing requirement for pesticides before their exportation to other countries.

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): On behalf of my delegation I would like to thank Mr Bommer for his excellent introduction of this item. As to the range of programmes concerning the handling, distribution and use of pesticides, we have expressed our views both in written form and during the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We regarded this as an area too technical for the Eighth Session; these technical subjects should be discussed in special commissions.

We fully support the Draft International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which will be a very important document. But I would like to make some recommendations. First, in Article 7.2 of the Code should not an amendment be made so that the medium toxic pesticides, which are already in the guidelines of the World Health Organization, are classified as second-class because they might be released to small producers and gardeners on the assumption that these people would be regularly trained in the use and effects of these materials.

Secondly, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to recommend in Article 10 of the draft Code that labels on the packages of supplies be written in the language of the importing country so that the correct use may be duly explained both as to the composition of the material, its dosage, use and effect, thus excluding any confusion.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Con su competencia habitual, el Sr. Bommer hizo una excelente presentación de este documento. " En primer lugar, queremos apoyar particularmente a las delegaciones de nuestros distinguidos colegas de Venezuela, Cuba y Congo, quienes expresaron razones morales y humanas, por medio de las cuales hemos llegado al convencimiento de que este Código llena un vacío que puede contribuir a evitar graves riesgos para la salud del hombre como resultado de la mala aplicación de los plaguicidas por falta de criterios de información, abuso de su utilidad o cualquier deficiencia. La COAG (se supone que es el Comité Técnico del Consejo en este caso) expresó su aceptación general del código; sin embargo, el Director General atendió debidamente la recomendación de la COAG y tuvo en cuenta algunas de las observaciones que se plantearon allá para redactar ahora el proyecto de Resolución que se nos presenta, dirigida a la Conferencia.

Pero constatamos que no ha bastado la buena voluntad ni los grandes esfuerzos del Director General para preparar una y otra versión. En efecto, hemos asistido a un debate paradójico y simpático a la vez. Todos los miembros del Consejo han reiterado su apoyo moral al código, todos han jurado solemnemente que quieren el Código y cumplirán sus principios, todos han dicho que desean que el Consejo adopte este Código por consenso, y al mismo tiempo todos han hecho propuestas y han sugerido modificaciones. Nosotros creemos que realmente esa situación no es objetiva ni es realista ni positivista. Hemos oído aquí interesantes declaraciones de muchas delegaciones cuyos gobiernos (lo sabemos por el contacto que tenemos con nuestros colegas) han hecho llegar observaciones a la Secretaría y a nosotros y ahora repiten aquí esa misma marea inmensa de modificaciones. Han creado realmente una confusión.

No bastaría lo que falta de este período de sesiones ni tal vez el resto de este año incurso hasta la Conferencia de noviembre para presentar, para medio analizar o tener en cuenta todas las propuestas que se han hecho. Posiblemente podríamos calcular que en el año 2000 adoptaríamos el Código. Se han presentado 49 textos, 49 proyectos de código y todavía faltan los observadores, que pueden ser 107 para completar los 156 Estados Miembros de la Organización.

Pero no todo ha sido negativo. Creemos que es un privilegio participar en el diálogo interesante que se está llevando a cabo en esta sala. Por ejemplo, nos atraeron mucho las interesantes y bien elaboradas ideas de nuestro distinguido amigo el señor Desesquelles, quien habló en nombre de los diez y los doce países de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Si nosotros aceptáramos siquiera una sola de las ideas que expresó aquí el observador de la CEE, habríamos perdido todo el esfuerzo que se ha realizado a través de todo este proceso. Es evidente que hay que respetar la soberanía de los gobiernos, pero si vamos a decir en el Código que cada gobierno puede seguir por su propia cuenta, orondo, tranquilo, sin tener en cuenta el texto del Código, ¿para qué entonces estamos tratando de elaborar un texto? Sinceramente, tampoco entendemos cómo es posible que a lo que ya había dicho una muy respetable delegación esta mañana se haya sumado ahora la opinión de la CEE al tratar de dar excesiva importancia a los aspectos materiales y prosaicos del costo que tendría la aplicación de este Código. ¿Es esa actitud acaso alguna excusa, una simplificación inaceptable del problema, para reducirlo a aspectos que no corresponden a los principios en los que nosotros queremos inspirarnos?

Nosotros sabemos (porque tenemos muchos amigos en los diez - o doce - países de la CEE) que esa Comunidad se ha preocupado muchísimo por este texto del Código y les estamos agradecidos que ellos tengan interés en que se produzca un buen documento porque esencialmente va a favorecer a los países en desarrollo, pero por eso mismo nos extraña que, además de todo lo que ya se ha hecho por distinguidos colegas de la CEE, esta tarde su observador haya vaciado aquí, en esta sala, toneladas y más toneladas todavía de ideas y de propuestas.

Nosotros reconocemos, repetimos, ese empeño positivo de la CEE y, naturalmente, cada uno de sus países, y todos, los Diez o Doce juntos, serán muy bienvenidos cuando quieran sumarse a nosotros para adoptar el Código e implementar sus principios. Son países muy importantes y muy respetables y la Comunidad en sí también lo es, pero no por ésto señor Presidente, nosotros creemos que se puede llegar al extremo de proponer una enmienda con nombre propio. No creemos que sea procedente que se proponga una enmienda a un texto de contexto internacional como éste sólo para que la CEE pueda participar.

Creemos que el observador de la CEE redactó un nuevo código, preparó un nuevo texto, pero lo hizo con tanta autoridad, con tanta competencia y con tanto dogmatismo cuando dijo "nosotros no podemos aceptar ésto y lo otro", que en realidad pensamos que el observador de la CEE se le olvidó algo en su declaración; él no nos dijo si ese nuevo proyecto de código que proponía debería ser aplicado solamente en los diez o doce países de la Comunidad o en todos los demás países del mundo.

Mis colegas de la delegación de Colombia y yo estamos preocupados, porque a la luz de lo que ha sucedido hoy en este debate, corremos el riesgo de perder nuestros puestos, porque tenemos instrucciones muy firmes y muy serias de expertas autoridades colombianas en el sentido de proponer nuevas y radicales medidas a este texto, pero, naturalmente, preferimos afrontar ese riesgo y seguir el buen ejemplo de los países nórdicos, siempre pragmáticos, para no proponer aquí nada que pueda aún aumentar más esta inmensa confusión. Nos limitaremos, pues, a reafirmar un principio del Gobierno colombiano, según el cual lo esencial es que los gobiernos observen estos principios del Código, que lo apliquen, que pongan en práctica, que implementen estos principios.

Por ello, creemos que la Parte 3 del proyecto de Resolución es sumamente débil y que debería reforzarse a la luz de lo que dicen los puntos 12.6 y 12.7, pero naturalmente, no vamos a entrar en contradicción con lo que estamos afirmando y por eso queremos concluir para manifestar nuestro acuerdo, señor Presidente, porque usted, con el buen sentido que le caracteriza, ya anticipó una parte del resumen que va a hacer sobre este tema, aunque no había concluido la discusión. Le concedemos razón a usted cuando, en medio de todo este maremagnum de ideas y de propuestas, usted se vio forzado a reaccionar, a decir alguna otra cosa y anticipó ya lo que manifestó también nuestro colega Baila Sy, de Senegal, de que, ante lo que ha ocurrido hoy, no hay más remedio, no hay otra alternativa que adoptar este texto en la forma en que nos lo ha presentado el Director General. Ninguna otra solución sería seria ni objetiva como conclusión de este debate. Creemos que el texto debe adoptarse tal como está en el Comité de Redacción, donde afortunadamente sólo participamos 13 países. Por lo tanto, el riesgo de nuevas propuestas es menor. Allá, en ese Comité de Redacción, se consignarán, en el proyecto de Informe, los comentarios y las propuestas, y, naturalmente, hasta donde sea posible y a la luz de esa conclusión, el Director General decidirá libremente cuál será su actitud y posición final ante la Conferencia.

LE PRESIDENT: Naturellement la solution idéale serait d ' approuver le code dans l'état présent, mais ce n'est pas possible. Peut-être aurons-nous à faire tous les efforts possibles pour découvrir l'importance que les différentes délégations donnent aux amendements. Sans doute pourrait-on en éliminer "beaucoup, mais pas tous malheureusement. Je pense que notre tâche maintenant est d'en terminer avec les interventions, et je voudrais adresser un appel aux orateurs qui vont prendre la parole d'être très brefs et surtout de ne pas présenter d'autres amendements.

M. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): Thank you for giving me the floor after having listened to the distinguished delegate from Colombia. First of all, with regard to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, we should like to thank the Director-General and the FAO staff for the formulation of this Code, which we consider among the most important issues put before our Council.

After having listened to the comprehensive introduction given by Dr Bommer, we emphasize that this Code has been well prepared, that it covers all the aspects of this issue, and that it should be the object of the attention of all countries, exporters and importers of pesticides, together with all concerned, and should assist them in working together for the benefit of mankind and for the improvement of agriculture. We share the view of the Director-General that this Code can assist in overcoming the various problems related to pesticides.

The delegation of my country participated in the Session of the COAG and endorsed the text as presented to the COAG, which is considered to be a compromise. However, we commend the efforts of the Director-General and the spirit of cooperation he has displayed through the amendments proposed to the text contained in Document CL 87/9 Sup.1.

These chemicals are hazardous materials so how can we possibly engage in the trade of such toxic materials without establishing standards to ensure the appropriate use of such materials? We have stated in the COAG session that there are some pesticides which have been restricted in some industrialized countries due to the hazards they pose to human life, animals and or the environment, these pesticides are readily exported to developing countries. We called for a termination of such practices together with the provision of all necessary information on these pesticides. We now stress the importance of this issue and endorse monitoring on the part of the Secretariat of the implementation of the Code, in particular as relates to Article 9, and endorse the deletion of the last part of Article 9.6 starting with "but it is recognized that this may not always be possible" up to the end of the Article. We agree with previous speakers that such materials are a double-edged weapon and that limitations should be put on their export and trade in addition to standards and controls on their use. This Code attempts to cover all of these aspects.

We wish to stress the need for training and the choice of pesticides, as was rightly said by my colleague from Indonesia. Such pesticides should be safe and proper. Of course, there may be some constraints and problems facing the developing countries. Here we stress the role of our Organization as well as other interested organizations. Finally, and out of this spirit of cooperation, we support the Code as it now stands for the good interest of humanity at large.

J. GLISTRUP (Denmark): Mr Chairman in complying with your ruling, I wish in particular to comment on the Draft Code of Conduct concerning pesticides, but before doing so allow me to express the satisfaction of my delegation with the way in which the Eighth Session of COAG was conducted. Most delegations present were highly qualified experts, thanks to whom the debate was conducted in a technical, professional and constructive manner. In our view this is most stimulating for the participating delegations and, above all, for the FAO Secretariat.

Turning to the Draft International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, my delegation wishes to express its acceptance of the text as presented to the Council.

Like you my delegation is somewhat confused by the many amendments proposed. Some of them I am prepared to accept straightaway; others I am not in a position to evaluate here. We would not like to turn the Council into a drafting committee. I am sure that the proposals made were in a constructive spirit and as such will be useful to the Secretariat.

Therefore, I will confine myself to stating that my government fully supports the initiatives and efforts made by FAO in this field. In this respect I would like to mention that the Danish Minister for the Environment in several international fora has stressed the considerable need for the exchange of information concerning international trade in pesticides.

In our view the text now presented to us satisfies one of the main purposes of the Code, which is to assist developing countries which do not have appropriate administrative and organizational infrastructure to better cope with imports, distribution and handling of pesticides. In order to provide this assistance initiatives are required of governments, international organizations, industry and others. We believe that the Code provides a useful framework for creating maximum cooperation between these bodies.

My Government also notes with satisfaction that the Code now clearly stands as a voluntary document. Let me add, however, that in my country the major elements of the Code are already covered by our national legislation and to a certain extent by European Economic Community provisions.

In supporting the transmittal of the Draft Code of Conduct to the Council my delegation would also support the proposal that the observance of the Code be monitored with a view to discussing the possible revision of the Code at a later stage. In conclusion, my delegation hopes that the Code of Conduct may be a first step towards solving problems with the distribution and use of pesticides.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Danemark pour cette proposition très constructive et très sage et j'espère que cela aura un certain effet sur l'assemblée.

J. GARCIA DEL CASTILLO (España): Primeramente mi felicitación a usted, Sr. Presidente, por ocupar tan dignamente en este momento la presidencia del Consejo. Felicito igualmente al Dr. Bommer por la presentación clara y exhaustiva de los documentos que nos han sido presentados. Damos la máxima importancia al documento CL 87/9 relativo al Informe del octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y estamos, en su conjunto, plenamente de acuerdo.

Siguiendo su recomendación voy a ser breve en mi declaración. Respecto al Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas, hemos oído con el máximo interés las observaciones propuestas por algunas delegaciones y consideramos que algunas de ellas serán tenidas en cuenta por la Secretaría para la definitiva redacción del documento. Por tanto vemos con el máximo interés y valor el proyecto de Código que se ha presentado al Consejo.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): Agradecemos al Dr. Bommer por la excelente presentación de este tema. La delegación mexicana de manera breve, pero firme, desea expresar su apoyo al Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas, como ya lo hizo durante el Comité de Agricultura recientemente celebrado.

Considera que es indispensable la existencia de un instrumento que trate de regular este insumo que debe permitir evitar pérdidas en las cosechas y con ello coadyuvar a la producción agrícola, pero que también debe evitar pérdidas humanas y afecciones graves o permanentes en quienes lo usan y manejan o entre consumidores que ingieren productos contaminados y coadyuvar a la vez a evitar trabas en la comercialización de productos agrícolas de los países en desarrollo. Si bien es cierto que hay grandes intereses económicos detrás de este asunto, también es cierto que es importante y fundamental el principio de convivencia que consiste en tratar a los otros como quisieran ser tratados.

En los países en desarrollo la mayor parte de plaguicidas son producidos por empresas transnacionales o proveniente de transferencias de patentes en desuso debido a los riesgos que implicaban a los países de origen en donde se comprobó su efecto en pérdidas de vidas, enfermedades o malformaciones, generalmente irreversibles o transmisibles.

El Código lo consideramos débil porque no identifica responsabilidad material y ni siquiera moral de las empresas y los gobiernos que favorecen la situación actual y carece de precisiones sobre cierta terminología empleada, definiciones y otros elementos constitutivos que a nuestro juicio sería importante corregir. Destacamos en particular la propuesta del delegado de Colombia de for-talacer el párrafo 3 de las recomendaciones, cambiando los párrafos 12.6 y 12.7 sobre la observancia del Código y su examen periódico.

Sin embargo mi delegación como lo han hecho muchas otras, no insistirá en reformar el texto para fortalecerlo porque entendemos que esta versión es el resultado de largos tratados y transacciones. Como se ha mencionado también, muchas delegaciones han propuesto cambios al texto del Proyecto. Cada quien parece tener un Proyecto propio y distinto y así como la Comunidad Económica Europea, por ejemplo, tuvo la oportunidad de hacer una gran cantidad de cambios, igualmente otras organizaciones similares podrían formular cambios. Los de la Comunidad, a nosotros nos parecen inaceptables en los futuros tratamientos de este Proyecto de Código. Sin embargo todas las delegaciones que han hablado han aceptado el diálogo. Las observaciones correspondientes podrían, por tanto, aparecer en el Informe de nuestro Consejo como se ha propuesto por el delegado de Colombia y dejar el texto de este Proyecto como esta para que pase por consenso a la Conferencia. La Secretaría de la FAO en última instancia podría estudiar las correcciones de terminología y aquellas técnicas que sean fácilmente incorporables y que mejoren el texto sin debilitarlo.

Nosotros consideramos que esta es la mejor manera de contribuir a este debate y de que este Código pase a la Conferencia para su discusión y que tenga este tratamiento un efecto constructivo.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to convey our appreciation of the total effort involved in the evaluation of the draft Code on such a very important matter. It is virtually impossible to maintain current levels of agricultural production, much less to move on to the higher levels at which we aim, without the use of pesticides.

My delegation considers it necessary to add our voice to some of the previous speakers in commenting briefly at least on Article 9.6. We are also very much concerned at the wording which suggests after "control action", "it must always be possible" to provide this very critical information to the importing country. We feel that this flexibility is potentially dangerous if left to what may well prove to be an unscrupulous administration. We already have the voluntary aspect of this Code emphasized in Article 4, where it is to be noted that "Pesticide manufacturers are expected to", not that they "must", ensure testing of their products along scientific lines. However, perhaps we have to live with that for the time being if we are to arrive at adoption of the draft.

This aspect of the Code (and I refer again to 9.6) we feel cannot be ignored, because every so often what is involved is human life and at times serious damage to the environment which can take a considerable length of time to correct. In this regard, the proposal of the Philippine and some other delegations to eliminate that particular section of the Article which begins "but it is recognized ..." and concludes "... the product in question.", or the whole of the sentence, must, we think, be given serious consideration.

In a more general sense, interventions on this particular item indicate clearly that there is real concern from some delegations. The situation is such that your skill as Chairman and the accumulated wisdom and expertise of the Secretariat must be fully utilized in attempting to mould a document which could be accepted by the largest number, if not by all, of the delegations at the November Conference.

LE PRESIDENT: Avec la permission du Conseil, je voudrais donner la parole au représentant de Madagascar qui a le statut d'observateur mais qui ne pourra pas participer plus tard à nos travaux. Donc, avec votre permission, je lui donne la parole.

R. RABE (Observateur de Madagascar): Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président. La délégation malgache est heureuse de vous voir présider l'examen de ce point très important de notre ordre du jour. Nous vous remercions de nous avoir donné l'occasion d'apporter notre modeste contribution à vos travaux.

Notre délégation adresse ses félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité du document soumis à notre examen. M. Bommer par ailleurs en fait une présentation très brillante. L'actuelle version du document du Code est vraiment le fruit de l'esprit de synthèse, du savoir-faire et de la persévérance du Secrétariat. Elle a fait l'objet d'amples et profondes consultations. Vous-même, Monsieur le Président, vous avez signalé qu'il s'agit là de la huitième version de ce document.

Pour notre part, nous déclarons d'entrée de jeu que nous appuyons sans réserve ce projet de Code pour les raisons suivantes qui sont d'ailleurs loin d'être exhaustives. D'abord, le projet qui nous est soumis rencontre dans sa forme actuelle l'avis favorable, sinon de la quasi-totalité, du moins de la majorité des Etats membres. Dans son élaboration, il a été tenu grandement compte des avis et recommandations des organismes non gouvernementaux, des fabricants et des industriels intéressés par les pesticides. Notre pays ne dispose pas encore de réglementation adéquate et de système de contrôle approprié, il a donc grand besoin de ce Code de conduite. Nous apportons notre plein appui à ce projet, car nous avons encore présents à l'esprit les graves accidents ayant occasionné d'importantes pertes de vies humaines dans certains pays comme l'Inde. Aussi, à notre sens, il serait mal à propos de ne pas être ferme, de chercher à rendre ambiguës certaines dispositions déjà pertinentes de ce document.

Il est absolument indispensable d'éviter que les catastrophes précédentes se reproduisent à nouveau. L'objectif de la FAO est de donner la possibilité à tout être humain de manger à sa faim. Cependant, les voies et moyens utilisés pour atteindre ce noble objectif ne doivent en aucune façon hypothéquer l'avenir de l'homme, porter atteinte à sa santé et à son bien-être. C'est la raison pour laquelle le Secrétariat a eu l'heureuse initiative de ce Code.

Nous aussi nous aurions souhaité que le Code contienne des dispositions plus rigoureuses dans plusieurs de ses articles, notamment à l'article 9, et qu'il soit un peu plus élaboré pour satisfaire surtout les petits paysans en tenant compte de leur niveau encore peu élevé de technicité. Mais nous sommes convaincus que des amendements appropriés peuvent lui être apportés lors de sa mise en application effective.

Aussi, à notre sens, y a-t-il lieu de l'adopter sans perdre de temps, afin de pouvoir le mettre en oeuvre dans les plus brefs délais.

P. PIOTET (France): Lors de la réunion de la huitième session du Comité de l'agriculture, la délégation française avait donné son accord aux grandes lignes du projet de Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, en se réservant toutefois de présenter au Conseil quelques observations de détail après examen approfondi du document par les administrations françaises concernées.

La délégation française mesure toute l'importance du sujet dont nous traitons aujourd'hui. Il s'agit là d'un problème complexe sur les plans technique et économique. Il s'agit surtout d'un aspect du développement agricole tout à fait essentiel pour l'homme, sa santé et son environnement.

Complexe, le problème de la bonne utilisation des pesticides l'est également en raison de la multiplicité des intervenants: fabricants, exportateurs, importateurs, distributeurs, utilisateurs, tous ont une responsabilité spécifique à assumer. L'un des principaux mérites du Code est précisément, aux yeux de la délégation française, de fixer clairement les responsabilités de chacun; celles des exportateurs ne sont pas les mêmes de celles des importateurs. Il est essentiel que chacun puisse assumer pleinement ses propres responsabilités. Il est essentiel aussi, et le Code y incite, que tous les intervenants coopèrent pour une utilisation plus satisfaisante des pesticides. La France pour sa part est toute disposée à coopérer pour la réalisation, par les importateurs, de recherches et expérimentations leur permettant de définir les caractéristiques optimales des pesticides dont ils ont besoin. En ce qui concerne le texte même du projet de Code, la délégation française fait siennes toutes les observations du représentant de la Communauté européenne.

D. MARSICO (Argentina): El Código es para nosotros aceptable, evidentemente puede ser perfectible; pero creemos que debía ser adoptado en esta reunión. Es en el fondo una base de regulación muy válida para el empleo de estos productos. Argentina tiene bastante experiencia en este tema y tiene además una reglamentación a nivel nacional para el uso de pesticidas que encuadra prácticamente dentro de este proyecto de Código.

Sin embargo, tenemos algunas dudas y las expresamos con el deseo de que su espíritu sea tenido en cuenta por quienes redacten el proyecto final. Nuestra preocupación se centra en el carácter o nivel de compromiso, por voluntario que ello sea, que debiera señalarse concretamente por una parte al país productor y exportador y por otra al que lo emplea.

Parece, a través de una lectura general del Código, que el país que importa debiera estar preparado para recibir una serie de productos tóxicos para el hombre y para el medio y también estar preparado para adoptar rápidamente y exhaustivamente una serie de medidas para poder usarlos sin riesgo. Sabemos que esto no es prácticamente posible; muchos países en desarrollo, y aun otros, ante la creciente y continua aparición de productos de este tipo no están organizados o no están tampoco en condiciones de organizarse rápidamente para armar por sí solos un sistema de prevención de defensa y de control. Por eso pensamos que conviene tener más en cuenta en la redacción final que debiera hacer la Secretaría, la necesidad de que a quienes producen y exportan se les indique una serie de conductas destinadas a informar con mayor precisión a los gobiernos de los países adquirentes sobre el empleo de esos productos y de sus riesgos.

Esto no es sólo válido para los países en desarrollo, sino también para otros ante la enorme avalancha de nuevos productos potencialmente cada vez más activos, más destructibles e incapaces de eliminar residuos, lo que obliga a mantener una eficiencia actualizada en todos nosotros.

Finalmente, creemos que el texto propuesto debe ser aprobado ya por consenso, con la expresa opinión de que se tenga en cuenta las observaciones expuestas, en la medida que ello sea posible, y siempre que las mismas vayan dirigidas a incluir mayores exigencias para quienes producen y exportan estos productos en relación con los países que los emplean, pues son aquéllos, en definitiva, quienes están en el origen de estos problemas.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): The Government of the United Kingdom welcomes this voluntary Code. The Director-General and the Secretariat are to be congratulated for their initiative in presenting this proposal. My Government places considerable importance on the safe handling, storage and use of pesticides. In Britain we have a long established system of laws and regulations covering this subject.

We welcome recognition in the discussion of the Code that these are issues which should be appropriately dealt with by national legislation, and some existing national legislation is more rigorous than the Code. I listened with considerable sympathy to the comments about the difficulty of obtaining information and using the information on pesticides which were made by, among others, the distinguished Delegate of Pakistan. We have long appreciated these problems and under our aid programme we fund a scientific unit which has the specific task of advising developing countries on all aspects of pesticide management and use. Under our aid programme we also provide specialist advisers and training courses in Britain and overseas concerning the safe storage, handling and use of pesticides. We would be very happy to collaborate with FAO in our programme to make these services as widely available as possible.

Turning now to the text before us, our position on the text of the Code is similar to that of the Delegation of France. We generally approve the text but we must reserve our right to comment and propose amendments to the final text which may be sent to Conference. At this stage we have no additional comments on the substance of the operational paragraphs of the draft but we believe there remains a need to improve some of the definitions to avoid confusion. First, on page 4 we consider that the phrase "maximum residue limit" using initial "MRL" should not be used in this FAO text because the same phrase is used in the Codex Alimentarius in which it has a different meaning. We suggest that instead the term "maximum residue permitted" is used.



Secondly, we consider the definition of "residue" should contain a reference to timber since residues in timber have been known to affect people living in timber houses.

We also notice some inconsistencies of languages between the English and French texts but we feel that these can be covered in a written comment which we will send to the Secretariat. Finally, we would like to support your proposal that the Secretariat should let us have a paper clearly summarizing the proposed amendments.

MAME BALLA SY (Senegal): Monsieur le Président, je vous avais soumis une proposition que vous aviez agréée qui était d'inviter le Président du Groupe des 77, à la demande de mon pays et peut-être d'autres pays également, et avec la permission des membres du Conseil, à venir nous donner son avis. Je voudrais simplement réitérer cette proposition.

LE PRESIDENT: Je donnerai donc la parole au représentant de la Thaïlande et je donnerai ensuite la parole au représentant de la Libye en tant que représentant du Groupe des 77.

C. SUVIPAKIT (Thailand): My delegation attended the Committee on Agriculture and would like to endorse the report of this Committee. I will confine myself to the topic under discussion, the draft International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We would associate ourselves with the delegations of Philippines and Indonesia. We see that the intention of the importing country must be protected. However, we must make clear at the beginning that we endorse the draft Code in the present form. What we would like to request is that the Director-General in the future revision would also take into account the revision of Article 9, which we agree with the Philippine delegation should eliminate the last sentence of Article 9.6.

B. SAID (Chairman, Group of 77) (Original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been called upon by the members of the Group of 77 to intervene on their behalf. Some of them have seen that discussion on this Code is not satisfactory. If we go back a little, this issue has been discussed in the COAG Session and the Group of 77 at that time indicated its wish that all would reach a consensus on the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

In spite of the fact that many of us see this Code should be strengthened in formulation and should be more precise, however by a spirit of understanding and cooperation with the other group we found that it would be appropriate to accept this Code, and the Director-General since that session has taken the initiative, taking into consideration all the discussions that took place in the COAG Session, in order for the Council to accept the Code unanimously or by consensus.

However, we find that some wish to reopen discussion on this issue. Therefore the Council will be turned into a COAG or into a drafting committee, and if we follow this path, this session will take one month or even more. The Group of 77, taking into consideration all the statements and interventions by the various members sees the following: the Secretariat has exerted an effort which should be commended and it has taken into consideration the various viewpoints which have been expressed by the various heads of delegations through the previous sessions of COAG, and this Code in the present form represents the goodwill, away from the law of the jungle, in the manufacturing and marketing of pesticides on the one hand and the continuation of the spread of toxic materials all over the world on the other.

The second point is that the matter relates to morals, and ideals, and it relates also to the health of man and the safety of the environment. It also relates to our life and to our food. Our life is exposed to hazards and the tragic events which took place in some of our countries is ample proof of this. The third point; the Code in its present form is a declaration of the basic principles and it is a gentleman's agreement between the concerned parties. It respects fully the right of sovereignty for each country to formulate its own regulations and legislations, and it constitutes a general framework and a reference to be guided within our national regulations. It regulates the relationship between the producer and the consumer, and consequently will create a kind of confidence between them, and for the benefit of all. Four: The Group of 77 which represents the developing and affected countries, those that are affected by the use of pesticides will not be able to condone what is taking place now.

It is time for the Organization to put this Code into practice. Therefore the Group of 77 is of the view that the Code should be approved and endorsed in a spirit of understanding and cooperation and not to continue this futile exercise, and to accept it in its present form, noting in our report the observations that have been presented by some delegations, like Philippines and other delegations.

LE PRESIDENT: Je comprends votre état d'esprit, mais je pense malheureusement, que les discussions qui se passent actuellement sont appropriées. Elles ne sont peut-être pas opportunes, mais appropriées certainement parce que nous sommes en présence d'un Code de conduite et les différentes délégations ont le droit de manifester leur avis. Il est vrai qu'il y a un consensus général sur la nécessité d'adopter ce Code, mais je pense qu'il faut quand même donner une chance aux délégations pour manifester leur point de vue à ce sujet. Moi, j'espère toujours que comme résultat de ces discussions nous pourrions dégager le terrain de bien des amendements et confier au Secrétariat le soin d'apporter, sans édulcorer le texte, certains perfectionnements et certaines améliorations à ce texte.

J.S. MTENGA (Tanzania): I like the way you put it, Mr Chairman, that the Secretariat should put the finishing touches where they deem it fit. A lot of effort has been exerted in bringing about the Code of Conduct now under discussion. This is an attempt by the Secretariat to see the Code through to its logical end.

Many amendments suggested here today are aimed at making the present Code perfect before it comes into force. Unfortunately, nothing man-made is perfect. If this state of affairs prevailed elsewhere no single agreement, no single convention, code or whatever would be possible, that means would be implemented. Why should this Code of Conduct be the first of its kind in that regard?

It is the view of my delegation that many of the amendments are aimed at delaying the implementation of this Code which the world has long been waiting for. My delegation therefore humbly submits that the only logical step to take now is to implement the Code of Conduct as presented and to improve it further should the need arise in the future.

My delegation therefore supports the views given by many previous speakers here that the draft be sent to the Conference in its present form. Of course the Secretariat should feel free to incorporate any positive views arising out of our discussion that they think will improve the text that they will present to the Conference. Points like the one raised by the delegate of Philippines arising out of Article 9.6 are obvious. These are the kind of improvements that should go into it, because we have to be specific and not leave it to individual nations to do as they wish. This time they say they release a pesticide which has been banned in their own countries and then they say, "It was not possible to inform you, so unfortunately we sent you a poisonous pesticide that will kill people". We cannot allow this genocide to go on. So such an improvement is essential.

I close my statement by saying, "The death of your neighbour is your death; the sorrow of your neighbour is your sorrow". This is exactly what this Code is meant to be.

C. KAREKEZI (Rwanda): La délégation rwandaise a examiné le document du code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Elle est satisfaite de constater qu'il a été sagement révisé par la FAO pour essayer d'obtenir un compromis de la part de ce Conseil. Aussi ma délégation soutient l'adoption de ce document sans modification. S'agissant des modifications de forme elles peuvent être confiées au Secrétariat.

Mme. M. LOURDES DUARTE (Observateur du Cap-Vert): La délégation de mon pays voudrait avant tout féliciter le Secrétariat et le Dr. Bommer pour la présentation du document CL 87/9 et ensuite elle tient à réaffirmer son appui au projet de Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

A.J.M. OOMEN (Observer for Netherlands): The Netherlands are very much in favour of an International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We think that although the general spirit which it is reflecting is a very positive step towards a future global agreement on this very important issue, it can still be improved. Pesticides can contribute in an essential way to the benefit of mankind but they can also damage man and the environment. It is with that in view that the Netherlands made several proposals during the last COAG session. In the Netherlands it is felt that notification of environmentally hazardous substances should be made both to the national authorities and the authorities of the countries to which the substance or preparation is to be exported prior to the date of export. At this time and from this observer's seat I will not insist on further changes or amendments from our side, but I want to express the serious interest of the Netherlands in this Code, also recently expressed in our national Parliament, and I declare that we give full support to the amendments with the justifications made this afternoon by the representative of the European Economic Community.

On several other points the Netherlands would prefer more restrictive formulations but we do not think it is of any use to discuss it once again at this moment. We think that after a couple of years we can evaluate the Code and I hope that we will agree upon this now. Therefore we want to make it clear that especially the point of reviewing and updating the Code, as suggested by the representative of the Philippines and also the European Economic Community, has our strong support. We do not want to dictate anything to anyone, nor try to write a new Code, but we want a good Code which can be accepted by as many countries and organizations as possible.

T.F.F. MALUZA (Observer for Zambia): As happened with the Global Early Warning System and the early warnings and alarms of the food crisis in Africa, the Director-General of FAO has again come up with a timely suggestion in proposing the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. My delegation fully supports the Code, not only because it will help several human and animal lives but also because of its check on the effects on the environment. My delegation would wish that the Code might have been stronger, but due to the spirit of consensus we accept the Code as it is. Of course we would accommodate any improvements which could be made to the Code as a result of the deliberations of this Council today. Be that as it may, my delegation feels that pesticides which are banned in the country of origin should not be exported to Third World countries who might have limited understanding of the pros and cons of the drug in question and who might not have remedial action to counter its effects on humans, animals or the environment. Anyway, Article 9.3 on page 11 is acceptable to us as it is.

My delegation also supports the need to monitor the acceptance of the Code and that the subject of monitoring requirements should be placed on the agenda for the 1985 FAO Conference, as in document CL 87/9. My delegation agrees with what was said by the delegate of Canada earlier on this subject with the acceptance and implementation of this Code, the need for research and human resource training in the use of pesticides should have been intensified. The Director-General is best equipped to see this realised and my delegation requests FAO to start working on this subject. My delegation requests this august house to accept this Code and to pass it on to the Conference in November this year for adoption and ultimate implementation of its principles.

P. WIESMANN (Observer for Switzerland): I would like to state that Switzerland attaches very great importance to the adoption of such a code. We can endorse fully what the delegate of the Netherlands explained.

As we are not part of the EEC, may I be permitted to make a few suggestions, and I hope they will not weaken the text but rather make it more comprehensive and wider. My delegation would like to propose the following: at the end of the introduction chapter we would like to add the following sentence: "Article 9 on information exchange does not interfere with procedures and provisions laid down in the UNEP scheme for banned or severely restricted chemicals, nor replace them". Then Article 9 would read as follows: after "should notify" we should say "in conformity with UNEP notification scheme for banned or severely restricted chemicals".

We would like to propose a small alteration in Article 4.4. We suggest the Article should begin as follows: "International organizations with the support of governments of exporting countries must play ..." etc.

Mrs A. BERGQUIST (Observer for Sweden): At the COAG meeting we have stated already our strong support for a code of conduct on pesticides. At that time we accepted the text before us, and now, like others, my delegation supports the redrafted text prepared by the Secretariat.

Like the Danish delegation, my delegation supports the suggestion that the observance of the Code be monitored with a view to possible revision at a later stage.

Mme M.T. GUICCIARDI (Observateur de la Confédération internationale des syndicats libres); Monsieur le Président, la Confédération internationale des syndicats libres, et la Fédération internationale des travailleurs des plantations, de l'agriculture et de secteurs connexes (FITPASC) apprécient la décision de la FAO d'établir un Code International de Conduite pour la Distribution et l'Utilisation des Pesticides.

Nous exprimons notre inquiétude au sujet des graves menaces pour la vie et la santé, causées par l'utilisation de produits chimiques dangereux, en augmentation au cours des dernières années, et en raison de l'absence de mesures adéquates pour la santé et la sécurité. Par conséquent l'action de la FAO est très souhaitable. Il est important que les syndicats soient mentionnés parmi les institutions nommées par le code, article 1.4 et, parmi ces organisations, celles qui devraient veiller à l'observation du code. Nous croyons toutefois que la publicité - article 11 - devrait être une responsabilité des gouvernements et des industries.

Aussi, nous vous proposons que l'introduction à l'article 11,1 soit: "l'industrie et les gouvernements devraient veiller à ce que la CISL et le PITPASC expriment leur appui complet à l'initiative de la FAO" avec l'espoir que le code soit approuvé par le Conseil et adopté à l'unanimité par la Conférence biennale en novembre 1985.

J. HUISMANS (United Nations Environment Programme): Over the past several years we have worked closely with FAO and the Secretariats of other international organizations of the United Nations

system on the gradual development of the Code. From the UNEP point of view we have particularly ensured that requirements with reference to information exchanged, as developed under the Code, were consistent with other mechanisms and procedures being developed in the United Nations Environment Programme and elsewhere in the United Nations system at the request of governments.

UNEP is happy to see that the draft Code is now nearing adoption, and that although not all parties are fully satisfied with its actual contents, this unique new deal will now be put into practice by all parties involved to the best of their capabilities.

Article 9 of the draft Code covering information exchange specifically on banned and severely restricted pesticides is consistent with the requirements of the provisional notification scheme on banned and severely restricted chemicals adopted by our Governing Council in May 1984. Our Secretariat, in particular the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, now works closely with governments in implementing the provisional notification scheme. Approximately 60 governments have already taken steps to ensure their effective participation. Therefore, it would be useful if paragraph 9.1 could carry a reference to the existence of the scheme. At the same time, this would also accommodate the comments made, inter alia, by the delegates of India and Canada.

The Governing Council of UNEP requested an evaluation report on the provisional notification scheme, and on problems and difficulties experienced in this particular field. The report will have to be submitted to the Governing Council at its Fourteenth Session in 1987. We will ensure that at this period close contacts will be maintained with the Secretariat of the FAO on this matter should governments decide to adopt the Code in its present form.

I will provide the Secretariat of the FAO with the precise text of the additional reference which I have just proposed if such an addition would be acceptable to the Council. I will also leave with the Secretariat of FAO a limited number of copies of the provisional notification scheme and other related papers in case delegates would like to see relevant details. I am grateful for being given the opportunity to speak on this particular item.

A. YILALA (Observer for Ethiopia): My delegation would like to thank Dr Bommer for his excellent review and summary, and the Secretariat for its untiring effort in producing this document for the eighth time.

The Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in its present form is a good start, and can be improved as and when required if it is found to be difficult to adhere to. As it now stands we have no such thing as an international label and thus I see the millions of rural poor who may be using pesticides adding this hazard to poverty and hunger. Our objective should be to minimize the danger. We sincerely believe we would be better with the Code as it is presented rather than without it. Therefore, we would accept this Code as it is for submission to the Conference and we congratulate the Director-General and FAO for their efforts and initiative.

LE PRESIDENT: Je donne la parole au représentant de Sao Tomé-et-Principe qui me demande l'autorisation de s'exprimer en portugais.

T.D. DA COSTA (Sao Tomé-et-Principe) (langue originale portugaise): Je dois dire que je suis limité à la langue portugaise car je parle très peu le français et l'anglais, c'est la raison pour laquelle j'ai demandé de m'exprimer en portugais.

Je voudrais tout d'abord donner mon plein appui au document présenté par le Secrétariat et nous voudrions féliciter ce Secrétariat de nous avoir présenté un excellent travail dont l'importance est reconnue par tous.

Nous savons que l'idée est d'accroître la production agricole et nous pensons que ce code, pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides; est particulièrement vital, Nous veillerons tous à ce que ce code soit respecté, si adopté. Nous devons également veiller à ce que les objectifs de ce code soient effectivement atteints.

La délégation de Sao Tomé-et-Principe propose l'adoption de ce document et nous souhaitons qu'il soit appliqué.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le représentant de Sao Tomé-et-Principe.

Il y a deux organisations qui ont l'intention de faire des déclarations conjointes, Il s'agit du Centre de liaison pour l'environnement et de l'Organisation internationale des unions de consommateurs.

S. MUCAIRU (Observer of the Environment Liaison Center and the International Organization of Consumer's Unions): I make this statement on behalf of two organizations, the International Organization of Consumer's Unions and the Environment Liaison Center, representative of two of the international organizations of the kind mentioned in the Code in Article 1.4. We represent hundreds of organizations and many thousands of consumers world-wide and share a common concern about the harmful effects of misuse and over-use of pesticides.

The reason for our concern is that our members are often the ones who suffer; they take their fair share of the risks of pesticides in terms of health and the environment. While we recognize that pesticide use is necessary for increasing food production, we are also aware that they are often widely used for cash crops which are of little direct benefit to those whose work it is to apply the pesticides. Therefore, we strongly support the Code as a necessary and sincere attempt to increase confidence in the use of pesticides, and hope for its early adoption.

As participants in the community of Non-governmental Organizations as mentioned in Article 12.1 we will be closely involved in publishing and monitoring the observance of the Code. Indeed, the nongovernmental community already plays an important part in disseminating information through educational material on the safe use of pesticides and alternative methods of pest control.

If I may digress for a moment, I would like to welcome most warmly the remarks of the Chairman, Dr Swaminathan, in an earlier session on the necessity for closer involvement in FAO programmes of the voluntary organizations, particularly farmers' groups. We also deeply appreciate the recognition by other delegates of the need to involve Non-governmental Organizations in the process of observing and publicizing the Code of Conduct. We will do our best to galvanize the Nongovernmental Organizations to become active where necessary.

However, we feel we must register our disappointment that the Code does not go further towards meeting our concern. In particular, we believe that Article 9 was weakened in the later draft by the deletion of the clause in relation to informed consent prior to export. This provision in the Code would have encouraged exporting countries to discharge their responsibility in this area and would have led to enhancing their status as responsible trading partners. Therefore, we strongly support the proposal of the delegate of the Philippines and others for a review of the provisions in Article 9.

Finally, we associate ourselves with the statements made earlier by the ICFTU and UNEP. Consumers and environmentalists around the world should cooperate with the objectives and implementation of this Code.

LE PRESIDENT : Nous avons terminé avec les interventions et à ce point des travaux je voudrais prier M.L. Brader, Directeur de la Division de la Production et de la Protection des Plantes d'exprimer sur les amendements qui ont été présentés pour voir comment nous pourrions les affronter. Je crois que c'est la façon la plus rapide et la plus efficace pour faire faire un grand pas en avant à ce code. Je pense que la solution la meilleure serait de confier au Secrétariat tous les amendements qui ont d'ailleurs un caractère purement grammatical, de traduction ou technique, aussi bien que les amendements qui ont pour but d'améliorer et d'éclaircir certaines parties du texte. Nous pourrions également voir les amendements qui posent réellement des problèmes.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): I would like to comment on the technical aspects of the various comments made, but before doing so I would like to point out that the text of the Code now before the Council was prepared in line with the recommendations of COAG asking the Director-General to take comments into consideration and to take such initiatives as he deems favourable to achieving a consensus in the Council. The Council is aware that the Secretariat has carried out a very careful review of the earlier amendments made, and the Director-General had subsequently decided to include certain of those changes which were of a non-substantial nature and which would not change the objectives of the Code or would not weaken the Code.

In that respect I would also like to draw the attention of the Council to the fact that we have been working jointly with you and with various organizations represented here since 1981 on this matter. The very first draft of this Code was written about November 1981, so we are almost at the fourth anniversary. Since then there have been expert meetings, interagency discussions, and each country has been individually asked for comments. Those comments were taken into full consideration when the eighth draft was prepared for submission to the Committee on Agriculture. In fact, it could be said that you have the ninth draft before you. It is, therefore, the feeling of the Director-General that we may put all these efforts at risk and defeat the purpose of the Code if we now start introducing again very substantial changes.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I would like to comment on the various matters raised by the Council. Before doing so, I would like to stress that I suppose that the various constructive proposals will be included by the Drafting Committee in the Report in order to serve as a basis for matters that have to be taken into consideration by monitoring the implementation of the Code. As has been said, the Code should be regularly updated.

Mr Chairman, you and some of the delegates present have called the Code a living document. I think this debate has proved it. Various delegations who made comment three, four months ago are now coming up with new ones, and on one or two occasions some of the proposals made three months ago by certain delegations are now being revised by the same delegations again. In that sense I see I am fully in line with the Representative of Colombia if he starts discussing the Code again. Let me briefly attempt on an Article-by-Article basis to give our technical ideas on some of these suggestions made.

First of all, with respect to the Draft Resolution, a very specific textual change was proposed by the delegate of India. This was to put number 3 of the recommendations more in line with Article 12.6 and 12.7 of the Code. This proposal by India was supported by Lebanon, Colombia and Mexico. I feel that on the technical point of view it indeed stresses this recommendation because it gives a much clearer definition of what the Director-General exactly should do with respect to the monitoring of the implementation of the Code.

The delegations of the United States and the EEC made a proposal to refer in this recommendation also to the budgetary implications. I feel from a technical point of view that this takes some attention away from the objectives of this recommendation and is probably somewhat out of context, and could perhaps be better handled in the report of the Council. Of course, that is up to the Drafting Committee.

If I have noted all of the comments correctly, there have not been substantial proposals with respect to the introduction to the various Articles. I would like, however, to remind the Council that it is also said in the introduction that the Code is voluntary in nature. But I can see the point that it might be useful, at least in Article I, to refer again to that voluntary aspect because these Articles might sometimes be read apart from the introduction. In that context, from a technical point of view, I feel that the proposal as made by the United States of America might be a useful one by introducing the word "voluntary" before the word "standards". I agree in that respect with the delegate of Senegal that the proposal of the EEC might not be technically a very positive one.

On Article 1.2 the EEC delegate asked that specific reference be made to groupings of States. I would like to draw his attention to Article 12.1 where it is clearly stated that the Code "should be observed through collaborative action among delegates, individually or in regional groupings". It would seem to me that this takes care of the suggestion that he made.

The observer from the World Federation of Trade Unions requested that specific reference be made to trade unions. Trade unions are mentioned as the last two words in Article 1.4.

We have a specific recommendation from the United States and from the EEC to make it quite clear in Article 1.6 that the Code is designed to be used within the context of national law. It seems to me that this will strengthen the Code and make the text much clearer.

We have received comments on the Definitions. I will abstain from commenting here in the Council on every detail of them. When we have received the comments in writing, we will review them very carefully, see how they fit and if they are indeed positive and could help to strengthen these recommendations. I would like to comment, however, that virtually all of these definitions come from internationally agreed documents with the exception of the definitions on Banned and Severely Restricted. I feel that there should be definitions on Banned and Severely Restricted as there is often reference in the text of the Code to these two terms and it would be rather confusing not to give a definition, although not a currently generally accepted one. Perhaps the Code will set the example. I prefer not to go into detail on the other Definitions because I think we have to compare them with the written text and see how they fit in with the existing documents.

On Article 3 there was a comment from the delegate from Pakistan who would like to see Article 3.8 further strengthened on integrated pest management. It is my feeling that that Article is very straightforward, and I think it would dilute the overall content of the Code if it went into special aspects of integrated pest management. It seems to me that the approach of integrated pest management is well taken care of in the text as it stands here.

Going back to Article 2, I will say straightaway that the word "Registration" should be replaced by "Regulatory Action" because that gives a better sense of what is meant in this Article.

With respect to Article 4, it is suggested by the United States of America that Article 4.1.1 be changed so that the words "in regions or countries" be inserted after the word "conditions". From a technical point of view it is my opinion that this changes the meaning of this Article, and I would like to emphasize that this change, "efficacy in regions or countries where the proposed use would take place", was specifically inserted following discussions in COAG where certain developing countries insisted that the efficacy of compounds should be proved in the countries where the pesticides have to be applied. It is for that reason that we specifically added "regions or countries" after "efficacy". From a technical point of view I feel that the original text is better than the one proposed by the USA. I think that deals with Article 4. I have not noted any specific comments on Article 5, Article 6 or Article 7.

We have received from the floor a number of comments on Article 8. In Article 8.1.4 India requests that the word "technical grade" before the word "pesticides". My technical appraisal is that it would improve the text to include all pesticides, formulated and non-formulated products.

We also have a proposal for Article 8.1.5 to modify the text and to write at the end of the Article "the host country and the parent country". I think that would better reflect what is needed and in that sense would be a technical strengthening of the text. I think I have dealt with the comments made on Article 8.

By far the most comments from the various delegations were on Article 9. We have from a number of delegations, including Canada if my memory is correct, India, and some others reference to that article. It was felt that it should be more specifically indicated here that this Article was consistent with the Provisional Modification Scheme for Banned and Severely Restricted Chemicals of UNEP. In fact, this Article is taken almost verbatim from that Provisional Modification Scheme, and it seems to me that the suggestion made by the delegate from UNEP would probably be the best one, that is, to make reference in this article to the fact that it comes from the Provisional Modification Scheme. The delegate for Canada proposed that we should widen this text and say that automatically every change in the Provisional Modification Scheme should be followed in this text. I feel that technically this is a somewhat delicate matter because it is difficult to say that every change will be adopted here without knowing what changes will come forward. It seems to me to go a little far, and particularly if we take into account that it has been proposed to regularly update the Code. I think it would be better to check with the already adopted Modification Scheme to determine if this Article is still in line.

It will certainly be appreciated very much if all of these various recommendations made could be submitted to us in writing by the various delegations. I hope you will accept my apologies that I have not been able to note every recommendation in every detail. It is certainly our intention to work very closely together on this matter of information exchange with The International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals.

Just a minor question in paragraph 9.3, where the word "import" was forgotten, and this was highlighted by the delegate for Cuba. I take it this needs no further comment.

Then we have this proposal from the delegate for the Philippines with respect to the change of text of para.. 9.6. Having listened carefully to the various comments made by various delegates, including the representative of the European Economic Community, it seems to me that this Article should probably be changed to the extent that the last line is taken out and also the words following "but it is recognized ..." - and indeed I feel that technically this might be an improvement. However, it is up to the Council at the end to see whether it is satisfied.

In the context of Article 10 a comment was made by the representative for Czechoslovakia that labels should be in the local language. I do not think that it is necessary to explicitly state that here, because it is clearly stated at the beginning that "All pesticide containers should be clearly labelled in accordance with applicable international guidelines, such as the FAO Guidelines ...". In fact, these guidelines stress very strongly the need for having these labels in local language, so it is not really necessary to include it again here.

On Article 11 we have a suggestion from the United States of America and also from the European Economic Community to change Article 11.2. Originally, Article 11.2 read "... call attention to violations of this Article." It was at the suggestion of certain delegations then changed to "... departures from this Article." It is now requested to "promote" - that "International organizations and public sector groups should promote the objectives." From a technical point of view, I feel that this weakens this article.

In this respect, I am sure that the Council is well aware that the international organizations and public sector groups have been very active in taking care of developments and noting certain practices that have occurred in the use of pesticides. In my opinion, the way the Article now stands best reflects what these groups could from a technical point of view contribute. I think that the word "promote" is a rather weak expression.

Article 12 - Monitoring the observance of the Code - in my opinion, from a technical point of view there is no problem with what I would call the editorial changes proposed by the United States of America in saying in 12.3 "irrespective- of other parties ability to observe the Code.", and to end the Article with "...to observe", and to add "the Code", as suggested by the United States.

We have also a comment from, I think, both the United States and the European Economic Community to widen somewhat Article 12.6 and 12.7, to make it more general - not so much drawing attention to the work only to be done by the Director-General. I would like to point out that it clearly says that FAO should do this in collaboration with all organizations, with Member Governments, United Nations Agencies, international organizations and Non-governmental Organizations.

In respect to this Article, I would also like to draw to the attention of the Council to the fact that right from the beginning when we started work on this Code of Conduct there has been an exchange of letters with the Heads of other UN Agencies, asking them what role they wished to play, and they asked FAO to take the leadership in this. In my opinion, from a technical point of view, if we leave this article open-ended no action might be taken at all and it may be very useful to know clearly which Agency takes the leadership and how it can do it, in order to make sure that the reporting of the observance of the Code is properly done. I hope that with that I have answered, and made some comments on, most of the comments made by the Council.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): On behalf of the Director-General I would like very briefly to thank the Council for this very constructive debate. As Dr Brader mentioned, we have gone a long way in preparing the text which we have been discussing, and your very wide-ranging and thorough discussion is taken very seriously by the Director-General. Your attempt to come closer to a full consensus - and often even the ideals of the Code - is well understood, but some of you have clearly said it will be difficult to reach an ideal, particularly in the first stage when we try to bring all Member Nations of the Organization together to adopt such an important Code.

There was overwhelming support for a need for the objectives of this Code, and I would say that you have also reached a consensus on the text, and and that this text should be presented to the Conference. There are certainly various ideas - as reflected by Dr Brader - for further improvements, which could be reflected in your report. Depending on your decision Mr Chairman, the Director-General could well look carefully into this together with the Secretariat to see in which way improvements - particularly in technical formulation - could still be reached, and even which wording is accepted, without destroying the existing consensus, in order to come up with the text which will make full use of all the positive proposals made during the debate.



I hope you can come to a good decision on this matter, Mr Chairman, because it would certainly not be wished by the Council, and certainly felt to be impossible by the Director-General, to have to go from one draft to another and then on to a ninth, or tenth or eleventh draft - we have to say "Yes, even if it is not ideal, let's adopt it." It will be monitored and under revision anyway - and probably the first monitoring report will be with the FAO Conference in 1987.

Le PRESIDENT : Je pense qu'après les évaluations faites par M. Bommer et par M. Brader nous pouvons avoir l'espoir de voir confirmé le consensus sur le texte du Code. La grande majorité des amendements qui ont été proposés ont bien souvent un caractère technique et positif en ce sens qu'ils éclaircissent la portée de certains articles et de certaines définitions.

Je pense, comme beaucoup de délégués l'ont dit, qu'il faudrait éviter de transformer cette assemblée en comité de rédaction. La méthode la plus utile serait de présenter au Secrétariat, dans un texte écrit, les propositions qui ont été faites, en faisant confiance au Secrétariat sur la possibilité d'intégrer ces propositions dans le texte qui sera transmis à la Conférence. De toute façon, c'est la Conférence qui devra approuver ce Code de conduite.

Donc, si vous en êtes d'accord, nous pourrions dès maintenant confirmer notre consensus sur le texte du Code en l'accompagnant par les suggestions que vous avez faites, et donner la tâche au Secrétariat et au Directeur général d'incorporer ces propositions, sans naturellement affaiblir le texte ou l'édulcorer, mais simplement en rendant plus claires certaines parties du texte. Je voudrais avoir l'avis du Conseil sur ce que je viens de proposer.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): May I congratulate you on summing up very succinctly and clearly the consensus of this Council as a result of the excellent and useful debate which we have had on the Code of Conduct. It is my privilege to support the proposal that you have made on the way in which we should deal with the subject before us, and I commend to my colleagues that we accept your proposal and approve it by acclamation.

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal) : Je voudrais féliciter le Secrétariat pour les éclaircissements qui nous ont été donnés à la suite du débat intéressant que nous avons eu cet après-midi, et également reconnaître votre perspicacité dans la recherche d'une solution.

Je suis à peu près d'accord avec votre décision qui consiste à demander au Conseil d'adopter le texte du Code en mentionnant, dans le rapport de notre Conseil, les différentes propositions d'amélioration, et en invitant le Secrétariat à en tenir compte, dans la mesure où ces propositions ne traduiraient pas un affaiblissement du texte mais une amélioration. Donc ma délégation est d'accord pour l'adoption du texte, elle est d'accord pour que l'on tienne compte de toutes les observations dans le rapport, et elle est également d'accord pour que l'on recommande au Secrétariat, quand cela est techniquement possible et n'affaiblit pas davantage le texte, de tenir compte des observations.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais assurer le représentant du Sénégal que j'en ai exprimé dans ce sens, nous donnons la tâche au Secrétariat et au Directeur général de considérer les amendements et les suggestions qui ont été présentés ici à la condition très nette qu'il s'agisse d'améliorer le texte, de le rendre plus clair et non de l'affaiblir. D'autre part, je voudrais rappeler aussi qu'il ne s'agit pas d'un code provisoire, il sera soumis à l'expérience^donc nous aurons toutes les possibilités dans un avenir très proche de revenir sur le fonctionnement de ce Code de conduite.

J.TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais à mon tour féliciter le Secrétariat pour le tour de force qu'il vient de réussir. Je crois que lorsque je suis intervenu sur la question j'avais dit que les amendements étaient en grand nombre, un nombre tel que personnellement je ne m'y retrouvais plus, mais je constate que le Secrétariat a bien sérié toutes les questions et a répondu avec beaucoup d'à propos. Je crois que les réponses qu'il a pu donner ont convaincu ceux qui avaient présenté jadis amendements et je voudrais également vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, pour le résumé que vous venez de faire du débat, un résumé bref mais concis. Néanmoins, je voudrais exprimer mes inquiétudes sur ces renvois perpétuels, ces

demandes perpétuelles au Directeur général de remanier le texte pour tenir compte de tel ou tel amendement. Bien sûr cela est une bonne procédure mais je crois que ce que nous devons faire c'est de laisser les mains libres à présent au Directeur général pour qu'il puisse voir dans tous ces amendements ce qui peut être incorporé parce que je crois que lorsque l'on a bien suivi les amendements qui ont été proposés ici on ne peut pas dire qu'ils soient tous d'ordre technique. Je crois que ce serait se tromper. Il y a des amendements de fond qui ont pour objectif d'édulcorer le texte et je crois que nous devons ici dire d'une manière claire que nous n'accepterons pas que ce texte soit édulcoré ni affadi.

LE PRESIDENT: En effet il y a des amendements qui tendent à édulcorer mais il y en a d'autres qui tendent à renforcer le Code, donc il faut suivre une voie assez étroite.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines) : Mr Chairman, I think that you have made a conclusion that we can agree very well with. I think perhaps it is the only conclusion that the Council could arrive at. We can accept the text as you have proposed. Likewise we accept that Dr Brader has given us a rendering of what he thought technical and feasible and had the consensus of the group on the amendments that could be incorporated. I believe that we trust the wisdom of the Director-General in following what you have ruled, and with that I would conclude my remarks.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): I think also I would like to join with the other delegations that have spoken before us in congratulating the Secretariat on what in fact has been a very difficult job over what has been quite a long time, and we have indicated that we see this sort of agreement, this Code, as having some significance, being of considerable benefit and use, considerable practical advantage, and I think we do have to recognize the difficulties that are involved in trying to bring together so many different shades of opinion, so many different interests involved. It is not just governments but other interests as well.

I think, of course, this sort of exercise requires quite a large degree of sensitivity and care, and I hope that the Secretariat has demonstrated that. I think we can be confident that in carrying this forward to the Conference the Secretariat will continue to exercise this good judgement and sensitivity and recognize the interests, but I do not think we can forget the comment that Dr Bommer has made that this isn't the end of the procedure, that this is a living Code and its implementation will have to be monitored, and it may be necessary to respond to change over time, and in fact the following the Conference might need to consider additional changes.

So I think I have a considerable degree of confidence in the Secretariat's ability to take into account the comments, as they have demonstrated just now in taking into account the comments made at this meeting, and we look forward to the further developments in this process through to the Conference.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like to thank you and the distinguished delegates for what has been a very constructive and useful debate, and for its conclusion. On the conclusion I would like to add a comment in the light of what has just been said. I hope the Council will agree to leave open and flexible what in fact it says about the next stage, rather on the lines on what the distinguished Delegate of the Congo said. It would in fact be impossible for the Director-General to take into account - I use those words - to take into account all the suggestions that have been made. Some of them cancel each other out. Obviously we will study what has been said and it should be carefully recorded in the report. He will study it in the light of the technical appraisal that Mr Brader has made and he will come to his conclusions. But I trust the Council will not say that he has got to produce a new draft taking into account all the suggestions you made, because that would be an impossible task and would simply invite another round of disagreement.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que le moment est arrivé pour moi de vous remercier tous pour votre esprit de coopération et de collaboration. Le Code sera présenté à la Conférence... Mais les Etats-Unis demandent la parole.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): My Government very much supports the idea of this Code and as you know we have been very anxious to see it through. I would like to say that as I interpret 4.1.1 concerning which my Government had some question - but let us deal first with 12.6 because I think we can finish that. As I interpret 12.6, it means that the governments - and of course it would be the governments which are in a position to do so - would observe and communicate with the Director-General and others to provide conclusions of progress to the Director-General. In other words, I interpret that to mean, because there may be some countries that are not in a position properly to monitor, but every government should be encouraged to do so and to prepare their reports periodically on progress concerning compliance with the Code.

Now with 4.1.1 we have a little more difficulty because I fear I do agree with my Government. Well, of course, I always do, or they agree with me! But in any case I really think that if that 4.1.1 means that before you can send a known pesticide to an area which is in an emergency such as we had (it was a different thing; of course that was vaccine) with rinderpest - but some pest emergency like that - if you cannot literally test it in that dry locus let us say, but it has been tested in another similar place, that you cannot send it where there is an emergency. If it really means that particular pesticide for that particular place and time has to be tested there and monitored and tested, I think it is not sensible.

The same thing is true; for example you can test it in one area of a country, and we know in Africa particularly how one area varies from another. The southern part of one nation has plenty of rain and is green and lush. Elsewhere they have to do herding; it is an entirely different climate, entirely different soil, entirely different insects, and this is the one place where I think we are not being very practical if we say that every pesticide has to be tested in every place before it can be used. I mean, look at this. I wish we would reconsider because the anticipated conditions do not vary country by country only; they vary region by region, and to request that this be done before something can be used if there should be an emergency, there is absolutely no validity to that point of view.

So there I am afraid that a reservation on that particular point, 4.1.1, would have to be entered. And I think it is a sensible one, and if it were reconsidered by all here I think they might all agree. Look at India. I see India looking at me. It couldn't possibly be tested in all parts of India, e.g. in Sikkim where you have an entirely different condition from Tamil Nadu.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I thought we had finished Mr Chairman but there seems to be a danger of starting another debate. I hope this will not be the case. The United States' suggested amendment can be recorded as such in the report or they can modify it and put it in the report in a modified form, and it will be looked at along with all the other suggestions made. Mr Brader gave an off-the-cuff technical response. It is not the final answer. As I said the Director-General is going to look at the proposals that have been made but I do not think we can settle that problem by debating it here in the Council. It is a rather complex one and needs a complex technical discussion and then perhaps a simple change of wording which might solve the problem; but might not. I cannot say.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela) : Yo simplemente quiero decir que por este camino de seguir otorgando la palabra a los delegados vamos a repetir el debate completamente. Yo creo que ya hay un consenso bastante claro en relación a las bondades de este código y que lo único que deberíamos hacer es atender a los requerimientos que nos ha planteado el señor Presidente, que nos ha dicho el representante del Director General, y aprobarlo de una vez por aclamación, como sugirió nuestro delegado de Africa, que es el primero que hablo, y me sumo a esa posición.

LE PRESIDENT : Ce n'est pas de ma faute, j'étais en train de remercier les délégués. La faute en revient à Mme Fenwick. Je voudrais sincèrement remercier les délégués et le Conseil tout entier pour la collaboration qu'ils ont montrée dans cette affaire qui était assez difficile et nous a causé bien souvent quelques préoccupations très vives. Mais le résultat a été positif. Nous avons ici renoué notre consensus au texte qui sera accompagné des suggestions qui ont été faites. Ensuite ce texte sera amélioré par le Secrétariat et par le Directeur général puis il sera présenté à la Conférence. Je m'interromps une deuxième fois, M. West me demandant la parole.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL : Sorry Mr Chairman, you have not finished the discussion on the report of COAG and you have not discussed fertilizers and you have not discussed fisheries. But if we go on with those tomorrow we either will not reach the Programme of Work and Budget or we will reach it very late when some people want to leave Rome either for the weekend or for their own countries. It is up to you whether you would prefer to start with the Programme of Work and Budget tomorrow morning, as originally foreseen, and come back later on to these unfinished items. The Director-General will be very happy to be here tomorrow morning to introduce the Summary Programme of Work and Budget if that is your wish.

LE PRESIDENT : Nous sommes donc en présence de cette proposition sur le point 14. On commencera demain par ce point, si vous êtes d'accord.

S. M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh) : Mr Chairman, my delegation entirely supports the proposal made by the Deputy Director-General and also made by you.

A. M. QURESHI (Pakistan) : I endorse the remarks of the delegate of Bangladesh that we should start with item 14 in the morning and close the session now.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La seance est levée à 18 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.

## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/9

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Eighty-seventh Session  
**PLENARY**

Quatre-vingt-septième session  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

87° período de sesiones  
**PLENARIA**

**NINTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**NEUVIEME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**NOVENA SESION PLENARÍA**  
(21 June 1985)

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours,

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

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence

de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas bajo la presidencia

de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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

IV. ASUNTOS DEL PROGRAMA Y ASUNTOS PRESUPUESTARIOS FINANCIEROS Y ADMINISTRATIVOS

14. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87

14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, 1986-87

14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87

CHAIRMAN: I think distinguished members of the Council are aware of the entire process which goes into preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We are fortunate to have the Director-General himself to introduce it this morning; but may I say that almost immediately after the last Conference a process of consultation and inputs, from various Regional Conferences, Committees and so on, started which formed the basis for the preparation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Last month both the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, separately and jointly, examined this document in great detail and we have this comprehensive report CL 87/4 with us. The two Committees met for nearly two weeks and spent a large proportion of the time considering this Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

After our discussion, the Director-General can proceed with the preparation of the detailed Programme of Work and Budget, and the Programme and Finance Committees will meet in September to consider the document before the Conference session.

The procedure which we will adopt is that first I shall request the Director-General to introduce the basic elements of the Programme and what went into its making; then the Chairman of the Finance Committee will introduce the recommendations of the joint meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees and after the Chairman, Mr Abeyagoonasekera, makes his presentation I shall request the Chairman of the Programme Committee, Mr Trkjula, to introduce the Report and Recommendations of the Programme. Then, Mr Abeyagoonasekera, Chairman of the Finance Committee, will deal with some of the financial aspects. We will then start general discussion of document CL 87/3.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: In my opening address to the Council, I offered some comments on the main features of my Summary Programme of Work and Budget, as proposed for 1986-87. I also indicated the many factors which had influenced me in formulating my proposals. Let me now review the basic issues behind my proposals.

In preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87, I have firstly taken into account the world economic situation and the prospects. Some economic recovery has been experienced in the developed world. Real GNP growth was 4.75 percent in 1984, the highest since 1976. However, some major problems remain. While inflation has decreased from an average level, for all industrial countries, of 9 percent during the early 1980s to some 4 percent currently, it is by no means subjugated. In Italy it is still around 9 percent. Unemployment remains at unacceptably high levels, particularly in Western Europe. In three of the four largest European economies it is between 10 and 13 percent of the labour force. I need hardly talk about unemployment in the developing countries which is chronically at many times that level. According to OECD, the GNP of its Member Nations will increase by barely 3 percent this year.

Such an outlook continues to dampen the demand for agricultural and basic commodities from the developing world, which also suffer from low export prices. The IMF expects per caput growth of the GNP of developing countries at less than 2 percent. In Africa economic growth will still register a decline. In the next two years the world population will increase by an additional 170 million. The economic engine of the developed world continues to affect the economic fate of developing countries. The external debt of developing countries now totals some US\$ 950 billion. The debt service burden remains heavy. The relief of some debt rescheduling was purely temporary. By the way, I wonder how many developing countries are able to claim not only the interest, but the capital? I am not getting information on repayment of the capital of the debt, only, essentially, the interest is there, and not the capital, which means that the debt will continue for many, many years. In Latin America alone, 40 percent of exports go for debt servicing alone. Developing countries continue to face the basic questions of their credit worthiness. Many African countries are not credit-worthy - they cannot get loans on commercial terms. At the same time, aid for development, particularly on concessional terms, has declined substantially in 1983, with no sign of an increase in 1985-86. UNCTAD and World Bank projections also indicate that there is no prospect for increase in prices of agricultural commodities until 1990. The situation for developing countries as a whole remains precarious. For many, particularly in Africa, it is

catastrophic. While we can be happy that some Asian countries have given proof of impressive increases in agricultural production, these improvements can be shortlived. Small variations in the course of any one year can cause a major crisis. We have had the tragedy of Bangladesh, and I have noted also that a country like Pakistan, which had reached self-sufficiency in wheat and rice, this year, all of a sudden, because of drought, has had to import two million tons of grains.

The developing world is far from a state of assured security. I am mentioning these facts to show that this is not the time to have a zero-growth budget or a minus-one budget - on the contrary this is a justification for having a budget with a larger increase in terms of real growth.

Against this background, I consider that FAO has an ever greater responsibility to respond to the increasing demands addressed to it, and I should add that the demands we are unable to satisfy continue to increase. In shaping its response I have been guided by four basic factors: firstly, we need to respond to the priorities indicated by you, by governments directly to FAO, as well as through our intergovernmental meetings and special conferences - I mean, the World Conference on Fisheries, for instance. These priorities are distilled and established in a balanced way.

Secondly, our Programmes are oriented even more to support the action of governments for impact at the field level. In this connection, the Regular Programme has to be seen in relation to our Field Programme. We used in the past to be told that no matter if the Regular Programme had a small increase - you have such a large Field Programme, especially the Field Programme financed by UNDP, and if you take the total Field Programme and Regular Programme of FAO, it is the largest Programme in the UN. Now the situation is quite different. We are all concerned that the FAO/UNDP Programme has declined from US\$ 182 million in 1981 to barely US\$ 110 million in 1984. In real terms, the US\$ 110 million of 1984, compared with the US\$ 182 million in 1981, represent perhaps US\$ 75 million in 1981 - the decline is very great. Even if you consider that inflation each year is 6 or 7 percent, over 14 years it is 100 percent - one dollar in 1981 is equivalent to two dollars in 1984. So we have had this decline. Its share in FAO's Field Programme has fallen, over the same years, from over 60 percent to under 44 percent - it used to constitute 60 percent of our Field Programmes for UNDP; now it is only 44 percent.

Thirdly, the African continent deserves unquestioned priority while needs elsewhere cannot be ignored.

Fourthly, I pay careful attention to the views of all governments as to the eventual budget level they desire.

The proposals I have formulated respond to those governments who look for zero-growth as they are not far from zero-growth - 1.4 is not very far from zero-growth; at the same time, they respond to those governments who look for greater support from FAO. The nominal growth I am proposing still permits a Programme increase of 3.8 percent for our Technical and Economic Programmes, which are the backbone of FAO. All countries are interested in the Technical and Economic Programmes - they are not interested in the support cost.

With this approach, I sincerely hope that my proposals could be approved by all groups of member countries.

There are four basic factors which have guided me.

Firstly, I am sensitive to the financial burden on all Member Nations. If developed countries are experiencing budgetary problems, these problems are even more acute for developing countries, where dollar contributions bear even more heavily.

Secondly, I continue to pursue every possible means of maximising the benefit to Member Nations from the resources placed at our disposal, both in terms of their effective utilization and their effective management.

Thirdly, the provision for cost increases in the next biennium has been pruned systematically.

The present biennium budget for 1984/85 included a provision for cost increases of some US \$52 million. This is for 1984/85. I am proposing for the next biennium to reduce this cost increase by more than half and to make it only \$24 million.

The Finance Committee has reviewed both the methodology and the content of the proposed cost increases and presents to you its positive conclusions thereon.

Fourthly, I have carefully reviewed the prospects for miscellaneous income with a view to reducing the eventual contributions of Member States to the same or less in dollars than for the current biennium.

So I am expecting a contribution from the Member States to the budget of 1986/87 equal to the 1984/85 or possibly less but the final figures of course could be presented at the time of the Conference.

The strategies and priorities proposed for the next biennium accord with the policy guidance of the Conference and the Council.

They take into account the recommendations of the regional conferences and the main Council Committees, our technical bodies and the recommendations of other inter-governmental bodies within the United Nations system.

I do not need to repeat the information which is presented in detail in the document, since the proposals have been reviewed by the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Fisheries, within the terms of their mandates and in their totality by the Programme and Finance Committees. Those are Committees appointed by you.

The unanimous endorsement of the proposed strategies and priorities by the main Committees, where most of you are represented, and by the Programme and Finance Committees is most notable as well as very reassuring. So is the recommendation of the Programme and Finance Committee to you to endorse the Programme proposals and the level of balance of resources to be allocated.

Here I wish to assure the Council that the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Fisheries, the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, as may be endorsed by the Council, will be fully taken into account in the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget, in the final version.

That is to say that I am ready to consider the need to amend or add to my proposal if the Council wishes me to do so, based on the recommendations of those Committees or of the Council. Of course I will not increase the budget, although some of these recommendations may call for increase of the budget.

So as I say, to the extent possible I repeat, specific points of emphasis on activities indicated by these bodies will be incorporated in the full Programme of Work and Budget.

A clear response to strategies and priorities, a sharpening of programme proposals through the continued approach of cutting programmes and activities of relatively low priority and a renewed effort to reduce administrative and support costs for the benefit of technical and economic programmes, lead to the main impact of my proposals.

The result is to increase the resources from technical and economic programmes, including the Technical Cooperation Programme, by \$9.4 million or 3.8 percent over the current base. This is the whole increase. Two years - \$9 million, about \$4 700 000 for a year, for the whole of Africa, Latin America, Asia, etc. This is the increase which I propose, increase on paper because the net requirement, I hope, will be possibly less than in 1986/87 than in 1984/85.

How this operation was able to be carried out? Of course this was by reducing by \$1.7 million, the administrative support and common services, and also resources for general policy and direction are curtailed by over \$600 000, and those for development support, by US \$1 million. So we cut year, after year, and we add to the technical programmes, because we have been told by many delegations, especially from developed countries, that we have to shift resources. So we have shifted resources but I think this is the last time. I do not know if for 1988/89 it will be possible to shift resources, because we have done it for two biennia now and next time it will not be possible to have a budget with 1 percent or 2 percent overall increase, with an increase of 3 or 4 percent for the technical activities, but I hope that in the future the economic situation will improve for all countries.

The proposals will result in a further reduction of the percentage of expenditure of established posts. What are established posts? Those are the posts which are established and very difficult to eliminate. It means that you have a post for the staff who occupy it, who will need a room, who will need a telephone, who will need a secretary, who will need the money to travel, and every year the service is increased, and this is really the very big burden and it goes on and on. This is something which the governments are looking at very carefully, the established posts, because we became hostage over those established posts. While there are consultants or fixed-term posts, you can cancel after a limited period, you are the master for the duration of those posts. So my policy, with your support, has been always to have a smaller percentage of established posts because they really eat into the budget, leaving no flexibility. So from over 77 percent in 1974/75, we went down to 56 percent in this biennium 1984/85, and I propose to go even further to 54 percent in 1986/87.



Mr Chairman, I want to conclude by saying the composite result is a net programme increase of only \$6.2 million for the biennium - a mere 1.4 percent over the re-costed current base. I said it was 9 million dollars but we have taken 3 million dollars from cutting here and there, so the net is 6 million dollars. I think the budget of this biennium is 421 million dollars. The next budget may be something like 427 million.

I realize the concern of all Member Nations regarding the eventual budget level and I would emphasize some key points regarding this issue:

The Programme of Work and Budget has still to be refined but the summary gives a fair idea of the eventual budget level which will be placed before the Conference.

The full Programme of Work and Budget will place my final proposals before the Conference.

The eventual budget level will be determined by you, by the Conference, through its decisions on the Programme and on the dollar/lire exchange rate it will adopt for the budgetary appropriation. Usually the Conference adopts the prevailing rate of the day when it votes the budget. Today the dollar is 1,963 but who can predict the variation of the dollar?

Mr Chairman, of course I hope that your own deliberations will lead to an endorsement of my summary proposals. We shall listen very carefully to all your interventions; we shall try to answer every question; my colleagues are all here ready to clarify. We have had the opportunity to have our programme proposals scrutinized during the previous weeks. Some distinguished representatives honoured us by calling on my colleagues with a series of questions. Some of them have spent several hours with these representatives; we have tried to answer: we are ready to do so again; it is part of our duty and we appreciate the fact that the governments are interested in getting information and details, but I should say this time we have had the opportunity to provide a lot of answers to many questions and we are grateful to the governments who have shown this interest, and we can continue to do it after the meeting, until we prepare my final programme and budget proposals.

I hope that this budget will be approved like the other budget of 1984/85. The 1984/85 budget was approved unanimously. It called for an increased contribution compared to the 1982/83 of I think \$55 million. The budget of 1984/85 called for an actual increase of \$55 million from all member countries - USA of course 25 percent - and it was approved unanimously. Now this budget either will not call for an increase normally or maybe a decrease, so I hope we can, by mutual effort from everybody, reach a consensus, I am therefore very much at ease, Mr Chairman, in presenting such a budget which should not create a very big problem in terms of actual contributions.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Director-General, for that very clear introduction. As I said earlier, we will first hear the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr Abeyagoonasekera, introduce the Joint Session of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to address the Council on behalf of the two Committees. I will try to be very brief, and will only highlight some of the more important points in the joint report.

Both Committees expressed their satisfaction with the format and presentation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and welcomed the improvements introduced over a period of years which had made it possible to present a more balanced and informative documents which would reflect faithfully the directives and requirements of the Council.

Members of both Committees agreed with the Director-General's perception of the world situation, which is contained in the document as well as in his opening address to the Joint Session. His analysis of the problems in food and agriculture clearly indicated that there was still a climate of uncertainty regarding prospects for sustaining non-inflationary growth in the future and that, particularly in developing countries, stringent measures were necessary to adjust their economies which were facing severe problems in debt-servicing and deteriorating trade balances.

Given this critical situation the Committee deplored the fact that there was a decline in multilateral concessional financial assistance towards improvement of agriculture and livestock development in developing countries.

The Committee stressed the extremely serious situation facing some twenty drought-stricken countries in Africa and agreed that besides short-term solutions, such as emergency food aid, such efforts would have to be complemented by measures for agricultural and livestock rehabilitation and long-term development. They felt that the Director-General was fully justified in the overall priority given to Africa and supported the FAO's useful and catalytic action in this regard even though the resources at its disposal were limited.

Both Committees endorsed the strategies and priorities proposed by the Director-General for the 1986-87 biennium. They agreed that they were in accordance with the policy guidance of the Conference technical committees of FAO and other inter-governmental bodies within the United Nations system.

The members felt that the four principal tenets guiding the Director-General in framing his proposals - namely, promotion of food production, increase in food security, impact at field level, and the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries - reflected a very judicious assessment of the requirements of member countries and FAO's capacity to respond to them.

The members recommended to Council that it should endorse the programme proposals and the level and balance of resources to be allocated to them.

The members also commended the Director-General for his continued efforts to curtail programmes and activities of relatively low priority. They agreed that the share of administrative support costs could be reduced for the benefit of technical and economic programmes, but in doing so it should not impair FAO's ability to implement its programmes efficiently and effectively as it had done in the past.

The Committee therefore recommended the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as a sound basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87. A few members, however, wished to reserve their position on the budget level, and their reservations have been placed in the record of the Joint Session.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): It is with great pleasure that I am recommending to the Council the views of the Programme Committee on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, which in a sense could be viewed as the very core of the committee's mandate. As I am confident the Council members and observers have carefully studied both the Summary Programme of Work and Budget and the Committee's comments on it, I do not need to be long. I will confine my introductory remarks to the salient features of the Director-General's proposals for the next biennium and then I will add a few general remarks on the annex to the document.

I have hardly anything to add to what my colleague, Mr Abeyagoonasekera, has just said about the joint review on the format and presentation of the document.

Indeed the Programme Committee particularly appreciated the fact that the balance between conciseness and clarity and the high standard that Council recommended two years ago have been further improved, in part due to the suggestions made by the Council and the Committee itself.

The Committee fully concurred with the perception of the Director-General, as expressed in Section II of the document and updated comprehensively in his exposé to the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committees with regard to the current global economic situation as well as the factors which characterize the food and agriculture sector. Since the Council has already extensively discussed those issues and the situation in Africa, I will not make specific reference to the Committee's views on these issues. I trust that the Committee's comments on those matters were in harmony with the views that have been clearly reflected in the Council's debate. It is sufficient to say that the Committee agreed that the Director-General's perception was balanced and that he had drawn realistic conclusions on the implications of the global economic situation, and particularly the food and agricultural sector, on the FAO programme for the next biennium.

May I therefore merely highlight some of the policy issues on which we commented. These are: uncertainties with regard to the economic recovery from the high level of unemployment in some industrial countries; the critical situation in developing countries, particularly in view of the heavy debt servicing, increasing protectionism, sluggish growth in the volume of agricultural trade and even fall in the volume of agricultural commodities; the declining trend in official development assistance, particularly assistance to agriculture, and in that context a sharp decline in multilateral concessional funds.

I have to add that the Committee underlined that there was no alternative to FAO's unique role in assisting member countries to improve their food situation, to alleviate poverty and to prevent further erosion of their ecosystems.

With regard to Field Programme, I would like to emphasize the modest satisfaction of the Committee with regard to some increase in FAO field programme delivery that is likely to materialize in the current biennium with the prospect of a further small increase in the next two years. However, this modest satisfaction was heavily overshadowed by the decline in the development assistance to agriculture, particularly its multilateral part, and also by the fact that the present level of FAO delivery is in fact well below the levels in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Delivery under UNDP funds is continuing to decline. It is indeed an unfortunate trend of historical significance that delivery under UNDP projects will for the first time be below the delivery under Trust Funds. Still on Trust Funds, the Committee was informed of the reasons for the decline in delivery under the Near East Cooperative Programme. The same relates to the OSRO operations in 1984. In this connection the Committee again stressed its concern with the lack of adequate support to the FAO special action programmes. Finally, the Committee expressed satisfaction regarding the generous contribution by the Government of Italy to FAO's Trust Fund programmes.

The Committee fully endorsed the strategies and priorities proposed by the Director-General for the next biennium. The Committee particularly stressed that priorities for the next biennium represented yet another step in consistently implementing the general policy directives of the Conference and Council approved in 1976. The Committee noted that strategies and priorities had also been in line with the recent recommendations of the Council, with recommendations of FAO Regional Conferences as well as the requests from other parts of the UN System. It reviewed and took into account the views expressed by the last sessions of COAG and COFI on the proposals.

The Committee noted that four principal closely inter-related objectives: promotion of food production, increase in food security, impact at field level and enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, very faithfully captured the most essential needs of the member countries.

While commending the valuable services of FAO Representatives in linking FAO technical assistance capabilities and experience with the need of member countries, the Committee noted that the scheme of FAO representatives was for the time being stabilised.

With regard to the Regional Offices, the Committee welcomed the indications given in the document and in the debate, of the concrete contributions in the context of the integrated programme. In this connection, the Committee agreed to review in further detail the activities of the Regional Offices at its next session, on the basis of the material to be provided in the Review of the Regular Programme.

The Committee again expressed its unanimous support of the Technical Cooperation Programme. It was pleased to know that the Director-General would communicate the findings of an independent evaluation of the TCP which would be studied by the Committee in September next.

You will not be surprised, Mr Chairman, to notice that several members, in fact the majority in the Committee, again underlined that the increase proposed for TCP was far short of what was required in developing countries.

The Committee enthusiastically approved the emphasis placed by the Director-General on the activities of FAO in promoting TCDC and ECDC. The Committee felt that it was even more essential now, given the current climate in international economic relations. The Committee also welcomed the Director-General's proposals on consolidation of FAO's data bases and dissemination of information and analysis.

With regard to the Programme Budget impact, the Committee was assured that the Director-General had very carefully studied the proposed decrease in Administrative Support Services so as to make sure that the reduced level would not impair the level and quality of FAO's technical programmes. The Committee therefore commended the Director-General for again proposing to strengthen substantially the main technical programmes of the Organization by about 3.8 percent, partially through the reduction of costs on Administrative and Support Services.

The Committee fully agreed with the proposed distribution of resources by object of expenditures. It particularly noted that the share of established posts in the budget would further be reduced to 54 percent despite a modest net increase in the number of posts. The Committee again raised a word of caution with regard to the continuation of such an approach. It underlined that a further reduction could not be pursued indefinitely as it might jeopardize the efficiency of the organization technical and economic programmes.

Mr Chairman, may I now refer you and the Council to the concluding comments of the Committee. The Committee fully recognized that the activities proposed by the Director-General represented a balanced approach and a continuing attention to both economy and efficiency. The Committee agreed that the Director-General had to be commended for his careful examination of all relevant external and internal factors in presenting his proposals for the forthcoming biennium. He had particularly

taken into account the urgent needs of food deficit countries, most of which belong to the least developed countries of Africa. In this connection the Committee fully concurred with the further increase of assistance to African countries south of the Sahara.

The majority of the members strongly stated that the extent of the needs for FAO's assistance and the Organization's proven capacity would warrant a budgetary level considerably higher than the one proposed by the Director-General. They expressed the hope that in future the Director-General would be in a position to relinquish such restraint and continue to expand the Regular Programme resources so as to meet the needs of the developing member countries for FAO assistance.

The Committee, after thorough review of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, agreed to recommend that the Council support the proposed level of resources as a sound basis for the preparation of the final version of the Programme of Work and Budget. Mr Chairman, I have to recall that one member, while joining the Committee in the full endorsement of the proposed level of the Programme of Work and Budget, reserved her Government's position on the budget level.

Finally, I cannot obviously go into all major programmes and sub-programmes because it would take too much of your precious time. May I only emphasize that the Committee very thoroughly studied all programmes and sub-programmes and in most cases down to the programme element level. May I emphasize further that our report faithfully reflects the detailed debate we had on these issues. If I may say so, the last session was the longest, at least as far as I am able to remember, that we have ever had. The Committee worked late in the afternoon and even had an evening session just to be able to scrutinize all the details of these programmes.

In general, the Committee supported the proposed sizeable changes in the base, though perhaps not too precisely, or what the Secretariat refer to as non-current activities. These reflected the changes expressed by the FAO membership.

May I end on a personal note. It was indeed a pleasure for me to guide the deliberations of a very able group of highly motivated, competent, hardworking and above all committed friends, people who are committed to our common cause.

May I again recommend to you, Mr Chairman, and the Council the views of the Committee on the Summary of Work and Budget and hope our advice will help the Council in its own deliberations.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We are most grateful to you and to the other members of the Committee. The Chairman of the Finance Committee will now introduce their report.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): May I say that we all missed your presence at the last meeting, since you have always contributed usefully to our discussions. I conveyed your message to the members that you were otherwise engaged in the Organization and could not be present. The Chairman of the Finance Committee has to report to you under Rule 27.7(a) and I am doing just that.

Our examination of the proposals and estimates revealed that the Director-General had made his proposals after taking into consideration the situation prevailing in the world's food and agricultural sector which, as explained, remains unstable, although some limited improvement had been made in some areas, while the extremely serious situation facing some 22 countries in Africa called for greater priority to be given to that continent. But the problems facing other developing countries in all regions were no less important.

Likewise, developed nations were undergoing certain economic and financial hardships. A proportion of the budget for the biennium 1986/87 would have to respond to all circumstances, yet it is not possible to have a Programme of Work and Budget to satisfy everyone. The Committee felt that the efforts of the Director-General in this instance were a balanced response, and took into consideration all the stresses, constraints and shortcomings felt by all the Member Nations.

In doing this, the Committee felt that the Director-General continued particularly to examine all the programmes' present operation and had selected only those more important and suitable for further improvement and continuation, and had discontinued those of a lower priority. He has also tried to make the optimum use of resources at a time when resources were not readily available. The Committee devoted considerable time to discussing cost increases. The methodology for calculating and presenting cost increases is the same as that used in past biennia and is approved by the Finance Committee, Council and Conference. Therefore, the basis of the formulation for the 1986/87 Programme of Work and Budget was acceptable.

On the subject of cost increases, the attention of Council is drawn to paragraphs 7.1 to 7.77 on page 25 of the report, and to the table on page 26 of the document. The Committee observed that the cost increase amounted to 5.68 percent of the current Programme of Work and Budget of FAO and was impressed that this is half of what was required for this biennium.

At this stage, I would like to make some specific comments on such other areas which we examined. The Committee welcomed and approved the further decrease in expenditure on established posts which had already been referred to by the Director-General as a proportion of total expenditure. Council's attention is drawn to paragraphs 3.18 to 3.20 on page 31 of the report.

However, the Committee pointed out that a continuation of this policy should not jeopardise the ability of FAO to deliver food programmes efficiently and effectively. The Committee felt that the proposal to establish 14 new professional posts was justified as these were necessary to acquire expertise in specialist areas in order to undertake new programmes. Some members of the Committee stressed that the establishment of new posts should take into consideration possibilities of redeployment.

On Chapter 5, Administration, the Committee felt that the planned computerization in the spheres of financial and administrative management was in the right direction. The Committee felt that the development of financial management and personnel management systems would require further investment in 1986/87, and that their development would also lead to savings in terms of both funds and time in future.

On Chapter 7, Contingencies, the Committee felt that proper use had been made in the past of the provisions of this item. The proposed budget constituted only 1.8 percent of the total budget. Some members felt that a reduction might be made here as enough flexibility was already available to the Director-General.

On the level of the budget, the majority of the Committee stressed the need for austerity and felt that maximum restraint had been exercised by the Director-General in making proposals, as the overall increase was only 1.5 percent over the current base. Some members of the Committee stated that they would have preferred to have seen a higher level. Three members recalled the position of their governments overall. All the members of the Committee expressed the hope that there would be a consensus by the time the full Programme of Work and Budget was presented to Member Nations.

The Committee recommends to the Council the proposed budget level as a sound basis for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como siempre el Director General con su declaración elocuente, clara y afirmativa ha confirmado su condición de estadista respetable y líder indiscutible. Nuestros colegas y amigos Trkulja y Abeyagoonasekera, Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas han demostrado una vez mas la competencia y el dominio en sus respectivos campos.

En este Consejo, organismo eminentemente político, la delegación de Colombia considera que la discusión de este tema es propicia para hacer algunas consideraciones de orden general. Porque el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto ha sido tradicionalmente la Biblia, el conjunto de directrices, que rigen la labor de nuestra Organización en cada bienio. Seguimos con atención la marcha de esta Organización por la importancia fundamental que representa para los países en desarrollo, y por nuestra dedicación personal estamos en condiciones de juzgar el pasado, el presente y su proyección hacia el futuro.

Desde 1959, durante 26 años sin interrupción, hemos sido testigos presenciales y actuantes de la transformación de la FAO. Transformación afortunada, tangible, formidable en la preparación y ejecución de sus programas, en sus métodos de trabajo que hoy producen resultados verdaderamente encomiables.

En los últimos nueve años y medio la FAO ha cambiado muy favorablemente. Ha aumentado y consolidado su prestigio en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas y de toda la Comunidad Internacional; tiene una presencia viva y actuante en las regiones y en los países; sus labores se cumplen con orden y eficacia ampliamente reconocidos. Este Proyecto del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto ha sido elaborado con base en las prioridades que han fijado los Gobiernos. Ahora, los proyectos de la FAO son siempre reflejo de las indicaciones prioritarias, de las necesidades y aspiraciones de los Estados Miembros, a través de ese proceso de saludable renovación, cada vez con mayor decisión y firmeza la FAO ha consolidado su función de importante agencia de las Naciones Unidas al verdadero servicio del tercer mundo, en los campos de la agricultura y de la alimentación, que son vitales para nuestras economías.

Los representantes de Colombia nos sentimos orgullosos de haber compartido con nuestros colegas estas actividades. Hemos sido plenamente solidarios con los representantes de los países en desarrollo en la búsqueda del cambio del actual Orden Económico Internacional injusto, contra el cual reiteramos nuestra inconformidad. Esa lamentable situación a que se nos tiene sometidos no podrá prolongarse por mucho tiempo, pero estamos igualmente reconocidos a los Estados industrializados que con su valiosa e indispensable contribución han hecho posible ese notable mejoramiento en nuestra Organización que se confirma en este documento. Reiteramos nuestro agradecimiento a los países industrializados por su asistencia multilateral y también bilateral que tantos beneficios representan para nuestros países.

La delegación de Colombia confía que en las conclusiones sobre este tema se demostrara una vez mas el entendimiento y la cooperación que deben existir entre todos los representantes de Gobierno, sin distinción, trabajando en favor de todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente de aquellos en vías de desarrollo.

La gravedad de la crisis alimentaria mundial, la disminución de la asistencia al desarrollo dentro del continuo proceso contra la cooperación multilateral, la significación creciente de la agricultura en las economías de nuestros Estados; éstos y muchos otros factores imponían al presupuesto de la FAO para 1986-87 un nivel mucho mas alto.

Como lo dijo el Director General todos los programas y las prioridades han sido aceptados y apoyados por los principales Comités del Consejo y de las Conferencias Regionales y no hay duda de que con mayores recursos, más trabajo, necesario, indispensable, eficiente y positivo, podrá ser realizado por la FAO. Estas propuestas no corresponden plenamente a nuestras aspiraciones y necesidades; no estamos completamente satisfechos. Si forzosamente tenemos que aceptar este mínimo crecimiento del Programa, será a la sola condición y en el entendido de que otros no intentarán reducirlo aún más.

Si los problemas alimentarios y agrícolas aumentan y se agravan, si la crisis, particularmente en Africa es cada vez más seria y dramática, siempre de forma unánime, se reconoce que la FAO contribuye muy válidamente a mejorar esa situación si, como lo ha dicho el Director General, el constante, detallado y riguroso análisis que se viene haciendo de las labores de la FAO, indica que hay una excelente administración de los limitados recursos que se invierten de manera adecuada, escrupulosa y objetiva con los mejores resultados si todos apoyamos a las prioridades y los programas en que se basa este documento. ¿Cómo podría algún miembro del Consejo hablar de nuevo aquí del funesto crecimiento cero? Sería una actitud ilógica, incoherente, ¿cómo se podrían negar a nuestra Organización los medios y los recursos mínimos para que sigan cumpliendo su valiosa y eficaz tarea? ¿Cómo podría algún miembro de este Consejo desconocer el gran esfuerzo realizado por el Director General con sus criterios pragmáticos, objetivos y realistas al preparar este resumen? Con inteligencia, buen sentido, amplia comprensión y justo equilibrio el Director General ha presentado propuestas tratando de atender las demandas de los países en desarrollo, sin herir la sensibilidad y prevención de aquellos países desarrollados que no obstante la recuperación económica en marcha parece que aún no están dispuestos a ofrecer todos los recursos necesarios a una Organización como la FAO, cuyo trabajo eficiente todos destacamos.

Los programas técnicos y económicos que son la base del trabajo real y efectivo de la FAO han sido incrementados en un 3.4 por ciento. Ese aumento está muy lejos de representar lo que nosotros deseábamos y habíamos solicitado. Sin embargo, con sentido práctico y criterio excelente nuestro administrador, el Director General, ha reducido aún más los gastos administrativos y de servicios y ha contenido el aumento de la plantilla para lograr así que el aumento de los programas técnicos y económicos sólo representen el 1,4 por ciento sobre el nivel del presupuesto. Aún más, como lo ha dicho en su declaración de esta mañana el Director General ese mínimo 1,4 por ciento podrá aún ser menor.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que este Consejo debe rendir homenaje de reconocimiento a esa actitud pragmática, seria, objetiva y realista del Director General. ¿Podrá acaso concebirse otras medidas más prácticas y eficientes que estas que se nos proponen en este documento?

Limitaremos nuestras observaciones concretas a solo unos pocos de los capítulos de este proyecto de Programa de Labores y Presupuestos: El Programa de Cooperación Técnica.

El mínimo aumento que se propone del 0,4 por ciento debería ser mucho, muchísimo mayor. Nunca podremos aceptar ningún argumento según el cual los fondos del PTC deban permanecer estáticos, sino por el contrario deberán seguirse aumentando.

El PCT ha sido una de las innovaciones fundamentales introducidas por el Director General en el Programa de nuestra Organización y no obstante las reservas iniciales de algunos países desarrollados el PCT ha confirmado su gran valor, su carácter de efecto multiplicador, su función de conductor útil para identificar y procurar medios destinados al aumento de la producción.

El PCT es un instrumento válido, seguro y rápido con que hoy cuentan los países para obtener la asistencia inmediata de la FAO.

El Director General suministra esta mañana datos y cifras alarmantes sobre la deuda externa a la cual se hace referencia en el capítulo 2, Antecedentes, punto 2.5. Esa inmensa deuda externa que particularmente afecta a los países de América Latina y el Caribe se ha convertido en un caso gravísimo con repercusiones que afectan nuestras economías y, por consiguiente, limitan las posibilidades de nuestros países para aumentar la producción.

El Presidente de la República de Colombia, Belisario Betancur, en la reunión del Grupo de los 77 celebrada en Cartagena en septiembre pasado destacó la gravedad de esa deuda externa. El líder cubano Fidel Castro hace poco, con cifras irrefutables y argumentos sólidos, ha declarado, cito, con el visto bueno de mi colega Ariza Hidalgo, que "la deuda externa de América Latina y el Caribe es impagable."

Un ilustre ex-Presidente colombiano, en una conferencia en la Universidad de Harvard, manifestó que esa situación de la deuda externa Latinoamericana podría llamarse el "anti-Plan Marshall".

En efecto, en 1984 los países de América Latina y el Caribe tuvieron que desembolsar 55 mil millones de dólares para afrontar el especial costo del servicio de la deuda sin ningún abono a los capitales, como ha dicho el Director General. Esa cifra representa tres veces más de lo que recibieron los países europeos a través del Plan Marshall, después de la última guerra mundial.

En su reciente visita a la FAO, el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la Colombia expresó que la deuda externa es un claro problema político relacionado con el comercio, nuestras posibilidades de exportación y las tasas de interés.

Nuestros Estados están haciendo grandes esfuerzos para tratar de cumplir sus compromisos, pero ¿a qué costo?, ¿con qué consecuencias?

Hemos venido limitando nuestras importaciones, es decir prescindiendo de los medios que determinan el crecimiento económico de nuestras economías para ahorrar divisas que luego no podemos utilizar porque se requieren para pagar el servicio de esa deuda. En esa forma se está consumando otro atentado contra el derecho al progreso, al mejoramiento, a la vida, a la alimentación, a la subsistencia de nuestras poblaciones.

La delegación de Colombia considera que este documento contiene propuestas verdaderamente importantes. Los gastos correspondientes a los puestos de plantilla disminuirán a un 54,3 por ciento frente al 77,2 por ciento de hace diez años. No obstante la difícil situación económica habrá una gran disminución del incremento de los costos que se reducirán en 22 millones, o sea un 5,7 por ciento de la base actual.

Las principales prioridades corresponden acertadamente a las recomendaciones de los gobiernos: producción de alimentos; seguridad alimentaria; capacitación, sistemas de información; cooperación técnica y económica entre países en desarrollo; efectos positivos a nivel del campo.

En esta forma el Director General responde adecuadamente a la grave crisis alimentaria que todo el mundo deplora y acrecienta nuevamente la especial importancia atribuida a África en los programas de la FAO.

Esas esquemáticas referencias a este importante documento confirman plenamente que la FAO está viviendo hoy uno de los mejores y más significativos momentos de su historia: orden, trabajo, reducción de la burocracia, más efectividad y pragmatismo, menos teoría y menos estudios académicos, mayor aproximación al campo, contactos permanentes con los gobiernos, seguimiento de las prioridades fijadas, consagración al cumplimiento del deber y de las altas responsabilidades, atención vigilante y preocupación constante por fortalecer el prestigio de la FAO en el contexto universal.

Este proyecto de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 está dirigido a consolidar esos progresos, esos mejoramientos reales, esa renovación generalmente reconocida.

Hacemos un llamado sincero y convencido a todos los miembros de este Consejo para que apoyemos las iniciativas del Director General y dotemos a la FAO de un instrumento válido y fundamental como es éste para que nuestra Organización siga enrumada por los buenos y exitosos caminos de acción eficaz y positiva que la viene consagrando como una de las más importantes y eficaces agencias de las Naciones Unidas al servicio del Tercer Mundo.

Somos conscientes de que el apoyo de los países desarrollados ha sido y seguirá siendo esencial para el anhelado fortalecimiento de la FAO.

La recuperación económica se está llevando a cabo solo en los países industrializados y aun en buena parte a expensas de las economías de los países en desarrollo, como lo han dicho prestigiosos estadistas latinoamericanos.

Después de la crisis económica, ahora superada por los países desarrollados, esos Estados están en posición favorable y cómoda para ofrecer aquí, en el seno de la FAO, una demostración real de la voluntad política que venimos demandando en favor de la solución de los problemas alimentarios y agrícolas del tercer mundo.

Conviene observar que algunos países en desarrollo contribuyen al presupuesto de la FAO con cifras más altas que ciertos países desarrollados y no obstante las dificultades de las economías de esos países ellos aceptan este pequeño aumento y cumplen fielmente sus compromisos; en cambio, señor Presidente, debemos destacar, con la franqueza y la claridad que nos caracteriza, que nos preocupa seria y profundamente las presiones y los condicionamientos indebidos y exagerados que se vienen ejerciendo sobre la FAO con las consecuencias que registramos en este proyecto de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que aceptamos excepcionalmente en esta oportunidad, pero que consideramos que no podrá prolongarse en el futuro porque así se hará un mal irreparable a nuestra Organización.

Acudimos al espíritu altruista, generoso y positivo de los países nórdicos, de Francia, de Italia, de España, de Bélgica, de la República Federal Alemana, de Austria y de otros estados industrializados dentro del grupo de Ginebra de la OCDE o de cualquier otra organización para que nos ayuden a que no se siga llevando a cabo este proceso de degradación desafortunada; sin embargo, queremos concluir nuestra declaración con una nota serena, con un llamado cordial y respetuoso a todos los miembros de este Consejo, particularmente a los países desarrollados, para que ofrezcan una prueba más de sinceridad y solidaridad y nos acompañen sin reservas, dilaciones ni aplazamientos que sería inconcebible apoyar este proyecto de Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Nos reservamos el derecho, señor Presidente, de si fuere necesario intervenir más adelante para referirnos a algunos otros aspectos concretos de este importante documento.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): My delegation welcomes the positive manner in which the Director-General has opened the dialogue with the Council in his Summary Programme of Work and Budget and in his remarks on the subject on Monday. We are also grateful for the way in which he and the Chairmen of the Committees have led us through the proposals today.

My remarks are in three parts: on the content, the presentation, and the order of magnitude.

First, on the pattern of allocation: as the Summary rightly says an important feature of the Budget is major programme impact. It is encouraging that in constant price terms the three major Programmes increased by - I think the Director-General said - 3.18 percent, and Field Programme Planning increased by over 5 percent. There is proposed a welcome transfer from Head Office to developing countries' capitals and to the field. Savings in administrative costs have been allocated to substantive programmes. The priorities command I believe universal support. The absolute priority for Africa, which we have pressed elsewhere, is proposed to receive more than half the net programme increase proposed. My delegation strongly commend all these features of the suggested Budget.

Turning to the detail of the substantive programmes, I would put forth a few suggestions.

In considering the allocation of resources to a particular programme or sub-programme, my delegation takes the view that it is necessary to consider not only whether the activity is worthwhile, but whether it is best carried out by FAO rather than left to bilateral or other action. Against these criteria, my delegation, after examination of the Programme with our in-house experts within the Aid administration, can give unqualified support to the weight given in the draft to some of the Technical and Economic Programmes in Chapter II, and particularly to those concerned with desertification and rainfed agriculture. We can give qualified thought to others. As regards Major Programme 2.1 we give unqualified support to the allocation of Sub-programme 2.1.2.1, Genetic Resources; 2.1.3, Livestock - which has a well-directed set of proposals; 2.1.7, Food and Agricultural Information and Analysis - this is a unique service, on which we have already commented; and 2.1.8, Food and Agricultural Policy. The same applies to Programme 2.1.1, Natural Resources, and its sub-programmes, except for the country programmes included in 2.1.1.1, Assessment and Planning, which could in our view be left to others to support. Sub-programme 2.1.2.2, Crop Improvement and Management, should concentrate on regional activities only; similarly, 2.1.2.3, Seeds, we support, if emphasis is placed on regional or international activities - national seed programmes could be left to others.

Crop Protection Activity 2.1.2.4, should also be concentrated on those aspects which transcend national boundaries, e.g. regional control and assessment activities, plant quarantine, and so on, leaving routine national activities to others.



Much of the excellent work on Agricultural Engineering and Prevention of Crop Losses, 2.1.2.5, and 2.1.2.6, Food and Agricultural Industries, could be reduced, as it is at the national level.

The proposals for Research and Technology, 2.1.2.4, are sound; but there seems to be considerable overlapping and savings could probably be made as a result of coordination with other donors. The research on agricultural application of isotope research seems to have disproportionate prominence. We note the major switch of resources proposed to rural development, and agree with this provided that it is understood that here there is a critical need for control and effective evaluation. I will not continue with such a list of our views on the other programmes of fisheries and forestry. Our full support for this work has been expressed several times before and but for a change in our agenda we would have been talking of fisheries today with commendation.

I now come to the second half of my intervention on presentation.

The Programme Committee, in the Report of the Forty-eighth session, noted that "the format and presentation of the Budget had now achieved a satisfactory balance between conciseness, clarity and information." We agree with this commendation, but I am afraid, with a characteristic Oliver Twist-like attitude, we are asking for more. We acknowledge with gratitude the helpful response of the Secretariat to particular questions put by our Mission here and colleagues in Rome, but in our examination of the Budget in London we have missed some aids to understanding. What we miss is a side-by-side presentation of the proposed expenditure with actual expenditure on proposed out-turn, comments on the effectiveness of the Programme, and information on the availability of funds to be carried forward. We also miss a guide on how the expenditure is apportioned under the headings of Programme Management, Field Support, Regional Offices and other Administration. Perhaps the Secretariat could help us here by saying whether and where this information is available and whether more analytical material will be available for the Budget which goes before the Conference.

I now come to the question of the magnitude of the Budget. The Budget as presented shows an increase in real terms of 1.4 percent over the biennium. There are, of course, various ways of measuring this increase which give slightly different results, but my delegation is content to use the methods employed in the paper, and which has been used before. It will come as no surprise to members of the Council if I say that my Government finds particular difficulty with this aspect of the Budget proposals - indeed, the Director-General has anticipated this in his remarks on Monday and today. Observers of the behaviour of the United Kingdom in the examination of the budgets in the United Nations family over the last few years will know that we have been calling for moderation in the growth of core budgets, and more recently, a standstill in real terms. This is not a doctrine, as the Director-General characterizes it - though I hasten to admit that one result of our efforts to ensure consistency and equity of treatment for all members of the UN family has been the acquisition of an appendage of case law, which could well mislead anyone in thinking that this simple idea is a doctrine, and I have every sympathy with the Director-General if there is this confusion. I repeat: it is not a doctrine, it is not a view which has validity for all time. It is a view which relates to a particular situation, and arises from the thinking of ministers deeply concerned with the welfare of public support for the United Nations system, and particularly for the aid agencies, as a means of delivering international assistance.

The essence of our view is that while donor governments are finding it as difficult as they are now to match the level of their aid expenditure to the urgent needs of the Third World, and while they are having to restrict or reduce their domestic expenditure, international organizations must be asked yet again to contain the expenditure in their core budgets, as they have been in the past. This request relates only to the Regular Budget which in the case of FAO, in the text of the Budget document CL 87/3, cover "mainly activities which represent the main constitutional function of FAO, such as information gathering, analysis, and providing a forum for intergovernmental discussion. And, of course, the function of advice, which is shared with the Field Programme. It in no way refers to expenditure from extra-budgetary resources. The other positive aspect of the situation is that expansion of the activities and improvement in the effectiveness of agencies to meet real needs can arise from economies in the management of the organization and from the extent to which the agency attracts resources at the disposal of donors, recipients and other bodies; and also as a result of the growth of reputation of its services and advice - and also, I might add, on the extent to which as a catalyst the agency is able to mobilize bilateral aid in the area of its concern. Here, one must bear in mind the success of FAO in its efforts to do this in the context of rehabilitation in Africa.

I would assure delegates - and particularly the distinguished delegate of Colombia - that the United Kingdom would not make the proposition that the FAO's budget should be contained in the amount of the present biennium, if we were convinced that this would weaken the efforts of the Organization in meeting the identified needs of the Third World, especially in Africa. The plans of the Director-General can in our view be carried out without real growth in the budget, according to the definitions used in this discussion. We continue to believe that the necessary reductions can be made in administrative or management costs, through tougher management control, and a review of staffing levels in regional offices and headquarters. All this involves a shift in resources from

overheads to operational programmes. Using the figures given in CL 87/3, we estimate the overheads could be as high as 40 percent of the total budget. However, if, as the Director-General has said, after all the work that has been done on this in the past, no further savings can be found here - well, I am afraid that these cuts fall on that part of the operational activities which are included in the Regular Budget - that is to say, the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). This is the same logic which has permitted us in this year to increase the TCP at the expense of administrative saving - but I regard this as a last resource. Whatever may have been our views on the merit of the TCP as part of the Regular Budget, we acknowledge that the response of the Organization to the requirements of Africa justifies the TCP proposed.

The Director-General asked in his remarks on Monday why it was that Member States were concerned about the amount of growth, rather than the amount of dollars which they had to pay. In a way, the thought behind the Director-General's question is right. In our case - and I expect other governments operate in the same way - every penny saved from our contribution to the Budget of FAO or specialist agencies in the aid field is used for relief or rehabilitation, or whatever are the priority needs at the time the saving occurs - and, I might add, in response partly to the distinguished delegate of Colombia, that this additional expenditure can be used both in the bilateral and in the multilateral sphere. So an objective is to minimize the cost to aid budgets of donors of the assessed contributions to the agencies.

But donors would not wish to impose the vagaries of currency fluctuations and cost changes on to the international organizations; they wish neither to penalize them for changes in the wrong direction, nor give them the benefit of changes the other way round. The fairest arrangement is to fix the programme in real terms and permit Member States to cope with the inconvenience of most of these capricious factors.

In his written conclusions on introducing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, the Director-General says that he has made his best efforts for Member States to be able to exercise their sovereign will in partnership and consensus. I am grateful for the effort in presenting this well-conceived budget and the steps taken to accommodate the pressures which the Director-General acknowledges. But to achieve this consensus, I must ask that the Director-General re-presents his budget to the Conference in a way which involves no growth and with all increases in operational programmes offset by management and administration economies. This alone will allow my government to be associated within a consensus. Specialized agencies have to be judged not merely for the responsiveness to needs, the requirement for their services and their concentration on problems which are capable of solution, and I think on this FAO has no cause for criticism, but also on their sensitiveness to the requirements of public opinion in the countries from which so much of their support must come.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Directeur général de sa présentation du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87. Je suis entièrement d'accord avec mon collègue de la Colombie quant à ses remarques à la louange du Directeur général et je suis convaincu que, quoique l'on dise, nous serons toujours en deçà de la vérité car le Directeur général, depuis 1976 qu'il est à ce poste, consent des efforts considérables, incroyables, et nous lui souhaitons plein succès. J'aimerais féliciter également les Présidents du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier et permettez-moi maintenant de faire quelques observations sur le point 14 de l'ordre du jour relatif au sommaire du Programme de travail et de budget pour les années 1986-87.

Cette question a déjà été étudiée au sein du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, et en ma qualité de membre du Comité du Programme j'ai eu l'honneur de participer aux travaux de ce Comité. La question a été débattue avec les responsables des différents départements techniques et administratifs de l'Organisation. Les autres comités techniques, dont le Comité de l'agriculture (COAG) et le Comité des pêches (COFI) ont approuvé le Programme de travail et de budget, dans sa globalité, et en ont approuvé tous les chapitres et toutes les recommandations.

Il est apparu clairement que le Secrétariat a consenti de grands efforts pour établir ce Programme de travail et de budget et nous l'en remercions d'autant plus qu'il est parvenu à réaliser des économies considérables dans les dépenses administratives sans pour autant porter atteinte à l'efficacité administrative et technique.

C'est avec grande conviction et objectivité que nous appuyons les quatre principaux objectifs sur lesquels reposent les activités de ce Programme, à savoir: stimuler la production vivrière, améliorer la sécurité alimentaire, obtenir un maximum d'effets et de rendement sur le terrain et enfin promouvoir la coopération économique et technique dans les pays en développement. Il apparaît très clairement aujourd'hui que l'augmentation de la productivité agricole est étroitement liée à la disponibilité des facteurs de production, à savoir les engrais, les machines agricoles, la lutte contre les maladies et les insectes, éléments essentiels, qui exigent des décisions à l'échelle nationale afin d'assurer les fonds et l'aide technique nécessaires.

Ce qui nous attire le plus dans ce Programme et qui nous amène à l'appuyer c'est la tendance d'agir de plus en plus sur le terrain, permettant ainsi de toucher plus directement ceux qui ont le plus grand besoin d'assistance de formation et de conseils, à savoir les petits exploitants agricoles.

L'augmentation de la production vivrière est une priorité absolue mais elle ne nous dispense pas de prendre toutes autres mesures nécessaires à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons avec force toutes ces mesures, notamment le renforcement du système global d'information et d'alerte rapide mis sur pied par l'Organisation qui nous permet de prévoir les catastrophes alimentaires bien avant qu'elles ne surviennent.

A cet égard j'aimerais insister sur la nécessité de consolider les liens de coopération économique et technique entre les pays en développement afin de permettre à ces pays de procéder à un échange d'expériences et de techniques les mieux adaptées aux circonstances particulières de chaque pays et d'utiliser pleinement leur potentiel politique et technique dans le développement des ressources humaines et naturelles.

Tout en appuyant la compression des dépenses afférentes aux postes existants nous approuvons la création des nouveaux postes techniques proposés par le Programme et rendus nécessaires par les impératifs du travail sur le terrain. Ces propositions ont été approuvées par le Comité du Programme et c'est pourquoi nous les appuyons également. Comme nous estimons que notre principal souci est l'efficacité, que nous rechercherons la perfection dans nos activités techniques et que nous réclamerons de nouveaux programmes et projets en matière de développement agricole ou rural, nous devons donner à notre Organisation les moyens financiers et administratifs de le faire. Il s'agit là d'une règle élémentaire de la bonne gestion et de la bonne organisation du travail. On ne peut demander à l'individu plus qu'il ne peut donner. C'est pourquoi comme nous sommes responsables il nous appartient d'assumer nos responsabilités et de donner au Directeur général les moyens financiers de remplir sa mission et de mener à bien sa tâche très difficile.

C'est pourquoi également j'estime qu'après les compressions et réductions opérées dans les dépenses des coûts administratifs de l'Organisation, l'augmentation du budget 86-87 qui est uniquement de 1,1+ pour cent avec une augmentation légère des programmes techniques, à savoir 3,8 pour cent, on ne peut opérer d'autres compressions et d'autres réductions.

La délégation libanaise ne peut accepter le principe de la croissance zéro surtout lorsque nous parvenons ces nouvelles alarmantes sur la famine en Afrique et dans d'autres régions du monde et lorsque nous avons un nombre croissant de projets de programmes qui ont besoin d'être préparés, conçus et exécutés. Comment, je vous le demande, voulez-vous, dans un monde en mouvement, un monde dynamique où les exigences augmentent, où le nombre des nécessités augmente, comment voulez-vous que dans une Organisation telle que celle de la FAO, l'augmentation soit nulle? C'est-à-dire égale à zéro. En d'autres termes cela voudrait dire que la FAO ferme la porte aux progrès et au développement. C'est une situation que nous ne pouvons accepter. C'est pourquoi je réitère l'appui inconditionnel de la délégation libanaise au Programme de travail et de budget et j'invite tous mes collègues du Conseil à l'appuyer également.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): La delegación cubana quiere agradecer al Director General por la preparación y presentación de este documento referente al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986/87, en un momento que, como dice bien en su declaración inaugural, son muchas las necesidades por una parte y las limitaciones por otra. Asimismo queremos agradecer a los colegas Abeyagoonasekera, Presidente del Comité de Finanzas, y Trkulja, Presidente del Comité de Programas, que han hecho presentaciones muy precisas sobre sus respectivas ramas.

Al analizar la situación económica mundial en el presente documento, ya reconocen y admiten los problemas que plantean los desequilibrios de las relaciones económicas internacionales, de lo cual sin duda alguna es responsable el injusto orden económico internacional que se nos impone por parte de algunos países desarrollados. Este propio documento nos plantea que actualmente se registra una recuperación. No sabemos cuál, si mínima, modesta, porque se habla también de incierta, se habla, pero, bien es una recuperación en el mundo desarrollado específicamente, lo que ya nos induce a pensar que estarán en mejores y buenas condiciones para cumplir con el deber moral que tienen para con los países en desarrollo, y, por consiguiente, finalmente, comenzar a desplegar acciones para modificar las actuales estructuras financieras y económicas internacionales. En este contexto, el propio documento y los análisis hechos por diferentes Comités que se han reunido este año en el ámbito de la FAO, reconocen que el sector alimentario y agrícola sigue caracterizándose por una situación de escasez en medio de la abundancia, ya que la mayoría de los países subdesarrollados, además de no tener producción suficiente para cubrir sus necesidades, tuvieron que disminuir sus importaciones de alimentos debido a la incapacidad de financiar las acciones por falta de divisas y por los problemas de balanza de pagos y de su deuda externa.

En el caso de la región de América Latina expresó con su elocuencia acostumbrada el colega Bula Hoyos, de Colombia, la situación difícil que atraviesa esta región: Nosotros podíamos dar algunos datos. La deuda de esta región se eleva a 365 750 millones de dólares, y, según cálculos recientes, dentro de 10 años habrá que desembolsar por sus intereses la cifra de 400 000 millones. Actualmente el pago de servicios de la deuda ya alcanza el 60 por ciento de los ingresos por exportaciones de América Latina y se convierte en un problema político a escala internacional, al comprometer el proceso de desarrollo de las naciones del área y amenazar con estallidos sociales de imprevisibles consecuencias al no poder resistir los mecanismos e imposiciones del Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) que les obliga a una austeridad que las grandes masas de obreros y campesinos, pequeños agricultores, saben que esto no se practica en los centros urbanos industrializados con sus patrones de vida consumista irracional y anarquista. El Fondo Monetario Internacional de esta forma se convierte en promotor de revueltas para que no vayan a buscar otros chivos expiatorios después.

Queremos aclarar que los datos anteriores solo abarcan la deuda pública externa, la deuda privada ejerce una influencia mucho más perjudicial por funcionar en muchos países fuera de los canales y al margen del Estado.

Sin embargo, señor Presidente, ésta es solamente una parte del problema. Consideramos que no basta con la solución del problema de la deuda porque sería refinanciar para dentro de diez años aquel ciclo, otra vez la situación, además volvería a haber deudas externas cada diez años. Consideramos necesario, repetimos, rectificar el injusto orden económico existente en el mundo e implantar las medidas del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional aprobado por las Naciones Unidas y en favor del cual la FAO ha jugado un papel fundamental. Una muestra palpable de ello es el esfuerzo que hace la Organización y en especial el Director General para con escasos recursos ejecutar un programa donde se prioriza efectivamente a los países más necesitados, África y su drama, que parece insoluble sin financiación. Además la FAO ha tenido siempre en cuenta las otras regiones en desarrollo de acuerdo con las situaciones.

Mi delegación, señor Presidente, apoya esta propuesta del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1986/87. El crecimiento del mismo en términos reales del 1.4 por ciento con respecto a 1984-85 es prácticamente un crecimiento cero de acuerdo con las necesidades que hoy son superiores a las de 1984. La filosofía de este crecimiento cero creemos que no es otra que ponderar el hambre en el mundo, mantenerla a un nivel que permita administrarla, si no nos explicamos porque no se trata de resolver este problema realmente. Hay que insistir en el derecho al desarrollo como línea y estrategia, no sólo el derecho a que se les ayude y la FAO ha demostrado que puede apoyar eficientemente, multilateralmente sin discriminaciones políticas para ningún país su desarrollo agrícola y alimentario.

Estamos obligados a insistir en un mayor apoyo de todos los contribuyentes, principalmente de los que aportan una mayor cuota y cuyas economías se han recuperado, como dijo nuestro distinguido representante de Colombia, y se ha dicho muchas veces, a costa del mantenimiento y la recesión en los países en desarrollo.

Consideramos que tienen que hacer mayores esfuerzos a fin de garantizar una mayor expansión e intensificación de las actividades de la Organización, cuyas prioridades, que sin duda apoyamos, han estado orientadas por las preferencias regionales y los principales Comités del Consejo. Por lo tanto los apoyamos en todas sus partes.

Consideramos, además muy acertada la orientación del Director General de centrar la actividad de la Organización en cuatro objetivos principales; o sea, fomentar la producción de alimentos; mejorar la seguridad alimentaria; conseguir resultados sobre el terreno y promover la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo. Para cumplimentar los mismos, la FAO podrá contar con la modesta contribución de mi país, especialmente en lo que se refiere a la colaboración con otros países menos desarrollados.

Para cumplimentar estos objetivos la FAO cuenta con instrumentos muy valiosos como son los Planes de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural y de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca, las cuales se comprometerán con los Presupuestos de Acciones que sean aprobados en el Congreso Forestal que se celebrará en México próximamente.

Nos preocupa en este contexto el retraso en la implementación del plan de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que contempla todo lo que estamos hablando en estos momentos sobre los pequeños agricultores y los campesinos sin tierra y los arrendatarios. A pesar de que ya llevamos dos Conferencias Mundiales de Reforma Agraria, creo que estamos atrasados porque este mundo de realizaciones verdaderas que deben garantizar estructuralmente su participación, y estamos haciendo mucha fuerza en esto, a través del limitado y excluyente desarrollo rural integrado que todos sabemos aquí que son la base del costo y beneficio, que sólo va a llegar a unos pocos y que no va a poder llegar a los pobres y a los que viven independientes, a los que viven en tierras con no muchas posibilidades de beneficio. Por eso creemos que debemos insistir en los mecanismos de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, lo cual está muy claro planteado

en los programas a seguir no con un modelo único, sino un modelo de acuerdo con el carácter específico de cada país, pero sí con una intención única para la justicia social en el mundo. Aquí también queremos expresar nuestro criterio, señor Presidente, por el cual hablan los pequeños agricultores y campesinos sin tierra, creo que debemos recordar que bastante se hace en esta FAO, pero aquí hay que recordar otra vez la situación del FIDA. ¿Por qué hay que recordarlo? Porque el FIDA es el único Organismo del sistema que tiene un mandato y un grupo objetivo y tiene la decisión de apoyar a los pequeños agricultores y se debía pensar que ese es el único, el verdadero que va a llegar a la justicia, a todos, porque es el único que financia créditos para producción no exportable, para producción alimentaria; o sea, que es un grupo objetivo no dependiente de los grandes bancos ni de las grandes empresas. Y estos proyectos del FIDA van directamente a esos grupos olvidados de la agricultura, del costo y beneficio.

Quisiéramos referirnos y por supuesto apoyar la tendencia propuesta de reforma a algunas actividades consideradas secundarias dando incremento de los cultivos secundarios de la producción de alimentos, la capacitación y la participación que son necesarias para no seguir arrastrando estas diferencias que arrastramos después de cuarenta años de ejercicio de las transferencias de tecnología, siempre que ésta se enmarque dentro del criterio general de desarrollo de los países subdesarrollados y en concordancia con su capacidad de asimilación, así como la atención especial a los pequeños productores y a los campesinos sin tierra, para evitar elevados desplazamientos y deudas y que son los menos que trabajan las tecnologías, así como la atención especial a los pequeños productores y al campesino sin tierra, porque estos elementos, que si bien no garantizan no porque no quisieran, sino porque la tierra que les han dejado procede de la ampliación de la gran empresa, pero sí pueden contribuir a garantizar la producción alimentaria de su zona y por lo menos de subsistencia para que no pasen hambre.

Mi delegación quisiera expresar sus criterios con respecto a la descentralización. Si bien entendemos que la necesidad de limitar el crecimiento del presupuesto y asegurar un control estricto de las asignaciones de recursos induce al Director General a no incrementar los presupuestos de las Oficinas Regionales en los países, consideramos que ambos son instrumentos de gran utilidad.

En nuestro caso podemos decir que el Representante de la FAO está desempeñando un papel fundamental en el logro de la participación de todos los organismos nacionales vinculados con la agricultura y la alimentación en las actividades del Programa Ordinario de la FAO, así como en el desarrollo de las actividades del Programa de Campo financiadas con otros recursos. Por lo tanto expresamos nuestra preocupación aquí. También queremos expresar que los aumentos del Programa de Cooperación técnica no creemos que basten para cubrir las necesidades de los países beneficiarios y que lo piden porque constituye la transferencia tecnológica más eficaz por su gradualidad, por la participación total en los planes nacionales, por la dinámica de su ejecución, por la asimilación total, por corresponder a reales y verdaderas necesidades de los ejecutores de los países en desarrollo.

Queremos resplazar aquí también los trabajos de recursos fitogenéticos a través de su Comisión que garantizaría la continuidad de estos trabajos en momento muy difícil para la agricultura en el mundo.

Ratificamos también la prioridad del Programa de Ganadería a través de los trabajos de salud animal y producción animal plenamente integrados en trabajos de conjunto.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, queremos expresar la satisfacción de mi delegación por un hecho que considero muy unido al análisis que nos ocupa, aunque tal vez me esté adelantando a su discusión. Se trata del apoyo que ofrece mi país a la decisión tomada por el Comité de Finanzas en el Programa de 15 millones de dólares para ser utilizados en el Programa de Habilitación para África.

A este respecto, quisiéramos demandar una mayor comprensión de algunos países industrializados, no de todos porque tenemos que hacer excepciones de los que la tienen, a fin de que contribuyan a regularizar el acceso de los países con problemas de insumos fundamentales que requieren la producción de alimentos, tales como fertilizantes, plaguicidas, maquinaria y respuestos, semillas, vacunas, etc. y que es muy fácil hacerlo apoyando programas de la FAO.

La política de precios cada vez más alta y de control y manipulación de los recursos no dan posibilidad de mejorar la capacidad productiva en países subdesarrollados, los cuales continuarán en la precaria situación actual con la perspectiva de agravarse su situación.

Llamo la atención sobre la política de precios que juega mucho si queremos hablar de agricultura.

Para terminar apoyamos el Programa en todas sus partes y este Presupuesto como mínimo, porque consideramos que es insuficiente para las necesidades crecientes de una agricultura ya determinada por la falta de atención.

Por lo tanto, creemos, que la acción más eficaz que puede tomar este Consejo es apoyar este Presupuesto y este Programa en todas sus partes para presentarlo a la próxima Conferencia.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I, too, would like to join with previous speakers who have congratulated the Director-General and the Chairmen of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee for their excellent and lucid introduction of this item. In the last general session of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee Ambassador Fenwick stated my Government's position on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. That decision remains the same.

We are delighted with the direction that FAO programmes have increasingly taken towards supporting the small farmer, and the increased priority given to Africa. Both of these are needed; they are important, and they have our full support. At the same time, my Government finds unacceptable the rate of real growth that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget calls for.

Let me be very clear about this financial position. The United States of America supports change, innovation, new activities and flexibility. However, we strongly believe that the capacity of nations to pay ever-increasing costs now and, more important, in the future, has been stretched to beyond what is desirable. Whatever the cost consequences of programme expansion now, unless these are offset by elimination of other costs now the consequence in the future will be a geometric increase in costs. My Government believes, that in suggesting that the appropriate financial position is zero net programme growth, we should at the same time be prepared to offer proposals on ways to achieve that without impeding the ability of the Organization to deliver its very important substantive programme.

With this in mind, we urge the Director-General to consider the following when he frames the full Programme of Work and Budget. The elimination of net real growth can be achieved in any of a combination of measures. The following are some suggestions, although we are sure the Director-General can think of others.

One element should be to reduce the requested amount for the Technical Cooperation Programme from the proposed \$59,905 000 to \$54 121 000. There is usually a very large balance of unexpended TCP funds at the end of a biennium. Perhaps it would be appropriate to re-evaluate the level of TCP projects for 1986/87 and to request funding for those projects FAO has professional and managerial manpower to implement during the 1986/87 biennium itself. In that regard, even the \$54 million may be more than the Organization can effectively implement during the biennium.

Another element which could easily be combined with that suggestion would be to eliminate entirely the request for \$800 000 for contingencies. If we look at document CL 87/4, the report of the Programme and Finance Committees and in particular at Annex A, page A.2, we can see in the Budgetary Performance Report that in this biennium at least, as at the end of 1984, not one penny of the contingency funds had been used. For the next biennium the amount requested is one third greater than the amount that has not yet been spent in this biennium. Over recent biennia, contingency funds have seldom been fully used and if the need for such flexibility arises financial regulation 4.4 provides a method of transferring funds within the overall budget. Such a transfer operation my Government believes could have easily covered the contingencies that arose, in the past. Therefore, we think that the contingency provision can be eliminated entirely from the budget without any harm to programmes.

Another area where the Director-General might fruitfully look for savings is in the area of several service contracts, personnel service contracts, and consultants. FAO management has done a good job in keeping an eye on these, but we believe that additional savings may well be possible without any lessening of programme delivery. Other savings might be achieved if FAO would follow UNDP rules for travel regarding home leave and educational travel. We are pleased with the fine job the Director-General has done in identifying reductions in the cost of general policy and direction, common services, development support programmes and programme management. These savings of \$4.3 million have been reallocated to ongoing programmes. We see this as a significant achievement. We hope that in a like spirit he can find a way to implement the programmes he has presented in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget without the need for net programme growth. As I mentioned earlier, growth will expand geometrically in years to come.

Another item of great importance to my Government has to do with official exchange rate calculations. The Summary Programme of Work and Budget was prepared at the current official rate of It Lire 1 615 to the dollar. This has permitted comparison between the current budget and the proposed 1986/87 budget, though the latter comes to us without any details of the cost increase at programme and sub-programme levels. My delegation would be very interested to receive information on how the budget will be recosted when Conference adopts the 1986/87 official rate of exchange, on what elements of the new budget will be examined for adjustment based on the new exchange rate, on why only these elements will be examined and finally, an indication of what the 1986/87 Summary Programme of Work and Budget financial total might be at the exchange rate prevailing today.

In sum. The United States of America finds much to commend in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We particularly commend the direction chosen for FAO programmes, and the effort of the Director-General to hold down cost increase requests to a minimum, and to reduce overhead organizational costs. However, we find unacceptable the high request for real growth.

My delegation urges the Director-General to prepare his full 1986/87 Programme of Work and Budget without real programme growth. Zero real programme growth could be achieved without sacrifice to the ability of the Organization to deliver the very important programmes that we have discussed this week.

Y. A. HAMDI (Egypt) (Original language Arabic) : First of all, I would like to thank the Director-general for his lucid and clear presentation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Also, I thank the Chairman of the Programme and Finance Committees for their reports.

We took part in the deliberations of the Programme Committee, and supported its decisions. We approved all its decisions. May I make the following brief remarks. First of all, we support the priorities and strategies governing the Programme of Work and Budget and also support the fact that more attention must be given to the problems of Africa.

Secondly, we support the Programme of Work and Budget, and the efforts of the Director-General to reallocate the budget resources by putting more emphasis on the technical aspect.

Thirdly, we support the proposed budget level, and congratulate the Director-General for his efforts to reach this rather modest level which has taken into account the different points of view expressed by member countries, the current world economic situation and the urgent need to enhance agricultural production in developing countries.

O. FRIIS (Denmark) : May I first compliment the Secretariat on the very handy material presented to us on this important point. May I thank the Director-General and the Chairmen of the Committees for their clear introduction of this subject this morning. I would like to make some preliminary comments of a more general nature on the level, composition and the programme priorities of the proposed programmes. The reason for the preliminary nature of my comments is, of course, that these matters will be considered in depth by Conference on the basis of more detailed information. All we can do at this stage, therefore, is to give the Secretariat some indication of our initial response to the proposal.

The first question I would like to raise concerns the level of the regular budget for 1986/87; whether the proposal envisages an increase of \$30 million approximately compared to the present sum, out of which \$2,6 million, or 1.4 percent, represents a net real programme increase in the main technical and economic programmes. While not opposed to budget increases in multi-lateral organizations as a matter of principle, my Government feels that such an increase should be carefully reviewed on the basis of the fullest and the most transparent information possible in order to judge its justification and appropriateness. As stated in the document, any consideration of the level and composition of the Regular Programme must bear in mind the nature and scale of the full programme which, although funded from two distinct sources, is closely linked and certainly mutually supported. Since information on the level of the expected Field Programme for 1986/87 by programme and sub-programme will not be available until a full Programme of Work and Budget is finalized by the Conference, we are not able at this stage to indicate our final position on the proposed increase.

Having said that. I should like to express our satisfaction with the continued reduction in administrative costs in the proposed budget, which has enabled FAO to reduce the net real programme increase from \$9.5 million to \$6.2 million. We hope that further reductions in the administrative costs could be obtained by rationalization and better targeting of the existing programmes and activities, and we would like to encourage FAO's further effort in this respect.

Turning now to the composition of the Budget by each chapter, I am not going into detail at this stage, but we note from the Danish side particular satisfaction with the proposed reduction in the budget item called General Policy and Direction. We think that the possibility of further reduction in this area should be studied very carefully, also taking into consideration possible reductions in the number of meetings held by FAO.

As far as the TCP is concerned, my Government finds that it has already reached an adequate level. In view of this we find that a decision on an increase should await the result of the external evaluation of the programme which will be submitted at the Conference.

Concerning the Strategies and Priorities for 1986/87, we note with appreciation the increased regional concentration on Africa. Furthermore, I want to stress that my delegation considers a real decentralization to the country level to be of great importance in order to assure that the assistance provided is adapted to local needs and priorities.

As far as the Programme Priorities are concerned, my delegation generally supports the proposed Programme Priorities which place emphasis on the increase in food production programmes and food security, including the Global Information and Early Warning System and National Early Warning Systems. I would, however, like to add that my delegation would have liked to see a somewhat higher priority given to programmes aimed at improving the conditions for women in rural areas for realizing their potential in agricultural production.

My delegation finds that by re-allocating resources greater emphasis might be given to forestry and fisheries, which in our opinion need further attention in order to solve the serious problems in those sectors.

In order to strengthen the impact of resources used for development purposes my delegation once again wishes to stress the emphasis which my Government is placing upon coordination with other United Nations bodies in connection with the rehabilitation programmes of FAO.

The administration of scarce resources is always a difficult task, but it is also a challenge to make the most effective use of such resources. There is no doubt that the current financial situation facing most countries today will have impact on the resources available in the future. Previous speakers have mentioned this. This is a fact of which we should be aware, and that is why the time may have come to take a look not only at the 1986-87 biennium, but to look perhaps further ahead. During the last forty years FAO has developed a very valuable expertise concerning development in rural areas. It is of great importance that this experience is used as effectively as possible. In this respect it might be appropriate to start considering more fundamentally in what way we could utilize this expertise even better. More and more often a question mark is being put on the effectiveness of the traditional technical cooperation, which mainly takes place in the form of small or bigger projects in the developing countries. At the same time these countries are building up groups of very qualified persons who with limited assistance can carry out the work even better than the traditional experts previously did.

In the light of this development it is now time to start considering how we would like to see FAO function during the coming years? In our view our Organization should foresee a process of reform that could result over the years in a situation where FAO is mainly acting as an organization for planning and consultations, a task which is in our opinion extremely important.

Time may be running out for the traditional technical cooperation activities in which the United Nations has been engaged for many years, and therefore we would like to promote as soon as possible a discussion on the future role of FAO so that the limited resources available can be utilized to the maximum benefit of all Member Nations.

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): On behalf of the delegation of Czechoslovakia I would like to express our thanks to the Director-General as well as to the Chairman of the Finance and the Programme Committees for preparation of this very important document, for their excellent statement on the budget of FAO, and for the comprehensive analysis of the financial situation of FAO.

Naturally, the November Conference alone can make a definitive statement on the Programme of Work and Budget.

Still, my delegation would like to express its preliminary position. The draft Programme of Work and Budget of FAO for 1986-87 is considered by us to be basically well-balanced and in keeping with the needs of the Member States, particularly the developing countries, and to have properly chosen priorities. It is therefore acceptable to my delegation.

We fully support the efforts of the Director-General to achieve further savings, particularly by cutting administrative costs. We assume that the trimming of administrative costs is not final.

The serious problems of agricultural development in many African countries prove beyond doubt the correctness of the priority interest of the Director-General in focusing the efforts of the Organization on their solution.

With regard to the future financial policies of the Organization, we believe that after the experience of the last two-year period, this year's Conference will be faced with the very serious question of the overvaluation and, for the economic health of the Organization over a long period, rather dangerous fluctuation of the US dollar, particularly its operational rate of exchange in relation to the Italian lira by the Conference has a direct impact on the size of the Budget and the assessed



contributions by member governments, we expect that in consultations between the Secretariat and member countries a still more realistic decision will be reached than for the current biennium.

May I, as a delegate of one of the European countries in the debate on the FAO Programme of Work and Budget, touch upon the effectiveness of the European programme which surely does not draw any substantial amounts from the current or proposed budgets. It is in the interest of FAO's universality, as well as in the interest of the developing countries of other continents, to recognize once more the importance of technical cooperation in Europe, particularly in applied research.

The network of European agricultural research and cooperation in the utilization of renewable sources of energy in agriculture is financed primarily by extrabudgetary funding and voluntary contributions, with the support provided by the European countries through their participating institutions. The Twenty-second FAO Conference places a high value on these networks, especially in view of the fact that the output of these cooperative activities is used also by the developing countries. Currently more than twenty non-European countries have direct participation in the cooperative programme of the European region. It is also an encouraging fact that, following the example of European cooperation, the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean is setting up its own network. It has been also noted that in the Asian region the results of European scientific research can be used to organize a similar system of cooperation.

Given the existing conditions and the urgent priorities of the programme of development assistance, surely no European delegation intends to propose any increase in the financing of the FAO European programmes from the regular budget. But I deemed it appropriate in the interest of FAO's universality to draw the attention of the Council to the importance of the scientific and technological cooperation of European countries with different socio-economic systems which is a source of significant background information for the solution of technical projects faced by FAO in the developing countries.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): My delegation fully endorses the recommendations of the Director-General and of the Programme and Finance Committees relating to the maximization of the programme impact, even with modest increases in the financial outlays.

However, I am unable to understand the suggestion made by some delegates that there should be no growth in the real resources made available for international cooperation in agriculture. It seems to me that national economic goals are clearly in favour of national economic growth, which is vital for the survival of nations. It makes no sense to suggest that growth in real resources made available for international cooperation should be denied, and to believe that it will not harm efforts to bring about a better international economic order.

I should also like to point out that we are deeply concerned not only about the very slow growth in the available real resources for international cooperation in agriculture, we are concerned on other fronts. Here I would like to draw your attention and that of this Council to paragraph 3.5 on page 6 of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87. Member countries present here are also associated with the international organizations referred to in paragraph 3.5. While calling upon the FAO to economize in its expenditures, these friendly countries also call upon themselves to match their real formation of priorities with respect to agriculture with the level of contributions they are making to the replenishment of IDA and to the provision of resources to IFAD so that the problems which the Director-General has drawn to our attention are not perpetuated.

On page 7, you will find that it is a negative growth rate. Would the distinguished delegates from the United Kingdom and the United States support me in calling for the prevention of this negative growth, so far as the field programmes and adjustment programmes are concerned? It perhaps would have been overlooked by us, but for the generous contributions made by Italy in recent times to support some of these programmes.

As mentioned in 3.10 on the same page, although we are recovering from the shock of the reduction of such assistance available through UNDP and other listed programme heads, we will not be able to return to the level reached in 1981 of \$302.6 million. So would the distinguished delegates from the United States and the United Kingdom join me in calling for concerted efforts to restore the level to at least \$302 million, from \$252 million, which was there in 1984, or more? - the idea being that we should go somewhere, and, irrespective of the resources, whether bilateral, multilateral, FAO, IFAD, or World Bank, I think all of us are concerned that the total resources made available by the international community for establishing a better international agricultural order are on the increase, and they do not share a zero or negative growth.

I therefore suggest that we endorse fully the proposed Programme of Work and Budget 1986/87 unanimously, so that we can move forward without spending more time - whether the Director General could do better, but we are unanimous in formulating them. I do not think it is appropriate for us to go on questioning whether they are adequate economies, or whether more economies could have been affected. I certainly do not disagree with the comments made by some other delegates, that if greater economies can be achieved and if zero growth can be avoided, that is fine - but it is clear that we cannot achieve any greater economy in expenditure without affecting the development process. I think we really should not involve ourselves in this meaningless debate - we should rather concentrate on ensuring that the funds are adequately utilised for the programme priorities which are laid down.

Turning now to the Programme of Work itself, I would like to draw attention to the fact that we need a sharper focus on some of the areas which have already been identified.

You, Mr Chairman, as a distinguished genetic engineer and a plant breeder, would fully agree with me that the promotion of genetic engineering, without the consideration of depleting genetic resources, and preserving the maximum for future use, may spell danger to agricultural growth and to the environment in many ways. I would therefore commend to this Council the suggestion, on behalf of my delegation, that greater emphasis is necessary on the conservation of all genetic resources, considering their rapid depletion and occasional concentration in the hands of multi-national companies.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that while there is a sub-programme, 2.1.3.3., on animal genetic resources, this programme has been hit by the reduction of allocations from Trust Funds, and is now required to survive on the scarce allocations from the normal budgetary resources. Also, while there is a pointed reference on page 90 in sub-programme 2.3.1.1, to the objective of conservation of forests and genetic resources, I do not find this concern reflected in the preamble to this paragraph - it does not match with the sub-programme of the same kind as in the case of animal genetic resources. I would therefore suggest that we should provide, either out of Trust Funds or from the normal budget programmes, sufficient to ensure that the countries concerned are encouraged to identify and preserve their genetic resources, without which future development will be greatly retarded.

I then turn to paragraph 5.2.7, and I would commend the FAO Secretariat and the Programme and Finance Committees on their support of the identification and enhancement on the role of women as producers and marketers; but I would also like to add for your consideration the organization of youth in rural areas. I do not find any specific attention in this document to sub-programmes which would draw attention to the organization of youth in rural areas, particularly as the real animators for improving the environment. This would be perfectly appropriate in the context of our declaration of 1985, as the FAO Year of the Forest. Since 1985 is also the International Year of Youth may I suggest to the Secretariat that within our scarce resources we could identify this programme, which would provide for the involvement of rural youth in the developing countries in environmental programmes, particularly related to forestry.

I then turn my attention to the observations in the Summary Programme on food security. While there is a welcome reference to the need for animal food security, I do not find that food security in a larger sense is covered in this document. It seems that food security continues to be defined in terms of cereal availability. As a country which has faced recent shortages in its food security, and in a large sense relating to edible oils - and I believe there are other countries, such as India, which have serious shortages of edible oils and fats - I would suggest that self-sufficiency should be defined in broader terms, and security aspects should not be confined to either cereals or animal feed. Security programmes will have to be designed to also pay great attention to areas such as oil and seeds.

Again, my delegation takes the opportunity to compliment the Director-General and the Programme Committee on the emphasis which has been placed in Chapter II on improved land and water use and management as part of the Technical and Economic Programmes. We note with satisfaction that a part of the net programme increase at headquarters is directed towards this very important aspect of agricultural management, to which I had drawn attention in earlier interventions.

Again, in Chapter II, on page 49, we would like to call for a sharper focus on setting up centres for development of improved agricultural implements and relevant post-harvest technologies, both of which are relevant for improving the real incomes of farmers. While we note with satisfaction that there is a sub-programme 2.1.2.5, on this subject, I would call for a greater focus on it, and possibly reallocation of resources to help developing countries in this area.

As you are well aware, world food security could be endangered by the large volume of crop losses due to poor post-harvest technology. Imagine a country like India, with 150 million tons production of cereals - if poor management could cost us 10 percent we would lose 15 million tons, and 15 to 20 million tons would make all the difference between security and its lack.

I would also therefore like to commend the suggestion as an integral part of a security programme - the saving which we would achieve by better technology, better agricultural engineering better post-harvest practices - this, I think, is an area where fund allocations should be redirected in greater measure.

I would then draw your attention to one other very important issue. All over the developing world livestock is being developed with adequate support, and, I would say, with greater awareness. But what is not being developed is the grassland - the forage and other food resources without which livestock development cannot survive. All good land - as you are aware - is bound in terms of food security to be diverted or to be sustained on crop production. Therefore, it becomes necessary that marginal land in arid and semi-arid regions will have to be developed more effectively to provide the grass and forage and other food required by the livestock development programme. Here, May I call on the Secretariat to integrate these programmes under various divisions and subject's? I am not sure whether this has already been done - but if it has not been done, the time must come when the programme must be on one focus. I referred to programmes in other areas, such as the water and soil management programme in 2.1.1 - natural resources relating to arid and semi-arid regions. I also referred to the sub-programme under forestry, 2.3.4.2, Agro-sylvo-pastoral Development. All these programmes have a convergent focus on providing pastoral development in the arid and semi-arid regions; but since there are different sub-programmes which concentrate on an area of importance, I thought I should draw attention to the need for all developing economies to give greater attention to the food without which their animal resources cannot survive.

I would then like to draw attention to another important area, sub-programme 2.1.3.2, where there is a reference to the need for animal health. Here may I call for a more definitive programme by which at least major diseases such as rinderpest will be eliminated as a particular target. May I here call upon this Council to request the Director-General to indicate the possibility of eliminating rinderpest, as we have eliminated malaria, as we have eliminated smallpox, by a particular target here, and to indicate the resources required, so that good friends who have supported the economies and establishment expenditure and improvements in programme expenditure could come together to ensure that livestock throughout the world is more productive and meat is more exportable, by the elimination of some of these major diseases in Asia, Africa and other countries.

If this is the objective I am sure there has to be redirection of resources, not towards the reduction of disease but towards the elimination of disease as far as animal health is concerned.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, I am happy that the FAO is studying commodity policies on trade with a view to helping member countries in designing national commodity prices and trading policies. Here, may I request the headquarters to redirect their attention to promoting greater mutual cooperation relating to edible oils to which I have earlier referred. Areas like jute and other fibres have received considerable attention but I think oilseeds is becoming a more important area in terms of food security as well as international trade, so any effort to bring the nations together, the producers as well as the consumers, to understand mutually the benefits of internationally relevant policies on production and export of these important commodities like edible oils, would be of great help to countries as well as the producers such as Malaysia, the United States, Canada and others, and therefore I would request the Commodities and Trade Division to take the initiative in attempting with greater ardour international production and trade relating to edible oils.

With these deliberations, it is my delegation's privilege to acknowledge the excellent work done by the Director-General and his Secretariat, of the two Committees and their Chairmen, and to provide our fullest support for the implementation of these programmes. I agree with the objectives discussed in the budgetary resources, which seem to be in sight.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/10

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

TENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
DECIMA SESION PLENARÍA  
(21 June 1985)

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,

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

La dixième seance plénière est ouverte à 14.45 sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- IV. PROGRAMME, BUDGETARY, FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (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. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 (CL 87/3; CL 87/4 paras. 1.1 to 1.7; 2.7 to 2.178 and 3.4 to 3.28) (continued)
- 14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, 1986-87 (CL 87/3; CL 87/4 par. 1.1 à 1.7, 2.7 à 2.178 et 3.4 à 3.28) (suite)
- 14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 (CL 87/3; CL 87/4 parrs. 1.1 a 1.7, 2.7 a 2.178 y 3.4 a 3.28) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I have thirty speakers on my list. I hope that Council Members will kindly cooperate and make their points as precisely and concisely as possible.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): We have before us in the documents a Summary Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation is not in a position to take a definitive position on the matters before us until we have received and fully considered the full Programme of Work and Budget and the usual reports evaluating FAO's activities in the current biennium. However, we can indicate some important considerations which will help determine our final position.

First, we must take into account what has been happening in the current biennium. At the last Conference a budget was approved which on the basis of certain assumptions about cost increases and the exchange rate at the time involved a real increase of \$2.2 million, or .5 of a percent. What has happened is that the US dollar has appreciated sharply and inflation has been much lower than estimated at the time of the Conference. We have an example of the effects of this in the \$15 million saving that is being transferred to the TCP. On that account alone real growth in the 1984-85 budget was on our calculations significantly greater than forecast. This is only an example. The Organization is making very substantial fortuitous gains on all items of expenditure for all programmes and sub-programmes, and of these gains only those costs of established staff paid in Lire in Italy are being credited to the Special Reserve Account. Against this kind of background we do not think that we are being unreasonable in suggesting that the Organization's activities could be stabilized at the unexpectedly high level of 1984-85.

This view is reinforced by financial restraints which is being strongly enforced by our own National Administration. It gives us no comfort that the United States dollar is appreciating while the Australian dollar has appreciated by some 35 percent over the last 18 months, which means much greater assessed contribution in Australian dollar terms.

A further and very important consideration is the Australian Government's support for the general principle of zero real growth in the budget of United Nations specialized agencies. This is a position we share with a number of significant donor countries.

This principle has been described as a religion. Therefore, it may have appeared to some delegates as a mysterious or even blind act of faith with no necessary associated down-to-earth practical logic. This is far from the case. Zero real growth is a simple and, in my experience, well-known management tool. It is a means of encouraging additional discipline on the financial and management approach organizations. As the Director-General has indicated, it can be a harsh and indiscriminating approach. Because of this, it is not an approach which is adopted lightly. In my experience it is adopted only when other more cooperative approaches fail to yield results or are adjudged for one reason or another not to be worth pursuing. I am sure delegations from the major donor countries are familiar with the approach and that many of their own organizations have been subjected to it at one time or another.

I must emphasize that zero real growth in my experience is not simply an end in itself. It is also a means of encouraging organizations to examine financial and programme options more openly and more rigorously against the changing goals and objectives. I am saying this not to be critical, but to be helpful. It would be most unfortunate if Council Members were to be lulled into underestimating the real purpose and significance of the zero real growth principle.

Even more important is to understand the inevitable dynamic of the principle, which is that if zero real growth continues to be advocated and an organization's financial or management approach is not modified, the advocates of the principle are eventually likely to find themselves in a position where they must develop special and more concrete measures either individually or on a cooperative basis to deal with the situation. Our Organization, FAO, has an opportunity to avoid a drift towards this situation. I hope we have the foresight to grasp it.

As a minimum I feel it would be useful to have before the Conference a paper which shows some options for the work programme under the zero real growth constraint. Also I hope that the well-conceived proposals for additional information from the delegate of the United Kingdom can be taken up by the Secretariat.

G.H. MUSGROVE (Canada): It is always strenuous after a heavy lunch to be only the second speaker and to work one's mind into the appropriate degree of agility required to address oneself to this complicated subject. My delegation wishes to thank the Director-General and both Mr Abeyagoonasekera and Mr Trkulja for their introduction to this particular item. I have been looking at the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for some weeks and have never ceased to be impressed with its complexity. I am similarly impressed by those people who can address it with what appears to be great authority and some facility.

Turning to document CL 87/3, we should say at the outset we have much to be pleased about in terms of its tone, style and thrust. The Director-General has emphasized a good management principle in seeking to address priority issues and problems and, where necessary, to address these at the expense of activities of somewhat lesser importance. The proposal acknowledges to some large extent the financial constraints that the present economic situation imposes on most, if not all, of the contributing members, and recognizes the finite nature of funds available to address virtually infinite demands. It clearly attempts to identify, with the assistance of COAG, COFI and the CFS for example, the new directions and activities needed to address priority problems.

The Summary Programme of Work and Budget, however, is not without its imperfections both in terms of format and content. For example, while recognizing the proposal is not a substitute for the full Programme of Work and Budget, nevertheless we would like to see somewhat more attention given in a few words or sentences to stating objectives or hoped for accomplishments on each of the disaggregated activities. This would be particularly pertinent in areas for which budgetary increases are proposed.

Also we would like to see greater transparency and possibly greater detail in the application of the formulae to the calculation of the impact of currency adjustment and to cost increases. Indeed, there is one item with which we are unable to agree; that is, as our friends from the United States would call it, the bottom line. We believe the absolute budget can - indeed, should - be reduced by some \$8 million to \$10 million, and that this can be done without loss to the efficacy of programme content.

The Director-General in his opening statement on Monday suggested that zero real growth in United States dollar contributions was to be a preferred alternative to zero programme growth. In fact, the present budget proposal would mean an increased contribution from virtually every contributing member save only the one with the muscular dollar, while even the modest budget reduction I have suggested would permit, in my thesis, a programme growth.

I will return perhaps later in my remarks to the financial aspects, but I would like to make a few observations now on the programme. Of course, we have made observations in the various committees of the Organization and made note of or have emphasized a number of these in the appropriate agenda items, but there are at least two general observations I would like to make at this time.

The four principal aims of the Director-General outlined in paragraph 5.13 on page 12 are to be strongly supported. As an aside, we believe the word "principle" used in that particular paragraph should be spelt somewhat differently!

To these four strategies we would like to suggest a possible fifth when we are able, or the Organization is able, to move from crisis management to longer-term development. This fifth suggestion is the matter of environmental degradation and its relationship to production in the agricultural, forestry and fishery sectors. We feel that no area of the world is free from this particular concern, but I would like to underline the particular case of the growing desertification in Africa.

The four strategies outlined in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget flow clearly into a number of specific themes and actions, outlined in pages 12 to 23 of document CL 87/3. Collectively these form the basis of the programme.

While here and there our delegation can take issue on specific activities, nevertheless we feel on aggregate they are worthy of our support. A few themes deserve emphasis; we would particularly like to mention the role of women, the importance of nutrition, the need for improved information and early warning systems and above all, the vital requirements for better communications to effect information dissemination, training and technology transfer.

With respect to this latter point we should like to draw particular attention to a number of issues. Firstly, there is the issue of data-based activity and the dissemination of information as outlined in paragraphs 5.44 to 5.47 on page 17. We strongly support the role of FAO as a central repository for global information on food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry matters.

However, we feel the power of such information is not only related to its quantity, its quality and its organization, but above all, to its easy accessibility by all who need to know at little or no cost. We note the increasing recourse to computerized systems by our Organization, but feel that universal access could be greatly enhanced if these systems were joined to the United Nations International Computer Centre in Geneva. We understand that at present the FAO is one of only two United Nations agencies which are not members of this Centre. Using only inexpensive technology, technology available to all such as personal computers and telecommunications, in Canada we now have direct access to the whole of the United Nations information system saving only, of course, that of FAO. We have used the system, for example, to communicate directly with the World Food Programme in order to coordinate our food aid shipments so as to avoid bottlenecks. We strongly urge FAO to join the International Computer Centre at least to provide access for all to the evolving Global Information and Early Warning System.

The second point is not dissimilar and is relevant to the converging themes of research, communications, technology transfer, extension work, education and training. We think that in the details there is some lack of cohesion in these issues, and a treatment of each of them is a discrete or isolated activity in itself. Furthermore, while continuing research into new technology is both desirable and necessary, it is more often observed that a mass of existing technology has not as yet reached the grassroots level of the basic units of production such as the small farmer. We would like to encourage FAO to address this issue by measuring present efforts against the yardstick of the widest possible impact on the individual farm unit. There can be closer cooperation with other agencies, most notably including national extension systems, farming cooperatives and other regional organizations which might be better utilized in getting maximum impact from programme dollars in this area.

Turning to finances, it will be no surprise that we are concerned at the level of the proposed budget. The delegates here will know that most, if not all, contributing members are under some severe economic stringency. We would not mean to suggest that our problems in Canada are either unique or of the order of magnitude of some of our developing country partners. Nevertheless, the fact remains that Canadian unemployment is running at 11 percent, our national debt exceeds \$200 000 million and our budgetary deficits are running at \$35 million a year. Government spending in our country has been under the most severe restraint for the last four or five years. The taxpayers have been taking a critical view of both the absolute levels and the efficacy of government spending at home and, more particularly, abroad in our programmes of overseas development and our participation in multilateral institutions.

On May 23rd this year, just three or four weeks ago, a new Canadian budget was announced which cut some \$3 500 million from government spending which, among other things, will result in the loss of some 15 000 government jobs. Cuts were made in welfare payments, old-age pensions, and unemployment insurance benefits were constrained. However, the Government defended our overseas development assistance budget, which is running at over \$2 billion a year. The price of this defence is to assure the Canadian public, firstly, that the maximum possible proportion of such expenditures reaches those who need it; secondly, that such a system is cost-effective; and thirdly that international institutions exercise the same restraint expected of national governments.

We are obliged to approach the FAO budget proposal with these elements in mind, as we approach all international organizations. There will be those who say and those who have said that with the African crisis in particular now is no time to be reducing contributions to food and agriculture. Canada is not reducing its contribution, it is increasing it, and most dramatically so in the case of Africa. Other donors are doing the same, but every dollar spent on institutional budgets is a dollar less in emergency food aid or direct development assistance.

There are those who will say that relative to other agencies the FAO has been a prudent manager, that it has shown restraint, that it directs the larger part of its resources, and increasingly so, to action ends. In large measure it is true that the FAO in a multilateral system that is suffering a crisis in confidence has been a relatively good example. We feel that its reputation would be considerably enhanced by adding at this critical stage the level of no growth to its accomplishments. In the long term it will benefit not only from the sharpened management induced by financial strictures but from the consequent support it will enjoy when other agencies have lost favour.

Looking briefly at the budget proposal in its larger sense, we might note a number of features, some of which can be deduced from budgetary performance in the present biennium. The new budget proposal at \$451 million for 1986-87 is an increase of just over \$30 million from the \$421 million of 1984-85. Of this, \$24 million is estimated cost increases, while \$6.5 million more or less is for real programme growth. The specific figures are available, of course, on page 33 of our document,



but it is this figure of \$6.5 million on which we shall focus for comparative purposes our following remarks which we feel indicate that there is ample flexibility within the budget proposal. Some of the factors might be as follows: the question of currency exchange rates and most particularly the US dollar/lira relationship; windfall savings resulting from the benevolent currency movements which are traditionally moved to the Special Reserve Fund, which subsequently when in excess of fund requirements are redistributed to contributing members. In practice such gains are acknowledged largely though not entirely in relation to General Service salaries. Little or no accounting is made of other currency gains in Italian or other currencies realized through items such as local service, materials, contracting, and so on. While such gains are not apparent to scrutiny, they are doubtless substantial and could be of the order of \$10 million. They would doubtless be repeated in 1986-87, although perhaps not of the same volume, as this budget is prepared on the basis of approximately Lire 1600 to the dollar, while current exchange rates are running close to Lire 2000.

Secondly, similar gains were realized, as has been indicated by a number of speakers, in the case of professional salary adjustments. These have been indicated by the Director-General to be in the area of \$15 million, and more indirectly I think than the previously mentioned expenses. Nevertheless, they derive in origin from benevolent currency movements. That has been a net increase in growth to the budget in the present biennium.

We know in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget that some \$14 million has been identified as non-recurring costs. These savings in the proposal have been reincorporated into the budget for new programmes. This, of course, is new programme growth proposed for 1986-87. It is not a matter with which we would be critical. We have encouraged the Director-General to identify lesser activities and to reallocate funds, and when he has done so we feel that he has a right to use those funds in the new budget. Nevertheless, it is new programme growth.

In addition, there are increasing amounts of flow-back funds coming into the Organization which in past bienniums were of lesser amounts. In the case of the TCP I understand that approximately \$5 million flows back into the programme in each biennium. We believe that there are similar and substantial flow-backs into such programmes as the investment activity.

We believe that the cost increase component at \$24 million may be still somewhat enlarged, although the Director-General has indicated that component has been substantially reduced from original proposals. This cost increase, of course, is based on the inflation estimate of 9.1 percent, a rate which in global or average terms is somewhat high on today's evidence, and indeed there is every evidence that within Italy itself such inflation may not be realized. We believe that there may be savings yet in the component of cost increase.

In addition to the above major points, there are a number of lesser notes. The proposal to increase professional staff positions, for example, by nine we believe is unnecessary. Given the reallocation priority, the evidence of non-recurring programmes, we believe that such positions, if not the people themselves, could be found within the Organization.

There is also the question of the staff position vacancy rate. We understand that the staff turnover runs in excess of 8 percent with many job positions empty for extended periods of time. These result in some additional financial savings and give better flexibility.

I think I have said enough to make a case for reductions in the overall proposed budget level. We could refer, of course, to Chapter VII and the contingency fund which we feel is largely unnecessary given the budget flexibility available to the Director-General. We could also attempt to comment on the Technical Cooperation Programme, but other speakers have done so and we will refrain from further comment.

In summary, we believe that a budget reduction is necessary to enhance the confidence of contributing governments and their people in order to ensure that finite donor country funds are directed to the maximum extent possible directly to developing country needs. The reduction would further encourage the FAO to focus on priority issues and to continue its good work in administrative streamlining. It will also enhance FAO's substantial management reputation vis-à-vis other multilateral agencies. In consequence it will attract more voluntary contributions. We maintain that such reductions as requested would not in any way reduce the programme proposals and will allow for a measure of new programme growth.

We close by encouraging the Director-General to give consideration to these comments in the constructive spirit in which they are intended. We do not seek a willful confrontation on what appears on the surface to be a relatively small sum of money. We do, however, strongly feel that given the inherent elbow room and flexibility in the budget proposal, there are indications of some surplus funds and the possibilities of real growth, not least in the reabsorption of non-recurring costs. We feel that the Director-General has the wherewithal to prepare a full Programme of Work and Budget within the cost-adjusted parameters of the 1984-85 budget levels.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I appreciate the statement made by the delegate of Canada. Nevertheless, I think it is necessary at this stage for me to comment in a brief manner, and later on I will ask my colleagues to comment on the various proposals for making reductions and economies.

If we have to observe to the letter what the delegate of Canada had said, we can cut the budget by \$ 50 million and carry out the same programme and gain confidence. As Director-General, I cannot accept the idea that if I cut the budget by 1.4 percent, I will gain the necessary confidence of some member countries. I am sorry - as I see it, cutting the budget to zero-growth has nothing really to do with gaining confidence. It was said that such confidence will help FAO to focus more on priority issues. In fact, there is no other organization in the United Nations System, which has had for the last eight or ten years the unanimity we had here on priorities and strategies.

The Programme and Finance Committees have approved the priorities and strategies of this Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87. I am happy that the delegate of Canada is a member of the Finance Committee. He will thus have ample opportunity there to discuss the inflation rate in Italy, and other issues on cost increases in our budget for 1986-87.

The representative of Canada, like others, has said that the problem is that there is austerity and his government has had to cut their budget. We know that, but I contend that, if the developed countries have economic problems and problems of matching their resources to their requirements, they will not solve their problems by reducing FAO's budget increase to zero. For Canada, such savings would amount to less than \$270 000 for a two-year period, which is their share of the real increase of \$6.5 million for two years.

Developed countries cannot solve their domestic problems or their economic crisis by cutting such amounts. In any case, I maintain that the cheque for contributions which will be requested from the governments for the 1986-87 budget will probably be less in US dollars than they have paid for this biennium. This is zero-growth - zero-growth in paid-up contributions. I know the dollar is costing you more - you said, very rightly, that perhaps the USA will be the only country which will benefit. Even Panama will pay more, and Liberia, etc. - but this will in fact be a budget which will cost the member countries less in dollars than the present budget.

What prompted me to intervene at this stage is the assertion that the governments will lose confidence in FAO if the Director-General does not propose zero-growth but a small increase in the budget.

Also, I have been told that some insinuations against the management of the Organization were made by other delegates before I came. If there are to be insinuations or accusations, I would ask any delegate to indicate what is bad in the management of FAO. Some countries are represented in the Finance Committee - they have access to all documents, on all subjects and recently we have been scrutinized for days and days by several representatives of countries who have come to us with a list of questions. We have answered these questions. If you want information, tell us and we will provide it. In fact, those on the Finance Committee have every opportunity of obtaining such information. So we do not want to accept now unjustified accusations without proof against the management of FAO. I think a general insinuation is completely unfair to all my colleagues.

Having said that, I found the last statement very constructive and very interesting.

M. J. BLAMEY (Australia): I am sorry that the Director-General could not be here when I was speaking. The report which he has had is inaccurate. I will not repeat my address, but I am sure it is available to him. I am glad for his comment that if we want information he will provide it.

I concluded my address by asking for a document to be prepared for the Conference which would show some options, - simply options - for the Work Programme under the zero-real growth constraint. I also asked that some proposals put by the delegate of the United Kingdom for additional information be taken up by the Secretariat.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Merci Monsieur le President. Comme vous le savez, nous sommes inscrits sur la liste pour intervenir un peu plus tard, mais je pense qu'après avoir entendu cette dernière intervention du Canada, qui se termine par ces mots "c'est trop", nous ne pouvons rester sans rien dire, car effectivement on ne peut plus tenir! Ce matin on nous a fait croire que la théorie de la croissance zéro n'était peut-être pas une idéologie, mais je me rends compte que ce que nous avons entendu jusqu'à présent ne fait que confirmer que c'est bien une idéologie. Pourquoi? Je vais essayer de l'expliquer.

On reconnaît que sur les 30 millions demandés, 24 millions se justifient dans la mesure où il s'agit d'une augmentation liée aux coûts. Ensuite on dit que le problème se pose aussi en millions de dollars. Nous pensons pour notre part, que si la théorie de la croissance zéro n'était pas une idéologie, on n'aurait pas eu besoin de faire autant de justification pour 6 millions de dollars, quand on sait les sommes énormes que l'on dépense pour d'autres choses insignifiantes qui n'ont rien à voir avec la survie des populations.

Je pense que nous ne pouvons pas nous laisser divertir, et nous sommes davantage convaincus que la croissance zéro est une idéologie; la preuve vient d'en être donnée par les différentes délégations qui nous donnent plus de mille justifications pour dire qu'il faut s'en tenir à la croissance zéro, alors que maintenant on parle de réduction! Je pense qu'on a exagéré et nous ne pouvons pas rester indifférents! Je vous parle franchement. Nous sommes inscrits sur la liste mais étant donné ce que nous venons d'entendre, nous ne pouvons rester indifférents et j'ai tenu absolument à réagir à ma façon !

G.H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I had a Point of Order although it is a little late. The Point of Order was to ascertain from the Chair whether the previous intervention was a Point of Order.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL : I should say also that the previous intervention was not a Point of Order - but we will have the text of the Australian delegation, and I hope that I am mistaken.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (original language Arabic): My delegation believes that this Summary Programme of Work and Budget before us is a very good synthesis of the push-and-pull forces referred to by the Director-General in his introductory statement. We know that there are tragedies and crises of food and malnutrition and under-nutrition in the developing world for reasons which are natural or man-made. In fact this situation reflects the prevailing international economic order. There is great need to support the developing countries, technically and financially, through bilateral and multilateral aid. This aid is in fact decreasing, and this creates critical and alarming situations. Therefore, we think that this Programme is based on a correct analysis of the international situation, and is consistent with very appropriate priorities and strategies. In fact, it is this ability to assimilate changing conditions which enables the Director-General to lead FAO successfully and to develop the Organization. It is also the result of the innovativeness and creativity of Dr Saouma which we very much appreciate. We also thank the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees, and the Secretariat, for their preparation of these documents and their clear introduction of them.

As for the Programme and Budget, we think that all the recommendations of the Programme and Budget are based on deliberations of international and regional meetings within the Organization, and we know that the Programme has trimmed down administrative costs and maintained the level of contributions for the current biennium. Although our country thinks that the normal thing to do would be to introduce a Programme of Work and Budget which would enable the Organization to meet the increasing requirements in services and activities, particularly in regard to Africa, I should however like to express our approval of this Summary Programme of Work and Budget as a basis for the preparation of the full Programme and Budget for the next biennium.

I should also like to commend the remarks made by some delegates regarding the trimming of some Technical Assistance Programmes, or even, to balance expenses as a last resort. In the light of our experience in this Programme, we think this is one of the most useful and wonderful programmes which has an effective impact and will continue to be beneficial in many areas. We would therefore like to see this Programme given a higher priority and further development, and to be allocated more resources.

I would like to share the appeal of the Ambassador of Colombia for cooperation and coordination between developing and developed countries in order to conduct fruitful action, to find solutions to the problems of food in the world, and in order to further support the international organizations and in particular FAO, which has a leading role in this field. In fact, we have a very good example of this in Italy.

In conclusion, I call upon delegates and Members of the Council to approve the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

M. ABDELHADI (Tunisie): Nous félicitons le Directeur général pour la présentation du programme et budget pour le biennium 1986-87.

Les explications qu'il a données et l'analyse qu'il a faite pour justifier la stratégie et les priorités proposées recueillent sans réserve notre agrément.

Le Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation constitue, à notre sens, un document essentiel, capital, qui doit refléter les choix et les priorités et traduire dans les faits les aspirations des gouvernements membres et les recommandations des conférences régionales et autres comités de la FAO.

Le projet qui nous est présenté nous paraît de prime abord répondre à tout cela. D'autre part, la présentation claire et nette des présidents des Comités financier et du programme a confirmé notre conviction dans la justesse des choix et des priorités proposés par le Directeur général.

Par ailleurs nous partageons les appréciations du Président du Comité du programme, notamment lorsqu'il a exprimé les préoccupations du Comité en ce qui concerne le déclin de l'aide au développement, surtout de l'aide multilatérale.

Nous exprimons toutefois notre vive satisfaction en ce qui concerne notamment le développement constant du programme de coopération technique de la FAO grâce à un choix volontaire du Directeur général et nous apprécions également la contribution du Gouvernement italien au Fonds fiduciaire de la FAO ainsi que celle d'autres pays donateurs.

Pour revenir au sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87, l'analyse qu'en a faite ce matin le Directeur général nous paraît judicieuse et équilibrée. La situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, et notamment la situation alimentaire instable en Afrique, ne peut que nous inciter à approuver un budget et un programme de travail évolutifs avec un taux de croissance conséquent. Il nous paraît en quelque sorte aberrant et mal venu de présenter un budget pour les deux années à venir avec une croissance zéro, au moment où la communauté internationale, les organisations internationales et notamment la FAO sont appelées à fournir un effort intense afin de venir en aide aux pays touchés par une crise alimentaire sans précédent.

Je ne vois pas comment encourager la FAO à mener à bien la réalisation de ses programmes, comme l'ont affirmé certaines délégations, si la théorie de croissance zéro est mise en application. Les conséquences, à notre sens, seraient graves sur le développement des activités et programmes d'action de l'Organisation.

Comment, en effet, permettre à la FAO de mettre l'accent sur les questions prioritaires si on bloque la croissance, si modeste soit-elle, des moyens budgétaires de l'Organisation? Cela me semble difficile.

En conséquence, il ne saurait être question, pour ma délégation, de retenir la notion de croissance zéro.

Le taux de croissance proposé par le Directeur général constitue, pour ma délégation, le minimum acceptable pour ne pas tomber dans la stagnation, surtout au moment où il est demandé à la communauté internationale un effort soutenu pour contribuer à juguler la crise alimentaire actuelle en Afrique. Nous aurions souhaité un taux de croissance supérieur à celui proposé pour tenir compte de cette situation.

Ma délégation retient et apprécie l'effort louable du Directeur général pour diminuer les coûts administratifs en faveur des programmes opérationnels sur le terrain. Ce déplacement de ressources ne pourra que profiter aux pays qui en ont besoin.

A cet égard, permettez-moi d'exprimer la vive satisfaction de la délégation tunisienne qui apprécie à sa juste valeur les efforts consentis par le Directeur général en faveur de la relance de l'agriculture dans les pays. A cet égard, ma délégation appuie l'affectation de 15 millions de dollars provenant de l'excédent de ressources antérieures au profit du Programme de coopération technique pour le financement des projets intéressant la réalisation de l'agriculture dans les pays africains touchés par la crise alimentaire.

Ma délégation souhaite très vivement que le budget et le Programme de travail proposés recueillent une approbation unanime du Conseil, compte tenu d'une part de la modestie de leur croissance et d'autre part des choix et du transfert d'importantes ressources au profit des programmes opérationnels de terrain.

KONG CANDONG (China) (Original language Chinese): Thank you Mr Chairman. First of all the Chinese delegation would like to express its appreciation for the introduction made this morning by the Director-General and by the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. With your indulgence, I wish to make the following comments on this agenda item.

First. Regarding the world economic situation and food and agriculture backdrop against which the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87 was formulated, the introduction of the Document has given a comprehensive account and analysis. In general, 1984 witnessed improvement of the world economic situation which exercised a favourable influence on food and agricultural production. Nevertheless we cannot lose sight of the complexity of the world state of food and agriculture. The short term trend embodies a great number of unstable factors; for instance, the gap between Africa and other developing regions has further expanded; developing countries are still facing constraints in trade, debt-servicing and access to concessional assistance. Given the circumstances, it is necessary to make timely and appropriate adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. In the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General, the adjustments were clearly explained. In our view, this is a well-thought scenario, and the "Summary" itself has demonstrated FAO's competence in coping with the challenge.

Second. Concerning the budget level, taking into account the current world economic status and food and agriculture situation as well as the needs of developing Member Nations, it is essential to have increases, as appropriate, for the budget level for the next biennium. As is indicated, the programme increase for 1986-87 will be 1.4 percent while that in the current biennial budget is 0.5 percent. But the cost increase in the new budget is obviously low. This is of course necessary to check budget growth. We consider that the 1.4 percent increase is justified and therefore it provides a basis for its acceptance by member countries. As for our part, we can accept it.

Third. We noted that the proportion of continuing posts will drop to 54.3 percent from 56 percent in the current budget. This adjustment will make available more of the limited funds for the agricultural development of member countries.

This also reflects the consistent efforts of FAO in pursuing the policy of reducing administrative expenditure to ensure economic and technical programmes since the Director-General took office.

We cannot but express our appreciation for the Director-General's endeavours in this regard.

Fourth. We also noted that "ensuring food production and security" continues to top the list of priorities in the programmes of the next biennium, which is accordingly reflected in the allocation of funds. We are of the view that such a policy keeps in line with the recommendations made at the previous sessions of the conferences and councils for the Organization.

Fifth. The difficulties confronting Africa are not strange to the international community. As economic ties are getting increasingly close in today's world, the food and agricultural problem is no longer a problem concerning Africa alone. Therefore, we agree that Africa will continue to be given priority in the Organization's programme of work as well as in the allocation of budget for the next biennium.

Sixth. In the programme for 1986-87, the information system will be strengthened. This is an important activity in the regular programme of FAO and a unique feature of the Organization.

We think it is undesirable to separate information and the field programme, but just on the contrary the ties between the two fields should be intensified. Information should serve at various degrees the field programme and be more objective-specific. As we are living in an era of rapid development of science and technology, FAO, in the future, should attach greater importance to the strengthening and extension of scientific and technical know-how suitable for developing countries, combining information with the field programme and production practice.

C. LOIZIDES (Cyprus): Mr Chairman, the Cyprus delegation wishes to express its appreciation and support for the efforts made by the Director-General to optimize the use of available resources taking into account the world economic situation and the enormous needs of the developing countries.

In view of the present climate of acute economic problems, and in particular the food crisis in Africa and other regions, this effort constitutes a difficult task indeed. The proposed real programme increase by 1.4 percent or \$6 230 000 is probably the minimum necessary increase under these conditions, whilst the transfer of funds amongst the major programmes and sub-programmes was inevitable in order to accommodate an austerity budget. This shift of resources is reflected very vividly in the substantial cuts of expenditure for the governing bodies in general policy and direction as well for investments and FAO representatives in the development support programmes. We express the hope that these cuts are under the circumstances the least painful ones, and that they will not jeopardise FAO's ability to meet its basic objectives and deliver its very substantial programmes.

We support the proposals regarding the strategies and priority sectors about to receive net incremental funds, namely the technical and economic programmes covering various development programmes concerned with agricultural production, such as crops and livestock, agricultural research and rural development, fisheries exploitation and utilization, forest resources and environment. The absolute increase by almost \$2.5 million for the Technical Cooperation Programme is also a positive step towards the continuation of FAO rapid assistance to needy countries for unforeseen needs and problems that arise.

We do not however doubt that in relative terms the funds allocated to the TCP programme relative to the 1984/85 budget indicate a slight reduction from 13.6 percent to 13.3 percent. We wish in particular to emphasise the importance that my country attaches to the TCP and we modestly request the Director-General to extend additional efforts to increase the provision for this programme. Mr. Chairman, I wish to conclude by expressing once again our support for the budget proposals as submitted by the Director-General.

J. POSIER (France): Ma délégation voudrait tout d'abord adresser ses remerciements au Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui ont été soumis.

La délégation française a déjà eu l'occasion de faire part de façon détaillée de ses commentaires sur le Programme de travail lors de la réunion du Comité de l'agriculture, puis à l'occasion de la réunion du Comité du Programme. Comme le temps nous est compté, elle se bornera à un rappel rapide de quelques-unes de ses réflexions.

De façon générale, les objectifs et les stratégies proposées au titre du Programme de travail pour 1986-87 recueillent notre agrément. En particulier nous approuvons la suggestion de l'Organisation et de son Directeur général de concentrer leur action sur la promotion des cultures vivrières et le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire en visant un impact accru sur le terrain et en favorisant le développement de la coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement.

De même, nous approuvons pleinement le renforcement de la priorité accordée au continent africain. L'accent mis, en ce qui concerne les politiques agricoles alimentaires, sur l'appui aux efforts nationaux pour l'établissement de politiques de prix qui encouragent véritablement les producteurs, le rappel de l'intérêt qui s'attache à la création de groupements régionaux, le souci d'améliorer la liaison entre la recherche et la vulgarisation, la prise en compte des cultures dites secondaires et la recherche d'une plus grande adéquation entre les techniques utilisées, sont autant de points positifs.

L'ordre de présentation des programmes qui figurent dans nos documents a été approuvé par la Conférence lors d'une session précédente. Sans du tout remettre en cause cette présentation qui demeure globalement satisfaisante, nous constatons qu'elle ne permet pas toujours d'établir une hiérarchie claire entre les différents sujets et qu'elle conduit parfois à des doubles emplois, par exemple entre les questions qui sont évoquées au titre du développement rural et les questions qui figurent dans la rubrique "politiques alimentaires et agricoles".

Comme nous l'avions dit lors de la réunion du Comité de l'agriculture, nous continuons à nous demander si une réflexion visant à améliorer cette présentation ne serait pas opportune. Dans cette perspective, il nous semble notamment que l'on pourrait réunir de façon plus cohérente tous les sujets qui relèvent du domaine macro-économique.

S'agissant du projet de budget qui nous est soumis, je voudrais tout d'abord rappeler que, d'une manière générale, le Gouvernement français estime que, compte tenu des difficultés économiques persistantes que connaissent bon nombre de nos pays et la rigueur budgétaire à laquelle ils sont astreints, les budgets des organisations internationales ne doivent pas connaître d'augmentation en termes réels au cours du prochain biennium.

Toutefois, nous sommes pleinement conscients de la gravité de la situation alimentaire dans de nombreux pays, notamment africains, et du rôle particulier qui incombe à l'OAA pour contribuer à l'amélioration de cette situation;

De ce point de vue, nous nous félicitons de l'évolution que traduit le projet de budget en ce qui concerne la répartition des masses budgétaires au profit des programmes opérationnels et au détriment des dépenses administratives générales. Il serait cependant souhaitable que des informations encore plus précises puissent nous être fournies par le Secrétariat sur la part des crédits consacrés à l'Afrique, dans le cadre du Programme de coopération technique.

Si une réduction des crédits opérationnels nous paraît, dans la conjoncture actuelle, totalement à proscrire, nous nous demandons en revanche si des progrès supplémentaires ne seraient pas encore possibles dans le domaine administratif; en particulier une réduction des dépenses relatives à certains bureaux régionaux venant s'ajouter aux efforts déjà réalisés pourrait peut-être être envisagée.

Monsieur le Président, c'est à la lumière de l'ensemble de ces éléments, et notamment des informations complémentaires qui nous seront fournies par les services de l'Organisation, que le Gouvernement français arrêtera sa position définitive.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): First I would like to thank the Director-General for this lucid introduction of this very important agenda item.

Before going into the content of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget my delegation would like to make some important observations on the way that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget has been presented. We notice with appreciation that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget which is now before us has shown improvement as compared with the previous one in the way that effort has been made to facilitate a better understanding among the Member Governments regarding the various activities which FAO intend to implement during the next biennium. At the same time I would like to say quite frankly that the present Summary Programme of Work and Budget still has various ambiguous points in its description which may need to be clarified. My delegation therefore wishes to encourage the Secretariat to continue its efforts for further improvement in the future presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget. In the course of scrutinizing this Summary Programme of Work and Budget my delegation contacted the Secretariat and requested further information and explanation on some of these points. Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to express its appreciation for the cooperation expended by the Secretariat at that time.

Having said this, I would like first to make some general remarks about the 1986-87 Summary Programme of Work and Budget. In Section V, Strategies and Priorities for 1986-87, paragraph 5.13 states: "the Director-General re-affirmed his four principal aims in priority selection: promotion of food production, increase in food security, achievement of impact at field level, and enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries". My delegation, as it has already expressed its support at the last session of COAG, shares the view of the Director-General regarding these priority areas and therefore lends its support to this.

Paragraph 5.43 and the following paragraphs indicate the priorities in means of action, such as improvement of data bases, training, TCDC, ECDC, and TCP. My delegation, taking into account the expertise and knowledge of FAO, as well as the need expressed by the international community, recognizes that these priorities in means of action are all appropriate except for TCP. In this connection my delegation wishes to express its full support of paragraph 5.44, which reads:

"It is perhaps primarily as a unique potential source of information at the service of its Member Governments and the public at large that FAO was viewed by its founders forty years ago. FAO has accumulated an unrivalled capital of information in the large number of fields and disciplines under its constitutional mandate. The Director-General intends to continue the process of consolidating these efforts."

We think that the Global Information and Early Warning System is one of the good examples of such action. With regard to TCP, my delegation would like to express its views a little later on.

The proposed budget shows a net programme change of US\$ 6.23 million, or a 1.4 percent net increase. My delegation fully recognizes the effort made so far by the Secretariat in order to reduce the net increase by cutting the resources allocation for the less priority areas, such as in Chapter 1 on the Technical and Economic Programmes and Chapter 6 on the Common Services. Furthermore, we can generally support the direction taken by the Director-General to increase the resources allocation in Chapter 2 on the Technical and Economic Programmes, which is the core activity of FAO.

Seeing the tremendous need in the field of food and agriculture, forestry and fisheries, one may say that a net increase of 1.4 percent is minimal. However, we feel that there is a possibility to reduce this figure even more down to zero growth. We also recognize that resources are limited and what we could do is to try to utilize in the best way possible the limited resources in the priority areas. Bearing this in mind my delegation would like to make some specific comments on the way in which the resources have been proposed to be used in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

First, non-recurring items. In the course of examining the Summary Programme of Work and Budget my delegation has often come across descriptions which read as follows: "Resources stemming from non-recurring items have been re-programmed." Although the total amount of non-recurring items is not mentioned in the document, it seems that FAO could have available some \$US 13 to 14 million which could possibly be allocated for new activities. This amount represents more than 3 percent of the current budget. We understand that the non-recurring items are to be considered by their very nature as activities which have no need to be continued any more. Therefore the resources stemming from these items should not be taken as if they were authorized to be reallocated automatically to new activities. The reallocation should be made only for the utmost priority areas. However, throughout the Summary Programme of Work and Budget only a few explanations have been provided as to their new uses. This can hardly allow us to judge whether or not the reallocations are justifiable. My delegation therefore wishes to receive some comprehensive information regarding this matter when the full Programme of Work and Budget is presented to us. In this connection my delegation would like to suggest to the Secretariat to use more tables and figures rather than complicated descriptions.

Turning to my second remark, Chapter 7 on Contingencies, although the contingencies reserve is expected to increase \$200 000 up from \$600 000, it is only mentioned that the reason being is merely to bring the increase in line with the overall budgetary level of FAO's Regular Programme. Therefore my delegation would like to receive further justification from the Secretariat, particularly in regard to the information on the balance of this reserve from the past several biennia. In the meantime my delegation feels that this Chapter could be one of the possible areas where a reduction of resources is needed.

Now I would like to briefly touch on the Technical Cooperation Programme. According to the document the budget allocated to TCP is expected to increase by 4.2 percent while the total overall increase for the next biennium is 1.4 percent. Subsequently, the share of TCP will further increase from 13.6 percent to 14 percent. Although we recognize the important role of TCP in the field of emergency assistance, at the same time my delegation repeatedly has expressed its concern over the sharp increase of TCP in the total budget. The reasons are as follows.

First, TCP is a UN-programme reserve, while the other provisions come under programming budget systems. This means that Member Governments have no specific measure to check the expenses of TCP. Furthermore, there is a problem of transparency. In this connection, my delegation is very much looking forward to receiving the report mentioned in paragraph 5.69 of the document.

Secondly, we believe that coordinated activities among the various United Nations agencies at field level could mainly be achieved through effective allocations of UNDP funds. Therefore, in principle we are not in favour of the fact that each specialized agency has its own resources for development projects and has a regular budget.

Thirdly, we have been unable to obtain from the document information regarding the actual basis which would justify an increase of exactly \$2.435 million. On the other hand, we have noticed that about \$21 million was carried forward to the current biennium and that at the end of 1984, only \$10 million had been used out of the \$57 million allocated as provision for the current biennium. Therefore, we think that TCP is another possible area where reduction of resources can be made.

Before I conclude my statement, I would like to stress that in spite of the remote sign of recovery of the world economy, we are still facing a very difficult economic and financial situation. This is particularly the case with regard to the financial situation of many governments. Taking as an example our own experience, the government of Japan has been keeping the nominal budget growth at almost zero level under the financial reconstruction programme, which means a severe cut in expenditure in real terms. In fact, the travel expenses for government officials have been frozen for several years. This means that when my colleagues come from our capital to Rome for FAO, they are usually obliged to buy discount air tickets instead of travelling business class. I wonder whether FAO have examined such kinds of alternatives in order to economise on its expenditures.

When the resources are depleted we should try and use them more rationally and effectively. In spite of the tremendous problem which FAO is currently having to deal with we shall continue our efforts in this direction. We believe that by doing so FAO can obtain zero real increase in the budget without jeopardizing the activities of the priority areas.

Even though the final decision of my country on the proposed budget will be finalized after further examination of the full Programme of Work and Budget which will be studied at the Eighty-eighth Council and the Twenty-third Conference, we believe that there exists further possibilities to improve the present Summary Programme of Work and Budget. My delegation cannot go along with views that this Summary Programme of Work and Budget consists of a sound basis for preparing the full Programme of Work and Budget. We believe that the best way to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of FAO is to show the world that FAO is a good example of effectiveness and efficiency among the United Nations Agencies.



A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I do not want to discuss in detail the proposed budget submitted by the Secretariat since we have already examined it extensively in the Finance Committee. But I do believe that the budget has been prepared very wisely and in a very flexible manner by the Director-General, assisted by the Secretariat. We do know the amount of pressure to which the Director-General has been subjected while preparing the budget. He strove not to diminish the programs and activities carried out under this budget. He also took care to maintain the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization, and to allow it to continue to carry out its honourable task.

We are also aware of the amount of pressure put by the Director-General on all people working in this Organization under his instructions so that the total value of the budget, would not be diminished because the Director-General knows the world economic situation, and the importance in such circumstances to take into account needs of all member countries. The Delegation of Saudi Arabia now feels great sympathy towards the Director-General because of the difficult situation he and his organization are facing. The Director-General has to take into account three important considerations; the first relates to the fact that all States, without exception, are calling upon this Organization to give the highest priority to Africa, a continent suffering from a grave situation due to famine. This appeal, which we all made, is based on humanitarian considerations and is very realistic. It is only natural that the Director-General should respond to it. It is also a legitimate right for Africa and the African peoples to be given highest priority.

The second consideration which the Director-General had to face and take into account is that all countries in other regions are calling upon him not to cut down programmes addressed to their regions. They do urge him strongly, and insistently to increase the FAO's contributions and activities directed towards their regions. Undoubtedly this is also the legitimate right of these countries, particularly as they expect it from an Organization which has played a leading role in the field of food and agriculture. In fact, it is the pioneering organization in this field.

The third consideration is that some countries which are developed in terms of the level of their industry and of their agriculture, and which are highly developed in general, are asking the Director-General to cut down the proposed budget, or more precisely to make it grow at zero rate. Not only that, but these same highly developed countries have asked the Organization to carry out activities and implement additional programmes which are beneficial to developing countries; such as, the Code of Conduct, genetic resource engineering, etc. These States have called upon the Organization to carry out such additional activities financed from its regular budget. These are three considerations which the Director-General has to take into account. He has to find some magic formula to respond to these three considerations. We do not believe that he has such a magic formula.

The Director-General has confirmed many times that it would be possible for this Organization to respond to the first or the second consideration. However, we believe that the Organization could also respond to the three considerations because, the planned increase in this budget is a zero rate increase. Therefore, the three considerations can be taken into account if we approve the proposed budget. We do hope that this budget will be approved and that these three considerations will be taken into account on the basis of the slight proposed increase.

The delegation of my country does not accept and has completely objected to any administrative expansion in any international organization which causes bureaucratic complications and limits production. In the meantime we do support sincerely any technical expansion which has beneficial effects on developing countries.

As we all know very well, this pioneering organization under the able leadership of this hardworking Director-General is pursuing the path of limiting any unnecessary expansion of its administration. Administrative expansion, as we all know, has been constantly limited and reduced to a minimum by the Director-General. The Director-General has promised many times that he will continue to limit any further expansion of the administrative structure, despite the fact that this is a specialized agency which relies mainly on specialists and professionals. However, we find that since he assumed his post, the Director-General has continuously striven to put the RIGHT man in the RIGHT position, and there is an abundant evidence here of a good administration combined with an attempt to attain the highest productivity for this Organization.

We also note the large savings made by the Director-General in the previous budget. Such savings could have been used in various ways by the Director-General since the previous budget has been already approved, but the Director-General did not do that. He proposed only to reallocate some of those economies for the benefit of countries facing the spectre of famine and malnutrition. This is another demonstration of the efficiency and wisdom of the Director-General.

Regarding the first and second considerations which I have mentioned, the delegation of my country can only approve this proposed budget with the modest increase, and we hope that it will be approved unanimously for the benefit of the most needy peoples.

J.M. WATSON (Panamá): Llegamos al importante tema que cada dos años este Consejo discute durante el primer semestre de los años impares. La discusión del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que se refiere al marco dentro del cual el Director General de esta Organización proyecta para el próximo bienio, lo que reviste siempre especial importancia y, a juicio de esta delegación, en esta oportunidad la discusión se da cuando existen situaciones particularmente graves que hemos estado analizando durante la presente semana y que tienen que ver fundamentalmente con la situación económica y financiera, en general, y muy en particular con las situaciones alimentaria y agrícola que se viene a caracterizar por escasez, por una parte, y la abundancia por la otra.

Tomando en cuenta estas consideraciones, la delegación de Panamá desea precisar en esta primera intervención de carácter general, lo siguiente:

Primero, consideramos realmente como un verdadero logro que tanto este Consejo como la Conferencia haya rechazado la teoría del crecimiento cero que se quiso aplicar en la preparación del Programa presupuesto de esta Organización. Reitero, que este rechazo se mantiene, y se mantiene, indudablemente, gracias a la eficacia y economías que en su administración en general, ha logrado esta Organización.

En segundo lugar no hay dudas de que la discusión de los Comités más importantes que asesoran a este Consejo, y en los cuales se han discutido aspectos referentes al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio, ha existido una clara aceptación de los principales aspectos en que se fundamenta este Programa, así como las prioridades y estrategias propuestas. Esto lo pudimos constatar en las recientes pasadas reuniones de los Comités de Agricultura y Pesca. Y es frente a esta aceptación de prioridades y estrategias de los Programas de esta Organización, que mi Delegación ha planteado con anterior oportunidad y lo hace en ésta, que no le resulta fácil entender cómo se aceptan las mismas y luego se regatean al máximo cualquier incremento que se desea realizar en el Presupuesto. Las dificultades, señor Presidente, debo de comprender están en incongruencia y las seguimos teniendo.

En tercer lugar, reconocemos el esfuerzo y la habilidad del Director General y sus colaboradores en la preparación del Programa presupuesto, específicamente durante los dos últimos bienios, esfuerzos y habilidades que han consistido en la disminución de gastos administrativos, así como de eliminación de posiciones aparejado esto al reforzamiento de los Programas Técnicos y Económicos; pero a nuestro juicio, este ejercicio ha llegado al límite, porque creemos que de continuar se atenta contra la eficiencia del funcionamiento de esta Organización y creemos que los que apoyan las prioridades y estrategias en los Programas no pueden, lógicamente, querer esta falta de eficiencia. Así, tenemos que reducir una vez más en 3 750 000 dólares el sector administrativo de apoyo y aspectos no técnicos y con estos recursos ahorrados se ha contribuido a aumentar los Programas técnicos en 9 400 000 dólares; es decir, se han incrementado éstos en un 3.8 por ciento.

Por todo esto, señor Presidente, la delegación de Panamá no tiene dificultad en dar su aprobación al resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-1987 que se nos propone en el Documento CL 87/3; pero al dar nuestra aprobación a esta propuesta que viene a significar un aumento real neto con relación al bienio anterior del 1.4 por ciento, lo hacemos convencidos de que se trata realmente de un incremento simbólico y que es lo mínimo que se puede aceptar para una Organización como la FAO que se enfrenta a solicitudes crecientes por la situación que confrontar los países en vías de desarrollo, como bien se ha precisado en este Consejo y que atinadamente el Director General destacó al presentar el tema.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, no con cierto pesar, hemos escuchado las opiniones al Programa de Cooperación Técnica; esta delegación conoce de las ventajas de este Programa y su capacidad en el suministro de asistencia rápida y eficaz que demandan nuestros países. Comprendemos que ciertos países desarrollados no entienden la ayuda que este Programa representa al llenar lagunas en los Programas de Asistencia para el Desarrollo.

Por último, señor Presidente, esperemos los resultados de la evaluación del cual nos habla el párrafo 5.69 y no prejuzguemos.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): Mr Chairman, I wish to thank the Director-General and the Chairman of the Programme and Finance Committees for the clear introductory remarks which they made on the documents before us. I wish to assure the Director-General that my delegation has welcomed the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 with interest and appreciation, particularly because a number of changes appear to be an improvement over the 1984-85 budget.

To highlight one of these changes, it is heartening to note that the Technical Cooperation Programme has risen from 4.8 percent in 1984-85 to 5.8 percent of the budget in 1986-87 in respect of Support Services, Common Services, Contingencies and Policy and Direction.

It is my sincere hope that with the improvement in manpower development in Africa in particular we will see an ever-increasing budget on the Technical Cooperation Programme in place of Common Services and Contingencies and Policy and Direction.

While appreciating the efforts of the Director-General to keep the Development Support Programmes at an effective momentum, we learn with regret of the decline of external assistance for development as described in paragraphs 2.15 and 2.16 on page 4 of document CL 87/3. Those who have been instrumental in this decline will, I hope, change the direction of their policies to improve the prospects for the poorest countries beyond those at the moment.

With particular reference to the African situation, which is described in the document as grimmest, we have during the previous sessions highlighted our views and comments on what needs to be done to improve the situation in the short term and in the long term. If our proposals meet with favourable response the situation will improve. Paragraphs 2.17 to 2.20 at pages 4 and 5 of this document should therefore be regarded as a challenge both to donors and recipient countries whose efforts must be complementary if the food crisis is to be solved.

It is proper for me to voice our concern about the lack of support that donors are giving to IFAD and IDA. This Council meeting should seriously consider this development as a major setback in our coordinated efforts to get out of the grimmest situation in the African region. Paragraph 3.5 at page 6 of this document clearly spells this out. My delegation is of the view that those donors who can help should do so and should not withhold their assistance on the basis of the burden-sharing principle.

The need is there and should be met through human goodwill. It is, however, gratifying to know that this is not the case in every sector. I note with appreciation in paragraph 3.11 on page 7, the consideration which our Hosts, the Government of Italy, is showing by increasing its Trust Funds to our rescue - this is a move which the African region deserves at this moment in time.

My delegation has noted with regret that the payment of assessed contributions from Member Nations is in arrears to a total amount of \$14.3 million. This is one Organization which has our problems at heart and which is doing its level best to get us out of them. I would solicit for those Member Countries in arrears to consider fulfilment of their commitment: it is money paid for a justified cause.

From the foregoing it goes without saying that my delegation supports in toto the Harare Declaration of the Regional Conference for Africa as presented in 5.6 on page 11.

Regarding priorities of selection of programmes of action, I wish to appeal to the Director-General to make his choices more judicious by considering priorities of individual countries on the one hand and complementing these with the Organization's priorities. It may be that we will achieve our objectives better if more consideration is given to national requirements. In saying this I am particularly objecting to the approach indicated in 5.11 on page 12, mainly because problems differ from one place to another and from one country to another and so on. We fully endorse the views of the Director-General that, in view of the continuing severe crisis and the greater needs of African regions for assistance, an even larger portion of the Organization's resources than heretofore will be channelled towards work for Africa. Africa needs those and that help must be given at the proper time, which is this moment.

With regard to paragraph 5.21 on page 14, I wish to request that the case for my country should be given special consideration, in that my country has been waiting for a long time to have an FAO office in Malawi. The progress we have made in the field of agriculture deserves special consideration, as we now move vigorously towards emphasizing the nutrition aspect of our target of self-sufficiency in food security. I would ask the Director-General to consider this appeal.

My delegation wishes to endorse the Programme priorities described from paragraphs 5.22 to 5.42, and priorities in the means of action from 5.43 to 5.75. If savings are to be found, these should come from contingency items - the TCP should not be reduced, in our opinion.

Finally, may I express my full support of the Budget in respect of the increased support to and special programme emphasis on African regions, especially the Director-General's proposal to transfer an amount of up to \$15 million to Chapter 4, Technical Cooperation Programme, from other budgetary chapters, in order to fund projects for the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa (paragraph 1.8 of document CL 87/4), provided it is used for actual productive work rather than merely supporting technical assistance personnel.

J. DIAZ YUBERO (España): Quiero agradecer al señor Director General la presentación que ha realizado así como a los Presidentes de los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas. Quiero agradecerle el esfuerzo que me consta ha realizado para que el crecimiento del presupuesto se haya limitado al nivel presentado. Estamos de acuerdo con el incremento de los gastos destinados a los Programas principales, con la política de transferencia de recursos de la Sede al campo y con el aumento de recursos destinados a Africa.

También estamos identificados con los objetivos de fomentar la producción, mejorar la seguridad alimentaria, conseguir resultados sobre el terreno y promover la cooperación económica y técnica de los países en desarrollo que han sido enunciados por usted.

El método de preparación del documento nos parece correcto pero quizá debiera haberse especificado más algunos aspectos, especialmente aquellos subprogramas que afectan a conceptos a veces no totalmente homogéneos como pueden ser los puntos 2.1.6.3 que trata de normas alimentarias y calidad de alimentos o el 2.3.1.3 sobre conservación y fauna silvestre y alguno más que hay en este mismo sentido.

Agradecemos la disminución de gastos en el Capítulo 1.1.1 que seguramente también se podría hacer en el 1.1.2 y todo ello sin necesidad de disminuir el número de reuniones haciéndolas más cortas y siguiendo las propias instrucciones de FAO, en cuanto a duración de las intervenciones, agradecimientos, felicitaciones, etc.

Los niveles de gastos son altos. A nivel nacional se hace todo lo posible por reducirlos y el mismo tratamiento pedimos para las Organizaciones Internacionales. Mi país está dispuesto a hacer sacrificios, está dispuesto a aumentar la ayuda a los que sufren, a los países en desarrollo como acabamos de hacerlo con el Plan de Rehabilitación de la Agricultura en Africa.

No nos vamos a manifestar definitivamente hasta tanto no podamos disponer del documento final, del definitivo, pero sugerimos que se puedan hacer ciertas modificaciones que corrijan el incremento como por ejemplo eliminar la solicitud de los 800 mil dólares de imprevistos en este bienio que hasta la fecha no se han utilizado.

Tenemos una gran incógnita que no sabemos cuál será el tipo de cambio que se aplicará al dólar respecto a la lira, sí sabemos que el encarecimiento del dólar supone para nuestro país un incremento importante del costo de la cuota en nuestra moneda. Por estos motivos preferiríamos que se aceptasen el criterio de crecimiento real cero, sobre todo adoptándolo como filosofía que lleva aparejado un más eficaz control del gasto.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): My delegation has carefully studied both the Programme of Work and Budget of 1986-87 and the reports of the Programme and Finance Committees. We agree with the Committees that the Council should endorse the strategies and priorities proposed by the Director-General for 1986-87, because they were in accordance with the policy guidance of the Conference and Council and took into account recommendations of the Regional Conferences, and the Council's Technical Committees, as well as those of other intergovernmental bodies within the UN system.

However, we would like to make some comments on two specific points.

The first comment will deal with the proposed budget level. In this connection we would like to recall that at the Twenty-first and Twenty-second FAO Conferences, the Thai delegation had to support the proposed budget at a very low level, since at that time the world was in the economic recession period. Then, we have to accept that our Organization should maintain a minimum level of programme activities. This year the situation is much different from that period. A recovery is now underway in the developed world, while there is a serious food crisis in Africa as is well known to all delegations in this Council. The African region needs more assistance from FAO. At this point my delegation would like to refer to the FAO Basic Texts which indicate that one of the main purposes in the establishing of this Organization is to ensure humanity's freedom from hunger. In this connection, my delegation agrees with the Director-General in his focus on the critical situation in Africa and the special requirements for assistance to the African continent. It is fully justified that the priority given not only for the relief assistance to Africa, but also for rehabilitation through longer term assistance programme which is to help redress the deep structural problems faced by African agriculture. We also concur with the Programme Committee that there was no substitute for FAO's unique role in responding to Member Nations requirements. Therefore, my delegation is of the opinion that the real programme increase should be higher than 1.4 percent and we recommend that this increase should be at least 2 percent.

Our second comment relates to the percentage distribution of the Budget. We are not happy with the budget proposal for the TCP which is limited only to 14 percent of the total budget.

Mr Chairman, Thailand attaches great importance to the Technical Cooperation Programme since it came into operation in 1976. As a representative of a recipient country, the Thai delegation has always emphasized that TCP is an important instrument enabling the FAO to respond promptly to urgent requests for assistance from governments. The TCP also helps in filling the gap in the range of the technical assistance that is so important for the developing countries.

Today, we would like to confirm again that this Programme has always responded promptly to emergencies and to the needs and priorities of governments. It is also an instrument in promoting TCDC through support to regional networks of national institutions.

We therefore hope that all Members of this Council, especially distinguished delegates from developed countries, will listen and lend their support to us.

Mr Chairman, at this juncture, I would like to draw your attention to page number 100 of the document CL 87/3. The table indicates that since 1976 the number of TCP projects have been increased continuously. This fact confirms our statement. Unfortunately there is evidence indicating that the budgets for TCP have not always been sufficient. You may look at paragraph 3.31 on page no. 32 of the document CL 87/4 regarding the Director-General's proposal to transfer savings of up to US \$15 million from other expenditure to the TCP.

Although the Finance Committee has already approved the above proposal to transfer the other budgetary items to the TCP, we still can see that a great number of requests for TCP are now being delayed due to financial constraint. This is good evidence to confirm my statement.

My delegation would like to appeal to the members of this Council to consider my delegation's proposal to increase the level of real programme and to readjust the already allocated budget accordingly.

As we foresee it this budget increase proposal will not cause any financial constraints to the members of this Organization, as earlier mentioned in the opening statement by the Director-General.

Last but not least, the distinguished delegates of this Council may have witnessed the significant reduction from other extra-budgetary resources which play the valuable complementary role to the TCP, such as UNDP, IDA and IFAD.

I believe, therefore, my modest proposal will not be interpreted as an exaggerated one.

A.F. de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Brazilian delegation, I express my deep appreciation for the Director-General's introduction to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and for the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees extremely useful contributions to item 14 of the Agenda. I would like to reiterate our firm commitment to support FAO's efforts to help developing countries at a time when multilateral cooperation is being systematically questioned.

My delegation also reiterated support for the four aims envisaged by the Director-General in the priority selection for 1986/87 Programme of Work as stated in paragraph 5.13 of Document CL 87/3. Once more we stress the importance that Brazil attaches to ECDC and TCDC, one of those priority aims. FAO and other international organizations and bilateral donors could greatly enhance ECDC by their engagement in triangular transactions that procure items produced by developing countries in the implementation of the development projects. Our recommendation in this regard has recently been approved by the report of the Technical Consultation on ECDC in the supply and use of agricultural inputs held in Rome this month. We appreciate the frequent reference to ECDC and TCDC in the present proposals and their inclusion among the FAO major means of action, all of which deserve our deepest support such as data bases, training and technical cooperation. In general we agree with the change proposed for the programmes, especially the focus given to the technical and economic programmes. We have nevertheless some remarks to offer.

We fully support the continued emphasis on the major agriculture programme and the strengthening of some of its programmes such as crops, livestock, and research and technology development. We at present attach great importance to secondary crops as a way of substituting the consumption of imported commodities by locally produced items. We notice with satisfaction the emphasis given by FAO to this area.

On the other hand we feel that more potential could be given to the natural resource programme.

My delegation also took notice with concern at the relative decline of resource in the livestock production sub-programme and consequently in areas of interest to many developing countries as, for instance, small animal breeding.

We agree that attention should be given in this programme as well as in others to the often-mentioned small farmers, but with due consideration to the priority objective of increasing food production in the short term.

As regards the fisheries major programme, the Brazilian delegation endorses the priority areas indicated at page 81 of the document, but would also like to see due attention given to the evaluation of stocks which is of extreme importance for developing coastal countries.

We also want to mention our satisfaction with the establishment of a sub-committee on fish trade under the Committee on Fisheries, and look forward to participating in this work. On the other hand, Mr Chairman, we call attention of the Secretariat to the fact that the expression "shared stocks" was again used on pages 16 and 83 of the document CL 87/3. Since the drafting of the Report of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, it has been decided these expressions should be replaced by the equivalent wording of the Convention on the Law of the Sea which says "resources occurring within the exclusive economic zones of two or more coastal states". My delegation recalls that, cumbersome as it might be, that is the legal way to phrase the notion. I, therefore, ask the Secretariat to amend the text accordingly.

Mr Chairman, the Brazilian delegation reiterates its support to the high priority given to Africa in the Programme of Work and Budget.

We regret nevertheless the lack, in the documents, of indications, even on an approximate basis, of regional allocations. As it has been noticed elsewhere, Latin America agriculture goes through a difficult phase, which, and we hope it does not, could even indicate the beginnings of a serious problem in food production. It is essential that we should be able to correctly evaluate the amounts and uses of the scarce funds to be put at our disposal by FAO.

On the other hand, we deeply appreciated FAO's efforts in order to present us balanced budget proposals, based on main increases of the technical and economic programmes and on cutting, whenever possible, of expenses in other areas.

In this respect, I would strongly propose that no attempt be made to reduce the already modest levels of funds assigned to technical cooperation programmes, as it was suggested by a previous delegate. As well, we attach great importance to the regional offices which should not see a reduction in the resources at their disposal.

In this context, we welcomed the expressions of the Director-General regarding the Programme of Work and Budget. His words came to confirm what had been registered at document CL 87/3, that is "the financial consequences of the budgetary increase proposed for 1986-1987 can be expected to be largely, if not entirely, offset, by the possible cash surplus for currency gains and Miscellaneous Income 1984-85".

We stress these points because Brazil, as most developing countries, faces severe external economic constraints, mainly due to the heavy burden of our foreign debt servicing. We also have blatant regional imbalances in development: the Northeast of the country, an area as large as many nations, faces severe problems of food production and nutrition and suffers now from the effects of floods after protracted drought. It is, therefore, with sacrifice, that Brazil honours her contributions to international organizations, contributions sometimes not commensurate with her economic, financial and social problems. We will get back to this issue on the occasion of the discussion of item 16.2 of the agenda.

Notwithstanding our economic difficulties and the disproportionate share of our contribution to FAO, higher than that paid by many industrialized nations, Brazil presents her support to the 1986-87 Summary Programme of Work and Budget and recommends it as a basis for the preparation of the full Programme.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL:** One comment. I just want to express my great satisfaction at the statement made by the delegate of Brazil. For those who do not know it, Brazil pays 1.68 percent of the budget: much more than or as much as many developed countries who have adopted the zero growth approach to the budget, and I wanted therefore to take this opportunity to thank very much Brazil who has a big debt problem as we know, and who has not a surplus in trade of 30 or 50 million dollars like some countries who are recommending zero growth.

**REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh):** Mr Chairman, we would like to thank the Director-General for his frank and lucid introduction and to commend him for the extraordinary efforts he has undertaken in presenting his proposal for the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 86/87 Biennium. We also wish to thank the Chairmen of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee for their useful reports.

The Director-General's efforts have resulted in a format and presentation that is clear, concise and informative. The Summary of the main features is easily grasped and retained, and the evaluation of this Document evidently reflects extensive adjustments and reprogramming of resources all in direct response to the recommendations of this Council.

The Director-General's remarks on the world situation and background to his Summary Proposals placed in clear perspective the major rationale for FAO's Work Programme and Budget at continued, if not higher, levels of resources.

We fully concur with his perception of the world economic situation and in particular his analysis of problems affecting the food and agriculture sector.

For over three decades the international community has placed as a major priority on the global agenda the cause of economic development for the poorer countries of the world. A cause built around the twin pillars of accelerating just and equitable growth and alleviating poverty, particularly the absolute poverty that has placed hundreds of millions of people on the margins of survival. There is universal recognition that a prime mover to promote this cause in a great majority of the poorer countries revolves around the key sector of food and agriculture. It is also recognized that there is no substitute to FAO in responding to many of the felt needs of the Member Nations as the Programme Committee specifically recognizes.

While we welcome the many improvements at the global level, we cannot but be concerned at the fragility of the world agricultural situation and the continued uncertainty regarding prospects for sustained and non-inflationary growth which has had such a pronounced adverse bearing on many of the world's poorest countries, and has imposed upon them insupportable burdens which have been further exacerbated by external factors beyond their control, including the repeated incidence of natural calamities. The crisis in Africa and the recent national disaster in Bangladesh are but glaring symptoms of this malaise. It is therefore a matter of extreme concern that given this tenuous situation on the one hand, and the critical need to reinforce and sustain the process of development on the other, there appears to be some faltering some diminution in the will to cooperate and further the cause of development.

An immediate symptom is the decline in the overall trend of external assistance to agriculture, especially through multilateral concessional funds, as witnessed in the wellknown situation facing IFAD and IDA and the concessional windows of the Development Banks. In the specific context of the 1986-87 budget we are already cognizant of the severe constraints and reductions in its field programme activities which remain well below the levels of the late 1970s and early 1980s. This is particularly evident in the instance of the delivery by the FAO/UNDP programme which has seen a reduction from \$182 million in 1981 to barely \$110 million in 1982, and which in real terms is even more severe.

It seems to us ironic that there is unanimous endorsement and praise for the strategies and priorities proposed by the Director-General in pursuit of the four principal aims that he identified in shaping this proposal - namely, promotion of food production, increase in food security, achievement of impact at field level, and enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries - while at the same time there is increased insistence above and beyond the call for financial austerity and maintaining a zero or minus growth level on budget reserves. We believe that we should not confuse the issue of managerial efficiency and marginal savings with the overall lack of resources to meet the vast needs of the developing world. Emphasis on this aspect would be tantamount to allowing the tail to wag the dog.

We fully commend the Director-General's programme proposals, which are in fullest conformity with the guidelines, strategies and priorities approved by the Conference, the Council, the Regional Conferences and major inter-governmental and technical committees. We would like to record our fullest agreement on the concentration proposed for the Technical and Economic Programmes and the TCP component. In this latter context we eagerly await the findings of the independent evaluation of this Programme as also to express the view that the Technical Cooperation Programme should have been given a larger allocation precisely because of the immediacy of its impact and the unmet backlog of demands upon it.

We believe that that the Director-General's proposals on the budget are not only balanced but have indeed placed sufficient emphasis on the vital need for managerial efficiency and effectiveness. Given the already depleted prospects in the field programme activities, the nominal increase of Regular Programme resources is fully justified in our opinion for reasons advocated by the Director-General with what we consider patience, care and restraint, firstly because felt needs far exceed the level of resources prepared and the proposals represent an enforced compromise, secondly because nominal increases in net resources have been almost entirely met by substantial cuts in the administrative and support areas, and thirdly given the situation on exchange rates in the host country the proposals result in the same or even lower levels of contribution in dollar terms compared with the current biennium.

In endorsing the Director-General's proposals we join our voice to the caveat placed on effecting economy for the sake of economy without jeopardizing the delivery and impact of the Organization's programme. We believe that the needs of the developing world and the critical multiplier effect of the food and agriculture sector deserve and fully warrant a much higher level of resources. We can only commend the Director-General for his restraint. In conclusion, we endorse the Director-General's call that this Council support the level of resources proposed as a sound basis for the preparation of the final Programme of Work and Budget.

G. REDL (Austria): First I would like to thank the Director-General, Dr Saouma, for the excellent preparation and presentation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. My thanks go also to the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the Chairman of the Finance Committee for their reports.

The Austrian delegation studied document CL 87/3 with great interest.

In principle it may be pointed out that the definitive outline of the document, which enables a comparison to the Programme of Work and Budget 1984-85, is welcomed. In detail it may be commented as follows:

Austria principally appreciates that the priorities set in the last biennium - the promotion of food production, increase in food security, consolidation of information systems, intensification of training, and enhancing economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, and finally achievement of impact at field level - are continued. As regards regional focuses, it is welcomed that in the future Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 the African region is given particular priority.

We are fully aware of the fact that, according to the relevant FAO Regulations, the draft budget was based on an exchange rate of 1 US dollar equals 1 615 Lire. This rate seems, however, to be theoretical, since it does not correspond to the actual exchange relation. In line with the deliberations at the last Conference, updating of the \$/Lit. exchange rate is therefore expected with interest, because it will show a different picture. When submitting the draft Budget to the Conference, not only the \$/Lit. exchange rate, but also the inflation factor, should be considered.

It was furthermore noted with satisfaction that personnel cost could be further reduced and amount to only 54.3 percent, while in 1974-75 they still amounted to 77.2 percent.

The increase of FAO's programme activities, under consideration of the priorities set up by the Director-General, is therefore advocated; in particular, strengthening of the activities in Chapter 2, Technical and Economic Programmes, and Chapter 4, Technical Cooperation Programme. Under Section III, Field Programmes, it was noted with regret that FAO/UNDP Programme decreased from \$167.1 million in 1980 to \$117 million in 1984. In spite of the increase of trust fund means from \$98.9 million to \$135 million, non-budgetary means decreased.

As regards the strategies and priorities for 1986-87, it was noted with satisfaction that the recommendations, in particular those by the FAO Regional Conferences, have been taken into account when planning the future work. In this context it may be pointed out that in a few days the World Forestry Congress will be held in Mexico City. It would be desirable, if the decisions of this meeting were, as required, also considered in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

With reference to the individual Chapters of the budget, it may be commented as follows:

Chapter 1: We welcome that within the framework of this Chapter a saving of US\$621 000 was proposed and hope that the meetings of the Conference and Council will be organized most economically.

Chapter 2: Under this Chapter mainly the deliberations of the Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries were taken into account. It is understandable that the greatest net increase will be in the agricultural programme. It was noted with satisfaction that this will be done in line with the priorities.

As concerns the work in Chapter 2.1.7, Food and Agriculture Information and Analysis, we should proceed more economically and avoid any form of duplicity. The increase in the sector 2.1.2, Crops, is appreciated and corresponds to the deliberations in the Committee on Agriculture, where in particular a medium-term planning of FAO activities was welcomed. Concerning the scientific network activities in the European region, I would like to support what the distinguished delegate of Czechoslovakia mentioned so eloquently. As regards Section 2.3, Forestry, we were pleased to note that more importance is attached to the activities in the field of Forest Resources and Environment. We hope that within the framework of this Chapter also the results of the World Forestry Conference will be considered. It was noted with particular satisfaction that the training activities both in agriculture and forestry are given special attention.



I now turn to Chapter 3. Also the statements in Section 3.4, FAO Representatives, page 99, were noted with satisfaction, while in Section 3.2.2, Investment Support Programme, a reduction of the means was found.

With reference to Chapter 4, Technical Cooperation Programme, it may be remarked that, as you know, the TCP should enable FAO to give prompt assistance to member countries. It is therefore suggested to consider the African Region particularly in this programme.

Under Chapter 5, Support Services, the increase in Section 5.2, Administration, and in particular Section 5.2.4, Personnel Services, seems to be relatively high. I would like to ask you to explain the proposed cost increases.

G.E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): Deseo, señor Presidente, en primer termino, dejar constancia de nuestro reconocimiento por la labor realizada por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas y en forma muy particular a sus dos Presidentes que como de costumbre han sabido llevar adelante sus cometidos con eficiencia y con inteligencia.

La Argentina, como tuve ocasión de señalar durante las deliberaciones del Comité del Programa y las reuniones conjuntas con el Comité de Finanzas, ratifica su apoyo a las estrategias y prioridades propuestas para la Organización para 1986-87. Creemos que la misma responde nuevamente a las orientaciones y recomendaciones aprobadas en los distintos niveles de la Organización.

Vemos con gran satisfacción que el Director General de la FAO ha continuado sus esfuerzos para reducir la proporción de los gastos administrativos y de apoyo, así como las limitaciones impuestas en algunas actividades de baja prioridad en beneficio de los Programas Técnicos y Económicos. Esta política austera que lleva adelante el Director General de la FAO ha dado ya sus frutos y creemos que todos debemos reconocer que es una avanzada más en el sentido correcto.

Por supuesto, como lo han indicado algunas delegaciones, la Secretaría debe continuar por ese camino, aunque también debemos reconocer que hay ciertos límites en cuanto a los ahorros que eventualmente se podrían hacer sin que se afecte seriamente a los programas prioritarios de la FAO. Programas de los que muchos países nos beneficiamos y que nos resultan de gran utilidad para alcanzar un cierto nivel de desarrollo en el campo agropecuario y en el de la seguridad alimentaria.

Sí deseo solicitar a la FAO que continúe reforzando sus actividades en el campo de la ganadería, de la hortofruticultura. Estas dos últimas, la hortícola y la fruticultura tienen una importancia creciente para los pequeños productores rurales y en algunos casos para la producción de subsistencia y creemos que la FAO podría ser de gran utilidad para el fomento de dichas actividades.

La Argentina, como es bien sabido, debe arrastrar la pesada carga de su deuda externa que consume gran parte de sus excedentes en la balanza comercial. Mi Gobierno ha iniciado un duro proceso de reajuste económico y financiero interno, que entre otros aspectos implica para 1985 una disminución sustancial del presupuesto nacional. A pesar de la difícil situación que atravesamos, he sido autorizado por mi Gobierno para respaldar el nivel presupuestario para el próximo bienio.

Entendemos que el incremento del 1,4 propuesto está justificado desde el punto de vista técnico y constituye una demostración de que la Comunidad Internacional no es insensible al grave cuadro alimentario que se presenta en distintas zonas del mundo y particularmente en Africa.

Aprovecho la oportunidad para señalar también nuestro apoyo a la solicitud que la Secretaría nos hace para la transferencia de fondos entre partidas o capítulos con el objeto de poder atender con urgencia las necesidades financieras del Programa de Rehabilitación de la Agricultura en Africa.

Mi delegación, señor Presidente, actúa siempre con absoluto respeto hacia las distintas posiciones que los Países Miembros asumen en la práctica, sin embargo debo confesar que en esta ocasión me resulta difícil comprender la posición de aquellos que se oponen y en qué forma, a un incremento presupuestario relativamente modesto. Y ni la cifra involucrada lo justifica ni es coincidente, obviamente, con la actitud positiva que ha asumido, por lo menos otro organismo internacional.

Por eso, señor Presidente, me permito con todo respeto, solicitar, y al mismo tiempo confiar que a la luz de los debates se mire nuevamente esa posición y nos permitan aprobar en noviembre por unanimidad el Programa de Presupuesto para el bienio 1986-87. Creemos que la FAO lo merece y la situación internacional así lo requiere.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation appreciates very much the very lucid introduction of the documentation which was given to us by the Director-General, and also the contributions of the Chairmen of the relevant Committees. We have read and listened carefully to the background overviews of the world economy which have undoubtedly influenced the general direction taken by the Director-General in moulding the budget which has been presented to us.

The very first blue chart in the document, "Programme Changes by Chapter", is very impressive.

My delegation fully supports the shift in the sources from common services and development support programmes and the resulting increased allocations to technical and economic programmes.

From its initial conception, the TCP has been the object of extraordinary attention from some delegations. We trust that no-one will do or suggest anything to reduce its effectiveness, flexibility or rapid response capability. If it has some excess funds at this time we do not suggest that it be chiselled away. The shrinking of the budget of the Director-General may well necessitate him digging deeper into TCP funds.

Our delegation supports the view that the Director-General must stay with his four principal aims which are applied in priority selection of programmes. They are set out at paragraph 5.13 on page 12 and need not be repeated. We wish to mention a few elements of the overall programme activity for special support. First, economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. If used judiciously this programme could help to reduce the cost of achieving the desired result in agricultural development, especially at field level.

Second, programmes which focus attention on rural women, recognizing their critical contribution as primary producers; these are really worthy of support. Then we come to farming systems development, water development management, research and technology development, agricultural policy analysis and fishery exploitation and utilization - these are simply a few areas in which we feel there can be no let-up in emphasis. But we do support the broad strategies in general.

I would like to make a brief comment on shall we say the dollar aspect of the budget. My delegation has listened carefully to the various contributions on this matter. Almost no-one wants to pay more money to the international organizations today. Most economies are in serious trouble -both the oil producers and the non-oil producers. This means we have to be careful, even if we try to be magnanimous. We cannot try to deal with the matter by mere power of numbers. One other speaker has suggested this afternoon that we take note of discernible trends elsewhere.

I am of the opinion that I have heard a particular policy line emerging from this debate today. It would seem as if what is being said by some governments is that we are not reducing; in fact we are increasing our funding for technical assistance in agriculture, but under our own terms and conditions, largely by bilateral programmes. Therefore, we are not giving any more to FAO at least at this time. Consequently FAO must function on zero growth.

The real circumstances are indisputable, non-debatable, not lacking in moral fervour or general principle. They indicate that the current situation in food and agriculture requires that nothing be done to reduce FAO's programme of activities. In fact, it should be increased.

My delegation would also like to avoid our Government having to find more money after the November Conference, but we accept there are hard facts which would suggest otherwise and which can be illustrated, preferably on paper.

My delegation is impressed with the total effort of the Director-General in producing the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the 1986/87 biennium. Is there another agency which has demonstrated this kind of approach? Our delegation supports the proposed programme and taking into account these comments which have been made as to what adjustments may - and I repeat may - be possible, we trust the Director-General will present to us in November a budget which will be unanimously approved. We cannot in all fairness, expect him to do more.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We would like to thank the Director-General for his all-embracing exposition of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986/87 contained in document CL 87/3. We would also like to express the appreciation of our delegation to the two Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for their outstanding work. I do not want to repeat what has already been said over and over again. I shall therefore make a few brief observations.

My delegation has been extremely disappointed in listening to some of the distinguished delegates, especially because they represent countries who are known for their generosity and support of noble ideals and international cooperation.

The Director-General, in his opening statement on Monday last, informed the Council of the various factors that have influenced his proposals in the next biennium. He has been deeply conscious of the uncertain global economic situation, and has therefore presented a budget with the major programme impact and with minimum budgetary increase wherein administrative costs have been reduced to boost the substantive programmes; wherein the main priorities have been fully taken into consideration; wherein Africa continues to be the special focus of FAO programmes and activities and finally, wherein cost increases have been further chopped.

In a veritably skilfull manner, a cut of approximately 3.7 million US dollars has been effected in non-technical, administrative and support areas, and this money has thus been directed towards the refurbishing of technical programmes, the technical programmes which the Director-General in his statement to the joint session of the Programme and Finance Committees termed as the raison d'être of the FAO. We appreciate the relentless efforts of the Director-General in assuring the highest levels of organizational efficiency in the overall working of FAO and the management of the FAO Regular and Field Programmes. We also appreciate the four cardinal principles and priorities round which his proposals have been built, namely, the promotion of world food production, increase in world food security, impact on food levels enhancing ECDC and TCDC.

I wear two hats, one as a member of the Programme Committee and the other as representative of my Government from Islamabad. As a member of the Programme Committee we worked to the end of our bones to give shape to a balanced Programme of Work and Budget, which was unanimously endorsed by this Council.

But now, as the representative of my Government, I have difficulty with this document because it promises so little in terms of increase in financial assistance to the agricultural sector of developing countries. The idea of no growth, zero growth, is intolerable and unacceptable to my delegation, especially when it is addressed to a specialized agency like FAO in the United Nations system which occupies pride of place for its most valuable service in eliminating all hunger and malnutrition from our world. It is unfair to an organization with such an excellent track record. Therefore, my delegation urges the Director-General that the policy of further reduction will not be pursued at the cost of weakening the essential fabric of technical programmes and adversely affecting the efficiency of this unique Organization engaged in the service of mankind. Reduction thus far, but no further. With these observations, my delegation endorses the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as a sound basis for the preparation of the full programme for the biennium 1986-87 for presentation to the forthcoming Conference without any reduction.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Agradecemos al señor Director General de la FAO por su magnífica declaración introductoria y felicitamos a los Presidentes del Comité del Programa de Finanzas por sus informes y su impecable labor.

Al analizar el documento CL 87/3 la delegación de México expresa que el diagnóstico que se incluye en él, completado y matizado por el Director General, es muy adecuado.

Efectivamente, la situación económica mundial se caracteriza por la permanencia o profundización de la crisis en casi la totalidad de los países en desarrollo que sufren un estancamiento económico permanente con altas tasas de desempleo, ritmo elevado de inflación, fuga de capitales y gran escasez de divisas ya que la mayoría de ellas se dedican al pago del servicio de la deuda y a crecientes importaciones de alimentos.

Asimismo el mercado de los productos básicos está muy deteriorado y no ha habido respuesta positiva a los esfuerzos de cooperación internacional o de diálogo Norte/Sur ni a la solicitud de dar al problema de la deuda externa un tratamiento político de alto nivel.

En este contexto los organismos internacionales adquieren una validez especial, ya no solo como foros de discusión, sino como catalizadores de la cooperación económica y del diálogo. Es precisamente por esta razón que México reafirma su fe en el multilateralismo y apoya todo esfuerzo que se haga para fortalecer los diferentes componentes del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, teniendo presente además las necesidades de perfeccionarlo y optimizar su eficiencia.

Para ser congruentes el gobierno de México, a pesar de sus dificultades económicas y de los programas de austeridad internos, apoya desde ahora en este Consejo las propuestas hechas por el Director General, ya que las considera realistas al conciliar prioridades con recursos disponibles. Considera, además, que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio en los niveles propuestos no podrá interpretarse como precedente de cualquier tendencia futura orientada a limitar las asignaciones presupuestarias de los organismos internacionales.

Se debe hacer hincapié en que el modesto aumento propuesto es posible gracias a la reducción de los servicios administrativos. Al apoyar esta tendencia pensamos que no debe impedir que la FAO continúe efectuando los programas correspondientes.

Nuestro apoyo se fundamenta en que notamos que en el Programa se mantienen las mismas prioridades; en las estrategias y medios de acción se aumenta fundamentalmente los Programas técnicos y económicos, sobre todo proporcionalmente Pesca y Montes además del programa principal de agricultura, lo cual le da al mismo el enfoque pragmático requerido por algunas delegaciones.

Ya nos hemos referido en anteriores temas de la agenda a la importancia que concedemos a la utilización de los insumos para la producción de alimentos, que constituye una prioridad en el programa principal, y a la otra prioridad en seguridad alimentaria; es decir, el sistema mundial de información y alerta.

Al reafirmar la utilidad del PCT la delegación de México espera que la evaluación del mismo será un buen instrumento de trabajo cuando tratemos este tema durante la Conferencia.

En lo que se refiere a los recursos fitogenéticos, apoyamos especialmente el subprograma 2.1.2.3 sobre semillas y estamos totalmente de acuerdo con lo expresado por la delegación de la India.

Al respecto, quisiéramos preguntar a la Secretaría si los recursos que necesitará el recién creado subgrupo de trabajo están ya incluidos como previstos.

De la misma manera reiteramos la gran importancia que otorgamos a la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo y la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y por tanto quisiéramos que las actividades en ese rubro queden plasmadas en el Programa, no nos es muy fácil identificarlas en el formato actual a pesar de que en todos los Comités y Comisiones los países en desarrollo solicitamos que la FAO ponga efectivamente en práctica esta prioridad.

Señor Presidente, mi delegación otorga su apoyo y solidaridad a la gran importancia que se concederá a África en el próximo bienio, consciente también de que la universalidad que debe regir las actividades de la FAO se mantendrá en su justo medio.

Finalmente, subrayando el respeto que nos merece la posición autónoma y soberana de cada país, reiteramos junto con la totalidad de los países en desarrollo nuestra incompreensión por el rechazo de parte de muchos países desarrollados al nivel ya mínimo del presupuesto y su insistencia en aplicar la política de crecimiento cero a casi la totalidad del sistema de Naciones Unidas, en particular a la FAO. Nos parece incomprensible e injustificada esta actitud cuando los propios países industrializados están disfrutando del crecimiento más elevado en muchos años, ven las condiciones restrictivas de su economía reducirse y unidos, por ejemplo, en la OTAN están programando un aumento constante y efectivo en su presupuesto armamentista alrededor del 3 por ciento, lo que significa ya billones de dólares, y así se le niega a la humanidad toda la posibilidad de fortalecer el orden multilateral, que es el

único en el que hoy por hoy todos podemos dialogar en situación de igualdad sobre los aspectos trascendentales de nuestra situación crítica y expectativa de salida.

Abrigamos, señor Presidente, esperanzas de que para la Conferencia de la FAO en noviembre los países industrializados acepten el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto en la forma presentada, que resulta la más prudente y eficiente y que para los países que vivimos crisis profundas y prolongadas resulta a todas luces insuficiente. Decimos esto porque sabemos que tenemos la razón de la evidencia y de los principios de la convivencia universal.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous voudrions remercier le Directeur général pour nous avoir présenté un excellent document de base relatif au sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1986-87.

Nous avons beaucoup écouté et nous voudrions, en tant que membre du Comité du programme, ne pas nous limiter à examiner ici programme par programme. Nous l'avons fait avec suffisamment d'à propos au sein de ce Comité. Je pense qu'il nous convient de faire une analyse autre que celle technique.

Chacun sait que le monde vient de connaître une récession économique sans précédent qui a frappé tous les pays, même si les effets ont été plus désastreux pour les pays en développement. Il était donc concevable que, face à cette récession, des mesures restrictives de rigueur budgétaires aient été prises pour, d'une part amoindrir les effets de cette crise dans chacun de nos pays, et d'autre part s'organiser pour sortir de cette situation.

Nous savons que dès 1983 des signes évidents de reprise économique étaient perceptibles dans quelques pays développés, alors que la totalité des pays en développement restaient collés à la pauvreté et à une crise alimentaire qui allait conduire des millions d'êtres humains à la souffrance et à la mort. L'humanité entière s'est émue devant la crise africaine puisque c'est d'elle qu'il s'agit. Elle s'est organisée tant bien que mal pour sauver ce qui pouvait l'être, et l'on en est à regretter la perte de millions de vies humaines due à l'impréparation de la communauté internationale à faire face à une crise de grande ampleur.

Nous savons tous que la crise économique qu'a traversée le monde a exacerbé les égoïsmes des Etats et conduit à une baisse inexorable de l'aide à l'agriculture acheminée par les voies multilatérales ou bilatérales à des conditions de faveur.

Déjà en 1983, à la vingt-deuxième session de la Conférence, nous avons dû être sensibles aux arguments de ceux qui mettaient en avant le fait que la crise pouvait justifier une croissance quasi-nulle du niveau du budget 1984-85. A présent cet argumentation tombe, puisqu'il est largement admis que les pays développés sont sortis de la crise économique qu'ils ont connue, et qu'une relance de leur économie commence déjà à porter ses fruits puisque l'inflation, qui avait atteint des taux inquiétants, est maîtrisée dans la quasi-totalité de ces pays, même si on nous dit que le pays hôte affiche encore près de 9 pour cent d'inflation.

Nous savons également que le taux de chômage dont on met en avant les effets négatifs est lui-même un phénomène lié à la faiblesse encore patente des économies des pays en développement dont la dynamisation relancerait l'économie des pays développés.

Je voudrais dire que la reprise économique actuelle ne pourra porter ses fruits que lorsque les pays développés auront tous compris que nos économies sont interdépendantes et que leur aide aux pays en développement a des effets multiplicateurs qui dynamisent les économies de ces pays plus que celles des pays en développement. Il s'agit donc pour eux non seulement d'une aide mais d'un placement.

Je me devais de faire ce développement pour montrer aux pays adeptes de la trop célèbre et sinistre doctrine de la croissance zéro qu'il s'agit là d'un dogme désuet, inefficace et retardataire, qui ne profite à personne et qui, de toute évidence, appliqué à l'alimentation ne répond ni à la situation de crise alimentaire que nous connaissons notamment en Afrique, ni même aux objectifs de relance économique dont on nous parle. Tout au plus, il s'agit d'une doctrine qui souhaite prolonger la situation de crise qui continue à sévir dans le monde en développement et perpétue la domination des puissants sur les faibles, ce qui nous semble inacceptable et rend nécessaire et urgent l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique international plus juste et plus équitable.

Comme vous le savez, je suis membre du Comité du programme, je l'ai déjà dit, et je dois ici confirmer ce qu'ont dit les Présidents du Comité financier et du Comité du programme que je me fais le plaisir de féliciter au passage pour le sérieux avec lequel le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1986-87 a été analysé et présenté.

Cet examen qui est intervenu après la session de l'an dernier sur l'analyse d'exécution du Programme de la FAO a largement tenu compte de cette analyse. C'est pourquoi je ne puis, au nom de la délégation congolaise, que réaffirmer mon soutien au sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1986-87. En le faisant, je n'oublie pas qu'il s'agit ici d'un "minimum minimorum" que nous acceptons pour tenir compte des arguments des uns, y compris des tenants de la croissance zéro, car nous estimons que la croissance de 1,4 pour cent qui nous est proposée est beaucoup plus proche de la croissance zéro que ce que nous préconisons. Cela, nous l'avons admis dans un esprit de dialogue constructif qui doit animer les débats au sein de notre Conseil.

Ma délégation approuve les stratégies et priorités qui découlent de l'analyse profonde des objectifs menés par le Directeur général qui nous a clairement présenté ici le panorama exact de la situation mondiale ainsi que l'inventaire des multiples facteurs qui agissent négativement sur l'économie de tous les pays.

Ma délégation souhaite donc rendre hommage à l'effort de synthèse du Directeur général qui a dû tenir compte de toutes les opinions parfois très éloignées.

Monsieur le Président, le projet de Programme tel qu'il est présenté nous satisfait, mais nous pensons que les moyens qui sont proposés en limiteront la portée. Nous apprécions l'examen sur les problèmes techniques et économiques et nous approuvons les modifications qui ont été utiles pour aboutir à ce renforcement. Les efforts faits pour réduire les dépenses administratives et de gestion sont à notre avis très louables mais nous sommes d'accord avec le Comité du programme et le Comité financier qu'il faudrait désormais mettre un terme à cette diminution des ressources pour les services d'appui, car, à terme, l'efficacité de l'Organisation, et par conséquent sa crédibilité, pourraient s'en trouver compromises. Nous ne pensons pas que c'est le non-respect de la croissance zéro qui ferait perdre la crédibilité de la FAO mais plutôt le fait que la FAO n'atteigne pas les objectifs qu'on lui a fixés.

Il ne semble pas réaliste de marquer notre accord sur le Programme et d'indiquer un désaccord sur le niveau qui sous-tend ce Programme. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'un cynisme que nous ne pouvons pas qualifier. Ne pas vouloir une augmentation du niveau du budget et vouloir que le Programme se réalise est quelque chose d'inacceptable et je crois d'inefficace,

D'aucuns voudraient pour cela réduire les ressources du PCT. On se souvient que le Programme de coopération technique a eu du mal à s'imposer chez un certain nombre de pays. A présent, indéniablement des résultats de l'étude d'évaluation en cours, tous les pays sont d'accord pour reconnaître qu'il s'agit là d'un mécanisme irremplaçable pour la FAO et les pays membres en raison de sa mise en oeuvre rapide, surtout à un moment où l'Organisation doit faire face à des situations d'urgence.

Comme l'a dit un délégué ici, certains pays sont loin des théâtres d'opération de la FAO et par conséquent ne possèdent pas d'éléments objectifs de jugement. La réduction de ressources qu'on nous propose ici tout en gardant le programme nous semble inacceptable, car irréaliste. Mieux, nous voudrions le renforcement, c'est-à-dire le renforcement du PCT pour tenir compte de l'expérience actuelle qui est une expérience concluante.

On voudrait voir aussi supprimer les imprévus. Nous ne pensons pas qu'il s'agit là d'une meilleure façon de gérer. Les imprévus sont là et nous ne pensons pas que le Directeur général en fera un mauvais usage puisqu'il nous a déjà montré, au contraire, qu'il en a fait un très bon usage jusqu'à présent. Nous devons laisser assez de flexibilité au Directeur général qui, grâce à cette ligne d'imprévus peut faire face à des situations urgentes que nous n'aurions pas prévues. Quoiqu'il en soit il s'agit des fonds qui en cas de non utilisation nous sont retournés. Lorsqu'on sait avec quelle rigueur le Directeur général exécute le Programme et Budget de l'Organisation, je pense que l'on peut être tranquille pour dire qu'il continuera à déployer tous ses efforts pour, contenir les coûts. Nous partageons l'idée soutenue ici et qui vise à renforcer l'aide aux petits agriculteurs qui jouent un rôle important dans la production vivrière mais ne nous ne comprenons pas que ces mêmes délégations oeuvrent à présent contre la deuxième reconstitution des ressources du FIDA dont la mission est précisément d'aider les petits exploitants pauvres à accroître leur production rurale pour se procurer des revenus plus élevés et améliorer ainsi leurs conditions de vie sociale. Oui, nous pensons que là il s'agit d'un cynisme encore que nous ne pouvons le qualifier. Nous ne comprenons pas qu'ici on nous propose de ne point accroître les ressources du PCT alors que les ressources consacrées à l'armement dans leurs crédits budgétaires sont sans cesse accrues. Oui, je crois qu'il est important de devoir le dire.

Je souhaite également dire un mot sur la décentralisation pour l'appuyer et insister pour que l'on renforce les ressources des bureaux régionaux afin de leur faire jouer un rôle de plus en plus important dans les activités de terrain, même si certains d'entre eux gagneraient à être restructurés.

Nous sommes heureux que l'élément de formation soit présent dans la quasi-totalité des programmes de la FAO et chacun sait que l'Afrique tient beaucoup à l'aspect formation dans tous les programmes avec la FAO. Nous voudrions ici rappeler tout le bien que nous pensons quant au renforcement du système international d'alerte rapide. Nous connaissons son utilité et l'avons appréciée lorsque nous avons été frappés par la crise africaine, utilité qui a été patente et il est réjouissant que l'unanimité se soit faite autour de ce système. Nous espérons que ce système aidera les pays vulnérables à se prémunir contre les crises prévisibles.

Enfin nous aussi pensons que l'appel du Directeur général est bienvenu contre toutes les contraintes, il nous a présenté un sommaire de programme et budget dont la caractéristique essentielle est son impact sur le terrain. Nous espérons que tous les pays donateurs l'aideront à accroître au maximum cet impact en augmentant les ressources du fonds fiduciaire. De même le PNUD devra résolument accroître sa collaboration avec la FAO en confiant moins de projets à son bureau d'exécution dont nous savons qu'il accorde peu de place à l'élément formation. Ma délégation n'a pas de contre-doctrine à proposer quant à la croissance zéro car nous croyons qu'il est vain dans ce domaine d'être dogmatique. Nous modulerons notre proposition en fonction de la situation réelle et je suis même disposé à voter un budget en diminution si la situation s'améliore sensiblement en raison d'un accroissement approprié de la capacité de production, de stockage, de transformation et de distribution des aliments dans les pays en développement, qui assure ainsi une sécurité alimentaire à tous. En attendant nous devons nous résoudre à exiger de tous un effort dans un élément commun de solidarité humaine pour éradiquer la faim, la malnutrition et la misère.

Le sommaire du Programme et budget 1986-87 nous y conduit. Il nous fait faire un pas dans cette direction. Voilà pourquoi le minimum qui nous est proposé ne peut souffrir aucune autre réduction supplémentaire de niveau car il s'agit ici de donner à la FAO les moyens de mettre en oeuvre les priorités que semble-t-il nous appuyons tous. Nous ne partageons pas le point de vue de ceux qui pensent que la crédibilité de la FAO sortira renforcée si la croissance zéro était adoptée.

Enfin nous souhaitons féliciter une fois de plus le Directeur général pour avoir su mettre en oeuvre les directives contenues dans la résolution 1.86 adoptée par le Conseil en novembre dernier. En particulier nous nous félicitons de la décision prise récemment par le Comité financier d'affecter 15 millions de dollars pour relancer l'agriculture dans les pays sinistrés d'Afrique.

R.M. MUPAWOSE (Zimbabwe) : Upon a study of the document submitted by the Chairman of the Programme Committee and the opening comments made by the Director-General, and the plight of many developing countries, one is left in no doubt that recommendations of the Chairman of the Finance Committee must be supported. Those of us who live in small landlocked countries and in regions beset by harsh climates will find it difficult to understand why there is this preoccupation of zero-growth. Would it be zero? Or is what is being called for by some of these countries a minus budget? In our short experience of assistance programmes there are few, if any, which could match the speedy response which one gets from the TCP programmes. In the SADCC region late last year, during the cropping season there was an outbreak of army worm and later of red locust. The International Red Locust Institute of which Zimbabwe is currently Chairman had no funds to purchase chemicals. However, on both occasions FAO was the only organization which reacted urgently to such an outbreak. No bilateral assistance that we are aware of is capable of urgent reaction to such emergencies. There is no doubt in our minds that, while bilateral assistance does, and will continue to, play a role, FAO's role still occupies an important place.

Due to the sensitivity of some donors to the political systems which prevail in some of the developing countries, is it not only fair that the assistance by FAO be given due to real, felt need? Is it not true that the developed countries a few decades ago flourished because of, among other things, the cheap and free availability of African raw materials - and even today, in the so-called "supply and demand" prices? Is it asking for too much that the developing countries, and Africa in particular, should receive assistance during these difficult times? One is not oblivious to the generosity of the developed countries.

The problems of Africa are many and we hope that FAO will be given the resources to keep on with the task ahead. The Zimbabwe delegation calls on the Director-General to continue his efficient budget analysis and effect modifications and recommend changes, if any and when considered necessary. We support the Programme of Work and Budget proposed for 86/87. Thank you Mr Chairman,

CHAIRMAN: Now you will see we are very much behind schedule so we will take up on Monday, in addition to item 14 - that is our present item - and hopefully by lunchtime if we can complete the discussion, 15 and 16. In addition we will take up item 7, the Committee on Agriculture. There are certain items which are still left and we will try to complete it. That will leave us still with item 8 and item 9 of this week to be added to next week's programme, which is the Commission on Fertilizers and Committee on Fisheries. That also we will have to take, so I hope you all cooperate.

At lunchtime today I heard one of the Council members say "Thank God it's Friday". So for some of those "Thank God it's Friday" you will have beautiful Roman weather, and I hope you will enjoy the weekend, but I know the chairmen and members of our Drafting Committee and the people who prepare the verbatim records and many others of the Secretariat, there is no "Thank God to it's Friday". Friday, Saturday and Sunday, are going to be hard working days so let me say those who can enjoy the weekend, please do enjoy it and come prepared for short speeches on Monday, and for those who have to work, I hope you will find the work rewarding and pleasant. Thank you all very much and a happy weekend.

The meeting rose at 18.00.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.





# **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# **conseil**

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

# **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/11

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**ONZIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**11<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA**  
(24 June 1985)

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours

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

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 11 sesión plenaria a las 9.40 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. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 (Continued)
14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, 1986-87 (suite)
14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I hope those of you who were not working had a nice weekend, and have come back refreshed for this week's very important discussions. Before we continue with our list of speakers, I would like to give the floor to the Chairman of the Programme Committee, who wishes to make some clarification.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): It may be appropriate if I intervene now in an attempt to clarify one point which is of a purely technical, or even a technicological nature.

You will recall that in my introduction on Friday I indicated that the Programme Committee disagreed with the terminology used by the Secretariat throughout the annex. In a very systematic way, the Secretariat uses the term "non-recurrent items". I do not need to assure you that the Committee very, very closely screens all these items, and it found that, with the exceptions to which I shall come shortly, all these items were of a purely recurrent nature. I could take dozens of cases at random to establish this, but I do not think it is necessary. Some distinguished colleagues who have taken some pains to sum up these so-called non-recurrent items found that they amounted to between thirteen and fourteen million, and they even contended that all of these activities were in fact new activities, or increased over a net programme base.

I trust that is quite clear. The Programme Committee wanted to stress this point, that all such activities have been referred to by the Secretariat in a rather misleading way. I do not want to go into semantics, but perhaps an appropriate phrase might be "readjustment within and between various programmes within a programme", or perhaps "realignment within" or many other terms may be used which would clearly indicate the nature of the changes. All these changes are proposed by the Secretariat to reflect given priorities, or even to reflect just a simple time sequence of the activities.

I thought this clarification was necessary before we continue the debate.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for his carefully prepared and concise proposal on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 as presented in document CL 87/3 before us. It evidences his continued efforts at sharpening FAO's priorities concentrating on technical programme activities in support of food and agriculture production and rural development, focusing particularly on Africa and at cutting further administrative costs.

Let me voice at the outset, that my Government is in full agreement with such a policy. We wish to commend the Director-General for that action which we consider to be steps in the right direction. This policy is being supported also by the Programme and Finance Committees.

We welcome the format and presentation of the document before us and particularly the first few pages for easy reference, an innovation most probably designed by the Director of the Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation.

Having made these general remarks which I have shortened very much over the weekend after your appeal for brevity last Friday, Mr Chairman, I should like to concentrate on the following points:

(1) Whilst agreeing largely with the proposed strategies of the programmes we feel, however, there are areas where less or no increases ought to be possible without downgrading priority actions of our Organization. Such areas have already been singled out by other speakers before me. I confine myself therefore to particularly laying stress on: (a) Programme VII : Contingencies. The arguments for no increase have already been given. We share them.

(b) The request for some new posts. While commending the Director-General for his efforts in holding down that request to fourteen posts through shifting and redeploying, we would like to invite him to see to whether, through that policy, the proposed increase could be reduced. Cutting down vacancies in the use of already established posts might be helpful. We wish to express our hope in this context that, perhaps on an interim base, other ways and means could be found to assist FAO's Liaison Office for North America in its functioning.

(c) Regarding Programme 5.1.3 by which the issuance of AGRINDEX in other languages is envisaged, we have doubts about the usefulness and necessity of such action. As the great majority of literature and references in the AGRIS system is worded in English it seems to us of little help to the non-English-speaking user if he could find the reference in the system in his own language.

(d) Programme 4: Technical Cooperation Programme. Regarding such programmes of specialized agencies in the United Nations system, the general position of my country is unchanged. Technical assistance should, in our view, not be financed from assessed contributions. But in a democratic manner, taking into account the difficulties which prevailed in the mid seventies in that area we accepted the setting up of TCP in FAO. The fire brigade approach comprising short-term, small-scale measures and emergencies for which no other finance sources could be found, made sense to us. Since its inception in 1976 that programme was increased in real terms as well as its share in the Regular Programme, namely from about ten percent to almost fourteen percent. For 1986-87 another net increase of about US\$ 2,4 million is being proposed. In view of the substantial unallocated funds in that programme and the continually practiced transfers, we consider it as not appropriate to allocate additional funds to that programme. We do feel that a further expansion could lead to difficulties in better integrating and coordinating such actions at the country level, an issue which we all aim at in search of greater efficacy of development assistance. We welcome very much the external evaluation of TCP which the Director-General has ordered. Its findings may well dispel our concerns.

(2) The Finance Committee attests the Director-General's good management. We note its statement with satisfaction because we share it. Good management has led, among other developments, to the present quite comfortable financial situation of the Organization. Mr Chairman, the Director-General in his usual clear introduction touched upon the slightly improved but still fragile situation of world economy and the financial situation. In the light of that, and with which we are supporting and consolidating the slight economic recovery in developed countries which we are faced, governments and international organizations are challenged to pursue most stringent budgetary policies. This does inevitably cause some hardships in the short term, but seem to us the only way of achieving sustained improvements in the medium- and longer-terms. Such a policy is therefore in the interests of all peoples. At home, my Government continues to be strongly engaged in stringent budgetary policies. It expects therefore, all international organizations in general to follow that line and to pursue budgetary policies of zero growth in real terms. Bearing this in mind, I would like to ask the Director-General to review again his summary proposal with the aim of providing a full Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 showing no real growth. You will therefore understand, Mr. Chairman that my delegation cannot lend its support to the proposed budget level now before us.

(3) In our deliberations so far on agenda item 14 a couple of points have been made which evoke my particular interest. Although none of these remarks were pointed towards my country I think I must state my delegation's view on some of them. Denying a real net increase of FAO's regular budget would confirm a lack of political will on the donor side in support of developing countries. The most recent expression of political will in favour of developing countries embodied in the Bonn Declaration of the Heads of State and Governments of seven major industrial nations and the President of the EEC of 4 May 1985 contrasts such imputation. The three paragraphs under the heading "Relations with Developing Countries" demonstrate clearly that there is no lack of political will to assist developing countries in solving their problems and particularly in the food sector in Africa. Due to our scarcity of time I will refrain from quoting these three paragraphs but I would ask your permission that they be included in the verbatim records of my statement.

## II Relations with Developing Countries

7. Sustained growth in world trade, lower interest rates, open markets and continued financing in amounts and on terms appropriate to each individual case are essential to enable developing countries to achieve sound growth and overcome their economic and financial difficulties. Flows

of resources, including official development assistance, should be maintained and, wherever possible, increased, especially to the poorer countries. In particular, more stable long-term finance, such as direct investment from industrial countries, should be encouraged. We welcome longer-term debt restructuring agreements between debtor countries and commercial banks. We continue to stand ready, where appropriate, to negotiate further multi-year reschedulings of debts to governments and government agencies.

8. We continue to encourage the constructive dialogue with the developing countries in the existing international institutions with a view to promoting their economic development and thereby their social and political stability. We emphasize the crucial role of, and the improved cooperation between, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group in supporting policies by debtor countries necessary to strengthen the confidence of domestic and foreign creditors and investors,

to mobilize domestic savings and to ensure efficient use of resources and sound long-term development. We agree to work to ensure that these institutions are equipped with the necessary resources and instruments, and we stand ready to discuss an increase in the resources available to the World Bank which may be necessary in the coming years. We remain concerned over the particular problems facing a number of developing countries that are neither among the poorest nor foremost among the group of major debtors. We agree that consideration should be given to easing the financial constraints of these countries on a case-by-case basis.

9. We are deeply concerned about the plight of African peoples who are suffering from famine and drought. We welcome the positive response from our citizens and from private organizations, as well as the substantial assistance provided by the governments of many countries and the establishment by the World Bank of the Special Facility for Sub-Saharan Africa. We shall continue to supply emergency food aid. In addition, we shall intensify our cooperation with African countries to help them develop their economic potential and a long-term food strategy, based on their own agricultural programmes. We are prepared to promote increases in food production by supplying agricultural inputs such as seed, pesticides and fertilizers, within the framework of agricultural development projects. We agree upon the need to improve the existing early warning systems and improve transportation arrangements. Political obstacles in the countries concerned should not be allowed to stand in the way of the delivery of food to the hungry. We emphasize the need to examine the establishment of a research network on dry zone grains. We shall strengthen our cooperation with African countries in fighting against desertification. Continued efforts are needed by all countries in a position to contribute to any or all of this work. We call upon the Soviet Union and other Communist countries to assume their responsibilities in this regard. We have set up an expert group to prepare proposals for follow-up-measures to be reported to Foreign Ministers by September 1985."

Reference was made also on how to translate political will into action. As far as my Government is concerned, I have already given evidence of our action under agenda items 4 and 5 when I stated that in our 1985 technical and financial allocations in the areas of food, agriculture and rural development within our fruitful cooperation with developing countries, these allocations will be increased by about 25 percent in 1985 against 1984. And on a broader scale, just to give you another example, the Federal Republic of Germany alone contributed according to OECD figures in 1983 8.8 percent to the world overall official development assistance, whilst, just to give you a comparable figure example, the share of, the COMECON Member States together amounted to 8.1 percent.

Reference was also made to signs of certain distrust to the Director-General. Such insinuations seem rather strange to us in view of the good relations between the authorities of my Government and the Director-General. I will refrain from further dwelling on this issue.

Inconsistency of action. I do admit that it might be a bit difficult to understand how a country, which attaches nationally, and also in the international context, high priority to the solution of food problems, can ask at the same time budgetary stringency of the competent international organization, but as I have tried to explain how the overall goals should be pursued in our view I very much hope that our case based on action is rightly felt and understood.

(4) This is my last point: International cooperation is a great challenge in itself. It becomes even more challenging if the winds blow against it as it surfaces in many parts of the world now. We feel, Mr Chairman, there is no alternative to international cooperation which, as such, encompasses also the bilateral relationships. At the same time however no one of us should forget that international cooperation is based on voluntary actions of our peoples and governments. It would be without any doubt an encouragement to them if we were to achieve a consensus on the issue before us at the forthcoming twenty-third Conference which marks the fortieth anniversary of FAO.

BINARTI F. SUMIRAT (Indonesia): First I would like to congratulate the Director-General for his comprehensive introduction on the subject on Friday last week. I would like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with a good format of the document on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87.

My delegation associates itself with other delegations in appreciating the Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees for their reports and explanation made at the beginning of the discussion.

My delegation believes that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 has been formulated with careful consideration taken by the Director-General on the present world economic situation, and the increasing needs of Member Nations in accelerating their agricultural development.

My delegation regrets the fact that there is no move to start the global negotiations to overcome the present problems in international trade.

My delegation feels that this is the time for FAO to promote the global negotiations in food and agriculture sectors, such as through North-South dialogue.

Besides that my delegation also believes that the level of resources and its distribution among Chapters have been adjusted to the economic capabilities of the Member Nations and for the benefit of developing countries.

The proposed increase by 1.4 percent over the years 1984-85 in the Budget for 1986-87 will meet the minimum needs of developing countries. Even the increases for Technical Cooperation Programmes and Technical and Economic Programmes by 0.4 percent and 1 percent respectively are lower than expected before, my delegation welcomes them.

The strategies and priorities have been formulated by the Director-General based on two important factors. The first is continued cooperation between FAO and all initiative taken by the United Nations on food and agriculture sectors. This action reflects the leading role played by FAO in this field. The second is Regional Conferences of FAO. The latest reflects the need of Member Nations in accelerating the regional and national agricultural development. Therefore my delegation supports these strategies and priorities as set out in the document.

In this connection my delegation would like to stress the need for more emphasis on the development of integrated rural development with priority to the small farmers, and management assistance to cooperatives in order to maximize their usefulness to the small farmers.

Regarding the reduction of resources for administrative and support services for the benefit of technical programmes, my delegation feels that this reduction should be limited at a certain level where the most effective Programme of Work and Budget can be achieved. My delegation believes that beyond this limit the technical programmes cannot be implemented properly. Therefore my delegation suggests in the future to consider and keep the balance between administrative and support services with the technical programmes.

Finally, my delegation fully supports the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 proposed by the Director-General in the present form as a basis for the further preparation of its final version to be submitted to the Conference by November this year.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Permettez-moi d'exprimer mon appréciation pour la façon claire et convaincante avec laquelle le Directeur général, le Président du Comité financier et le Président du Comité du programme nous ont présenté le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1986-87, et les rapports des deux Comités.

Nous approuvons ce sommaire aussi bien que les recommandations des deux comités.

La délégation italienne apprécie aussi au plus haut degré les efforts du Directeur général pour comprimer les coûts administratifs et les dépenses de soutien en faveur des programmes techniques et des programmes de terrain.

Dans ce secteur spécifique, nous sommes sans doute pour la croissance zéro, c'est-à-dire pour un maximum d'efficacité, d'économie et de productivité dans les structures administratives de la FAO. En effet, dans le réseau des représentants nationaux et régionaux de la FAO quelques rationalisations ou économies, je pense, pourraient être tentées.

Mais nous ne sommes pas des fanatiques de la croissance zéro pour les autres dépenses. Nous souhaitons, naturellement, le temps venu, une évaluation plus réaliste du taux de change lire-dollar. Nous pensons néanmoins que ce critère de la croissance zéro ne peut et ne doit pas s'appliquer à un organisme vivant tel que la FAO, surtout dans les circonstances actuelles. Sans doute ce critère de la croissance zéro peut avoir des résultats je dirais esthétiques, parce que c'est un principe que les jardiniers et floriculteurs chinois et japonais appliquent pour comprimer dans des petits pots des arbres de grande taille. Je ne voudrais pas que la FAO, après quelques années, soit considérée comme ce que l'on appelle en japonais un "bonsai".

D'autre part, je crois que la croissance zéro, si on continue dans la direction d'une diminution systématique de l'aide publique et multilatérale, sera bientôt rejointe non seulement à la FAO, mais aussi à l'IDA, le FIDA, au PNUD, etc.

A la-page 8 du document CL 87/3 on voit très bien que les dépenses annuelles des programmes de terrain de la FAO financés par des sources extra-budgétaires ont remarquablement diminué, surtout si on prend comme année de référence l'année 1981. On voit que de 302 millions de dollars on est descendu à 252, et cette tendance continue.

Je voudrais faire maintenant quelques remarques sur les stratégies et priorités qui sont indiquées dans le sommaire du Programme et qui ont été illustrées par le Directeur général et les deux Présidents de comités.

Nous approuvons naturellement la concentration des efforts sur l'Afrique. Nous pensons que les secteurs forestier et de la pêche auront un grand rôle à moyen terme dans la sécurité alimentaire. Nous pensons aussi que le secteur de la formation des cadres et de la diffusion d'une technologie simple est un autre facteur très important. Je cite dans ce contexte également la coopération Sud-Sud entre pays en développement.

Nous sommes aussi très favorables au perfectionnement du Système d'alerte mais nous pensons que les structures ont une grande importance aussi, les routes, les transports, les moyens de stockage.

Un autre secteur important pour nous est la participation des femmes et des jeunes à la production, à la transformation et à la commercialisation.

La politique des prix a également son importance, mais nous pensons qu'elle devrait être assortie d'une politique de stabilisation des marchés internationaux.

Voilà quelles étaient nos remarques sur les priorités. On pourrait naturellement développer beaucoup plus cet argument, mais nous l'avons fait dans d'autres enceintes et dans d'autres circonstances .

S. ZAHARIEV (Bulgaria): Today we are discussing the item on the agenda concerning the Programme of Work and Budget of our Organization for the biennium 1986-87.

The Programme of Work and Budget is a fundamental issue for every organization. If the aims in that Programme are realistically planned they have a chance to be achieved and bring success in the work of the Organization. If they are directly oriented towards the resolution of the main, most important problems they have the support of the countries' members and will be of great help to the people all over the world suffering from hunger and under-development.

I would like to say on behalf of our delegation that we see the present Programme of Work and Budget of FAO as oriented towards development and helping to solve the main problems faced now by many of the countries of the world. We find the present proposal for work and budget well balanced and realistic.

Here I should like to compliment the Secretariat for preparing such a Programme of Work and Budget. Our special compliment goes to the Director-General for a very good presentation of the document. We would like also to congratulate the two Chairmen of the Committees present here for the very good and highly professional job that they have carried out in preparing those documents.

As many of the previous speakers have already referred to major questions of the discussion, I should not like to repeat them because very profound and valuable comments have been made and we share many of them. I should like to elaborate only on some of the aspects of the issues in front of us.

We are pleased with the excellent document suggested for our consideration. We support the Technical Cooperation Programme as a useful and efficient tool of quick action when necessary. We are pleased to see that the funds allocated for development are going up and those for administrative purposes are declining. It will no doubt bring this Organization to greater efficiency and will make better use of its resources. Our delegation will support the Budget allocation submitted for our consideration and the strategy of the Work. We see FAO as a highly professional and well-managed organization and we hope that this will continue in the future.

We would like here to say once again that only the climate of international cooperation, trust and peace, will give a chance for the organization of FAO to carry out its noble task in full scale. The new economic order with free trade without protectionism and embargo will create favourable conditions for development of all countries and eliminate to a considerable extent the disaster that we are seeing now in many parts of the world.

Speaking about the TCDC Programme, it came to my mind that a similar programme can be considered among the developed countries, especially here in Europe. It will be in line with the Resolution adopted by the European Economic Commission recently at its session in Geneva. We feel that we need to know each other better and to exchange knowledge, technology, expertise and ideas. In this case we feel that FAO can play a leading role in organizing such an exchange.

MOHD NAZLAN b. JUSOH (Malaysia): My delegation is pleased to associate itself with other delegations in congratulating the Director-General for his eloquent and comprehensive introduction of the excellent documents that we have before us. We also wish to thank the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees for their diligent work and lucid presentation.

In the face of the deep recession that has affected all of us most severely, despite some reservations it is indeed very encouraging to note that many delegations here have expressed support for the modest budget increase proposed by the Director-General. In our view, this support is testimony to the commitment of the international community to eradicate hunger and famine from the face of the earth.

An increase in the budget is a sacrifice to all Member Nations, but no sacrifice is too big in the light of the magnitude of starvation and suffering which we are presently witnessing.

There was a substantial increase in world food production last year. A momentum has been created, and it would be very unfortunate if this momentum were not sustained. Complacency would have the most tragic consequences, especially in developing countries, as population increase is always close and often outstrips food production. We have witnessed encouraging trends in Asia, the Near East and parts of Latin America. These encouraging trends should be maintained in these countries, while in regions not so fortunate it is the task of FAO to help them to achieve food self-sufficiency once more.

In this light, my delegation fully supports the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. I am sure that the 1.4 percent net increase of \$6.2 million is a meagre sum considering the monumental task FAO has to undertake, when it is remembered that 52 percent of the net increase is meant for Africa.

My delegation feels that the proposed budget is very constructive in providing more emphasis on training and the facilitation of more technical and economic programmes. In this respect, I wish to commend FAO for its effort in programming TCDC and ECDC. We note with satisfaction the high priority given to these programmes in the next biennium.

Therefore, my delegation is pleased to express our concurrence with paragraph 2.33 of document CL 87/4. In view of the expected rise in requests for technical cooperation programmes of about 30 percent, my delegation feels it is important that FAO be given the means to respond to such increased requests, to enable developing countries to achieve self-reliance. On the whole, my delegation feels that the proposed Programme of Work and Budget is purposeful in providing more emphasis on technical and economic programmes. It is realistic and prudent in proposing the trimming down of some administrative support costs and doing away with some programmes of low priority. Above all, it is humane in giving priority to Africa.

M.I. CASELLAS (Venezuela): Mi delegación felicita a la Secretaría por la presentación del excelente documento que estamos examinando. Apoyamos totalmente el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1986-87 y las decisiones a que se llega en el mismo.

No se puede negar los fondos mínimos necesarios para el buen funcionamiento de la Organización. Este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto es el resultado de la ardua labor del Director General, el cual, con escasos recursos, trata de ayudar a los países más necesitados. En muy acertada su gestión al enfocarlo en cuatro prioridades, y los esfuerzos realizados reasignan los recursos presupuestarios para hacer mayor hincapié en los aspectos técnicos de los programas de la Organización.

Estamos en favor de la propuesta que nos presenta el Director General y esperamos que será aceptada por la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo para lograr una decisión favorable en la próxima Conferencia.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): In his opening statement last Monday, the Director-General stated that the item now under discussion was the main item on our agenda. The Programme of Work and Budget reflects the policy of the Organization and created the basis for its implementation. It is the major issue before the Council. My delegation finds document CL 87/3 highlights in a concise and clear manner the main features of the Director-General proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

As was indicated in the discussion on the current world food situation, all of us agreed with the assessment by the FAO of the world agricultural situation, especially the gravity of the situation in the Third World countries. We note with appreciation that the Director-General's selection of strategies and priorities was agreed by the Regional Conferences which made specific recommendations concerning the future programme of FAO in their different regions. Most of these recommendations appear to have been accommodated in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. We appreciate the increased special programme emphasis on Africa, which will receive 3.2 million or 52 percent of the net programme increase. We also note with appreciation the action of the Director-General in formulating the FAO rehabilitation programme for Africa, transferring \$15 million from other budgetary sources. We appreciate the recommendation of \$5 million in support of the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa.

Both the Finance and Programme Committees have endorsed these decisions on the grounds that they constitute concrete, practical steps towards mobilising greater assistance which would be required in the future to help African agriculture. The increase in the TCP component from 13.6 percent to 14 percent of the total budget, although small, is nonetheless a step in the right direction.

We, the recipient countries, know very well how valuable the Technical Cooperation Programmes are. The rapid manner in which they respond to unforeseen needs and problems, and the catalytic effect of the implementation of both capital and technical assistance are no longer issues for debate.

My delegation would have wished to see this programme funding increased by a higher percentage than is presented. We believe that the Director-General has done his best, under the present conditions of restraint on the part of major donors in the face of mounting economic crises in the developing countries, to strike a reasonable balance between demand and possible available resources. However, we wish to state that the proposed increase of only 1.4 percent in the budget level may impede the capacity of FAO to execute its mandate in a timely, efficient and effective manner. We would have preferred a higher level of increase, but in a spirit of mutual accommodation we give full support to the level of the proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

In conclusion, we ask that in the same spirit the Council supplement the Director-General's proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

V. AGBO (Bénin): Je voudrais profiter de l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour présenter mes vives félicitations au Président et aux Vice-Présidents pour la lourde responsabilité qu'il leur a été confiée compte tenu de leur dévouement dans le passé. L'étude du document CL 87/3 relatif au sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1986-87 appelle de la part de ma délégation quelques observations. Le document a le mérite de prendre en compte la situation de crise économique mondiale qui fouette l'ensemble de la communauté internationale, notamment les pays africains dont les fragiles économies ne sont pas de nature à supporter les perturbations enregistrées sur toutes les places financières du monde. Ces perturbations ont pour nom le renchérissement du coût du dollar, l'accès difficile au crédit, les prix peu rémunérateurs des produits agricoles, etc.

Tous ces faits ont précipité nos pays dans une situation d'endettement sans précédent. L'état de crise ainsi présenté ne profite pas aux pays développés et encore moins aux pays en développement. La planche de salut pour la communauté mondiale réside dans la relance des économies du tiers monde. Lorsqu'on sait que la plupart de ces économies repose sur le secteur primaire et notamment l'agriculture on comprend aisément la pertinence du sommaire du Programme présenté par le Directeur général. Ce Programme, qui s'articule en plusieurs volets, constitue une plate-forme programmatique miimale pour une organisation de la dimension de la FAO face au défi auquel est confrontée la communauté internationale en ce dernier quart du 20ème siècle.

Face à cela nous devons développer et renforcer la solidarité agissante entre les pays du nord, économiquement plus forts, et ceux du sud en lutte pour leur survie. Lorsqu'on sait également qu'aux effets pervers de cette crise se sont ajoutées les calamités naturelles telles que les inondations pour certaines régions, la sécheresse pour l'Afrique, on ne peut admettre en toute responsabilité la théorie de la croissance zéro développée par certaines délégations. En effet comment réussir sur la base de cette théorie à juguler, pour l'Afrique par exemple, l'avancée du désert à un rythme inquiétant, la disparition progressive des pâturages naturels dans les régions à vocation agropastorale, le déboisement anarchique du couvert végétal, etc., toute chose qui accentue les perturbations climatiques dont la conséquence majeure est l'amenuisement des récoltes, compromettant ainsi dangeureusement toute forme de vie.

Face à cette situation notre Organisation y la FAO, devrait se doter de programmes plus ambitieux que celui présenté par le Directeur général qui, avons-nous dit, a le mérite d'être réaliste eu égard à la situation financière des Etats Membres puisqu'il n'enregistre que 1,4 pour cent d'augmentation par rapport au budget 1984-85, retenant tout de même des stratégies d'intervention priorisant la poursuite et le renforcement des programmes de terrain comme la production vivrière, la sécurité alimentaire, les pêches, les forêts, etc.

S'agissant plus particulièrement du Programme de coopération technique, permettez-moi de vous dire l'appui qu'il a apporté à mon pays pour la mise au point et la recherche du financement des projets tels que l'aménagement des parcs nationaux, les plantations à buts multiples, le plan semencier national, etc. Pour toutes ces contributions, le PCT est un instrument apprécié dont le budget doit être renforcé. L'ensemble des propositions soumises à notre Conseil étant la résultante des recommandations des conférences régionales, des grands comités du Conseil et des organes consultatifs techniques, ne devrait donc plus souffrir de notre appui, et c'est pourquoi nous devons faire le consensus autour du Programme de travail et budget 1986-87.



Comment marquer alors notre accord pour le Programme dans sa présentation actuelle, et, dans le même temps refuser le budget; y afférent. Il y a là une inadéquation que notre délégation ne s'explique pas. C'est pourquoi nous en appelons à la conscience de tous et à la volonté de l'action collective des gouvernements des Etats Membres afin que le budget présenté reçoive aussi le même accord que celui marqué au programme.

M. BALLA SY (Sénégal): Je souhaiterais vous remercier de m'avoir donné la parole alors que je me suis permis - avec toutes mes excuses - d'arriver en retard pour vos débats.

La question que nous sommes en train d'étudier est une question importante. Elle est importante parce qu'elle relève de considérations qu'il convient de préciser ici. Je voudrais me permettre une petite digression en disant que nos débats me font penser à une situation dans laquelle je serais moi-même amené à fonder librement un foyer avec le serment solennel de partager les joies et les souffrances de tous ses membres et à m'engager à leur apporter aide et assistance pour leur permettre de subvenir à tous leurs besoins vitaux. Quelques années plus tard, à un moment difficile où les membres de ce foyer sont encore plus nombreux, qu'ils se trouvent confrontés à de sérieuses difficultés, je dis, avec une froideur visant le cynisme, à mon partenaire qu'il devra désormais, malgré l'ampleur des besoins, se contenter des moyens initialement fixés pour assurer la survie et le bien-être des membres de notre collectivité commune.

Je n'hésite même pas à l'avertir fermement que j'envisage ultérieurement de réduire le niveau des ressources préalablement consenties.

Pendant ce temps, je ne me gêne point pour m'adonner aux délices de la vie au prix de somptueuses dépenses dont le caractère moral et utilitaire est sujet à caution.

Comment, Monsieur le Président, si vous aviez la charge de me juger, auriez-vous objectivement qualifié mon comportement ?

Rassurez-vous, je vous fais grâce de vous abstenir de me répondre, car vous pourriez, dans un élan incontrôlable de passion, dicté par un instinct d'équité et de probité morale, vous emporter et offenser ma dignité et ma liberté d'adopter une attitude à ma convenance.

C'est justement par respect du droit souverain de tout Etat de prendre une position déterminée face aux tentatives de résoudre le drame connu par le monde, l'Afrique en particulier, que je m'abstiendrai moi aussi d'apprécier les arguments invoqués au cours de nos débats sur le document CL 87/3 relatif au projet de programme de travail et budget 1986-87 présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO.

Permettez-moi cependant d'exprimer ma profonde gratitude à ce dernier pour son engagement au service de l'humanité et, singulièrement des populations africaines auxquelles une nature cruelle semble, avec notre discrète complicité, vouloir nier le droit fondamental à la vie.

Je voudrais également lui exprimer ma solidarité et le soutien de mon pays dans le cadre des heureuses initiatives qu'il ne cesse de prendre pour soulager nos populations de leur misère et de leur pauvreté.

Je mesure combien le Directeur général de la FAO souffre d'être mal compris, mais il faut qu'il sache que sa souffrance est insignifiante devant celle des pays africains qui se persuadent de plus en plus qu'ils devront désormais compter sur leurs propres forces et moyens, malheureusement très limités.

Et pourtant, il convient de rappeler que les fondateurs de notre Organisation avaient assigné à celle-ci des objectifs précis visant essentiellement à améliorer la production et à mieux répartir les produits agricoles afin d'élever le niveau de l'alimentation.

Il se trouve cependant que, depuis plus de dix ans, la production, bien qu'ayant considérablement augmenté, est si mal répartie que dans certaines parties du monde, en Afrique surtout, les populations connaissent une disette sans précédent et des souffrances qui heurtent la conscience humaine.

Il est également regrettable que les populations africaines, dont la fierté, la dignité et l'orgueil chevaleresque et légendaire n'ont jamais fait l'objet de l'ombre du moindre doute, soient aujourd'hui transformées en des êtres affamés, avec tout ce que cette situation a d'avalissant et soient ainsi contraintes de tendre la main à des donateurs généreux, pour espérer prolonger leur agonie.

Tous les comités de la FAO, sur la base d'analyses pertinentes et objectives de leurs secrétariats respectifs, ont fort justement déploré la gravité de la crise alimentaire africaine et conclu que sa solution passe inéluctablement par l'accroissement de la production grâce à un vaste programme de relance de l'agriculture.

En effet, la fixation du niveau d'un budget, quel qu'il soit, doit, selon la théorie de finance publique, s'inspirer étroitement d'un cadre précis et de priorités absolues.

Sans vouloir susciter ici un débat de fond sur la définition de la notion de croissance zéro, même si l'envie me chatouille, je tiens néanmoins à préciser qu'un tel principe ne saurait être envisagé indépendamment des objectifs et priorités préalablement définis et arrêtés.

Si ceux-ci, déjà connus et acceptés, ne subissent aucun changement substantiel, le principe de croissance zéro peut être envisagé, encore que le risque de situations imprévues demeure.

Par contre, s'il est établi, comme cela semble en être le cas aujourd'hui, que ces objectifs ont profondément changé dans le sens d'un accroissement, surtout en raison des circonstances exceptionnelles et graves, toute prévision de moyens supplémentaires conséquents ne saurait être assimilée, en matière de finances publiques, à une augmentation de crédits, mais plutôt à des réajustements budgétaires.

Dès lors, nous risquons de passer pour des êtres incohérents si, après avoir accepté un cadre financier et approuvé des objectifs et priorités, sans aucun doute plus importants que ceux précédemment élaborés, nous plaçons le principe de la croissance zéro ou tentons même une diminution des services déjà votés.

Une telle attitude est d'autant plus inqualifiable que nous proclamions récemment, lors de l'examen du projet de pacte mondial sur la sécurité alimentaire, que nous devons consacrer nos énergies à des actions concrètes plutôt qu'à des déclarations rhétoriques!

J'étais particulièrement favorable à cette pensée, mais je ne saurais l'être encore plus longtemps si plaider la croissance zéro et la diminution des ressources affectées au programme de coopération technique de la FAO devait être considéré comme une base de nos actions concrètes.

Je ne suis pas non plus sûr, et certainement vous, Monsieur le Président, non plus, que c'est en refusant au FIDA la possibilité de disposer de ressources suffisantes pour appuyer les efforts de développement des pays pauvres que nous aiderons concrètement les populations nécessiteuses.

Je sais que la coopération bilatérale peut largement contribuer à la réalisation de ces efforts, mais les besoins non encore couverts, faute de moyens, sont si nombreux qu'elle pourrait leur être consacrée. Il s'y ajoute que la coopération bilatérale ne doit nullement viser à concurrencer la coopération multilatérale dont elle a toujours été et demeure un complément irremplaçable.

J'admets également que les pays donateurs ont des difficultés financières au point que certains d'entre eux ont dû se contenter d'offrir des billets spéciaux d'avion à leurs représentants à notre Conseil à la place de billets à tarif plein. Ils ont voulu ainsi donner au Directeur général de la FAO une leçon d'austérité budgétaire.

Je suis sûr que ce dernier en a déjà pris note car il a dû opérer d'importantes compressions de dépenses pour limiter les réajustements soumis à notre approbation. Lui demander d'aller encore plus loin signifierait le contraindre à renoncer à sa mission.

Je me demande si les délégués ayant utilisé des billets spéciaux pour venir prendre part à notre réunion, devraient utiliser la voiture, comme moyen de déplacement pour venir à Rome et défendre les intérêts de leur pays. Je n'en suis pas sûr, d'autant que beaucoup de pays africains que nous avons le devoir d'aider n'ont pas pu se faire représenter à cette session de notre Conseil.

C'est autant dire que le problème envisagé est si sérieux et important pour être analysé avec des pensées de cette nature.

En conclusion, je voudrais dire que la délégation sénégalaise appuie : 1) le niveau du programme de travail et budget 1986-87 proposé par le Directeur général de la FAO; 2) le transfert de 15 millions de dollars correspondant à des économies budgétaires au programme de relance de l'agriculture en Afrique; 3) le renforcement du système d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO dont l'efficacité a été unanimement admise et reconnue; 4) les objectifs assignés au programme de coopération technique de la FAO, en souhaitant que ses ressources soient même renforcées.

La délégation sénégalaise voudrait aussi réaffirmer son soutien à la FAO et l'encourager à persévérer dans ses efforts déjà entrepris pour affranchir le monde rural de la misère, de la faim et de la malnutrition. Elle ne saurait non plus oublier de témoigner sa profonde gratitude aux pays donateurs qui, malgré leurs propres difficultés et leurs différentes positions dictées par des impératifs nationaux, n'ont jamais démissionné devant leurs nobles objectifs visant à contribuer à l'épanouissement de toutes les populations du monde.

Je suis persuadé que leur réticence actuelle pour approuver le programme de travail et budget 1986-87, tel qu'il nous est présenté, ne procède pas d'un dogmatisme aveugle, ni d'une attitude négative, mais d'un simple souci d'obtenir certaines informations complémentaires. En effet, nul ne saurait nier à un donateur le droit d'exiger les conditions d'utilisation de ses dons et d'avoir la preuve que ses dons futurs seront judicieusement et efficacement utilisés.

C'est pourquoi, je suis certain que lorsque le Secrétariat fournira toutes les précisions demandées, ils ne manqueront pas d'approuver les propositions faites à propos du présent projet de programme.

Je suis en effet très optimiste, car aucun pays ici ne perd de vue que la FAO n'est pas une institution spécialisée des Nations Unies comme toutes les autres, parce qu'elle s'occupe de la survie et du mieux-être des hommes. Or, une telle mission ne saurait faire l'objet d'une comptabilité d'épicerie, la vie humaine n'ayant pas de prix.

C. KAREKEZI (Rwanda) : La délégation rwandaise voudrait tout d'abord féliciter le Directeur général et les Présidents des Comités du Programme et financier pour la préparation excellente du programme de travail et budget 1986-87.

Ma délégation considère que ce programme est bien équilibré, étant donné qu'il tient compte de la situation financière des pays développés et des priorités des pays en développement, particulièrement l'Afrique où les crises alimentaires sont inquiétantes.

La réduction des dépenses administratives en faveur des programmes techniques, économiques et de la coopération technique montre un effort louable du Directeur général qui comprend la situation des principaux donateurs.

En ce qui concerne la croissance zéro proposée par certaines délégations, nous pensons qu'elle ne ferait que réduire les activités de la FAO, ce qui serait contraire au programme de relance de l'agriculture des pays en voie de développement, programme que le Conseil a approuvé la semaine dernière.

En conclusion, ma délégation appuie ce projet réaliste de travail et de budget 1986-87, qui n'est que légèrement augmenté en considération de motifs très bien justifiés.

H. REDL (Austria): In my statement of last Friday I underlined that my Government fully supports the priorities and activities of the Proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. This means that my Government also fully supports the proposed level of budget as it is shown in document CL 87/3. We believe that an increase of 1.4 percent for the next biennium is a very modest one.

We hope that the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget will be fully supported during the Conference in November when we are celebrating the fortieth anniversary of FAO.

J.C. CLAVE (Philippines): We have before us the most important document on the agenda of the Eighty-seventh session of the Council - the Summary Programme of Work and Budget of our Organization for the biennium 1986-87.

The document contains programme and budgetary proposals of the Director-General drawn up by him after considering world conditions and the recommendations of various FAO committees.

Our task, as I see it, is to review these proposals to determine if the proposals are a reflection of our own perceptions of the problems in our respective countries, in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and are the appropriate approaches to solving these problems.

For it is our duty, I believe, to recommend a programme and budget that is: responsive to the needs or requirements of our respective countries, especially those of us who belong to the group of developing countries; relevant to our time, which is the present, and the future or the generations of our children and grandchildren, for I believe that we must think of them as well; designed to achieve food security for all nations, for all members of our human community; a programme and budget that is motivated by, and is the product of, the spirit of mutual concern and assistance for it is only with this spirit that true collaboration among ourselves can flourish; a programme and budget that responds to the aspirations of our ultimate clientele or constituencies, who in the words of our friend and collaborator, the distinguished Director-General, - are "the poor, the weak, the hungry millions of our world".

Our is a serious task. For through the document before us we seek to provide a programme to achieve food' security for the peoples of the world. It is thus also an enormous task. It calls for a genuine spirit of mutual concern and assistance.

I must confess to you that it is not easy for me to understand the draft programme and budget. Obviously anticipating this difficulty the Director-General has provided us in these two blue pages a brief on the main features of the Programme of Work and Budget.

He tells us that the main features are: a) major programme impact with minimum budget growth; b) administrative costs pruned in order to boost substantive programme growth; c) programme increases concentrated on main priorities; d) special programme emphasis on Africa further increased; e) cost increases heavily trimmed.

The projected reduction in administrative costs is a welcome step especially at this period when the main grievance against the budgets of international organizations is the high percentage of administrative costs.

I am happy to hear this report on the reduction in the budget for administrative expenses by the Director-General. I still have to fully understand the document, however.

I wish to welcome the declarations last Friday of the Director-General that this Council is free to debate the programme and budgetary proposals and that the Secretariat will listen.

In my intervention last Thursday I was constrained to recall the advice of the great Indian leader, Mr Gandhi, a great piece of advice - to open all windows in order to allow fresh air from all directions to come in.

It is a unique development in the Councils of the UN organizations that the so-called debates are not between and among delegates and indeed could be mistaken for a debate with the Director-General, which they should not be. The debates are at best an indirect exchange of views between and among delegates. The debates, too, tend to focus on endorsing the proposals contained in a working document prepared by the Secretariat. The document in many cases is treated with great reverence and becomes untouchable. The Council has seen this situation here. Any new proposal, not in the document, is not discussed. And my brief experience here at FAO indicates that in the debates between the delegates, and the Director-General and the Secretariat, the final word is that of the Director-General and the Secretariat.

It is my hope that we, members of this Council, the governing body - yes, the governing body -of FAO will engage ourselves in a free and open debate on the proposed programme and budget with the view to coming up with recommendations that bear the wisdom of this Council. The Director-General has submitted to us proposals. And that is what the proposals should be - proposals. We can approve these proposals or reject them. The resulting document has to be of this Council. The programme and budget to be submitted to the Conference must be one that embodies the insights and wisdom of this Council.

Please forgive me for making these observations. Indeed, please bear with me. For as we call for new orders in the world, there may be a need too for us to adopt a new approach, a new mode, for our work in international organizations.

Before coming over to FAO, I was involved in the work of Unesco. I attended a number of Unesco General Conferences and meetings of its commissions and committees before becoming a permanent delegate to that Organization. I had joined delegations in flourishing commendations to the work that we, the members of Unesco, were doing, for it was part of the ritual to sing praises to ourselves.

Then came the pressure for reforms. A critical analysis of the conditions in the Organization was ordered. The critical study by an Internal Working Group, a group from within the Organization, brought forth and into light many deficiencies and excesses in the practices of the Organization.

I hope Unesco survives the travails that now beset it. The Organization is important to us, the developing countries, especially.

And I am inclined to lay the responsibility for the present conditions in Unesco at the door of Member States, those of them or us who took the easier way of being uncritical, those of them or us who took their membership casually, those of them or us who had blind faith, or hatred.

I now turn to specific programmes in the proposed programme and budget.

It is in the wake of the assurances of the Director-General that the document before us is only a proposal and that recommendations of the members of the Council will be heard that I move into certain specific points in the proposed programme and budget.

Distinguished colleagues, may I invite your attention to the Technical Cooperation Programme presented on page 20 of the document.

Under paragraph 5.61, the Director-General gives the following observations:

While the allocation of project funds depends to a large extent on the nature of requests received, trends over a several-year period indicate clearly how member countries can use the TCP to meet vital assistance requirements. In line with the programmes's basic objectives, the emphasis over the years continued to be on projects concerned primarily with training, and advisory services, and on those to meet emergencies.

"The emphasis over the years continued to be on projects concerned primarily with training, the advisory services, and on those to meet emergencies", the Director-General says.

The question before the Council is -- Does it wish these same three services to continue? Or would it rather channel more funds to "emergencies" and reduce those for advisory services?

On the basis of conditions in the Philippines, the Philippines' own experience and the requirements of my country's development programme, my delegation wishes to recommend for the consideration by this Council a reduced emphasis on the advisory services and the programming/formulation missions.

The figures provided in the document are up to 1984. The table on page 20 represents the evolution of the six categories of activities -- namely, training, investment, emergencies, advisory services, programming/formulation missions, support to development -- since 1976.

There is a disturbing note in the report: the continuing decline in the amount of funds for investment and for emergencies.

On the other hand, the provisions for advisory services have increased to a high of 27.9 percent which, taken together with the provisions for programming/formulation missions of 4.1 percent, would amount to 32 percent.

Many of our colleagues here have manifested that their countries have by now developed manpower capabilities to carry out an agricultural programme. Indeed, it is to be assumed that the need for advisory services should not be as great as it was ten years ago.

In view of this and in view of the announced desire of the Director-General to give greater attention to field projects, my delegation wishes to suggest that a greater portion of the resources available under the Technical Cooperation Programme shall be earmarked for impact projects - and that the Council makes this known to Member States in advance as a matter of policy or advice. Under the circumstances, projects for advisory services may still be chargeable against emergencies. There is no bar for using funds for emergency services for other services if requested by Member States. The point is -- it may be wise to announce to Member States in advance that there are more resources available under emergencies.

I wish at this time to commend the Director-General who according to paragraph 5.69, page 21 of the document, has been seeking improvements in the Technical Cooperation Programme.

"The TCP has been warmly applauded by the FAO governing bodies and by the Member Nations which have benefitted from it over the years. Nevertheless, in his ceaseless efforts to further improve all aspects of its operation, the Director-General has commissioned an external evaluation of the Programme during 1985. The findings of this evaluation will be available to the Programme and Finance Committees in their Fall sessions, before the Twenty-third Session of the Conference in November 1985".

My delegation welcomes this evaluation. It hopes that we, ourselves, members of the Council, will undertake our own evaluation of the programme. We, ourselves, independently of the Secretariat.

In this connection, my delegation welcomes the suggestion of our colleague from Denmark that a review of the role of FAO be undertaken.

On page 23, paragraph 5.75, last sentence, of the document before us it is written:

"Whatever the source of funding, action at the field level remains a vital criterion and determinant in the formulation of the Director-General's proposals".

My delegation finds in the programme and budgetary proposals provisions for studies and other similar undertakings. In fact, there is a great deal of these undertakings.

We all know the value of studies, information, data or statistics in our planning activities and in our endeavours to formulate policies.

Our constituents, however, the poor, the hungry do not see as much value in them. They do not quantify their hunger. They know hunger as part of their daily lives; they experience hunger every day.

My delegation feels called upon, in the light of the food crisis in Africa and elsewhere, to plead that FAO reduce expenditures for studies and similar data gathering activities -- at least in the meantime. The resulting savings should be channelled to impact projects.

I believe that FAO, and its sister organizations in the UN already have enough data to meet their requirements for information or data needed in their planning and policy formulation work.

In fact, there is growing conviction in my country that the problems that confront the human community have been fully covered by studies; the urgent task is to provide solutions for these problems, to carry out the recommendations in these studies.

Are we not indeed flooded by now with studies and similar documents, which in many cases echo each other?

On page 17, paragraph 5.44, the Director-General states:

"It is perhaps primarily as a unique potential source of information at the service of its member governments and the public at large that FAO was viewed by its founders forty years ago. FAO has accumulated an unrivalled capital of information in the large number of fields and disciplines under its constitutional mandate. The Director-General intends to continue the process of consolidating these efforts".

My delegation wishes to join other colleagues in urging the reduction in the appropriations for conferences, symposia, and meetings, especially those purely for information or data-gathering.

My delegation should not be understood as having a negative view concerning these activities. But it believes that in the meantime these activities could be reduced to give way to other more urgent field activities, which it believes are more urgently needed to meet the present food crisis.

I move on to the emphasis given by the proposed programme and budget to the role of science and technology in our agricultural, fisheries and forestry programmes.

Many of us living in the "modern" world appear reconciled to the theology that science and technology provide the solutions to our problems. Scientific and technological knowledge is the magic wand with which we could solve our problems.

I have my apprehensions concerning this total faith in science and technology. These scientific and technological aids have been useful indeed. But we of this Council must view their relative value to FAO's programmes for our clientele -- the poor farmers.

I propose that we consider in the formulation of the programmes the following:

Firstly, the products of science and technology will never be fully within the reach of the marginal farmers in Africa, Asia, South America, Latin America, and the Carribean. The reason and obstacle: they are much too expensive for them. Fertilizer, the other wonder of science, will only reach them if the cost of these products is reduced.

But to expect this reduction in cost is to engage in dreaming, in wishfully thinking. For to ask the manufacturers to reduce prices of these goods for the sake only of the farmer would be like asking the elephant to go through the head of a needle. And there are no prospects that prices will go down.

Secondly, my fellow farmers in my own country in the Philippines are not only beset by this cost problem, they are now witnessing the harmful and destructive effects of inorganic fertilizer and pesticides and insecticides on their land and other lives in their fields. Gone are the fish and the other by-products of their farms.

Unfortunately, modern institutions, obsessed with the virtue of these modern production inducers, measure productivity in terms of more grains grown but ignore the losses arising from the destruction of the other by-products of farming - fish, frogs, snails, etc.

I have been an advocate of modern farming - modern understood as the use of these new offerings of science to improve production. I had considered it my duty as a political leader of my constituents, many of whom are farmers, to share with them the new knowledge and the new technology.

I have endeavoured to teach them and to preach to them the miracles of science and technology. They have listened. But did they follow my advice?

Indeed, the task of teaching the farmers in my country this new knowledge and technology is difficult. For behind these farmers are lessons of life, real life experiences, which an extension worker must contend with - two of which I have mentioned above.

"Break away from the past", we coaxed them.

Into what - an uncertain future?

For it is a fact that at this point in time this Council has found it necessary to provide a code on pesticides. Do the farmers need the code? It is their experience that will guide them.

But this is the tragedy that faces us: the virtues of the products of science are first taught us; we only wake-up to their destructive effects later - much later.

What the farmers in my own country likewise need are alternatives to the costly fertilizer and the deadly pesticides. Perhaps new strains of crops that need less fertilizer or some natural soil conditions.

My delegation therefore suggests that the attention of FAO be focused too on developing these alternatives: greater attention indeed.

These alternatives are urgent as well in preserving the natural fertility of the land and in protecting animal life on the farms.

I will now move on to another concern of my delegation, and may I invite your attention, distinguished colleagues, to the programme levels contained in Chapter 2, Annex page 43, Technical and Economic Programmes, of the document before us.

In my first intervention in the deliberations of this Council, I deal with the matter of rehabilitation, recovery or reclamation of land areas being lost to the deserts annually.

It was my purpose to draw some interest and concern to studies showing that between five million to seven million hectares of useful land are going out of production every year.

While emphasis is being placed on agricultural productivity, my delegation is apprehensive that not enough interest is being generated to prevent the loss of productive land. According to a study the total area of destroyed or degraded soil that was once agriculturally productive is estimated at

2 billion hectares, a figure that is more than 32 percent of the entire area cultivated for agricultural purposes at present. According to recent study, desert encroachment is proceeding at the rate of 5 kilometres per year in Sudan and 18 000 hectares per year in Tunis. According to a study of the Council in Environmental Quality of the US, at least 30 percent of all agricultural land in the US have been lost in the past 200 years. In all countries, the best agricultural land is being lost to urbanization by expanding towns and villages, aside from salination and degradation of fertile agricultural lands.

My delegation believes that the major problems facing agriculture, forestry and fishery ought not be, the avoidance of environmental pollution alone but the ensuring in the developmental process of the maintenance of the productive capacity of the basic natural resources of food and agriculture through rational management and conservation measures. Agricultural development and world food security depends on careful husbandry of living resources, on their biological laws and ecological balances as well as on the adjustment of production, supply and reserves to demands.

One visible activity towards land conservation, rehabilitation or reclamation of land would be in the area of the forestry programme.

I wish therefore to join my other colleagues, who have spoken earlier, in advocating that more resources be allocated to programmes in forestry.

The point that my delegation wishes to contribute to the consciousness, the awareness, the concern, of this Council is: that appropriate measures be now taken to draw attention and to marshal resources for the rehabilitation and reclamation, of agricultural lands. The programme to open more lands should be accompanied by programmes to check the advances of the desert behind our thrusts to open new lands.

In my country, President Marcos has placed top priority in his agenda for economic development on food production to assure that we, 54 million of his people, will have food to keep a healthy body and soul. We can look with satisfaction to the success of, among others, our land reform programme, our rice sufficiency and other food programmes, and agricultural production for export.

But agricultural activities or food production activities face great risks in my country. There are the natural calamities to contend with. Last year, 1984, the country had a very good standing crop of rice. Shortly before the crop was to be harvested, however, a series of strong typhoons hit the country and with these typhoons and the ensuing heavy rains and floods, in this year, 1985, we find ourselves importing rice to augment our national supply. In other years, we were self-sufficient. We were exporting rice.

But there is another development which alarms me as a leader and as a farmer: the high cost of fertilizer and pesticides, the inputs which modern science provides to increase production. Because of the high cost of these products, the marginal farmer in the Philippines is now using less and less of these modern inducers of production. He cannot afford them. It makes his farming unprofitable - not profitable.

Some farmers in my community in the Philippines are now frightened by the destructive effects of these modern aids to production.

These developments could seriously affect the food supply of the world. For if the farmers are driven into producing only enough to meet their own personal or family needs, those people who do not farm are left with less food to buy or no food to buy.

I have said earlier that I am a farm extension worker teaching farmers in my own country the virtues of fertilizers and pesticides, pointing out to them the increase of yield in rice on my farm.

But one day a farmer in my neighbourhood stood up to me as I was saying: "Look, you are producing only 40 cavans of rice per hectare. I am producing 100 to 120 cavans per hectare."<sup>11</sup>

The farmer, obviously peeved by my coaxing, stood up and said: "I dare you, Sir, your net profit is less than mine. I farm my land with my carabao and plow. You use a tractor. You use a lot of fertilizer and pesticides. I use only a little, if at all... Your costs for inputs are high... Now, how much is your net profit?... And your land after only five years looks dead!"

These words of a farmer had some sobering effect on me. I had to console myself, saying: "At least I have contributed more rice to the country's food supply."

On that same day, before lunch time, the farmer came to me with a basket of fish of different kinds. He said: "Sir, try the fish that I caught in my puddies."

I have not told this story to anyone in the Philippines. And the reasons for my silence are obvious.

I have shared it with you here for I have urged earlier that FAO focus its energies on developing alternatives to the costly inorganic fertilizer and the deadly or destructive pesticides.

The story may also show that the farmer has his own wisdom - the fruit of real life experiences - that guides him in his lonely and difficult struggle for survival. Lonely, because the wisdom of FAO may not have reached him at all. We tell him: "Break away from the past."

He will break away from his own traditional ways and wisdom if he is convinced that we have something better to offer.

I can tell you, distinguished colleagues, on the basis of personal experience that the marginal rice farmer of yester-years was economically better off than the marginal farmer of today. The marginal farmer of yester-years had a bountiful supply of fish, fruits, birds and animals from nature and as by-products of his farming the puddies, to augment his provisions for dinner or lunch. The marginal farmer of today does not find this supply from nature any longer.

Who destroyed the supply?

Who will replenish it?



Regionalization and decentralization are related issues.

A programme of decentralization or regionalization entails additional administrative costs and may be discouraged for this reason.

But a regional office could serve as an effective integrative force in FAO's work in different regions of the world, if given the appropriate authority or the autonomy and if provided the resources to carry out its functions.

In view therefore of the financial implications of the existence of regional offices and their potential value in the work of the Organization, my delegation wishes to propose a review of the concept and role of the regional offices in the work of FAO.

On page 13, paragraphs 5.19 and 5.20 the Director-General gives us information on the role and importance of regional offices. He says:

"Since 1976, FAO has pursued a policy of decentralization based on the Regional Offices and the network of FAO Representatives in individual countries. The Regional Offices constitute the Organization's essential regional presence. They support policy analysis of regional problems and issues regarding agriculture, forestry and fisheries and ensure FAO's collaboration with a constantly increasing number of regional and sub-regional institutions. As governments step up their regional initiatives, particularly in the area of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, the role of FAO's Regional Offices has assumed added importance, a trend evident throughout the United Nations System.

FAO Representatives continue to play a fundamental role in ensuring the full participation of Member Nations in the Regular Programme activities of the Organization, and in developing Field Programme activities funded by extra-budgetary sources. Their value to the member countries to which they are accredited, has been repeatedly reaffirmed both in Regional Conferences and in meetings of the FAC governing bodies."

Is it the desire of the Council to maintain these offices with their present functions? or is it the Council's desire to give them an expanded role in view of the dire conditions concerning food in many regions, and the crucial nature of programmes in agriculture, in fisheries and in forestry to the future of humanity?

In their remarks before this Council, many of our colleagues deplored the disjointed efforts of those helping their countries; underscoring the desirability of integrating these efforts in the agricultural programmes.

Are not the regional FAO offices the proper bodies to undertake this integrative work?

These and many other issues could be resolved in a review of the concept and role of the FAO regional offices.

In the course of our intervention in the deliberations of this Council, my delegation put forward the idea of an integrated regional food production programme especially in Africa where, according to reports, some areas are more suitable to agriculture than others.

Accordingly, my delegation had placed before the Council the idea of an "Africa-to-Feed-Africa Plan", an "Asia-to-Feed-Asia Plan", a "South-America-to Feed South-America Plan" as I pointed out the distinctive role of the Marshal Plan in the rehabilitation of Europe after the Second World War.

Would FAO consider such plans, and if it does, are not the Regional Offices the administrative bodies to administer them?

And if these Regional Offices are to be maintained as envisioned with the new role, my delegation wishes to put forward the proposal that they shall be manned as far as practicable by persons from the regions and hired at Third World rate of salaries. The people of the Third World on account of their traditional spirituality may be ready to make sacrifices for their own constituencies.

On another point before I leave this subject of regions, my delegation wishes to request the Secretariat to please inform the Council the nature of the proposed outlays for "Regional Offices" in the tables of expenditures accompanying the major programmes and sub-programmes. Are the outlays for administrative costs or project costs? If both, how much for each? These tables appear on pages 49, 54, 59, 63, 68, 72, 76, 84, 90 and 94 of the Programme of Work and Budget document.

On the amount of the budget, my delegation wishes to join the other members of the Council in endorsing to the Conference the proposed total outlay of \$451 640 000, on the understanding and with the assurance by the Director-General that no additional assessments will be made against Member States to meet the outlay.

My delegation is aware of the debate on the issue of "zero growth". It does not intend to join the debate on the phrase. I personally believe that phrases like it, ideograms, slogans, have contributed to the further division of our ranks, divisions which have made our struggle towards collaboration difficult.

I believe that, instead of zeroing in on the "zero growth" issue, this Council should concentrate on the formulation of the programme or the work to be done by this Organization. I foresee that it will be easier for this Council, for the Member States to provide funds for the work of the Organization if it had a programme that it could understand -- and understand fully -- if, the programme had in it tangible projects with specific fund allotments.

The programme before us is a list of declarations of intentions and a description of what is intended to be done. When these are to be done, where they will be done, what in more specific and visible terms has to be done, and at how much cost are not known to us.

I must confess to you, my distinguished colleagues, my difficulty in understanding the proposed programme much less its impact on the lives of people in the country.

Notwithstanding this difficulty, my delegation is voting for the budgetary amount proposed by the Director-General under the conditions stated above.

I shall hope that I will soon be able to understand the programme more clearly. Perhaps the Secretariat should consider that the members of this Council come from countries with different practices of preparing a programme and budget. But our programme and budgets are understood by the farmers.

A programme that contains concrete projects, specific in certain areas, and therefore visible to members of this Council and the Member States will serve to preserve the credibility of FAO (We must bear in mind that we are in a skeptical world) and prove that FAO is in touch with reality.

A budget form specifying projects - international, national or regional - with their corresponding appropriations may be less controversial and easier to approve: it will be easier to understand.

Mr Chairman, my distinguished colleagues, in view of the foregoing observations and similar observations of other colleagues, my delegation proposes that the Council, in the exercise of its functions as the governing body of FAO, consider the following recommendations vis-a-vis the 1986-87 Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization:

(1) That a greater portion, of the resources available under the Technical Cooperation Programme shall be earmarked for impact projects and that this Council makes this known in advance to Member States as a policy or as advice.

(2) That in order to provide more funds for more practical field activities designed to increase food production to ensure food security in the critical areas of the world, the outlays for studies, data-gathering and analysis, policy analysis and similar activities shall be reduced to the barest minimum; believing that some of these activities could be postponed in favor of more urgent activities directly and immediately needed for food production ;

(3) That for the same reasons given in the preceding paragraph, appropriations for conferences, meetings, symposia whose obvious purpose is information and data gathering shall likewise be reduced to the barest minimum and therefore only those meetings, conferences, symposia and other similar activities which are absolutely essential shall be undertaken by the Organization;

(4) That in view of the high cost of inorganic fertilizer and pesticides and the destructive effect of these substances to the soil and the environment and in order to relieve the marginal farmer of the high cost of farming, FAO shall focus greater attention to the further development of alternatives to inorganic fertilizers and pesticides and to the promotion of their use; and must appropriate more funds for the purpose;

(5) That greater attention and consequently additional funds be provided for the programmes for the conservation of natural resources and the rehabilitation and reclamation of lands for agriculture;

(6) That regionalization or centralization programmes of FAO be reviewed with the view to determining, among others --

- whether or not the regional offices are unduly creating additional administrative costs for FAO;
- whether or not it is advisable that these offices be further strengthened by granting them greater autonomous powers in order to enable them to effectively carry-out their functions;
- whether or not these offices may be the appropriate agencies to initiate and administer integrated food programmes;
- whether or not these offices shall be maintained and under what conditions;

(7) That in order to aid the Council and subsequently the Conference in the exercise of its functions vis-a-vis the programme and budget, the Director-General is requested to provide it with a report of the expenditures or disbursements, specifying the projects funded-from the budgetary out-lays for the 1984-85 biennium.

(8) That the adequate provisions be made available for the dissemination of the information and data amassed by FAO to ensure that the end users will benefit from them and thus contribute to the achievement of food security in the world;

(9) That the role of FAO be further assessed and reviewed with the view to clarifying its functions and giving it broader powers and greater latitude of action to deal with the problems of food --

in agriculture, fisheries and forestry -- to ensure food security.

Mr Chairman, distinguished colleagues, my delegation respectfully submits these proposals for the consideration of the Council, as the Council acts on the proposed FAO Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87.

May I invite you to join me in the delicate and difficult task of formulating a programme that bears the wisdom and vision of this Council, and in hoping that your own voice and my own voice are heard. You and I can legitimately lay claim to a genuine concern for the farmers; the hungry, the poor, for they are in a more direct manner our constituents. We are here as their representatives more than any other.

My delegation wishes to think that the proposals put forward by it are in the greater interest of the peoples of the Third World. My delegation believes that today the farmers of Africa, Asia, South America, the Caribbean and the Middle East prefer an irrigation system -- infrastructures that aid agriculture -- to the volumes of studies that FAO can produce.

And when we return home, my dear colleagues, our governments will ask: What projects do we expect for our farmers?

Finally, my dear colleagues, please consider the endeavours of my delegation in this conference as a genuine concern for FAO's tasks, inspired by the spirit of mutual concern and assistance. If I over-burden you with my remarks, please consider that I have to prove the wisdom of my delegation's position.

Le DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Le distingué Ambassadeur des Philippines a dit tout à fait au début de son intervention qu'il approuvait le projet de programme et budget pour un certain montant. Je voudrais confirmer que le Programme de travail et budget, tel que je l'ai proposé pour 1986-87, dans les conditions de calcul qui sont indiquées dans le document CL 87/3, est en effet de 451 640 000 dollars. Je voudrais donc demander au représentant des Philippines de bien vouloir préciser que c'est bien sur ce montant qu'il est d'accord.

J.C. CLAVE (Philippines): The intention is to support the budget. The statement referred to the budgetary amounts proposed for 1986-87, therefore, if the amount is \$451 640 000 - then that is the figure which we support.

F. DE MENEZES (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Je n'ai pas à vous soumettre une longue déclaration. Je viens d'arriver à Rome pour cette deuxième semaine de la réunion du Conseil. Néanmoins vous me permettrez, en commençant mon intervention concernant le programme et le budget 1986-87, de vous féliciter pour votre présidence et de féliciter également les Vice-Présidents pour leur élection, et puisque je suis en thème de félicitations, permettez-moi de féliciter le Directeur général et les membres du Secrétariat pour la clarté du document qui nous est soumis.

Je ne voudrais pas que la discussion sur ce point de l'ordre du jour se termine au sein de ce Conseil sans que les Iles de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, qui vivent, je dis bien qui vivent, de l'agriculture à 95 pour cent, et dont les activités économiques viennent de l'agriculture, n'expriment leur opinion. Vous voyez que tout ce qui touche aux actions en faveur de ce secteur économique touche également les Iles Sao Tomé-et-Principe. Nous sommes très sensibles à cette question.

En regardant à chaud ce sommaire du Programme de travail et budget 1986-87, mon pays ne peut qu'appuyer entièrement le Directeur général de la FAO et les membres de son Secrétariat pour le Programme qui nous est soumis.

L'accent placé sur l'Afrique montre bien la conscience que cette Organisation possède de l'importance de notre continent. Le fait d'avoir placé le Programme économique et technique et le PCT devant toutes les autres actions de l'Organisation montre également cette préoccupation.

Pour terminer, puisqu'il s'agit là de notre première intervention, nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer entièrement et fermement ces programmes et demandons aux pays industrialisés, au-delà de tous les efforts qu'ils sont en train de consentir en notre faveur, tout en reconnaissant les problèmes qu'ils connaissent eux-mêmes dans leurs pays respectifs, nous leur demandons donc d'appuyer encore cette action en notre faveur pour 1986-87.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): May I make a very short statement on behalf of the Asia Group, after listening to the other Asia members who have been given the floor on this very important agenda item?

First of all I would like to commend the contents of the Programme of Work and Budget. The Asia Group gives full support to this Programme and we believe that the Director-General has given very careful consideration to this Programme of Work and Budget based on the present economic situation and needs of the developing countries.

Secondly, we feel that the TCP is very important for our developing countries, especially in our Asia member countries. We believe that this TCP represents a very small increase, only 0.4; but, for the reason of the economic situation in the member countries we accept this increase. The Asia Group also supports the strategy and priorities as formulated in the document.

E. BORTEI - DOKU (Observer for Ghana): Please allow my delegation to join other participants in appreciating the excellent work you have done as Chairman of the FAO Council.

We also wish to congratulate the Director-General of the FAO for the quick action taken by his Organization in getting to grips with the serious food situation that has faced several countries in the tropical world, especially on the continent of Africa. We also congratulate him for the preparation of this valuable Programme of Work and Budget submitted to the Council for discussion and approval.

We would like to make a brief reference in this document CL 87/3 to sub-programme 2.1.1.4 dealing with Water Development and Management.

We want to emphasize this section as it is one of the positive contributions to finding a lasting solution to the food problems facing the world body, with special reference to the problems of Africa.

Most food production practices on this continent depend upon rainfall. With adequate and well distributed rainfall some of the countries have managed to be reasonably self-sufficient in food needs.

When this does not happen and there is drought, these same countries within a few months become victims of famine.

In 1982 and 1983 my own country, Ghana, had the worst drought recorded in 80 years, and we were near the top of the FAO list of countries needing emergency aid.

In 1984 Ghana had very favourable rainfall and we started to look for buyers for surplus maize produced in the country. Rainfall on the continent has become so erratic, unreliable and unpredictable in recent years, that almost every country is a potential victim of drought. In order to arrest this fluctuating nature of the African problem, we recommend strongly that the exploitation and development of national water resources, including small-scale irrigation development, be given very high priority. Any African country that largely depends upon rainfed agriculture should be regarded as a potential victim of drought and food shortage, and should be considered for appropriate aid, for water resources development and irrigation.

In our efforts to guarantee the survival of the human resource on the African continent in the face of prevailing poor climate conditions, we recommend intensification of work on breeding early-maturing crop varieties, especially cereals, and we also recommend attention to drought-resistant crops including cassava, which is now seriously threatened by pests and diseases.

In adopting such measures, we hope that in the long run a solid foundation can be laid for feeding Africa and the other areas of the world which are threatened by poor rainfall distribution and drought. The world community can thus start to work towards the elimination of the horrors of famine and the extensive losses of life that have accompanied these unfortunate circumstances.

My delegation fully supports the Programme of Work and Budget presented by the Director-General for 1986-87 and has the honour to recommend it to the current session of the Council for adoption.

L. GANSORE (Observateur du Burkina Faso): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Secrétariat et les Présidents des deux Comités pour la clarté du document sur le Programme de travail et budget 1986-87.

Le Programme de travail et budget a été élaboré en tenant compte de nombreux facteurs environnants très négatifs. Les pays en développement subissent de plein fouet une crise économique dont ils ne sont nullement responsables. En 1985, la production céréalière globale des 21 pays africains les plus touchés a régressé de 20 pour cent. Leurs besoins d'aide alimentaire étaient estimés à 6,6 millions de tonnes, soit 3,2 millions de tonnes de plus que le volume reçu par ces pays en 1983-84.

Plusieurs délégués, notamment l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, l'Ambassadeur de Cuba, du Mexique, ont fait état de la situation de la dette des pays d'Amérique latine. Nous voudrions exprimer notre solidarité avec ces peuples dans leur effort pour sortir de la crise qui leur a été imposée.

C'est dans cet environnement économique défavorable que le Programme de travail et budget a été élaboré. Il tient compte de plusieurs résolutions et déclarations internationales, notamment celle de Harare, mettant l'accent sur la priorité plus élevée au développement agricole et rural, et invitant les organisations internationales et les donateurs à fournir une assistance financière et matérielle accrue en faveur du développement rural.

Nous regrettons beaucoup que pour des raisons d'austérité le Directeur général, avec le pragmatisme qui l'anime, ait été obligé de faire des choix. Certaines activités importantes s'en trouvent donc écartées.

Nous appuyons les priorités définies dans ce document, notamment la production vivrière, la sécurité alimentaire, la formation, la coopération économique et technique.

S'agissant de la croissance zéro, nous ne pouvons y souscrire. Comme l'a si bien dit le délégué de l'Italie, la croissance zéro ne peut s'appliquer à une Organisation comme la FAO. Demander la croissance zéro, à un moment où plusieurs millions de personnes meurent de faim, de soif et de malnutrition, à un moment où la production agricole diminue dans plusieurs régions de nos pays, à un moment où notre bétail meurt par manque d'eau et de pâturages, cela n'est ni réaliste ni responsable. Demander la croissance zéro à une Organisation comme la FAO, qui gère avec efficacité les maigres fonds mis à sa disposition, équivaudrait à lui demander de se démettre purement et simplement de la mission que lui ont confiée les Etats Membres qui la composent.

Bref, nous sommes d'accord pour que dans une situation de crise toute gestion de fonds doive se faire avec prudence, et le Directeur général a déjà pris des initiatives dans ce sens, notamment en procédant à des réductions de dépenses administratives et de frais généraux, etc.

Aussi nous estimons que la faible augmentation budgétaire proposée est le minimum face aux énormes actions qui attendent la FAO.

D.K. YOMAN (Observateur de la Côte-d'Ivoire) : La délégation ivoirienne vous remercie de lui avoir donné la parole. Elle s'exprimera non seulement en son nom propre, mais aussi en qualité de Président du Groupe africain. Vous avez déjà entendu de nombreuses délégations africaines s'exprimer en faveur du projet de budget qui nous est présenté. Aucune d'entre elles n'approuve le dogme de la croissance zéro. Aucune d'entre elles, dis-je, car l'Afrique, continent le plus touché par la faim et la malnutrition et les effets de la crise économique mondiale, ne peut en aucune manière accepter le principe de la Croissance zéro. Cette Afrique ne peut comprendre que, au moment où elle perd de nombreux enfants la FAO, forum international chargé par excellence de l'alimentation dans le monde, voie son budget stationnaire pour ne pas dire en régression. C'est une anomalie et c'est même illogique que tous les comités techniques : COAG, Comité des engrais, des forêts, etc., de la FAO, auxquels nous avons participé depuis le mois de janvier 1985, aient conclu à une augmentation des moyens dont dispose l'Organisation et qu'aujourd'hui l'on vienne au Conseil nous demander en quelque sorte de faire marche arrière.

Nous avons également entendu ici, au cours de nos débats, certaines délégations demander au Directeur général de présenter un nouveau projet de budget 1986-87 au mois de novembre à la Conférence. Les pays africains ne peuvent accepter cette proposition qui nous amènerait encore à des débats inutiles, au moment où notre Organisation, à son quarantième anniversaire, devrait à notre avis faire plutôt preuve d'unité de consensus autour des mêmes préoccupations.

Nous lançons un appel à ceux d'entre nous qui ont évoqué cette éventualité pour retirer cette Suggestion, car le Directeur général se trouvera très embarrassé pour faire un projet de budget en tenant compte de la croissance zéro au moment où la communauté internationale tout entière et d'abord nous, Africains, qui sommes les plus défavorisés, attendons des actions concrètes de la FAO, un financement des projets de réhabilitation de notre agriculture et une formation large et efficace de nos travailleurs agricoles, des Cadres compétents en nombre encore plus important.

Je poursuivrai cette intervention en vous indiquant que l'Afrique, à laquelle la FAO consacré 40 pour cent de son budget, ne peut également accepter que le PCT, proposé par le Directeur général, soit amputé. Nous tenons au maintien du PCT tel qu'il est dans le projet de budget, à défaut d'être augmenté, car ses qualités de souplesse, de rapidité et d'efficacité sont très appréciées par nos gouvernements qui y ont recours de plus en plus.

Il y a un moment où il faut répéter ici que nous Sommes dans une Organisation qui est là pour sauver des vies humaines. Si dans certains grands pays développés les budgets de défense et des armées Ont été augmentés, il faut aussi que la FAO, Chargée de la défense de l'alimentation, reçoive une pareille attention. Ne trouvez-vous pas cela plus logique et plus responsable ?

Nous sommes de ceux qui pensent qu'un bombardier coûte plus cher que le programme de réhabilitation de l'agriculture en Afrique, présenté par la FAO et nos gouvernements, qui a besoin de 170 millions de dollars pour être réalisé.

La bonne gestion saine et rigoureuse de toute organisation, de toute cellule humaine, exige que l'on fasse une part à des imprévus impondérables. Les 800 000 dollars d'imprévus ne sont vraiment pas un gouffre même s'il faut les gérer avec un maximum de doigté.

La délégation de la Côte-d'Ivoire, parlant au nom du Groupe africain, tient à préciser que le maintien des bureaux régionaux est une nécessité pour nous. Nous sommes prêts à discuter des questions liées à leur fonctionnement, pour les rendre plus performants, mais, nous le répétons, ces bureaux régionaux sont des courrois de transmission utiles qui ne demandent qu'à être dynamisées.

En conclusion, nous voudrions dire que nous savons bien que la reprise économique, dans certains grands pays développés, leur permet d'avoir des excédents commerciaux de 30 ou 40 millions de dollars avec d'autres pays et groupes de pays, que par ailleurs toute augmentation du budget actuel, dans l'hypothèse la plus contraignante, ne ferait qu'une augmentation de 6 à 10 millions de dollars en deux ans à répartir en 120 pays.

Puissent notre intervention et celle des autres pays d'Afrique nous amener à persuader tous les gouvernements à appuyer le projet de budget 1986-87 présenté par le Secrétariat.

A. YILALA (Observer for Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation (like all other representatives and observers who spoke before us on the subject) would also like to voice its complete satisfaction with the comprehensive introductory remarks and explanations of the Director-General on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87. We recognize this effort of the Director-General as one of his continued interests in promoting global food production and reducing the sufferings

of human beings due to the pains of hunger and poverty. Our delegation, therefore, would like to congratulate him once again for his continued struggle against hunger, and request him for further continued efforts and initiatives in spite of the difficulties that might be encountered in the future.

Our delegation would also like to use this opportunity for thanking the Secretariat for its outstanding contribution in the preparation of the document on Summary Programme of Work and Budget which we consider was very comprehensive and covered most of the essential points and the required background for our discussion.

Towards the end of last week, and today too, most of the essential points on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget were raised by Council members, and my remarks will concentrate on those issues that need to be re-emphasized, rather than new.

The world's economic recession of 1980-1983, which is considered to be the longest in the last fifty years, had its significant negative effect on the basically subsistence economies of developing countries, thus affecting their agriculture, because a major portion of their economy is based on agriculture.

Further to this, the drought that affected a number of African countries had its further flows on agriculture, thus causing a shortage of even the basic food. In addition to the millions of people who are affected by the horrors of hunger, animals, which are sources of power for agriculture in most developing countries, are also affected, thus adding further difficulties to food production and agriculture.

Fight and struggle against the critical economic and food production situation in Africa at present will require the concerted effort of all the international community, because the resources required are far beyond what Africa can afford.

Thus, that the present momentum of Focus on Africa should come to a phase of implementation and action is a plea that Africa is making.

We are grateful to all those individuals, Member Nations and international organizations who supported the cause of Focus on Africa and have no doubt that this support will continue up to its implementation and action. The Focus on Africa should get support from individuals, Member Nations and international organizations in their planning, allocation of resources and sincere attention.

We believe that the Director-General of FAO, an international organization, is attempting to contribute FAO's share for this noble cause which is clearly reflected in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87.

The reduction of spending on general policy, development support and common services, and increase for technical programmes, TCP, and support services, will assist in this effort.

In achieving this objective of contributing FAO's share, the Director-General requires additional funds over and above what he has availed through his restructuring of the Budget. This additional request of 1.4 percent in budgetary allocation increase in real terms is something that should be supported with little or no difficulty when we consider the aims and aspirations of what it is meant for.

The Ethiopian delegation therefore would like to indicate its support for this budgetary request to be endorsed as indicated in document CL 87/3 of March 1985.

Finally, we would like to thank all those who initiated the idea of Focus on Africa and supported it for its development up to the present.

B. KOUESSEU (Observateur du Cameroun): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Secrétariat et l'ensemble des membres des commissions du Programme et des Finances pour l'excellent travail qui leur a permis de produire ces documents de très bonne qualité. Permettez-moi également de féliciter la Direction générale pour l'effort exceptionnel qu'elle a consenti pour rationaliser la gestion de notre Organisation, notamment en réduisant les dotations budgétaires pour les charges administratives, les rubriques de politiques et de direction de soutien au développement et les charges communes, en renforçant sensiblement les chapitres susceptibles d'avoir un impact direct sur le terrain. Il en est ainsi par exemple du Programme technique et économique et du PCT. Cette orientation budgétaire colle avec la réalité de la situation qui est celle de pénurie alimentaire dans les pays en développement spécialement en Afrique. Cette situation, pour le moins catastrophique pour la plupart de nos pays, nécessite une relance vigoureuse de l'agriculture dans ces pays. Ma délégation pense alors qu'il est tout à fait indiqué d'appuyer sans réserve les projets de programme de travail et de budget soumis à notre Conseil par le Directeur général.

La plupart des grands pays contributeurs insistent pour que la croissance minimale de 1,4 pour cent imprimée à ce budget soit ramenée à la croissance zéro. Je voudrais d'abord dire que ce serait acte d'ingratitude pour nous que de ne pas reconnaître que ces pays, dans le cadre de nos relations bilatérales, ont effectivement accru de manière très significative leurs aides de toute nature pour le développement de nos pays. Ces aides ont connu une ampleur jamais égalée depuis le début de l'actuelle crise alimentaire en Afrique. Le Cameroun leur est particulièrement reconnaissant pour cet élan de générosité envers les peuples menacés de famine de par le monde.

Ma délégation souhaiterait que dans le même élan, les pays de l'OCDE notamment qui savent si bien se montrer généreux quand quelque part dans le monde survient une situation de catastrophe, apportent leur appui au projet de budget proposé par le Directeur général. En effet, ce projet de budget confirme la réputation de la FAO pour sa bonne gestion, ce qui n'est pas le cas de tous les organismes internationaux. La faible croissance de 1,4 pour cent imprimée à ce budget s'inscrit dans le sens d'une orientation vers la tendance zéro dont l'objectif pourra facilement être atteint dans les deux ou trois années à venir si la même rigueur est maintenue et si la situation alimentaire dans le monde s'améliore. Cette situation de l'agriculture dans le monde ne permet pas actuellement de s'en tenir à une croissance zéro du budget de la FAO. Elle le permettra sans doute un jour à court terme quand la relance de l'agriculture aura été partout réussie.

Des délégations suggèrent que des coupes sombres soient opérées sur les crédits du PCT. Permettez-moi sur ce point de dire que le Programme du PCT est l'un des plus efficaces de la FAO dans la mesure où sa souplesse permet au Directeur général de venir sans retard sur le terrain. Mon pays a d'ailleurs bénéficié de ces crédits quand la partie nord du Cameroun a été victime d'une invasion de criquets migrateurs. Nous pensons que les crédits du PCT doivent bénéficier de l'accroissement qui a été proposé. Ceci est d'autant nécessaire qu'il devient tout à fait aléatoire de s'adresser aux organismes de cofinancement qui auraient pu permettre de faire exécuter les dossiers étudiés par la FAO. Le FIDA, nous connaissons ses difficultés. L'IDA, il en est de même. Le PNUD, ses difficultés le rendent de moins en moins fiable. Je me permets donc d'insister sur l'appui que ma délégation apporte à ce projet de programme de travail et budget et ma délégation lance un appel aux pays développés pour que leur comportement sur la scène mondiale cesse d'être caractérisé, d'une part par une grande générosité dans leurs relations bilatérales avec les pays en développement et, d'autre part, par une tendance à faire réduire le rôle et l'impact des organisations internationales du système des Nations Unies. Ne l'oublions pas, la création et le développement de l'ONU et de ses organismes spécialisés ont constitué un concept majeur de la civilisation humaine au cours de notre XX<sup>ème</sup> siècle. Nous ne devons pas assumer la lourde responsabilité de détruire ce qui représente le symbole d'une société internationale plus, ordonnée, plus harmonisée et plus consciente de son intégration. Faisons donc tout pour épargner à la FAO des difficultés. Ne faisons rien pour la distraire de ses missions concrètes et la lancer dans la tourmente des organisations internationales à problème.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation estime que si ce n'était pas par pur principe, si ce n'était pas par pur dogmatisme, tous les délégués auraient d'entrée de jeu approuvé ce programme de travail et de budget parce qu'il constitue un budget de rigueur de gestion. J'espère qu'après un examen rétrospectif de nos consciences tous les délégués accorderont à ce budget le consensus qui lui est dû parce que la direction générale mérite plutôt des encouragements et des félicitations pour sa gestion budgétaire.

R. RABE (Observateur de Madagascar): Nous faisons nôtre la déclaration faite par le Président du Groupe africain. Notre délégation, malgré notre qualité d'observateur, a cru opportun d'apporter notre modeste contribution à ce point très important de notre ordre du jour, point qui a été brillamment présenté par le Directeur général, le Président du Comité financier et le Président du Comité du Programme. En effet le Programme de travail et budget constitue à notre sens la définition des objectifs assignés au Secrétariat et fixe les moyens qui lui permettent de remplir le rôle qui lui est dévolu tel que défini par les textes. Il est par conséquent indispensable que le Programme de travail reflète les priorités et les besoins minima formulés par les Etats Membres et que le budget permette au Secrétariat de faire face aux dépenses inhérentes à ses interventions sans cesse grandissantes.

Le document CL 87/13 du Secrétariat sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique ainsi que les différentes réunions suivies de conclusions du Comité de l'agriculture, du Comité des engrais et du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, du Comité des politiques et programme alimentaire ainsi que du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier font ressortir sans ambiguïté aucune l'immensité de la tâche à assurer par le Secrétariat. A signaler que les Etats Membres du Conseil sont membres de l'un ou l'autre de ces comités et en partagent par conséquent les conclusions.



Tous ces rapports mettent en exergue la situation, sinon catastrophique du moins très critique, dans laquelle se trouvent la plupart des pays en développement, notamment plusieurs pays africains au sud du Sahara. Tous insistent sur l'urgence de relancer l'agriculture dans ces pays.

Déjà dans sa 86ème session le Conseil, préoccupé par la situation qui prévaut dans ces pays, avait prescrit au Directeur général d'établir un programme de relance qui devrait porter ses fruits au bout de trois ans. A noter que les Etats qui ont donné ces instructions fermes sont les mêmes que ceux qui sont ici présents. A-t-on conscience de la difficulté de cette tâche et est-on convaincu de la nécessité de mettre à la disposition du Secrétariat les moyens requis? Le rôle de chef de file que doit jouer le Secrétariat dans la mobilisation de la communauté internationale, l'appui soutenu qu'il doit apporter auprès des Etats dans la lutte sans merci qu'ils mènent pour sortir de la crise, exigent de sa part un redoublement d'efforts.

Il doit faire plus qu'auparavant car il s'agit d'aller plus vite que le rythme de croisière des années normales. Il faut sauver d'abord les populations sinistrées de 21 pays frappés par la sécheresse, qui, a-t-on déjà précisé, vont atteindre le chiffre de 25 et même plus et en même temps redresser l'agriculture dans ces pays, prendre toutes les dispositions utiles pour que d'autres pays ne subissent pas le même sort, assurer un appui efficace auprès des autres pays en voie de développement pour qu'ils atteignent leur autosuffisance alimentaire et répondent simultanément aux besoins manifestés des autres membres.

Tout en accordant une attention particulière à la situation critique de l'Afrique et plaçant la priorité sur l'aide d'urgence à consentir à cette région, le Secrétariat se doit aussi de tout mettre en oeuvre pour que le relèvement de l'agriculture africaine soit une réalité.

La délégation malgache estime, pour sa part, que le Directeur général dans ses propositions a tenu compte de tous ces aspects et qu'ainsi l'on peut qualifier d'équilibré le sommaire de travail; l'examen du niveau de budget par contre ne manque pas de provoquer en nous une certaine inquiétude. En effet son niveau ne correspond absolument pas à la nécessité de redynamisation impérieuse exigée par la situation. Une augmentation de 1,4 pour cent du budget par rapport au budget de croisière ne peut être considérée comme suffisante. Il ressemble, comme l'a dit le Directeur général au cours de certaines de ses interventions pertinentes, à l'aspirine que l'on donne à un malade pour calmer instantanément son mal de tête, mais il ne le guérit pas. L'ampleur des besoins manifestés et la capacité du Secrétariat à y répondre justifient un niveau de budget nettement plus élevé que celui soumis à l'approbation du Conseil.

Il est vrai que le Directeur général, pour pouvoir renforcer les programmes technique et économique, a décidé de réduire très sensiblement les dépenses d'administration et de soutien, de ne procéder à de nouveaux recrutements de personnel qu'après avoir procédé à des suppressions de postes non prioritaires et à des redéploiements.

Tout en encourageant ces mesures, le Comité de Programme et le Comité financier ont, à juste titre, souligné que le Secrétariat devrait quand même veiller à ce que les compressions d'effectif ne compromettent pas l'exécution des programmes au moment même où plusieurs d'entre eux doivent être sensiblement renforcés. Pour n'en citer que quelques-uns, il faut promouvoir intensément la coopération technico-économique entre pays en voie de développement.

Dans beaucoup de domaines, il faut suivre de très près la mise en application des différentes résolutions prises par la Conférence mondiale sur le développement rural et la réforme agraire. Il faut aussi rattraper le retard accusé dans l'appui apporté aux femmes dans leur participation active au développement rural et à la sécurité alimentaire.

De nombreux domaines en veilleuse dans le passé, comme le développement des cultures dites secondaires, doivent faire l'objet d'attentions toutes particulières et requièrent par conséquent, de la part du Secrétariat, plus d'efforts et plus de moyens.

Au sujet des moyens, nous sommes un peu étonnés de la proposition formulée par certains délégués de diminuer le programme de coopération technique. En notre qualité de membre du Comité financier, nous suivons de très près l'exécution du budget de l'Organisation et nous avons constaté, à plusieurs occasions, que les montants réservés au Programme de coopération technique sont nettement insuffisants et ne permettent en aucune façon de répondre aux besoins urgents manifestés par les Etats Membres en difficulté. Aussi nous semble-t-il irrationnel d'envisager une réduction quelconque de ce chapitre.

Monsieur le Président, nous souhaiterions vivement que la FAO ne soit pas victime, elle aussi, de certains courants négatifs qui, actuellement, ont tendance à mettre en cause tout multilatéralisme, à vouloir modifier à tout prix l'ordre établi, courants qui mettent déjà en péril le FIDA et minent les possibilités d'intervention de certaines institutions internationales vitales pour le développement des pays en voie de développement, celles-là mêmes qui s'intéressent aux couches les plus pauvres de la population en leur ayant toujours consenti le financement à des conditions de faveur. Il ne nous semble pas sain et logique d'affirmer qu'une institution efficace et précieuse ait en même temps adopté des attitudes qui risquent de la vider de sa substance.

Fort heureusement, le Conseil est constitué de Membres éminemment responsables. Aussi, sommes-nous convaincus que les résolutions et décisions prises, notamment à l'endroit de ce point de l'ordre du jour, ne viseront qu'à sortir au plus vite les plus pauvres, les petits paysans dans leur totalité, du marasme dans lequel ils se trouvent.

Pour terminer, nous souhaiterions vous dire que notre délégation appuie très chaleureusement le Programme de travail et le niveau de budget proposé par le Directeur général.

Ms. M. PIOTROWSKA (Observer for Poland): I would like to express our approval of the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-87. We would like to congratulate the Director-General and the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees for having managed to significantly increase the content of the technical programmes of FAO primarily in shifting resources from the administrative sector of the Organization into priority areas of the technical programmes. We find the Director-General's proposal for a real increase of about 6 million United States dollars to be very reasonable and certainly approve this small budget increase. With reference to the worsening food situation in Africa, we commend the Director-General for the measures he has taken, both immediate and long-term, to help alleviate the suffering on that continent.

At the same time, we are pleased to notice that the technical programmes benefitting all developing countries have been strengthened. In that context, we would like to mention the effort FAO is making to fight serious animal diseases in Africa like rinderpest and trypanosomiasis, as well as introducing a food resources programme.

Obviously, as a European country, Poland is especially interested in scientific cooperation through the FAO scientific networks which are the model for international scientific cooperation, the results of which can be of benefit to many developing countries. We look forward to fruitful cooperation with the newly-appointed Regional Representative for Europe.

My Government believes that FAO has a great role to play in bringing to the attention of the developing countries the fruits of the new biotechnology being applied in various sectors of agriculture, so that these developing countries can contribute to the development of their own food production. Therefore, we are pleased to see in the proposed programme the attention given to agricultural biotechnology. We are pleased to know that the International Atomic Energy Agency is building a new international research and training facility in agricultural biotechnology which will be completed in the next biennium. My delegation is pleased to inform the Council that our Government has already decided to donate to this facility the laboratory furnishings and equipment needed.

J. GAZZO F.D. (Observador de Perú): Como Embajador de la República del Perú, y en mi calidad de Observador de este distinguido Consejo, voy a tomar la palabra adicionalmente como miembro del Comité de Finanzas.

Soy testigo del amplio diálogo que suscitó dentro del Comité de Finanzas el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87. En los cuatro años que pertenezco como miembro al Comité de Finanzas nunca se ha tratado un tema con tanta amplitud, y con tanto tiempo y con tanto desvelo, ya que casi todas las noches nos hemos ido a dormir a las 10 u 11 de la noche para debatir este tan controvertido tema. Inicialmente, y respetando todas las posiciones, encontramos un diálogo franco, y algunos países por coincidentes, tres miembros de países desarrollados, solicitaron ampliación de documentación para mayor entendimiento de algunos aspectos del Presupuesto que, según ellos, no estaba muy claro. Soy testigo presencial del desvelo que puso la Secretaría en dar todo tipo de documentos adicionales e incluso el Director General Adjunto, Dr. West, tuvo reuniones particulares con cada uno de los miembros para ampliar toda la información que fue necesaria.

La aprobación del resumen para algunos honorables miembros del Consejo está ligada al crecimiento cero. Es fundamental aclarar la idea del crecimiento cero y de su concepto, ya que parece que muchos no la tienen muy clara. Los países en desarrollo tienen problemas muy graves, problemas que se han visto agravados y aumentados por la enorme carga de la deuda externa, por el proteccionismo de algunos países desarrollados que han hecho también que el precio de nuestras materias primas no tengan el valor que deberían tener. Si se piensa que hace diez años con el valor de exportación de 20 toneladas de azúcar se compraba un tractor; hoy día se necesitan 120 toneladas de azúcar para comprar el mismo tractor. Si se tiene en cuenta esto y a ello se agregan factores imprevisibles como son las sequías, las heladas y las inundaciones, se hace mucho más grave todavía esta situación de los países en desarrollo. Si a ello además, se agrega que cada vez que tenemos un Consejo hay un ingreso de uno, dos o tres nuevos miembros, crece la familia de la FAO. El crecimiento cero sería como un ejemplo en el cual en este momento estamos sentados en una mesa diez personas comiendo mal y si vienen dos o tres más vamos a seguir comiendo no sólo mal, sino un poco peor, puesto que hay que repartir.

Por otro lado no aceptamos y no creemos que el crecimiento cero sea un manejo del presupuesto, no señor Presidente, no es un manejo presupuestario, la idea del crecimiento es un desbalance entre las necesidades y el aumento de las mismas, y hay que ver las disponibilidades. Cualquier crecimiento como aumento de las necesidades, aumento de los costos. Se quiere atender a las mismas necesidades con el mismo dinero, pero el crecimiento cero no tiene nada de lógico ni en lo financiero, ni en lo económico ni en lo humanitario. Porque lógicamente en este binomio de necesidad y disponibilidad crece uno de los factores que son las necesidades y debería crecer igualmente el otro. En el crecimiento cero, como digo, se tiende al desbalance, lo cual no es atendible.

Es obvio que una entidad, como lo ha dicho el distinguido Embajador de Italia con la gran sensibilidad, valentía e inteligencia que lo caracteriza, el crecimiento cero es para una organización estática, no es para una organización dinámica y quienes lo preconizan están aceptando ser estáticos, no están aceptando ser dinámicos. A tal gravedad llega el estado y la situación de los países en desarrollo que ya en unas reuniones el distinguido miembro Bruno Kreisky dijo que la gravedad de los países en desarrollo es tal, que hacer recordar la gravedad de Europa después de la Segunda Guerra, que tuvo necesidad de un Plan Marshall para reconstruirse. En estos momentos nosotros necesitamos un plan Marshall de la paz, un plan Marshall que con tanta sensibilidad nos hizo el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos y que ahora tiene la oportunidad de, por lo menos repetirlo en pequeño, pero no con la idea de crecimiento cero.

Admito que el criterio del crecimiento podría aplicarse a los gastos administrativos, y así lo ha hecho el Director General; pero, digamos también que está peligrando el crecimiento de los Programas de Campo, ya que no pueden ser atendidos por su contrapartida administrativa. Nunca deberemos reducir los trabajos y proyectos de campo. Pensamos que el sentido lógico de la idea de crecimiento cero es servir mejor a todas las necesidades a un menor costo unitario del servicio, lo cual quiere decir menor aporte. Esa es la idea de un crecimiento cero dinámico.

Por otra parte quiero hablar sobre la cuestión de la contingencia, o sea los imprevistos. Un usuario de cualquier empresa u organización que no tenga en ellos una partida financiera y contable, sería criticable, ya que la partida de imprevistos es, sencillamente, el cuerpo de todo presupuesto que se maneje con cautela y aunque se haya recurrido poco a ella no quiere decir que no sea necesaria ya que sería un presupuesto antitécnico sin esta contingencia, para su aplicación cuando así se requiera.

En cuanto al PCT, creo que muchas delegaciones, con buena fe, están mal informadas y no conocen a fondo lo que es el PCT. Quisiera decirles que es la mejor herramienta que tiene la FAO para atender rápida y oportunamente pequeños requerimientos de los países en desarrollo. Su actividad a costo unitario es de muy pequeño valor y de gran aplicación para nosotros los usuarios, ya que estos fondos sirven en general para la identificación de proyectos para que luego de conocerse su factibilidad se puedan buscar países financiadores para la ejecución de los mismos.

En realidad el PCT es un catalizador del desarrollo, pero no es un dinero para hacer proyectos, sino para identificarlos y poder asignarles; luego tiene otra ventaja, que son asignaciones mínimas de dinero, nunca pasan de 100 ó 150 mil dolares y de fácil aplicación.

Recuerdo que en plena crisis de fondos del PNUD muchos proyectos urgentes no se paralizaron porque el PCT sacó el pecho y comenzó a financiar algunos de los proyectos que iban a estar cojos, proyectos de gran importancia, de manera que demostró el PCT que era muy oportuno.

Conozco de cerca los proyectos del PCT porque a menudo mi país recurre a este fondo. He conversado largamente con el señor Lignon, lo he molestado, lo he disturbado, lo he agobiado, lo he fastidiado, he sido cargante, sin embargo me ha enseñado y hemos visto en conjunto un enorme número de solicitudes del PCT, o sea el hecho de que no haya asignación de fondos todavía no quiere decir que no haya aplicación de fondos; hay aplicación de fondos, hay una serie de proyectos pero como a veces muchos países abusan del PCT y hacen solicitudes que no están de acuerdo con los postulados para otorgarlos se toma mucho tiempo para evaluar las solicitudes. Yo, creo que habría que hacer un mecanismo para que se tome una decisión más rápida para aplicar los fondos del PCT, pero al PCT no le sobran fondos, le faltan fondos.

Yo creo, que en realidad lo que pasó, y lo voy a decir, lo que pasó con esta transferencia de fondos de 15 millones al PCT fue una cosa que nos preocupó mucho porque era responsabilidad del Comité de Finanzas aprobar la transferencia, ¿por qué? Porque los textos fundamentales, en español página 62, el punto 7 habla de la función del Comité de Finanzas y en el punto b) dice "aprobar las transferencias presupuestarias por el Director General con arreglo al artículo 4.5 b) del Reglamento Financiero y examinar las propuestas del Director General relativas a transferencias presupuestarias en virtud del punto 4.5 b) (2.1.2. i) del Reglamento Financiero.

Por consiguiente, hubo en el Comité de Finanzas el deseo de eludir la responsabilidad y dejar al Consejo una función que era nuestra; señor Presidente, nosotros discutimos, dijimos, que respetando las opiniones de todos, porque nosotros somos respetuosos en las opiniones equivocadas, pero son siempre opiniones, ¿por qué íbamos a cometer una aberración si no aprobábamos esta transferencia?

porque el mismo Reglamento de FAO, texto español en la página 52, el punto 3 dice, cuestiones administrativas y gestiones económicas de la Organización dice: "el Consejo deberá, en el punto d) de la página 53, dice aprobar las transferencias entre distintos capítulos del Presupuesto que no sean de la competencia del Comité de Finanzas." Por consiguiente, era nuestra competencia aprobar esa transferencia y haberla eludido hubiera sido una irresponsabilidad que seis miembros no toleramos y quisimos llegar a este acuerdo.

Por consiguiente, yo invoco la buena fe de todos los miembros, porque soy testigo; hemos tenido almuerzos y comidas particulares en las cuales dialogamos amistosamente con tres miembros coincidentemente de países desarrollados que no estaban de acuerdo pero en el diálogo amistoso sacamos la conclusión de que sería bueno y estarían de acuerdo pero tenían instrucciones de sus gobiernos. ¿Para qué hemos perdido tanto tiempo, me decía yo, si desde el comienzo nos hubieran dicho que el sol sale a las 12 del día pero que si mi Gobierno quiere decir que salga a las 12 de la noche vamos a tener que aprobarlo?

Mi país, digamos yo en mi doble condición primero como representante de América Latina en el Comité de Finanzas y segundo como Miembro de un gobierno soberano del Perú, apruebo y recomendaría la aprobación del resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 porque es un documento en el cual se racionaliza el uso del dinero; se racionaliza, se sectorializa parte de ese dinero en acciones del campo y se disminuye en costos administrativos.

Hay algún delegado aquí, que respeto mucho, que dice que el crecimiento de los costos ha sido muy elevado; pero se ha tomado el índice de la inflación del país huésped, donde FAO tiene la mayoría de sus actividades; no podemos crear índices; dice que es un costo elevado; yo creo que de acuerdo con el índice de ese costo real, que se trate de hacer economías para rebajarlo es otra cosa. Yo creo que estamos en la hora cero y debemos aprobar este presupuesto porque es un presupuesto lógico y debemos meditar sobre el concepto de crecimiento cero porque si quienes lo aplican creen que no es dar más dinero no obstante que crezcan los problemas, están aplicando un concepto equivocado, irracional e inhumano.

Srta. M.E. JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (Observador de El Salvador): Nuestra calidad de Observador nos permite cumplir con su solicitud de ser breves, ya que han sido planteados por los distintos delegados miembros del Consejo y observadores que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra elementos de juicio suficientes para respaldar el apoyo que nuestro Gobierno da al Programa de Labores y al nivel del Presupuesto para el bienio 1986-87.

Felicitamos al Director General por la calidad excelente del documento que nos ha presentado, el cual sin duda refleja las más urgentes necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

El proceso de selección de prioridades y el establecimiento de estrategias adecuadas que hacen de las recomendaciones dadas por los Estados Miembros en las diferentes Conferencias y reuniones no podían ser más apropiadas. Estas recomendaciones son el fruto de nuestras necesidades más sentidas, el apoyo que se da a nuestros hermanos africanos son prueba evidente de ello.

El trabajo arduo y concienzudo que ha llevado a cabo el Director General para poder presentarnos un nivel de presupuesto mínimo que considera tanto las necesidades de los países en desarrollo como la situación financiera de los países desarrollados no puede sino merecer nuestro total apoyo.

Instamos a los países que han manifestado no estar de acuerdo con este nivel de presupuesto mínimo a que reconsideren su posición y podamos así en noviembre aprobar sin dificultades este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

K. de VEY MESTDAGH (Observer for Netherlands): I wish to express the gratitude of my delegation to the Director-General and his staff for all of the preparatory work in relation to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, as well as for the work of the Programme and Finance Committees in that respect.

Nevertheless, we are not yet in a position, as these Committees have done, to express complete satisfaction with the format and presentation of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. Our study of the document in great detail has given rise to a number of questions, we would say too many questions to be fully satisfied. We wish to add immediately that we were in a position to discuss many of these questions with the Secretariat staff members, and the discussions from both sides were considered to be very fruitful and refreshing.

The first conclusion that we draw from these exercises, as the delegate from Japan has stated, is that we need more tables and figures instead of often complicated narrative explanations which, because of the necessarily condensed form, are often unclear to the reader.

We do not want to be considered as fanatic protagonists of the zero growth concept. It is at the most a point of departure, not an absolute objective. If convincing arguments are put forward to underscore real growth, then we will give them all the weight they deserve. Here we are not talking about arguments related to devastating droughts and emergency hunger situations. These catastrophes are not eradicated by a budgetary increase of even 10 percent of the FAO budget. To alleviate those desperate situations a lot more must be done, and to that end the Netherlands Government and its people have done their utmost in the last year and will do its share in the future.

Arguments taken into consideration by my Government are budgetary arguments related to the Regular Programme of the Organization. In this respect we are not yet fully convinced on the proposed 1.4 real growth. A number of members of the Council have already brought forward suggestions of areas in the budget which may be able to warrant further reductions of transfers. As Observers we do not want to go into great detail now, but we would very much appreciate the Director-General and his staff going over the budget proposals once again to see if and how these suggestions can be met in preparing the final Programme of Work and Budget.

P.M. AMUKOA (Observer for Kenya): I wish to join all those members of the Council and observers who have spoken in support of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget and the level of the budget for the biennium 1986-87. We support most of the arguments which those delegations have advanced in its support, and in the interest of time we shall not repeat them.

Regarding the programme's strategies, policies and priorities, my delegation participated in the deliberations of various FAO technical committees, and as far as we can see our views and interests are faithfully and adequately reflected. We shall emphasize them further at the Conference and approve them together with the budget.

Ms. HOANG THI CU (Observer for Viet Nam): I am very grateful to the Chairman of the ASEAN Group for making our position on the Programme of Work and Budget known to the Council. Speaking as an observer, I would like to say that our Government fully supports the priorities given by the Director-General. The increase of 1.4 percent is very modest when we think of the greater requirements of developing countries, particularly those in Africa, to attain food security. We highly appreciate this Programme and believe it is a very effective one, and even hope to see some increase on this programme.

In conclusion we appeal to all developed countries to join us developing countries in approving the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by the Director-General.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Observateur du Cap-Vert): Je serai extrêmement bref étant donné les interventions si claires et si brillantes des délégations qui m'ont précédé, en particulier des délégations qui, à juste titre, ont appuyé le Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87 présenté par le Directeur général et son équipe. Notre délégation pense que c'est une véritable acrobatie, en raison des réalités qui prévalent dans les pays membres de la FAO, notamment les pays africains. L'augmentation de 1,4 pour cent est à notre avis le minimum que l'on peut demander et je dis bien qu'il s'agit là d'une acrobatie de la part de la FAO.

J'aimerais aussi appuyer l'intervention faite par le représentant de la Côte-d'Ivoire en qualité de Président du Groupe africain et celles de tous les autres représentants du Groupe des 77 qui ont clairement posé le problème concernant le Programme de travail et budget proposé par le Directeur général de la FAO.

Je profite de cette opportunité pour dire que ma délégation apprécie le rôle du PCT. Comme l'a dit l'Ambassadeur du Pérou, il s'agit d'un programme vital et catalyseur. C'est exactement la position du Cap-Vert en ce qui concerne le PCT.

Nous devons aussi reconnaître l'effort que la FAO a déployé pour réduire les frais administratifs du Siège en faveur des programmes de terrain. Nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter des efforts continus en faveur du développement, car la préoccupation de tous est le développement de nos pays.

Nous demandons également que la théorie de la croissance zéro tienne compte des situations graves telles que la famine en Afrique et du rôle réel que la FAO a joué en pratique avec efficacité et compétence.

Voilà, Monsieur le Président, de brèves remarques pour dire que nous demandons que tous les membres de ce Conseil approuvent le Programme de travail et de budget présenté par la FAO.

G.M. AHMED (Observer for Sudan) (original language Arabic): My delegation would like to thank the Director-General and the Secretariat for the excellent preparation and presentation of this important document which forms the basis for the organization's work. As an African country, Sudan supports the statement made by the Chairman of the African Group giving absolute support to this Summary Programme of Work and Budget although we look forward to more measures aimed at helping Africa surmount its present difficulties resulting from long years of drought, desert advance and famine leading to a decrease in food and cash crop production and livestock. What FAO is doing through the implementation of this Programme is the only hope for the African countries and therefore it should be supported, without reservations, by the international community in order to keep this little hope alive. The bad circumstances prevailing today in Africa are the result of the world economic order and the natural disasters. Although we, as human beings, can bring the world economic order under control and amend it, we cannot control the natural disasters. Therefore the situation calls for the solidarity of the international community in order to alleviate the suffering in Africa by pursuing the right policies in this Organization, which is the only instrument capable of producing positive results in Africa. The document at hand, as I said earlier, deals with this matter and I hope that it will be supported by all the members without any reservations. I do not agree with those who said the zero-growth rate would not directly affect Africa because it does affect Africa and it does condemn millions to death. Therefore I hope that we will support the 1.4 rate of growth to keep Africa's hope alive.

M. ABDEL-HADI (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Je vous prie de m'excuser si je demande la parole une seconde fois au Conseil mais cette fois-ci je voudrais vous faire connaître le point de vue des pays du Proche-Orient à propos du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget. Nous appuyons les stratégies et les priorités que le Directeur général nous a proposées dans le cadre du Programme de travail et budget pour la période biennale 1986-87. Nous pensons en effet que ces propositions même si leur ampleur est modeste, reflètent fidèlement les besoins et recommandations énoncés par les pays membres et en particulier celles formulées lors des conférences régionales.

Le Groupe que je représente ne peut pas accepter l'idée qui consisterait à adopter la croissance zéro, surtout dans le contexte économique actuel de pénurie alimentaire très grave connue par de nombreux pays africains. Par ailleurs notre Groupe n'est pas d'accord avec les propositions présentées par certains membres du Conseil, afin de revoir le Programme de travail et budget. Nous estimons que le Conseil ne devrait pas adopter les propositions visant à amender le Programme de travail et budget et par conséquent, le Groupe des pays du Proche-Orient estime qu'il est fort peu utile ou justifié de prier le Directeur général de présenter une nouvelle version du Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87. Nous exhortons les membres du Conseil à marquer leur approbation sans réserve au sommaire du Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87 tel qu'il nous a été présenté à la session du Conseil.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Quisiera tomar la palabra a nombre del Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe en mi carácter de Presidenta de tal Grupo, para expresar nuestro pleno apoyo al presupuesto presentado por el Director General para el bienio 1986-87, además de las razones expuestas en el documento CL 87/3, las cuales respaldamos plenamente.

Deseamos expresar nuestro pensamiento acerca de las inquietudes que conciernen a nuestro Grupo y a los países de la región de América Latina, cuyos pueblos, si bien no han llegado aún a la extremada situación de nuestros hermanos africanos, que hoy conmueve al mundo gracias a la preocupación y alerta lanzada por el Director General de la FAO a la comunidad internacional y que coloca a esta Organización en la posición de líder mundial en la avanzada de la asistencia humanitaria como un ejemplo sin precedentes de la importancia de la acción multilateral para beneficiar a los países del Tercer Mundo y al mismo tiempo hace realidad los derechos humanos más allá de la simple Declaración de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, son acciones como éstas, las que lleva a cabo la FAO en Africa, las que hacen posible que los pueblos por siglos abandonados y preteridos hayan podido ocupar la atención de los poderosos países para quienes hasta hace poco eran, cuando más, teatro para los exploradores y los turistas, cuando no sólo para inversionistas y traficantes.

Gracias a esta preocupación humanitaria y responsable del Director General de la FAO, se ha puesto en marcha esta obra de la rehabilitación de Africa, que no sólo impedirá que siga la muerte segando miles de vidas, sino que abre un horizonte de esperanzas para las nuevas generaciones que han de vivir en una nueva Africa, redimida del hambre y la miseria, y ello en buena parte será obra de la FAO.

Pues bien, para labores de esta magnitud no podemos pensar ni estar de acuerdo con la teoría del crecimiento cero para el Presupuesto de la FAO en el presente bienio, porque, Señor Presidente, como integrante del Grupo Latinoamericano, debo expresar aquí nuestra inquietud respecto al inmediato futuro de América Latina, el cual no es precisamente color de rosa.

Los países de la región Latinoamericana, tradicionalmente considerados como países en desarrollo, también han sido sobreestimados en cuanto a sus verdaderas condiciones económicas. Si bien es cierto que hasta hace poco podían ocultar sus déficits alimentarios, edulcorados por las estadísticas, que como tales suelen disfrazar la verdad en las "medias" o "averages".

Pero la realidad, Señor Presidente, es que desde hace muchas décadas existen en estos sectores de la población, que generalmente lo integran la clase obrera y campesina, que engañan su hambre, no la satisfacen, con una dieta que solo conduce a la malnutrición; son poblaciones subalimentadas, con policarencias que afectan el crecimiento de los niños, su desarrollo mental, y que, en consecuencia determinan la existencia de altos porcentajes de niños retrasados mentales, físicamente débiles. Ello constituye así una rémora para el verdadero desarrollo de esos países, como es el desarrollo del ser humano en la plenitud de su salud física y mental.

Si me permito llamar la atención de esta Asamblea acerca de estos hechos incontrovertibles, es porque siento la obligación como responsable de la representación de uno de esos países y en este momento representante también de las colectividades de los países latinoamericanos miembros de este Consejo, de expresar también y traer la preocupación de nuestros países a los demás asistentes a esta reunión, de las necesidades que enfrentan los países latinoamericanos, los cuales esperan de la FAO en el próximo bienio una atención prioritaria a sus problemas de seguridad alimentaria y, por consiguiente, de rehabilitación agrícola.

El problema de la deuda externa ha llevado a los países latinoamericanos a una situación económica que reclama la atención indudablemente de la FAO para poder enfrentar la situación que les espera y que esperan que la FAO, con la experiencia y con los equipos humanos adecuados, pueda proporcionarles para salir adelante. Necesitamos el desarrollo de programas de investigación que permitan conocer directamente las realidades de estos países a través de los programas de campo que va a contemplar la FAO en el bienio 1986-87. Necesitamos asimismo programas de capacitación para juventudes, que hasta este momento no han podido desarrollar su capacidad por falta de oportunidades. En este campo la FAO puede hacer mucho por el desarrollo de esos países que están en contra porque les falta precisamente capacitación de elementos humanos para contribuir a su propio desarrollo. Esas misiones de identificación y reconocimiento que la FAO ha hecho extensivas ahora al continente africano y que han traído como resultado los programas de rehabilitación agrícola que harán posible la resurrección de África, también las necesitamos en América Latina para el inmediato futuro, y eso, Señor Presidente, y Señor Director General de la FAO, es lo que esperamos los países latinoamericanos representados en el Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe.

Con este espíritu de esperanza en el inmediato futuro, los países latinoamericanos incluidos en el Grupo Latinoamericano dan su pleno apoyo al presupuesto presentado por el Director General para que sea llevado a su aprobación definitiva en la próxima Conferencia.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation has already given its full support to the presented regular budget, and this morning also the Chairman of the Asian Group has indicated his support for the regular budget. However, I want to stress two or three points in this connection. First of all, there have been some proposals that the budget should be reduced and alternative proposals should be submitted. To my delegation this appears to be neither desirable nor practical and will not have the impact desired in the present food situation of the world.

The programme has been approved by different Committees, sub-committees and is in response to Regional Conferences. After approving the Programme by the different Committees and the requirements of the defined regions, how can we today curtail the means and tools? If we are allowed to reduce the budget, Mr Chairman, then in that case we will not be able to fulfil the Programme already approved by the different Committees. We must have the budgetary tools for the work of the Programme. On the one side we are finding a very serious situation, not only in Africa but also in other regions. Because of the African situation other areas have not been seriously looked into, and Africa has taken over the problems of other areas, so to say.

We should not say and do anything which will transfer the problem from one area to other areas. So, Mr Chairman, the other regions also need very important attention and in that case the Programme cannot be anywhere reduced and the budget cannot be reduced. In that case the world will face a more grievous situation than it is in.

The FAO is the leading agency in the food and agricultural field for technical assistance to the developing countries. The developing countries in the food sector are very anxious to have self-reliance in food. Every session on every subject is saying that developing countries should develop their self-reliance. To develop their self-reliance, for that purpose it is necessary that FAO intensifies its technical assistance to the developing countries. So in that matter also there is no reason and there is no ground for suggesting any reduction in the FAO budget. For the last few years we have more or less accepted the budget but when the world is looking out it is to the developed

countries where there is economic growth, so the developed countries should agree to this symbolic increase in the budget of 1.4 percent only. There is no question about the contingency. It is a very small amount and any organization, whether national, provincial or international, has the necessary funds to meet emergencies and to cover the cost not covered within the aid programme, and in that case this is a sign of good management. The fact that the amount is not spent was not the reason for abolition or reduction but an encouragement of the FAO Director-General that he did not need the amount so he has not to spend it, so this amount should also not be touched.

Lastly, it has been proposed or asked that TCP should be reduced, but we have seen in the last year suddenly the emergency arising, food needs technical assistance, and this assistance we have also in our country. Last year the Director-General very promptly approved this project, and his action was taken in other cases for at least one year or six months, so this TCP is a very continuing tool to meet the exigencies of developing countries. So my delegation has reason to support that this should be increased rather than to keep it at the present proposed level.

B. SAID (Chairman, Group of 77) (original language Arabic): I have asked for the floor to make a brief statement in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77. First of all, we respect the views of all delegations, but we have made it clear in the past and we must repeat it here; we simply cannot accept the principle of zero growth and certainly nor for this Organization, which is dealing with the field of agriculture, especially during the biennium 1986-87.

The increase which has in fact been proposed is in our view almost the same as zero growth; it is very small and in fact minimal compared to what should be done under any of the priorities which command the absolute support of the Council members. Supporting this zero growth will mean that we will perpetuate the current situation in Africa which threatens million of Africans to die of hunger, and threatens the very survival of these people.

Secondly, we cannot support a reduction in the Technical Cooperation Programme since we regard it as the most useful of all FAO programmes. It has proved absolutely indispensable, especially while other resources which are available to FAO for technical assistance in the field have decreased so much and urgent small-scale short-term needs in Africa have increased so greatly.

Thirdly, we are surprised to hear some people saying that this modest net increase in budget which falls on the developed countries can possibly harm the economies of those countries or threaten their policies.

Fourthly, the Director-General made this matter clear when he presented the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, and put forward the argument of the Secretariat, and we are confident that the Director-General will be able, in his final Programme of Work and Budget to be presented to the Conference in November, to muster the approval of those who have expressed some reservations on the Programme of Work and Budget during this session.

Fifthly, we ask those who are taking unrealistic views and those who are calling for the zero growth principle, to review their positions especially in the current crisis prevailing in Africa, because it would be immoral not to give this Organization the means to enable it to carry out its work.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/12

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**DOUZIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**12ª SESION PLENARIA**  
(24 June 1985)

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours,

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

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 12 sesión a las 14.40 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. Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 (Continued)  
14. Sommaire du Programme de travail et budget, 1986-87 (suite)  
14. Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 (continuación)

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): The delegation of my country has an impression which we would like to communicate after having listened to the lengthy discussions that have taken place concerning this item on the agenda, namely Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87. We would like to reaffirm our keen interest to respect all the viewpoints which we have listened to and our due appreciation of the standpoint of each country member or non-member of our august Council. No matter what these positions are or the justification behind them, it is clear after these lengthy discussions that the majority of the membership of this Council supported and endorsed the proposed level of the Budget for the next biennium. Most of them were developing countries, beneficiaries of this Organization and its substantive programmes, the majority were African countries who, as we all know, are suffering due to the shortage of food and the continual economic difficulties. These countries which expressed their full support of the proposed level of the Budget have given very clear and strong reasons for their support. There are developed countries that did not approve, and they called for a zerogrowth rate. These countries are considered among the big contributors to the Organization's Budget.

As a matter of fact, we have not listened to any justification which is reasonable or acceptable for their demand. We believe no matter how difficult the economic conditions they pass through, no one who is fair and logical can compare them with the conditions that developing countries, African and otherwise, go through. This is in addition to the affirmation by the Director-General that the contribution of each country in the forthcoming budget, will be if not at the level of the previous contribution, less, if it is translated into the figures presented. This affirmation by the Director-General indicates a very clear fact, namely, the proposed modest increase is a psychological increase. It has only a psychological impact; reassuring to the suffering countries in Africa and elsewhere indicating that the developed countries who are rich industrially and foodwise, stand beside them in their plight through the substantive programmes of this pioneering Organization.

All the countries which did not support this budget know this full well. They know that this increase is a psychological increase. However, and regrettably, they do not even wish to give this psychological signal. Without any justification they reject giving this psychological signal to the affected countries and to the countries suffering economically.

It might be said to us that this is a principle which is firmly adhered to by each country, and that it should be respected. Here, we should like to emphasize that we respect and appreciate any principle that is upheld by any country. We respect and appreciate constructive principles that serve humanity at large, not those principles that would increase the sufferings of people or the acuteness of problems. All heavenly religions called for virtue and the adoption of human constructive values which aim at the benefit and good of humanity at large, and even among members of the one family. The Prophet Mohammed - Allah's Peace and Blessings Be Upon Him - said that if one part of the human body falls sick, all the other parts of the human body will suffer. Our community is this body. These are the principles that should be upheld by our international community. Rich countries should be guided by such principles.

We are fully convinced that the Director-General did not present this budget, with its modest increase, prompted by a desire to get more prestige or personal respect. We are fully convinced that he undertook this prompted by his responsibility through his principles and objectives, and through his genuine feelings towards these afflicted countries and peoples.

I would like to affirm here that we know full well the efficiency of this Organization. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has cooperated and is still cooperating closely with the Organization. We are fully confident in this Organization and in its Director-General. We have full respect for the Organization, and we are aware of its ability and its efficiency in giving technical assistance. We hope that the countries which did not support this budget will review their point of view in a desire to enjoin human values, in a desire to assist those people who are suffering and the countries which need assistance. We genuinely desire this.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The head of the Philippines delegation, who cannot be present at the moment, has requested me to ask for clarification of several questions, but after consultation with the Chairman, I shall raise only one question at this point.

The Philippines delegation this morning was asked whether it supported the Programme Budget level of \$420 million or \$450 million. My delegation was told that the \$420 million was the Programme Budget level for 1984-85 and that the \$450 million was the Programme Budget level for 1986-87. We are at a loss because we know that the Programme Budget level of \$450 million is calculated at 1 615 lire to one dollar. If the exchange rate is something higher than that, then the final figure would be different. At this stage it was stated that if the exchange rate were somewhat close to 2 000 lire to one dollar, probably there would be no increase in terms of dollars. Therefore, I would appreciate it if, through you, Mr Chairman, we could have clarification of how the final figure is computed.

CHAIRMAN: There will be time to reply.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I do not want to take up your precious time at this late hour. The position of my country on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget has already been articulated, but I endorse wholeheartedly what the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has just said. I appeal to the developed countries to review their positions on the reservations they have on the level of increase proposed by the Director-General.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I have little indeed to say except to once again express deep gratitude to the Council on behalf of my colleagues for the full confidence shown in our work. This has been a very timely encouragement, because in September the Committee will be facing a very heavy, complex and above all very important agenda not only because we have to study in depth the final Programme of Work and Budget document, but because we have to give full attention to the two performance reports. We shall have a very full debate on the role and functions of the Regional Offices, and we shall have to scrutinize the independent report on TCP.

Having very carefully followed the debate in Council, may I be allowed a little more freedom than usual in presenting the views of the Committee. The position of the Committee is a very firm one on this question; it was the unanimous decision of the Committee that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget is indeed a very sound basis for the preparation of the final version of the Programme of Work and Budget. I am addressing myself to the whole issue from a professional standpoint, since we studied in every detail not only strategies and priorities but, as I have already indicated, we went right down to the Programme element level. In all cases we found the proposed activities for the next Biennium were all very soundly based.

I would again like to stress our most sincere thanks to the Council. I am sure I can freely speak on behalf of all my colleagues on the Committee when I assure the Council that they, my colleagues on the Committee, will not spare any effort in studying in September the final Programme of Work and Budget and all the other items.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): I really do not have anything further to add to what has already been said by the Chairman of the Programme Committee, except to say that I am grateful for your words of appreciation about our work. I am sure this will be a positive encouragement to all the members of the Committee who will work with even greater enthusiasm.

However, there are one or two things on which I think I ought to comment. Mr Chairman, no particular question was put to the Committee. Two members wanted clarification, I think, on the impact of currency adjustments, and particularly on savings accruing from other currencies. The Secretariat would be in a better position to provide further details, not that sufficient information now not provided to our Committee. I am sure the Secretariat will be better able to help members of Council.

Then there was this last question from the Member for the Philippines. Again, this is a hypothetical calculation as to what the budget level would be if the exchange rate varied from that on which the present estimates have been calculated. If it is a rate different from the present basis of 1615 lire to the Dollar, the Secretariat will be in a position to provide the various options, I think.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: With your permission, Mr Chairman, and that of the delegates, I would like to ask Mr Shah to answer many questions raised on such subjects as use of contingencies, programme management and field programme support, TCP resources utilization and appropriation, recosting of budget, currency gains, programme savings, cost increases, staff vacancies and programme growth. Then, if you agree, I shall ask Mr Crowther to answer the questions raised on economies in travel, FAO's participation in the International Computing Centre in Geneva, a subject raised by the delegate of Canada, and then there are a few points which could be covered by Dr Bommer. Then, Mr Chairman, if you will permit me, I will say a few words.

V. J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): Mr Chairman, as authorized by the Director-General, I shall try to answer the questions to which he has just made reference. May I say through you to the Director-General that I will try and answer as fully as I can the questions raised, but I think that the list and titles that he referred to represent the major groups under which these questions would fall.

There were a number of questions asked about Contingencies, including what was the previous use made of Contingencies and why are Contingencies required when the financial regulations permit budgetary transfer of funds from one Chapter to another.

First of all, I think that we must all recognize that contingencies by their very nature require some provision of funds so that unforeseen unbudgeted activities which need to be carried during the biennium can be carried out. To suggest that the possibility of transferring funds from one Chapter to another does away with the need for Contingencies is to my understanding not quite correct, because when provision is made for funds under various Chapters of the budget those funds are expected to be spent under those Chapters. If the full provision is required under those Chapters, there is no way of meeting true contingencies.

Secondly, the item on Contingencies in the FAO budget, which has always formed part of the Programme of Work and Budget, has to be recognized with the fact that there is no possibility under our financial regulations or our Basic Text as a whole for the Director-General to submit any request for any supplementary budget estimate.

There are a number of other organizations in the United Nations system, notably the United Nations itself, where the Secretary General can and does as a matter of course submit supplementary estimates when he requires them, and it is not at all unusual for the General Assembly to approve such supplementary estimates. When we do not have such flexibility, the need for Contingencies is self-evident.

May I now provide factual information on the use made of the Contingencies provision in recent biennia. The delegate of the United States referred to the fact that the provision has so far not been used in this biennium. This is absolutely correct and is reflected in the Report on Budgetary Performance which was submitted to the Finance Committee and is before you as an annex to the report of the Finance Committee.

In the biennium 1982-83 the full provision of US \$600 000 was used by a transfer to Programme 2.1.5, Rural Development, in order to meet specific new activity requested for Africa. The most prominent among these was the study on manpower requirements and assessment of training institutions and training needs in Africa, which had been requested by the African Regional Conference.

In 1980-81 the provision was still US \$600 000. The amount utilized was US \$94 000. This was used under Programme 2.1.8 on Food and Agricultural Policy.

In 1978-79 the provision was US \$400 000, and of this amount US \$162 000 was utilized for four specific activities: US \$60 000 under the Livestock Programme; US \$39 000 under Research Support; US \$50 000 under Rural Development; and US \$13 000 under Public Information.

Mr Chairman, permit me a comment on the utilization of these amounts in the various biennia. First of all, the fact that the full provision has not been utilized in any one biennium is, I think, a mark of the integrity and seriousness with which this provision is handled. Just because the provision exists, it is not fully utilized. It is utilized when absolutely required, and may I emphasize that the utilization of this provision requires a report to the Finance Committee so that the Finance Committee is fully informed about the justification and the purposes and the amount of the utilization. Secondly, where the provision has been utilized in full, it shows the obvious need for that financial provision. Thirdly, that if it is proposed now by the Director-General to raise the provision from \$600 000 in this biennium to \$800 000 in the next biennium, what does this represent? It has to be seen as a proportion of the total budgetary level.

Up to 1978-79 the provision was US \$400 000. In 1980-81 it was increased by the Conference, by you the Member Nations, to US \$600 000. At that time it represented 0.22 percent - I repeat 0.22 percent - of the effective working budget. Now, even with the proposed increase of US \$200 000, at a level of US \$800 000, the provision would represent 0.18 percent of the effective working budget,

Mr Chairman, you might wish the Council to be informed about the position in other United Nations organizations. Who else has contingency provisions of what nature and of what magnitude? I should explain that the contingency provision is not readily comparable in all the budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system even where it does exist, because the terminology is different, the characteristics are different, but I think some idea can be given to you by the fact that the ILO, for example, with a budget during this biennium of US \$254 million, has a provision for contingencies, which it refers to as unforeseen expenditure, of US \$1.5 million, Unesco with a budget in this biennium of US \$374 million, has a provision for contingencies, which is referred to as a reserve for draft resolutions, of \$1 million WHO with a budgetary provision in this biennium of US \$520 million, has what it calls an undistributed reserve of US \$9.5 million, Even the smaller agencies, for example, the International Civil Aviation Organization, with a biennial budget of US \$60 million, has a provision of US \$7 million,

A number of questions were then asked, particularly by the representative from the United Kingdom, about Programme Management and Field Programme Support. Field Programme Support appears under the various tables of resources by programme, This provision is really for a very specific activity. Technical divisions make a forecast of the level of resources they consider necessary on the basis of experience in this biennium, on the likely trends in the next biennium, the number of projects they are going to be called upon to backstop, and this represents the provision for Field Programme Support, It covers an extremely wide range of activities from the formulation of the field projects to the provision of technical backstopping to field experts, their recruitment, the analysis of progress reports, and so on. It cannot be argued that the Field Programme Support provision is exactly proportional to deliveries because, in fact, it depends on the value, the size of individual projects, Smaller projects may require for a specific period more in terms of technical backstopping than a larger project involving a much higher volume of equipment or contracts, The amount of technical backstopping is also affected by the duration and termination of projects when arrangements have to be made for bridging operations, to terminate or to reallocate experts.

It might interest the Council to note that the provision for Field Programme Support in this biennium amounted to US \$18 133 000. The provision proposed for the next biennium - these are the figures exactly that you have in the document before you but they have been analyzed by minicomputer to permit easy analysis - is US \$18.5 million, an increase of 2.2 percent. As you see, it is extremely modest.

The question regarding programme management refers to the cost of people and services which are located in the offices of my senior colleagues, the Assistant Directors-General of the technical departments, Division Directors and administrative support units which are under them, May I just say here that the fact that we give this information for Programme Management separately is an added element of transparency, because if we were to follow all of the rules of a programme planning and budgeting system, it is often argued and often the practice that the part of administration should be distributed among the cost of programmes, After all, it is related to the programmes. But we have always shown it separately for added transparency,

What is the situation there? The allocation for Programme Management for all technical departments and all regional offices amounts to US \$23.8 million in this biennium. In the next biennium it goes down by over 2 percent to US \$23.3 million, But it is. perhaps not enough to see if it goes up or down, you have to consider the cost of programme management in relation to the value of the programme managed. There, with US \$23.8 million of Programme Management in this biennium, the value of the Programme managed is US \$193 million. So programme management represents 12.4 percent of the total programme managed. In the next biennium this is going to go down to 11.7 percent. This is another indication of the reduction in administrative costs and managerial costs, because we should bear in mind that the senior colleagues such as Assistant Director-Generals and Divisions Directors are not just administrators -they are senior managers who bring their strengths to the programmes they manage.

A number of questions were then asked about the appropriation of the Technical Cooperation Programme during any one biennium, and here I need to go back to the time when TCP was established at the 69th Session of the Council in June 1976, and then endorsed by the following Conference in 1977• From the time of the first establishment of the TCP it was recognized that this was a special programme which required a carryover of resources from one biennium to another. Distinguished delegates who were present at, or who were associated with, those times will remember the arguments; for those who perhaps are not as familiar let me briefly give the reasons.

The appropriation of TCP, as you know, is used throughout the biennium. Projects are approved during each month of the biennium. It was always recognized that when a project is approved during the second year 'of the biennium, during the later months and the final months of the second year of the biennium, that project is going to be executed in the following year and the following biennium. There is no way in which projects can be approved during September, October, November of 1985 with the expectation that they are going to be executed and the financial commitments made by the end of the year. There is no secret about this. It is for this very reason that the Conference itself -not just the Secretariat, not the Director-General, it was the Conference itself which made a provision in the Financial Regulations. It made a new provision, Regulation 4.3 in the Financial Regulations which reads "Appropriations voted by the Conference for the Technical Cooperation Programme together with any funds transferred to the Technical Cooperation Programme under Financial Regulation 4.5 (b) shall remain available for obligation during the financial period following that during which the funds were voted or transferred and appropriations unutilized at the close of the financial period following that during which the funds were voted or transferred shall be cancelled".

Now, what is our experience with this provision? The funds voted for TCP for the biennium 1980-81, which were those permitted to be obligated during the biennium 1982-83 as well, were fully utilized except for the sum of \$1.590, which was returned to Member Nations as part of the cash surplus -and I am quoting this figure from the Financial Report and Statements of the Regular Programme 1982-83 which will come before you as Conference Document C 85/5. For the 1982-83 appropriations, at the end of 1982-83 \$21.4 million were unobligated at the end of the biennium. They were just carried over into this biennium and even though this biennium is not yet completed I can say with all reasonable certitude that the full amount will be expended during this period. The appropriation for 1984-85 is \$57 million, in round terms. How do we foresee its utilization? I can assure you that the full amount will again not be obligated - in the financial sense of "obligated" that the Financial Regulations referred to - by the end of this year, but it will be fully earmarked and allocated for projects which are approved during the biennium.

When we reported to the Finance Committee on this matter just over a month ago we reported that at the end of March there was an amount of \$26 million remaining from the appropriations for this biennium, and the rate of approvals is some \$3 million per month.

It is very important, I think, to emphasize not only the rate of approvals but the rate of demand, because after all if the Council wishes to consider the sufficiency of provision for the TCP it will want to consider what demands are made on TCP. Here I can report that not only are demands increasing, but ever larger proportions of that demand are having to be turned down. Over the last fifteen months requests for TCP assistance have increased by over 30 percent. The approvals over that period are barely 20 percent higher - so there is a significant part of the demand which the present resources do not permit meeting.

The next set of questions - if I may now address them - relate to the recosting of the budget at different exchange rates, and this was referred to by the distinguished delegate from the United States with some very precise questions which were also raised by a number of other delegates. As you know, the only rate the Conference considers when it approves a Programme of Work and Budget is that of the Italian lire, in relation to the US dollar; it has always done this for the very good reason that is the major currency other than the dollar in which our expenditure occurs. It has been suggested during the debate that perhaps we should consider the exchange rates in a number of other currencies. While Member Governments are sovereign and may request anything they wish, I would respectfully point out that it is difficult enough to project or to estimate what an exchange rate is going to be on one major currency, without trying to estimate how the exchange market and currency rates are going to fluctuate in a number of currencies over a two-year period. There is no organization in the United Nations system which does that; even the major specialized agencies, our sister agencies based in Geneva, consider their budgets in terms of the US dollar and the Swiss franc. They also incur expenditures in many other currencies.

The second question is how is the budget adjusted? - What are the factors taken into account? Here I would emphasize that because expenditure occurs in a country or in a particular currency -such as in Italy, in lire - does not mean that expenditure is subject to that particular exchange rate. For example, professional salaries are set in US dollars. The base salary is unaffected. The obligation of the Organization to pay a certain dollar amount to a staff member is unaffected by whatever exchange rate may be operating, and whether the staff member asks for that basic salary to be paid in US dollars only or in combination with his own home country currency or a third currency. So we cannot use exchange rate factors for that.

Nor can we use them for the whole set of goods and services which are expected to be purchased or procured under international tender. The very principle of international tender precludes any prejudgement of the country or the currency in which that expenditure will be incurred. We have also sizeable obligations under inter-agency collaboration agreements - our contribution to the Joint Inspection Unit, our contribution to the inter-secretariat arrangements.

In brief, this brings me to the point - a point which was recognized by the Finance Committee in the methodology it approved for the conversion of a budget taking into account different exchange rates - and that is that there is a very minor portion of the budget, referring to a few goods and services, which is only related to the expenditure in the host country and which would be affected by exchange rates. But there are two further factors here. One is - and this is in the records of previous years - in the years when the US dollar was declining, our Finance Committee and Council expected us to bear, to absorb, the negative effect. In the years when we have had the benefit of a strong US dollar, the benefit has been shown in programme savings. If I take again the accounts for 1982-83 and the budgetary performance report which the Council had, there are significant amounts which resulted as programme savings - the programme savings arising from 1982-83, which form part of the cash savings surplus of \$1+6.2 million distributed at the beginning of this year. So the saving under goods and services which constituted the benefits of currency exchange rates were made fully available to the Member Nations,

The methodology for recalculation is a fairly detailed methodology and I shall only refer to it briefly so that interested Members may have an idea of it; if anyone is interested in more detail, I can of course discuss it in more detail with them. A part of the budget which is related to the exchange rate fluctuations is the post adjustment because post adjustments feature not only cost of living indices but also exchange rates.

For this one calculation alone, there are six detailed steps. Step one, determine the average change on the post-adjustment multiplier resulting from a change by ten lire of the lira/dollar rate of exchange. Step two, determine the average dollar cost of one point of the post-adjustment multiplier. Step three, calculate the dollar cost of a ten lire change. Step four, determine total man months to which currency adjustments have to be applied. Step five, calculate currency savings for biennium lapsed rate per ten lire change. Step six, calculate currency savings for the total biennium.

The exchange rate effects on the budget level as approved by the Conference at the time of its vote on the budgetary appropriation will mean, if we take the present proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget, that whereas the Summary provides for a budgetary level of \$451 640 000 at Lire 1 615 to the dollar, if the rate of exchange were Lire 2000 to the dollar, the budget level would be some \$428 million. At Lire 1 900 the rate would be just under some \$433 million.

This leads me, to deal immediately with question of the Special Reserve Account and the currency gains, because there was not only frequent reference to the currency gains which the Organization has employed during recent times but also, if I may say, some confusion between the discussion on currency gains and programme savings. The currency gains and the method in which they are calculated were established by the Conference Resolution which established this Special Reserve Account originally in 1977 and as amended in 1981. It was Resolution 13/81 of the Conference relating to the Special Reserve Account, and this Resolution says in its operative paragraph 2 that it directs the Director-General to credit to the Special Reserve Account any savings on staff costs arising from favourable differences between the lire exchange rate used in calculating the budget and the effective United Nations rate applying an appropriate statistical formula for the purpose. The appropriate statistical formula for the purpose was after the resolution submitted and approved through the Finance Committee.

The currency gains during this biennium, Mr Chairman, resulting from the fact that the approved budget was 1 615 and the average rate during 1984 was 1742, led to an amount of \$3.3 million being credited to the Special Reserve Account. What will be credited during this year of course will depend on the currency rate each month, the operational rate for each month as opposed to 1 615, but the experience during the first month indicates that in January and February \$1.3 million, in March \$900 000, in April almost \$800 000 were credited also to the Special Reserve Fund. These currency gains credited to the Special Reserve Account have nothing whatsoever to do with programme savings. Programme savings are of essentially three different measures, (1) enforced savings, to which I will refer later; (2) savings deliberately made as they were made in the last biennium 1982-83 in order to make budgetary cuts in the following biennium, and (3) programme savings for extraneous factors such as the lower cost of post adjustment or lower pensionable contributions. The savings which the Finance Committee has considered and which it has approved for use under the African Rehabilitation Programme referred to these programme savings and nothing is proposed to be taken away from the amounts credited to the Special Reserve Account.

On cost increases there were no specific questions. However a number of distinguished delegates referred to the fact that the rate of inflation in our host country, Italy, is today 9 percent, and that in preparing the budget for this biennium we had taken a level of 16 percent, implying that perhaps we are considering inflation at too high a rate.

There are three points I should like to make. Firstly, of course, we wish, as everyone does, that inflation may be controlled in every member country, and if it is the government's wish in our host country to bring the rate of inflation down, nobody could wish it more. Secondly, that when we took the rate of 16 percent in formulating the budget for this biennium, that was the rate at the time the budget was formulated, that was the rate at the time the Finance Committee examined the cost increases. The rate has come down to 9 percent now. In formulating the full Programme of Work and Budget we will review all the cost increases but I cannot say today that the estimates will be less or can be less, but what is an even more important point, Mr Chairman, and this the Finance Committee well knows and it is not only in our document but also in the report, is that the cost increases are not based merely on a simplistic calculation of inflation in the host country. If you look up a table of cost increases given in the document, if we calculate inflation at 9 percent and applied it to the cost increases at that rate, why is it that the personnel services cost increases are less than 2.5 percent? For goods and services, the cost increases are just over 10 percent for the biennium. I trust I have explained the principle of the point, but would be glad to explain further if needed.

Comments were also raised about savings made on the staff vacancies, the percentage of vacancies in posts at any one time. Here we have to be very careful in distinguishing between the percentage of posts which are vacant at any one time. The distinguished delegate of Canada referred to a figure of 8 percent. The figures that I have for recent months have been considerably lower, 6.5 percent, 7 percent, depending on the month, but that represents only the vacancies at a month end, at one particular point in time. That does not indicate what the savings from that vacancy will be or is. That depends on the duration of the vacancy, how many months will that post be kept vacant. This is partly a management action which the Director-General is very firm about, for example when needing to make savings this is one way in which savings are made, but secondly the Council should perhaps recall the practice of the lapse factor. The lapse factor is the amount of the budgetary provision made for posts. Instead of making a provision for the full amount of the expenditure which will be required for paying the salaries on all posts, our budgetary practice is that we reduce this amount by 5.5 percent. So the budgetary provision you see for posts in the Programme of Work and Budget, if all the posts were filled continually for all the time would require a financial provision 5.5 percent greater. Mr Chairman, this practice of the lapse factor is common through the United Nations system but we have it amongst the highest rates in the system. In other organizations it varies. Some organizations for example apply a higher rate of lapse factor only for new posts. We apply it across the board.

Finally, may I turn to two points, one regarding the programme proposed and one regarding its reference to zero growth. Of course I will be very careful Mr Chairman in saying right at the outset that the policy of zero growth is a debate between Member Nations and is a debate between Member Nations and our Director-General, but there is one aspect, a managerial aspect, to which some reference was made and might warrant some clarification. It has been suggested that zero growth is a good management tool or it will make us all more efficient and more dedicated, and perhaps more effective. There I would beg to differ somewhat, Sir. A management tool, as we practise it, is that of zero based budgeting, and the practice of zero based budgeting requires us to review all of our activities in the base, to see what is relevant, what new should be done, which is more relevant, more effective, how resources should be used in different combinations, all to the same ends which have been laid out by our Member Nations. So on this aspect of zero growth or zero based budgeting, Mr Chairman, if you will permit me 5 seconds of liberty, it reminds me of a school teacher in a very old-fashioned but reputable school which I attended who said: "My boy, there is nothing like an empty stomach to sharpen the mind".

May I now turn to the final point about programme growth, Programme growth has been referred to with the argument that if we have a budget for one biennium and savings are made in that biennium, then that amount of savings represents new growth for the next biennium. This is a logic which I do not entirely follow, but if I were to play the devil's advocate I would then say that if that logic were to be followed, let us take the example of an earlier biennium not so long ago. In 1981 the budget was \$278 million. During that biennium, and I go again to the budget performance reports, during that biennium the Director-General was obliged, with the approval of the Finance Committee and the Council, to draw on the working capital fund and on the Special Reserve Account for a total of \$8 million because of unbudgeted costs, some of them which were known when the Conference approved the budget. In addition the Director-General made forced savings, forced savings, deliberate savings, deliberate cuts of \$11.3 million during that biennium. If the same logic of programme growth and programme decrease were to be applied, I do not recall at that time a single Member Nation suggesting that because of these drawings on the Special Reserve Account and the working capital fund and of the forced savings, the total amounting to some \$20 million, when we look at the budget for 1982-83 we should start by adding first \$20 million before we think of adding programme increases.

The Secretariat tries to be as clear, as consistent and as open as it can. The only way in which figures on programme growth have been given are as given in the document before you. It is up to you and to Member Nations to interpret them in any way they wish. I hope that I have satisfied the points that I needed to reply to.



D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): There are only a couple of additional points that I would like to address. One is to do with the cost of travel as practised by FAO in relation to travel as practised by the UNDP. The representative of the United States raised the question that it may be possible for FAO to economize in the budget if we were to use policies similar to those used by UNDP for Home Leave Travel and for Education Travel. I am happy to report that FAO has an extremely prudent policy for travel and in comparison with most UN organizations, and certainly in comparison with UNDP, FAO has a more frugal travel requirement than they do.

Let us first take Education Travel, and this has to do with the entitlements that staff members have for their students who must return to college, to middle school, high school. During that travel our regulations require that regardless of the mode of transportation the Organization's final liability is limited to the costs of the lowest economy class fare available on the scheduled airline over the most direct route, including youth and student fares where and when applicable. These fares are below the economy class or the APEX fares when they include youth and student fares. In most instances we are able to schedule those fares, since the students will be travelling for a fairly long time from home when you can use the lowest fares possible.

I am happy to report that FAO not only has that regulation but practises it and is able substantially to reduce the cost of travel for what we refer to as Education Travel.

With regard to Home Leave Travel, the entitlements allow the staff member and the family to travel at given intervals to their home country. There again FAO is able to schedule travel of the staff member in such a way as to economize on this travel as well. And while we have a little more flexibility in the regulation for this type of travel, I am happy to say that with the Director-General's guidance on this issue all the managers in FAO have been extremely prudent to arrange for Home Leave Travel for the various staff members at almost the lowest economy fare.

I am happy to report that for Home Leave Travel in Europe, the Middle East and Latin America, in most instances our families travel on Home Leave at excursion fare rates, and that is much lower than the Duty Travel which is required because of locations and one thing and another.

In addition, the Director-General was successful a few years back in arranging for a contract with a Travel Agent wherein our contract calls for a sharing of commissions from this Travel Agent for all travel. The Travel Agent, while being located in FAO, arranges specifically with the airlines for services and prepares tickets at our rendering of advice to the Travel Agents for such travel. In so doing, as is the case for all travel agents, the airlines provide a commission with the Travel Agent. Our contract at the insistence of the Director-General in this instance gets a larger share of the commission to the Travel Agent, which is in excess of 50 percent of his commission I might add, and is the highest in the UN System. So in addition to having a prudent travel policy we get a veritable reimbursement, so to speak. Then I might add with this prudence a good share of the return is then transferred as surplus and returned to Member Nations, so all of you have the opportunity to share in this prudent travel policy and in the returns that result. I believe that answers the question raised on travel.

There is one other question raised by the delegate of Canada, having to do with FAO membership, or lack thereof, in the International Computer Centre in Geneva. At this moment we are not members of the International Computer Centre. It is a centre that has been established for the use of those UN agencies who wish to participate or do not have a computing capacity and it is a good instrument for those who have that specific need and it is cost effective for them. FAO has reviewed membership in the ICC on several occasions and finds that with the tremendous number and size of data bases that it collects for Member Countries and makes available to Member Countries, is much more cost effective to retain the data base either here locally within FAO or under specific contract to provide for that data. In some instances the Member Country provide the data base or the repository for the data base at a very small cost. We look at this periodically and we look at it very carefully. The same telecommunication lines that are available through the ICC are also available directly into Rome. So we believe that our Member Countries are not being penalized by our not being a member of the ICC but do provide a facility wherein all Member Countries can share in the real data bases, whether it is fisheries, forestry or agriculture or any of the technical areas. We will continue to look at membership in ICC and if at all warranted we certainly would propose it, but up to now it has not been cost justified for us to enter into a contract for membership with the ICC. I think that concludes the areas that I wanted to comment on.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): The Director-General asked me to reply to one technical question which had been raised. The Indian delegation asked about the situation of major campaigns against animal diseases, particularly the Rinderpest Campaign, and I am happy to report that the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign, which has been discussed several times by the intergovernmental bodies in FAO, is still in its preparatory phase. It is mainly through the assistance of our TCP that we could help Member States in Africa to stop the disease. But the actual control and

eradication phase has not yet started because the major donors involved, particularly the EEC, could not reach an earlier decision, but we are collaborating very closely with the coordinating body in the Organization of African Unity stationed in Nairobi to help keep the momentum going and to go as far as possible into the full control and eradication campaign.

The next step will be a vaccination phase for four years and then a consolidation phase for six years, a ten-year period, and cost estimates at the moment are of the order of \$ 200 million for this ten-year period.

In south Asia an expert consultation on requirements for a rinderpest eradication campaign was held in India in December 1983. The consultation recommended a systematically planned five-year programme for the eradication of rinderpest. That should also be followed by another five years consolidation phase.

The Working Group on Africa, our Regional Commission, is now preparing a plan for the eradication campaign. In the Middle East the regional project has prepared a proposal for the eradication of rinderpest from the Gulf States and the Arabian Peninsula. Recently India requested a coordinator for this campaign under which a coordinated vaccine campaign will continue for four years.

To talk about another major disease the Council certainly will recall the efforts of the Organization and of Member States in relation to the outbreak of African Swine Fever, particularly its transmission to the Americas, particularly to Latin America. We can say now that African Swine Fever has been eradicated from all the countries in the western hemisphere by the end of 1984, and in the Dominican Republic, Brazil and Cuba in 1980. However, African Swine Fever is still endemic in Europe - in Spain, Portugal, Sardinia, Italy. The EEC is providing assistance to those countries in Europe, including Belgium, which has recently been affected. There is no vaccine against African Swine Fever and it is difficult to eradicate the disease from infected countries unless drastic measures involving the elimination of pigs from infected premises are taken. Therefore in Africa where African Swine Fever is endemic a study should be carried out and preventive measures should be strengthened before pig production is increased.

It would be too much to talk here on the third major disease, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, on which FAO has a very proud tradition with the European Commission on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and its collaboration with various Member States to view in the future the possibility of eradication, but so far hopes of new vaccines which have been developed, particularly through biotechnology and genetic engineering, in the United States have not materialized that we could think of an eradication campaign, particularly in Latin America or Asian countries. But measures taken by the FAO Commission for Europe would certainly be implemented in a similar cooperative spirit in such regions.

Finally, the delegate from the Philippines, commending our programmes, has drawn the view of the Council to the need to give particular strength to the development of alternatives to the inorganic or chemical fertilizers and pesticides for developing countries. I wish to draw the attention of delegates to Sub-programme 2.1.1.2, where the Director-General has proposed an increase, particularly related to the use of nitrogen fixation and other organic sources of fertilizers, and to Sub-programme 2.1.2.4 for protection, which makes particular reference to the integrated pest control which is strongly pursued in FAO's programme. These are the comments to be provided.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL : Vous venez de recevoir les explications du Président du Comité financier et du Président du Comité du programme ainsi que de trois de mes collaborateurs. Je crois que j'ai l'obligation de vous donner mon sentiment. Mais je vois que le délégué du Japon a demandé la parole; je la lui cède volontiers.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): Allow me to interrupt the statement by the Director-General. May I ask the Secretariat to reply to our question on the possibility of using discount tickets for the official travel of FAO staff.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The use of discount air travel for staff members particularly is one that to some extent is now being explored and there is the possibility that we will actually go back out on the street for a tender for the travel operations, in order to consider seriously the entire discount air travel position. The Director-General has looked at this very carefully and has decided that the best way to handle future travel agencies and travel agency discounts is again to go back out to tender.

The airline travel situation has changed dramatically in the last few years so there are now heavy discounts being allowed. FAO wishes to take advantage of every possibility along that line. I can assure members of Council that we are giving serious consideration to finding ways of taking account additionally of any discounts there are available and we intend to do so in the very near future.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): My question is in relation to the policy of the Organization regarding travel. Mention was made about tendering for travel. I was just wondering how this would affect the present policy, that the travel airlines issue all tickets on Alitalia. How would this policy be affected?

D.K. CROWTHER: (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): It is a little too early to give a precise answer to that. The general objective would be that all airlines offering travel for those duty stations that are staff travel would have an equal opportunity to compete for that business, depending entirely on the discounts offered. While we have had the opportunity in the past of using the host airline Alitalia, to provide prepaid tickets to locations throughout the world as a service to the Organization, these tickets are totally transferable to any airline. But objectively it is our view that favours Alitalia, so we are looking carefully to determine whether or not we will make this as competitive as possible to any airline travelling on the same route.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any other point of clarification to be answered by Dr Bommer, Mr Crowther or Mr Shah?

R.C. GUPTA (India): I just wanted to make a brief observation about what Mr Crowther said just now. This was the particular question of certain advantages accruing to Alitalia on account of certain arrangements under which a service was intended to be provided. This arrangement has gone on for quite some time. We have had the opportunity of voicing our concern about the fact that this leads to certain discrimination. For the last one-and-a-half years we have been told the arrangements are under review, that they would be changed. My only concern is that these oft repeated assurances should be acted on quickly because we have been waiting for more than one-and-a-half years to see some change in all this.

CHAIRMAN: If no one requires any further clarification, I will ask the Director-General to continue.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL : Je pense que le délégué de l'Inde s'est efforcé de défendre les intérêts d'Air India.

Il y a quelques années nous recevions de l'agence de voyages qui s'occupait des affaires de la FAO 2,5 pour cent de remboursement sur le prix des billets que nous achetions, et nous achetions pour 30 millions de billets, que ce soit pour le Programme ordinaire, les programmes de terrain, les voyages des experts et de leurs familles, etc.

Nous avons fait un appel d'offre et une adjudication et nous avons obtenu une ristourne de 6,5 pour cent, soit 4 pour cent en plus, soit deux millions cent-mille.

Le Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies a fait une étude sur les relations entre les organisations et les agences de voyages et sur le montant des ristournes qui sont payées par ces dernières. Il a vu que la FAO était de loin en tête. On continue encore à New York, à Genève ou à Paris, à avoir des ristournes de 2,5 ou 3 pour cent. Le Corps d'inspection a recommandé que toutes les agences des Nations Unies suivent l'exemple de la FAO. Il a préparé un cahier des charges. On a été contacté par les collègues des autres agences: nous avons été vraiment une agence pilote dans ce domaine.

Maintenant nous voulons avoir encore plus que 6,5 pour cent. Telle ou telle compagnie nationale ne nous intéresse pas en particulier: nous voulons avoir la meilleure combinaison possible qui puisse nous rapporter de l'argent. Je ne peux pas prendre en considération le point de vue d'Air India ou d'Air Philippines, etc. Ce que je cherche, c'est d'avoir une agence de voyages sérieuse qui nous donne le plus grand pourcentage de ristourne, ristourne qui, à la fin de l'année, vous est distribuée à vous, Etats Membres. C'est comme ça que je vois la chose.

Je connais bien le sujet et nous avons même pensé, avec M. Crowther, d'utiliser les cartes de crédit, ce qui nous permettrait de payer après trente jours. C'est vous dire combien nous avons été loin.

Après tout, Alitalia est ici sur place. Ses billets sont interchangeable. Ils nous ont donné 1,5 pour cent de ristourne en plus. Mais je peux vous dire que nous ne voulons favoriser aucune agence de voyage et nous allons certainement obtenir un pourcentage encore plus grand avec une adjudication à laquelle nous avons invité une quinzaine de compagnies.

Je veux maintenant vous donner mon point de vue sur tout le reste. Je voudrais d'abord vous remercier vous tous pour le travail très sérieux que vous avez accompli, pour le ton très agréable de la discussion et la sérénité que vous avez montré.

Il y a eu 43 délégués qui ont pris la parole, ainsi qu'un certain nombre d'observateurs. Si je fais l'analyse de ce qui a été dit, et c'est mon devoir de le faire du point de vue de la FAO, j'ai noté qu'il y avait 33 délégués qui ont approuvé mes propositions de programme de travail et budget; 10 délégations s'y sont opposées ou ont réservé leur position. C'était parfois difficile de faire la distinction, mais beaucoup ont promis de revoir leur position au moment de la Conférence quand il y aura le programme et budget détaillé, et davantage d'informations. Quelques pays n'ont pas pris la parole parce qu'ils ne sont pas là, je pense que si ces pays avaient parlé, ils auraient peut-être été dans le camp de ceux qui ont appuyé mes propositions.

Le Conseil est un microcosme de la Conférence. En fait le programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87 est déjà virtuellement approuvé, parce que si nous allons à la Conférence je crois que ce sera la même majorité. Mais je me refuse d'aller à la Conférence avec un vote et un partage en deux camps, parce que les 2 camps ne sont pas bien délimités. Il y a certes des pays qui fournissent une contribution très importante au budget. Mais qu'est ce que cela veut dire contribution très importante? Parmi les pays qui sont dans le groupe qu'on appelle le Groupe de Genève il y a des pays qui paient 1 pour cent, 1,3 pour cent, 1,9 pour cent et il y a aussi dans le camp de ceux qui ont approuvé le Sommaire du Programme et de Budget des pays comme la Chine qui paient 1,06 pour cent, l'Argentine 0,86 pour cent, le Mexique 1,06 pour cent, le Brésil 1,68 pour cent, l'Arabie Saoudite 1,04 pour cent. Ceux-là devraient être dans le groupe de Genève. La Tchécoslovaquie paie 0,92 pour cent. Pourtant, ce pays n'a pas de fonctionnaires ici, nous n'achetons pratiquement rien à la Tchécoslovaquie et elle paie une telle contribution. Or, ils ne se sont pas opposés au budget. En fait les camps ne sont pas délimités par ceux qui paient plus et ceux qui paient moins. D'ailleurs tout le monde paie la même chose puisque c'est une équation: la contribution des États Membres est basée sur le produit national brut, la population, etc.

Sur les priorités, la stratégie, le programme, je crois qu'il a un accord quasi unanime. Tout le monde était d'accord pour que l'Afrique reçoive encore la priorité qu'elle mérite. On a parlé du management, et le délégué du Canada l'a reconnu, il y a une bonne gestion: On fait des économies. C'est vrai. Aucun projet n'a été rejeté systématiquement ou jugé impopulaire alors que dans d'autres organisations il y a des programmes ou des projets que les États Membres ont rejetés. Il y a eu, dans d'autres organisations, des disputes entre les délégués pour savoir s'il fallait retenir tel ou tel programme ou l'enlever. Ici tous les programmes sont considérés comme importants, et je crois qu'il n'y a aucun désaccord, en tout cas je n'en ai pas entendu, sur les priorités.

Comme d'habitude, on a exprimé son point de vue sur le PCT, parce que beaucoup de délégués tiennent au PCT. C'est un programme populaire, peut être trop populaire pour certains, il a un impact visible. Le-délégué du Zimbabwe nous a dit comment dans une situation d'urgence ils ont pu, grâce au Programme de Coopération Technique, recevoir l'aide de la FAO plus rapidement que d'autres organisations multilatérales. Certains pays ont dit: il faut l'augmenter. D'autres n'ont pas dit qu'il fallait le supprimer, mais ont dit qu'il ne fallait pas aller plus loin. Je crois que c'est un programme qui bénéficie à tout le monde. On vous a dit que grâce à ce Programme, les pays d'Amérique latine ont pu arrêter l'invasion de la fièvre porcine africaine, qui menaçait les États-Unis et peut-être pourrions-nous faire quelque chose de semblable dans le domaine de la mouche méditerranéenne du fruit. Enfin les pays développés bénéficient peut-être plus du PCT parce qu'une grande partie des experts et de l'équipement, vient des pays développés. Et puis, sans le PCT qu'est-ce que serait le Programme de la FAO? Ce sont des réunions et des publications. Si un délégué nous dit: J'ai besoin de semences, devrait-on lui répondre: On va vous donner un livre sur cela, on va faire une réunion? Cela c'est pour répondre à certaines remarques comme celles du délégué du Danemark. D'après lui la FAO devrait peut-être se transformer en académie d'agriculture, en forum, faire des publications, être une source d'informations mais ne pas être une organisation opérationnelle sur le terrain fournissant une assistance technique. L'OMS a un programme d'assistance technique, ce n'est pas 14 pour cent de son budget comme la FAO, c'est 66 pour cent de 500 millions de dollars et plus. Je n'ai pas l'ambition d'arriver jusqu'à 66 pour cent. L'OMS est une organisation dont la plus grande part du budget est consacrée à l'assistance technique.

Nous allons préparer le détail du programme de travail et budget. Pour répondre à l'Ambassadeur des Philippines qui voudrait avoir plus d'informations je dirai que ceci n'est qu'un sommaire et le document qui sera préparé sera soumis de nouveau au Comité financier, au Comité du Programme, aux deux Comités que vous avez vous-mêmes nommés et qui vont pendant 2 semaines se réunir, et examiner toutes nos propositions. J'espère que nos arguments seront encore plus convaincants et qu'il y aura davantage d'informations pour vous. Je tiendrai compte de ce qui a été dit au Comité du Programme, au Comité financier, au Comité de l'agriculture, au Comité des pêches, et ici même, tout cela je le prendrai en considération. Je ne veux pas dire que je pourrai peut être tout amender mais certainement vous verrez que la plupart des recommandations qui ont été faites en ce qui concerne le Programme de travail seront prises en considération.

Je crois que M. Shah a déjà répondu à la question des délégués des Philippines: quel était le coût du Programme, combien doit-on payer? Il a donné des chiffres, et je vais donner les mêmes mais avec peut-être plus de détails. D'abord il faut dire combien vous payez maintenant pour 1984-85. Vous ne payez que 395 millions 900 000 dollars.

Pour 1986-87 quel sera le coût du dollar? Aujourd'hui, il est de 1961 liras. Est-ce qu'il pourra être de 1900, mettons-le à 1900, je vous le concède, mais il pourrait être aussi bien à 2000. A 1900, le budget sera de 432 millions 900 mille dollars, mais alors la ristourne que je me propose de donner aux états membres sera vraisemblablement de 40 millions, ce ne sera plus 26 millions 500 mille. J'ai cette possibilité. Vous paierez, au pire 392 millions 900 mille dollars environ, si le dollar descend à 1900.

Donc, il ne faut pas trop se préoccuper de l'argent. Ce n'est pas seulement une affaire de gros sous, ce programme de lutte contre la faim, il doit bénéficier aux petits paysans qui constituent la majorité des populations des pays qui en ont le plus besoin.

Mais il y a plus, c'est que, à part cette ristourne de 40 millions de dollars, il y aura encore de l'argent que vous recevrez, émanant de l'exercice budgétaire de ce biennium. Par exemple, en 1982-83, nous avons distribué à la fin du biennium 47 millions de dollars et maintenant nous espérons avoir encore 45 millions de dollars, à distribuer. Dans cette somme, 15 millions reviendront au programme pour l'Afrique, le Comité des finances a déjà donné son accord, mais il reste encore au moins 30 millions qui seront distribués.

Dans ce contexte, qu'est ce que 1,4 %? Ce n'est rien du tout, la marge d'erreur pour calculer un budget de 400 millions est au moins du même ordre, 1,5% c'est la marge d'erreur. En fait, je vous demande de faire une avance et après vous restituer de l'argent à la fin du biennium.

Je vais vous dire maintenant en toute sincérité pourquoi j'ai proposé un budget de 1,4 et non pas de 3 ou de 0 pour cent. En 1984-85 le budget a été majoré de 0,4, pratiquement c'était une croissance zéro. Qui peut différencier entre 0 et 0,4? Pour 1986-87 la situation catastrophique en Afrique a fait que nous avons donné une plus grande priorité à l'Afrique dans notre Programme. Il y a notamment dans le Programme et Budget détaillés des activités très importantes pour aider les pays africains à produire leurs intrants agricoles, c'est-à-dire que nous allons faire un effort plus grand pour la production des semences, la production des vaccins, etc. Ce sont des choses qui sont déjà faites, mais nous voulons faire un effort beaucoup plus grand.

D'autre part, il y a eu la première Conférence mondiale des pêches qui s'est tenue ici. Il faut bien, pour le suivi de cette Conférence, avoir un peu plus de crédits pour mettre en oeuvre le Programme d'action. C'était la première fois que se tenait une telle Conférence. Enfin, il va y avoir le Congrès forestier mondial à Mexico, il faut en tenir compte et nous savons déjà dans quel sens iront les recommandations de ce Congrès.

Il y avait donc ces justifications sur le plan technique, sur le plan économique, sur le plan de l'assistance mais j'ai aussi noté que le dollar a été réévalué au moment où je voulais préparer mon budget. J'ai fait mon compte, si j'augmentais le budget de 1,5 ou de 1,4, j'arriverais quand même à avoir un budget qui en termes de contributions serait moindre que le budget actuel, et j'ai pensé que les pays qui sont les principaux avocats de l'austérité pourraient ainsi accepter 1,5 ou 1,4%. Et je pense toujours que ceci est à la portée des pays qui veulent l'austérité dans le budget. Ils devraient pouvoir l'accepter exceptionnellement parce qu'il y a l'Afrique, la Conférence des pêches, parce que le dollar a été surévalué.

Je maintiens ce que j'ai dit que quand on prépare un budget 2 ans à l'avance et avec une augmentation de 1,4 pour cent, cela représente vraiment beaucoup moins que la marge d'erreur dans le calcul des ressources nécessaires.

En conclusion, le budget de 1986-87 ne doit pas vous diviser en deux camps, chacun bénéficie du budget. Certains pays recouvrent 3, 4 fois leur contribution au budget. Si on calcule le nombre de fonctionnaires qu'ils ont et les salaires que reçoivent ces fonctionnaires, si on ajoute à cela le montant de l'équipement que ces pays nous vendent, les consultants, les compagnies d'aviation avec lesquelles nous voyageons qui appartiennent à ces pays, on peut voir que, certains pays européens, pour une contribution au budget de la FAO de 1, reçoivent 4 et 5. Nous avons les chiffres mais nous ne voulons nommer aucun de ces pays. Donc, tous les pays sont bénéficiaires. J'ai démontré qu'il n'y avait pas d'augmentation dans les contributions, je le dis très haut, je dis qu'on ne vous demande pas de payer plus pour 1986-87.

Je terminerai en disant à tout le monde, y compris à ceux qui demandent un budget plus élevé, d'être plus raisonnables. Je ne m'attendais pas du tout à un appui unanime, mais je suis convaincu que la situation changera au moment de la Conférence. J'espère qu'à l'occasion de la célébration du quarantième anniversaire de l'Organisation, en évoquant la mémoire des pères fondateurs de la FAO, Roosevelt, McDougall, Boyd Orr, avec la présence de plusieurs chefs d'Etat, vos coeurs s'ouvriront et que dans un élan de fraternité général vous approuverez le Programme de travail et budget et que la Conférence sera une conférence historique.

R. C. GUPTA (India): After the Director-General has spoken at length about the budget, I am not going to say all that I wanted to say because the subject being discussed is much more important than FAO travel benefits being shared by the airlines.

I did not intend to infer that FAO was favouring any particular airline. Mr Crowther in his response said that the arrangement works out in such a way that Alitalia gets more clientele than other airlines do. I only wanted to point out that fact. Also, if the travel benefits of this clientele are shared with other airlines, the benefits are shared by the countries in the same way as they are shared as a result of FAO obtaining higher discounts and commissions. So it works out to be the same thing. My anxiety was that the present arrangement which somehow favoured a particular airline, though not deliberately, should be reviewed as soon as possible. Having said that, I should like to reiterate that we lend our fullest support to the level of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

J. C. CLAVE (Philippines): I do not really want to engage in a debate with the Director-General and the representative of the Secretariat, but I thought I should make the following observations.

First of all, this morning I said I would support the budget at the figure which I placed at \$421 140 000. I am grateful to the Director-General for calling my attention to the fact that this was last year's figure. I have adopted this figure of \$451 640 000, but on the basis of our discussions this is not a final figure - in other words the sum of the budget supported by the Philippines will slide up and down depending on the sliderule of the Director-General and the Secretariat, but of course with one limitation - that it does not impose upon my country an additional assessment because, even if we wish to contribute more dollars for the sake of our brothers in Africa, conditions in my country will not allow it. This is one condition. With this, I hope the Director-General will see how we support the budget.

The second observation of my statement referred to the programmes. It is my hope and the yearning of my country that more money will go into developmental projects as against studies, conferences and meetings will also be considered. I welcome of course the observation of one of our colleagues in the Secretariat that provisions have been made for the development of alternative soil conditioners. That is welcome. But what I wish to hear from him next time would be that not only have there been provisions for this activity, but that such provisions are enough to emphasize the urgency of the problem and that the resources being provided are comparable with those for our other concerns. It is one thing to say that there are provisions, but it is another thing to say, that we have sufficient provisions, provisions comparably adequate seen in the light of those provided for others.

I share the concern of my colleague from India. Since the Director-General has mentioned the Philippine Airlines, which is the Airline of my country - and by the way, I would like to thank him for his commercial! - I feel I should say something on this subject. It is only natural for us delegates - especially in my case as I am Ambassador to Italy as well - to think in terms of the national interest of our Airline. I must say that the Italian Government has been very considerate and has been looking with favour and kind consideration at the plight of the Philippine Airlines. I would only wish that when this matter of FAO travel arrangements comes up for review the Secretariat would weigh and probably reconcile the desire on the part of the Secretariat to earn a little more commission, against the possible assistance to Third World airlines, Philippine Airlines or Air India, or Singapore or Japan Airlines; assistance which would go a long way towards helping our airlines to keenly survive the competition in the transportation industry.

Finally, I would like to share the optimism of the Director-General that in November we shall have a happy anniversary - and I promise you of course that in the meantime I shall go on meeting with the key officers of the Secretariat so that the enquiring and learning process which we started here will continue. It is my business to know the Organization which my country helped to found forty years ago.

CHAIRMAN: If no other delegate wishes to speak before I sum up may I first of all thank all Council Members and Observers who have participated in the discussion of this most important item on our agenda for this particular Council meeting. We have spent nearly two whole days - all of Friday and practically the whole of today - in other words out of ten days of Council meeting we have spent two days on this item, and I think rightly so. I think it has been a proper judgement on the part of the Council Members and Observers who have decided to place overriding priority on this item. I want to thank our colleagues in the Programme and Finance Committees - both the Members and the two Chairmen - for the amount of time they have spent; as they have already explained, they have also worked at night on most of the days of the Programme and Finance Committees and the result is obvious in the very clear report which we have and its very concise and precise presentation by both Chairmen. I am sure I share the view of all Council Members when I thank the Chairmen of the two Committees.

You heard this afternoon the Director-General, Mr Shah, Mr Crowther and Dr Bommer refer to most of the points made by Members with considerable candour, and we appreciate the open way in which all these matters have been discussed. It is an exceedingly important feature of this particular debate that nothing is swept under the carpet and whatever information Members wanted has been laid on the floor. I want to thank the Director-General and all his colleagues for raising the level of the discussions to a very high plane.

May I now summarize the discussion on this Item 14 of the agenda, Summary Programme of Work of Budget document CL 87/3. I will mention the countries which have given their unqualified support but in some cases have pleaded for an enhanced budget to meet the growing demands of the Organization. They are: - Colombia, Lebanon, Cuba, Egypt, Czechoslovakia, India, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Tunisia, China, Cyprus, Saudi Arabia, Panama, Malawi, Thailand, Brazil, Bangladesh, Austria, Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, Pakistan, Mexico, Congo, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Bulgaria, Venezuela, Uganda, Benin, Senegal, Rwanda, Philippines, Sao Tomé and Príncipe. Some Council Members and Observers have spoken on behalf of whole groups: Indonesia conveyed the support of the entire Asia Group; Ivory Coast conveyed the support of the Africa Group; Tunisia conveyed the support of the Near East Group; Venezuela the support of the Latin American and Caribbean Group; and Libya conveyed the support of the members of Group of 77. Among Observers who have given their total support to the Summary Programme of Work and Budget are: Ghana, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Madagascar, Poland, Peru, El Salvador, Kenya, Viet Nam, Cape Verde and Sudan.

Ten Council Members and one Observer expressed reservations or wanted the Summary Programme of Work and Budget to be reconsidered:- the United Kingdom, United States of America, Australia, Canada, Japan, Spain, Federal Republic of Germany. Denmark, France and Italy have reserved their position, and the Netherlands, as an Observer, has also expressed reservations.

From what I have said it is clear that a majority of Council Members consider the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as described in document CL 87/3 an acceptable framework for the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and requested the Director-General to proceed accordingly.

Mention has also been made by several delegations, particularly Italy, that although they have expressed reservations on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget they support the Field Programme, and this is a welcome feature. As mentioned in the document there is a feedback relationship between the Regular and Field Programmes and we appreciate this gesture. May I therefore conclude by once again reiterating the Council's overwhelming desire for the Director-General to proceed with the preparation of the full Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium on the basis of the proposals contained in CL 87/3.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Has the Council approved the Summary Programme of Work and Budget?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is what I have just summarized.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je n'ai pas très bien compris les réserves que l'on attribue à l'Italie sur le Programme de terrain. J'ai dit exactement le contraire! J'ai fait une observation très générale sur le fait que les fonds disponibles pour le Programme dans les différentes organisations internationales avaient tendance à diminuer et c'est cela que j'ai regretté. Je vous remercie.

CHAIRMAN: May I then take it that Italy supports the proposals in document CL 87/3? Yes. Thank you very much Italy.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Monsieur le Président, je pense que vous avez résumé le débat et pour notre part, nous espérons que la conclusion serait beaucoup plus précise tout au moins selon notre entendement. Vous avez fort bien essayé de mettre d'un côté ce qui était favorable et, de l'autre, ce qui l'était moins ou même ceux qui s'y sont opposés.

Je crois que nous sommes ici au sein du Conseil et qu'il y a des règles au sein de ce Conseil pour approuver, ou rejeter, ou laisser en suspens une question. Je crois, pour ma part, que vous avez bien fait de lire les noms des pays qui ont appuyé ce sommaire et, en entendant les noms de ces pays, il ressort clairement que plus des deux tiers de notre Conseil appuie le sommaire du Programme et Budget qui est présenté.

Je ne sais pas si le Conseiller légal es là pour nous dire à quel niveau, à quelle majorité on doit considérer que ce sommaire est approuvé, parce que nous aimerions connaître la décision finale: est-ce approuvé ou ne l'est-ce pas? En effet, il y a eu des propositions qui tendaient à faire en sorte que le Directeur général puisse refaire un autre projet qui tienne compte de la croissance zéro. Or, après ce débat, il est clair que ceci a été clairement rejeté par la majorité de notre Conseil. En conséquence, nous pensions que la seule solution qui s'imposait était de demander au Directeur Général de travailler sur la base de ce projet, tel qu'approuvé.

CHAIRMAN: Let me before others intervene once again make it clear what I said. I said a very large majority of the members of the Council, and naturally therefore the Council, approved the proposals contained in document CL 87/3 and therefore we consider it as an acceptable framework for the development of the detailed Programme of Work and Budget. This is how I summarized and I think if there is any ambiguity in what I said I shall be happy to clarify it, but it is very clear that the Council as a whole has approved by a majority this particular document as an acceptable framework.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe) : Monsieur le Président, nous avons énormément de respect pour vous, mais malgré ce respect, c'est la deuxième fois que nous constatons que les débats du Conseil n'aboutissent pas à une décision bien claire. Vous nous avez dit quels sont les pays qui ont approuvé le projet du Directeur général pour le budget et vous nous avez dit aussi quels sont les pays qui sont opposés ou ceux qui ont réservé leur position.

Et malgré tout le respect que j'ai pour Monsieur le Directeur général et malgré le fait qu'il y ait deux camps, comme il l'a bien dit, au sein de ce Conseil, le Conseil a pris une décision et il faudrait que le Président de ce Conseil annonçât clairement que l'on a pris une décision à la majorité en faveur du projet présenté par M. le Directeur général.

CHAIRMAN: Let me once again read out what I said. The Council approves the priorities, programmes and allocations in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as presented in document CL 87/3 and requests the Director-General to produce the final Programme of Work and Budget accordingly. I hope that it is very clear.



R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I have been doing some rather quick reading here of the Basic Texts and I do not believe, unless I have misread, that the Council is asked to make a decision such as the one that you have posed to us. We are not asked to approve or disapprove this. We are asked to prepare a report that is then transmitted to the Conference for approval, and I think, as you have quite rightly pointed out, that there are divergences of opinion. My delegation for one, and I think others, did ask the Director-General to take a bit of a different approach, that is to prepare a budget based on zero programme growth, so I think it is inappropriate to say that the Council decided. That is not the question I have understood we were discussing and it is certainly not the question I am prepared to address, other than to say that we did have some questions. These questions were asked; we had some explanations; our duty as a Council is to record the divergent views that were recorded, and it is the Conference's responsibility to approve or disapprove the budget.

J.C. CLAVE (Philippines): Mr Chairman, Mr Director-General, I was only expecting or hoping to add to the obvious directive to the Director-General an approval in principle, shall we say, of the proposed budget and programme the following phrase: "To prepare the Programme and the Budget in accordance with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, taking into consideration as much as possible the observations made concerning the programmes during the Council session". Something along that line, Mr Chairman. I think that the Director-General in preparing the detailed Programme of Work and Budget should be guided by two things, first the proposal as we approved it, and secondly the suggestions and recommendations that were aired on this floor by members of the Council.

G.H. MUSGROVE (Canada): We too wanted to add our voice and indeed would have said what the distinguished delegate from the United States has said had we had the floor first. Even those who spoke on all sides of the budget issue had made I think two points. The first was that their hope and wish was that in due course there would be a consensus reached on the budget process and particularly with respect to the budget level; and, secondly, that the process of approval would be one that would be forthcoming, or addressed at least, when the full Programme of Work and Budget was available.

We have posed a number of questions, and indeed had some useful replies from the Secretariat. I might add that a number of those replies led to further questions. I refrain from pursuing the matter today. Mr Shah will know well the direction my subsequent questions would take as I have had this debate with him before. We refrained from doing so, thinking that the discussion we have had in this Council is the stage which will prevent further discussion of a number of these issues.

We have no quarrel I think with the suggestion just made by the distinguished representative of the Philippines. I have not had time to study his proposed solution but it does seem to us something along those lines is what the Council at maximum can reach at this time.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia se ha abstenido durante el día de hoy de hacer una segunda intervención porque no deseamos prolongar este debate y esperamos que otros colegas asuman actitud semejante. Creo que este Consejo debe reconocer y agradecer la reacción franca y clara del Director General, quien en actitud realista y objetiva hizo su declaración sobre el debate que ha tenido lugar.

Sin embargo, recientes intervenciones demuestran cómo el Director General tuvo razón al proponer este modesto aumento, porque dada la tendencia sistemática a reducir el presupuesto, si el Director General hubiera sometido el crecimiento cero estos distinguidos delegados le habrían pedido el menos cero.

Yo creo que la situación es muy clara y la gran mayoría de los Miembros del Consejo - sólo una quinta parte ha estado negativa o dudosa -, la gran mayoría de los Miembros ha estado en favor de este resumen y así debe hacerse constar en el informe y luego en el Comité de Redacción, no aquí, en el Comité de Redacción, donde están representados los Estados Unidos y otros países, se hará constar, como de costumbre, las opiniones de aquellos Estados que no pudieron sumarse a la gran mayoría. Luego del Director General, con base en ese Informe, preparará un texto definitivo que someterá a los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en septiembre próximo y luego a la Conferencia de noviembre entrante; de manera que queremos sumarnos al llamado cordial del Director General y pedir a nuestros colegas que por una vez demuestren un espíritu diferente y que se dispongan con nosotros a celebrar el 40° aniversario de la fundación de la FAO, no sólo de manera solemne, sino también en forma solidaria.

CHAIRMAN: Before I proceed further I would like to clarify a point raised by the distinguished delegate of the United States whether the Council is really enjoined to approve or recommend, and the relevant provisions are: "The Council shall consider and make recommendations to the Conference on policy issues regarding the summary and draft Programme of Work and Budget and supplementary estimates submitted by the Director-General for the following financial period". We have to consider and make recommendations, and this is why I summarized by saying that the proposals form an acceptable framework for the development of the full Programme of Work and Budget, because it is very clear here that we are here not only just to consider but also to make recommendations. That is what the rules say in page 55 of the Basic Texts.

M. BALLA SY (Senegal): J'essaierai d'être bref d'autant plus que vous avez donné la précision qu'il convenait de porter à notre attention. Discuter autour d'un point pendant deux jours et dire que nous devons nous séparer sur nos différentes positions n'est pas un témoignage de respect pour les autres délégations, d'autant plus que le Conseil est un organe qui a la place que nous connaissons. Nous savons également que la Conférence ne peut pas prendre une décision sans être liée par les recommandations de notre Conseil.

Donc il est clair que le Conseil recommande l'adoption du sommaire du Programme de travail et budget et demande au Directeur général de nous présenter un document définitif sur la base des priorités du cadre financier accepté. Autrement, on ne peut pas avoir de document.

M.FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je voudrais redire la position de la délégation italienne pour qu'elle soit claire. Au début de ma déclaration de ce matin, j'ai dit: nous approuvons ce sommaire, aussi bien que les déclarations des deux Comités. C'est là la position italienne. Si j'ai émis une réserve, et peut-on l'appeler réserve, c'est simplement pour souhaiter, le moment venu, qu'un taux de change plus réaliste soit envisagé entre la lire et le dollar.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (Original language Arabic): First of all, as regards whether the Council is empowered to recommend or approve, you have referred us to the Basic Texts. In addition one of the functions of the Council is to agree or otherwise to what has been presented. On page 7 of the Arabic text, the first part, the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87, there is reference to the fact that the two Committees have recommended that the Council would approve the Summary Programme of Work and Budget as a sound basis for the full Programme of Work and Budget. We have now a joint report by the two Committees and there is a recommendation to approve the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. This document was circulated a long time ago and we have communicated this to our Governments, and received instructions. I do not think that any member can say that he is not in a position to approve this Programme of Work and Budget.

I would like to refer to another point namely the vote count. The distinguished delegate of Italy said that he is not expressing a reservation but he agrees. Therefore I believe that the number of members for the proposed summary Programme of Work and Budget might be more.

A final point, namely that many of those who have taken the floor and approved the budget have also given a recommendation and a request calling upon some countries that expressed reservations to review their position and display a spirit of cooperation and conciliation. Moreover some points which have been raised by members were responded to by Mr Shah and by the Director-General, such explanations might help those members who expressed reservations to understand the full situation.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Mr. Chairman, your early intervention saved my making a point fully, but the point I was to have made is that we do not consider that the Council has approved the budget, it was not asked to approve the budget, and has not the constitutional power to approve the budget. As for the advice which the Council is entitled to give, a near identity of view has been expressed on priorities, a difference of view has been expressed on orders of magnitude. Various helpful points have been made without contradiction, and this is all that happened.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros después de haber oído las explicaciones y respuestas y análisis tan profundos que se hicieron esperábamos que el final no fuera así, sino que tuviéramos claro que hemos discutido un resumen preparado por la Secretaría con vistas a su discusión y a su adopción en la Conferencia.

Creo que el Director General deberá, por la discusión efectuada aquí, preparar un texto para su adopción definitiva en la Conferencia, tratando de tener en cuenta las proposiciones y recomendaciones efectuadas por algunos delegados, algunos que han propuesto rebajar, y otros, como mi delegación, que han propuesto subir.

Creemos que no hemos discutido en ningún momento la preparación de otro presupuesto; es éste el que tenemos que aprobar, el que hemos discutido, el que tenemos que aprobar aquí en el Consejo para su adopción en la Conferencia. Creo que buscar otro análisis es buscar las cinco patas al gato que no tiene más que cuatro. ¿Qué hacemos entonces?.

Hemos discutido durante dos días un resumen del Programa que hemos aprobado por gran mayoría, porque por lo general la práctica reglamentaria es que la mayoría es mitad más uno, y aquí es la gran mayoría que ha aprobado este resumen de presupuesto para la aprobación definitiva en la Conferencia en la cual el Director General lo presentará teniendo en cuenta las proposiciones y recomendaciones efectuadas. Creo que no hay otra salida, no veo que podamos inventar otra casa porque, repito, no hemos discutido la preparación de otro presupuesto, es sobre éste sobre el que hay que hacer las proposiciones y recomendaciones.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think the Chairman was right and so was the delegate of the UK to quote the General Rules because we go by the rules. On page 55 these rules concern the role of the Council. "The Council considers and makes recommendations to the Conference" (because the Council is a body which is responsible vis-à-vis the Conference) on the summary and the draft Programme of Work and Budget and supplementary estimates.

I think what you have said and what is obvious is that this Council has approved the priorities, the strategies and the programmes in general. Nobody has said, "We do not want to give priority to Africa, we do not agree with this or that Programme". In general there is approval. Then, the budget estimates proposed to implement this Programme have also been generally agreed by 80 or 70 percent.

We have to have a paragraph in the report indicating that some delegates feel that there should be zero growth, and that the Director-General could make savings by further cuts, so that the views of everybody are reflected.

I know what was said and I know it is now my difficult task to reconcile what cannot be reconciled. But, as you rightly said, the Council has to make recommendations, "to consider and make recommendations." You are not approving the budget, it is not the budget, it is a summary of the budget. But you are approving the priorities and this is sufficient for me, the priorities, programmes and strategies. You are approving the estimates and, therefore, those of the level of the budget. But some of you are not in agreement. I know that some of you have reservations, and perhaps you will reconsider. We will see in November what will happen.

So I think we should not fight on this non-issue. The important thing is that all the different views have been expressed. Those who want, may go to Mr Shah and get further explanations and clarifications. But really we should not, since we have had the discussion with calm and serenity, end by fighting on what we are going to put ultimately in the budget.

I would say, that the Council approved the proposed priorities etc., and level of the budget and recommended to the Director-General to prepare the Programme of Work and Budget on this basis.

In fact we do not want to go very far into the history of the FAO, but this article of the Rules should have been amended. I am now talking to the people who have been working with FAO for many years, like Mr Bula Hoyos. In the past the Director-General was requested to submit to the Council the full Programme of Work and Budget with all details. This is why this article says that the Council has to tell the Conference whether they have approved it or not.

In 1971 the developed countries said that it was tying their hands too much to have the full Programme of Work and Budget discussed by the Council and then sent through to the Conference. They wanted to be able to influence by putting some ideas and to let the Director-General have some flexibility so that when he has to prepare the full Programme of Work and Budget he can say it is only a summary and he can make some adjustment. But this rule was not changed. What changed was that the Director-General has to present a summary, but the rules should have been changed. But this is important. What is said is that the Council agreed with the programmes and the level, some do not agree, some reserved their position, and we will see at the time of the Conference, and that is all. We should not say that they have approved the Programme of Work and Budget, they cannot approve, but they have approved the priorities, the strategies, and the estimated budget level.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I think with this note we can end our discussion on this topic.

I am sure the able Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the members of the Drafting Committee will bring out clearly some of the views expressed here.

- 15. Other Budgetary Matters:
- 15. Autres questions concernant le budget:
- 15. Otros asuntos presupuestarios:
- 15.1 Budgetary Performance 1984
- 15.1 Exécution du budget 1984
- 15.1 Ejecución del Presupuesto en 1984
- 15.2 Programme and Budgetary Transfers
- 15.2 Virements entre programmes et entre postes du budget
- 15.2 Transferencias en el programa y en el presupuesto

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): The 18th Annual Report of Budgetary Performance was presented to the Committee at its last session. I would refer members to Annex A of our Report for details of expenditure and commitments for 1984 and for the unallocated balances by Chapter, major programme and programme given in that Annex.

Council Members will note that a sum of US\$ 56 000 has been transferred within Chapter II, paragraphs 2.1.9 to 2.1.4, representing the salary of a G-6 post which has been transferred from the Office of the ADG Agriculture Department to the Research and Technology Development Division of the same Department which, as you recall, was created in the current biennium.

Council members will also note that expenditure for 1984 represents 40 percent of the biennial budget: which the Committee noted was in line with the forecast made at the beginning. The total expenditure incurred so far in the 1984/85 budget was US\$ 167 548 000.

The Committee also had before it a proposal by the Director-General that he be authorized to transfer an amount of up to US\$ 15 million from other budgetary Chapters resulting particularly from reduced expenditure on staff costs and from other programme savings, to finance the implementation of rehabilitation projects including the provision of direct assistance in the form of supplies of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs, as well as expert services for the drought-stricken areas of Africa which are facing a severe food crisis. I refer Council members also to the fact that this proposal was considered by the two Committees at its Joint Session, and your attention is drawn to paragraphs 1.8 to 1.11 of the Joint Session Report. This proposal has been made in accordance with Financial Regulation IV, paragraph 4.58.

The Committee was informed of the reasons which led him to make this proposal and of the efforts already being made by the international community to meet the situation of acute dislocation in the agriculture and livestock sectors in the 20-odd countries of Africa in the wake of a severe drought. The international community was fully aware of the problem facing these African countries and the Committee was briefed on the steps already taken by donor countries to support projects, some of which have been prepared by FAO in collaboration with the governments of these affected countries.

Your attention is drawn to paragraphs 3.29 to 3.44 of the Finance Committee report, in this regard.

The financial implications of these proposals and especially the funds still required to implement them are described briefly in these paragraphs. The sum of up to US\$ 15 million, which has been suggested for transfer, is meant to support these projects in the afflicted countries and particularly to meet the unmet gap in assistance after having taken into consideration the projects which could be eventually taken up for assistance by donor countries.

The Committee supported these proposals as they would help to resuscitate the agriculture and livestock sectors in the afflicted countries. The Committee was further informed that the utilization of this sum would not in any way affect the 1984-85 Budget and will not involve additional contributions, and was fully in accordance with Financial Regulation IV - paragraph 4.5(b) (i).

The Committee was assured that full reports would be provided to it both as to amounts of savings transferred and funds actually allocated to projects for supporting the rehabilitation efforts in Africa.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I am very sorry, but I do have to report because the Programme Committee also studied the proposed transfer. Given the fact that the Finance Committee has complete authorization to take decisions, or the Council itself between two sessions of the Finance Committee, it has been a well established custom that before the Finance Committee takes a final decision on any transfer, it should take into account the views of the Programme Committee which logically would review only the Programme aspects of the proposed transfer.

So in this particular case, given all these facts that I will not repeat, the Programme Committee concentrated basically on three things which we felt were fully pertinent to our role in advising our friends in the Finance Committee before they came to a decision.

First, we wanted to make sure that the proposed transfer would not adversely affect any approved regular programme activity. Secondly, we wanted to make sure that an activity already exists in the Organization to rationally process and commit any proposed amount of transfer. Thirdly, we wanted to make sure that existing rules governing this kind of assistance would be fully followed.

After considerable deliberation, the Committee fully supported, purely from the Programme point of view, the proposed transfer and accordingly advised our friends in the Finance Committee to consider our point of view before taking a final decision on that matter. Of course, we recorded the initiative taken by the Director-General, the Council's decision, and the particular solution for Africa - and other things, but I will not waste the time of the Council now in going over these; they are clearly recorded in our Report. I will just say briefly that from the Programme point of view, my Committee fully recommended the transfer proposed by the Director-General.

G.H. MUSGROVE (Canada) : As delegates will be aware from the full report both in document CL 87/4 and the Reports of the Chairmen of the Finance and Programme Committees, this was an issue that entailed some considerable discussion and not a little misunderstanding.

Far be it from me on an item that is for information only to reopen that discussion. I would not wish to do so, although I would quite readily engage in any debate, should one develop. The reason I intervene is perhaps to correct some misunderstanding. A misunderstanding that gained considerable currency was that my delegation or I myself was opposed to Africa or to assistance to the rehabilitation projects in that continent. This was not the case.

Questions raised by the proposition to transfer from the wide number of chapter items in the budget to Chapter 4 the Technical Cooperation Programme up to \$15 million gave rise to a series of questions relating to aid resources of the \$15 million, the purposes to which and for which it would be used, and in particular a considerable number of questions relating to the Technical Cooperation Programme itself, given the accounting that had been given for the first year of the Biennium.

It also raised questions as to the degree with which the Technical Cooperation Programme was being currently used for addressing such rehabilitation projects, and some further questions as to the ultimate utilization of TCP funds that remained unobligated or uncommitted for the remainder of this Biennium.

These questions were discussed at some length, and the Secretariat made some substantial effort to address our concerns, respond to our problems but not to the extent in the time available during the Finance Committee deliberations that we would have liked. The length of the debate and the discussion substantially increased the size of the report on this item beginning at paragraph 3.29 to some 15 paragraphs. My delegation, or I myself as a member of the Finance Committee, submitted a paragraph reflecting the views of myself as a minority, and found this to be unacceptable by the Committee, and substantially reduced in scope.

When the Committee reached a conclusion on this particular discussion we had, I had thought, agreed to the paragraph which is reflected in part in 3.43 of this Document. I think, through some misadventure, that paragraph did not get reproduced as has been agreed, and I should like to serve notice that I regard this document to be inaccurate in that respect.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter les Présidents du Comité des Finances et du Comité du Programme pour la manière dont ils ont présenté ces points.

J'espère que mes collègues acceptent de limiter le débat sur cette question. J'aurais préféré que le Conseil prenne note du transfert de crédits sans discussion, surtout que le Comité des Finances, qui est le Comité compétent à mes yeux, a déjà approuvé cela, ayant étudié tous les documents dont il avait été saisi sur cette question. L'avis est fondé, par conséquent, je ne vois pas pourquoi nous devrions ouvrir le débat sur ce point.

Le Conseil a déjà approuvé, lors de sa 86ème session qui s'est tenue en novembre 84, à l'unanimité, les mesures prises par le Directeur général et les projets qu'il avait l'intention de mettre en oeuvre en faveur des pays d'Afrique. Le Conseil a aussi soutenu pleinement le Directeur général à la présente session. La priorité accordée à l'Afrique dans le programme devrait se traduire par des actions concrètes. Nous ne devrions pas nous contenter de simples déclarations et d'un soutien moral. Certains pays d'Afrique, qui ont été touchés par la sécheresse et qui ont dû réduire leur production, n'ont pas besoin de notre charité et de notre compassion; ils ont besoin d'aide sous la forme de denrées alimentaires et d'aides techniques; de façon à pouvoir surmonter leur tragédie et voir leur situation s'améliorer. Cette situation est exceptionnelle et ne doit pas se prolonger dans le temps. Le Directeur général nous a donné une fois encore la possibilité de faire en sorte que notre Organisation puisse mettre en oeuvre des projets concrets sur le continent africain. Les crédits à ces projets ont déjà été alloués dans le cadre du budget approuvé par la Conférence. Cette réaffectation de fonds correspond à une pratique normale de l'Organisation et elle est faite conformément au règlement financier en vigueur et en fonction de la situation très grave qui prévaut sur le continent africain - chose que tous les délégués ont mentionné dans leurs déclarations lors de la discussion de la situation alimentaire en Afrique - le Comité des finances a déjà approuvé le principe de ce transfert. Alors pourquoi rouvrir le débat, ici, étant donné que cette procédure est juste, normale et tout à fait habituelle?

La délégation libanaise invite ses collègues membres du Conseil non seulement approuver ce transfert mais elle voudrait également apprécier devant tous l'action entreprise par le Directeur général et le féliciter pour cette proposition, féliciter également le Comité des finances pour avoir approuvé cela lors de sa dernière session en mai 1985.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I would like to raise a point of order because, as a member of the Finance Committee, I felt that this Committee has been greatly offended by the delegate of Canada. I felt that this Committee did not work competently and ably enough and did not take into consideration all the possibilities. I felt that the delegate of Canada wanted to say to the Council that this Council should abolish this Committee. I hope that this was just a misuse of words on the part of the delegate of Canada. I hope I was mistaken in my understanding because as you are fully aware, Mr Chairman, the members of this Committee were chosen by the Council. I was a member of this Committee, and I am still. I have been a member of this Committee for about seven years. Throughout the seven years we have never heard any sort of offence as we heard today. There has always been constructive criticism of the work of the Committee, and we accept this. But we do not accept any offence to members of the Committee because this Committee represents countries which are well respected and have their own respective positions.

In fact, we have learned what democracy is. We have learned this from books which are published in the West. Although we know about these books we also know about democracy in our traditions. But we have learned about democracy from Western books, this democracy which calls for respect for the majority views. Even when one single family discusses a certain problem, the view of the majority is taken and the minority has to abide by the view of the majority.

During the discussion of its final report by the Finance Committee, the Committee insisted, as the delegate of Canada has said, that the majority rejected the proposal tabled by three members who constitute a minority in the Committee. We did not reject lightly such proposals, but only after we had discussed them. And we decided that the view of the majority should be reflected in the Report of the Committee in a very clear manner. The insistence that the view of the minority or the view of only three members should prevail should not be expressed here but in other fora because it is inconsistent with our rules and regulations. Nevertheless, when we look at the Report of the Finance Committee we find that the view of the minority was reflected in a clear manner. I do not know whether we should mention the paragraphs which reflect the point of view of the minority, ignoring the view of the majority members of the Committee, or not.

This document was approved by the Finance Committee. Such points were previously raised in the Finance Committee and we should not complicate matters for this Council because we believe that the discussion of such items is not appropriate in this Council.

CHAIRMAN: Let me clarify the rule position, which has already been stated by the representatives of Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Under Rule XXVII of the Basic Texts, which deals with the powers of the Finance Committee, it is clearly stated that the Finance Committee has the power on behalf of the Council to approve budgetary transfers proposed by the Director-General under the terms of Financial Regulation 4.5. If you look at the proceedings of the Finance Committee, paragraph 3.44 on page 34 of the English text states: "After a full discussion of all points of view the Committee approved the Director-General's proposal to transfer an amount of up to US\$ 15 million to Chapter 4, Technical

Cooperation Programme, from other budgetary Chapters". As far as we are concerned the Finance Committee has exercised the authority delegated to it by the Council. In the original timetable which was approved this item was given for information and the Chairmen of the Finance Committee and Programme Committee have just summarized the reasons which led to their decision. I cannot open the floor for a full debate because the Finance Committee is competent to make that transfer.

With that proviso, perhaps the delegate of Canada might want to offer a clarification.

G.H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I do not want to appear to be intimidated by some rather intemperate remarks, and I do not intend to reopen the debate. A misunderstanding, contrived or deliberate, has crept into the debate.

The point I was trying to make is covered amply in Rule V of the Finance Committee. It is to be found on page 121 of the Basic Texts. The first paragraph on that rule states quite clearly: "At each session the Committee shall approve a report embodying its views, recommendations and decisions, including when requested a statement of minority views". Such a statement of minority views was agreed and submitted by myself and was not reflected in the Report of that Committee. That is the point that I was making.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): Mr Chairman, I did not expect the discussion on this item to proceed in this direction, but since a member of the Finance Committee who is also the delegate from Canada has raised this issue, I think I should put all the facts before the Council.

To begin with, we had the Committee meeting exactly one month ago. On 19 June I received a letter signed on behalf of one member of the Committee, viz Australia, stating that paragraph 3.43 in the Report does not reflect accurately the statement that was handed over to me through the Secretariat concerning the views of the three Member countries who had difficulties in agreeing with the proposed transfer.

It is difficult for me to recall exactly how the debate, which I think occupied almost one whole day, took place, and to recall what the members who had divergent views exactly stated. There are two members of the Committee in the Council, and one member has expressed his view.

As I said earlier as soon as I got the letter from the delegate of Australia, which was handed personally to me, I checked on the action that had been taken by the Secretariat on the decision I had taken in respect of the sentences which had been submitted by the delegate of Australia.

I noted that the letter by the Secretariat conveying my decisions on the suggested paragraph to members of the Committee had been sent on 10 June, I believe that even the member who raised this issue has not received a copy of that reply as yet. I also indicated in my letter to Mr Crowther, that copies of my telex should be sent to all members of the Committee. Unfortunately, there has been a time delay and most representatives have not received it.

Since the debate on this matter has been reopened, I think I will read out the text given to me by the delegate and my ruling on it. The difficulty arose Mr Chairman when the text as proposed by the members was read out. Many members in the Committee found it difficult to agree with the text, and they wanted certain amendments, which the three members were not prepared to concede.

This is the text that was handed over to the Secretary of the Committee, which was not available to me during my stay here, and was telexed to me after my return to Colombo. After its receipt I telexed back my ruling on the sentence. The text given by the Member concerned to the Secretariat read: "A few members of the Committee, while not opposing the proposed transfer, would have preferred more time and information to be provided. These same members felt that as \$25 million of TCP funding was as yet unallocated, any emergency projects could be addressed immediately while the matter of the transfer is deferred for consideration by the Council in June, and further well focussed documentation prepared in support of it."

After careful consideration my reply to the suggested paragraph was telexed to Mr Crowther and reads as follows:

"After careful consideration of Mr Sault's formulation of paragraph 15 in REP/4 Item 4, I cannot accept reference to:

(a) the US\$ 26 million as being yet available since it was clear to Members during discussions that these funds would be allocated entirely before end of year, to ensure equitable distribution of TCP resources to all regions and not only in Africa, where demand for TCP assistance exists;

(b) Reference to well focussed documentation prepared in support of intended allocation is also misleading because one could infer hitherto documentation on TCP was not well focussed. Majority accepted assurance that FAO will assist only those projects meeting existing criteria and that reports would be provided."

Since there were two points that could be incorrect and also misleading, I thought that the sentence which you read under paragraph 3.43 would reflect the views of all members.

Reference has been made by the delegate of Canada to rule 5.1. It is correct that rule 5.1 provides for minority views to be recorded, but at the same time one should not forget that the Chairman has the discretion to use his power to decide on phraseology which will be balanced. The rule 5.1 does not imply that Members are entitled to record their minority views in any form they wish. It was with a view to have a well-balanced text that the sentence was put in, and I think I was entitled as Chairman of the Finance Committee, within the powers I have been given, to use this discretion. Therefore I do not think that I have done anything incorrect.

CHAIRMAN: May I suggest to subsequent speakers that we cannot reopen what happened in the Finance Committee. I am only concerned here with the conclusions of the Finance Committee as given in the Report. It would be incorrect for each member of the Finance Committee to narrate what happened in that Committee. I hope that subsequent speakers will be asking only for information about the decision made by the Finance Committee.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): Yes, democracy rules. I can see that my friend and distinguished colleague from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has studied all the documents concerned with democracy, but he will remember Thomas Jefferson's views on this, speaking also of the defence of minorities when there is an overwhelming majority, and how the minority must to some extent be protected from being run over.

Luckily I am not in that position, because I have not been run over by my Chairman. The only reason I asked for the floor is that in the Programme Committee I stated my Government's position that we heartily support the thrust, priority and direction of the Programmes, but that we had a reservation on budgetary matters. That did appear in the Report of the Programme Committee.

When I went to the joint meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, my Chairman supported me in that, and it was as usual very fair and democratic. It was supposed to appear in the joint report of the Programme and Finance Committees. I am disappointed that I cannot find it. I find paragraph 3.43 referred to by the Chairman of the Finance Committee, but I do not see my little reservation.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): I am sorry that a misunderstanding is now prevailing. I thought that it was decided by all parties concerned in the joint meeting that four reservations were placed on record, and I think that my colleague, Mr Abeyagoonasekera, when he presented the views of the joint meeting made it quite clear that four countries had placed reservations on record. Therefore, my colleague from the United States of America is quite right that it did not surface in our report but was placed on record and the Council is now fully aware that in the joint session four countries reserved their positions and placed their reservations on record. It is perfectly in harmony with the rule that has always governed both Committees individually and at the joint sessions. So it was only corrected on my colleague's behalf - it was obviously his turn to present the joint views and to place on record that the four countries expressed the reservation.

Mrs M FENWICK (United States of America): With your permission, Mr Chairman: The earlier version of the Programme Committee report did contain in a little separate paragraph that a representative -because I was alone, I was not one of the four in the Programme Committee -"one Member mentioned that although heartily supporting the programme and its priorities, she took a reservation on budgetary matters on behalf of her Government". I do not find that anywhere now.

M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): It is not in fact a separate paragraph but if you will look carefully at paragraph 2.45 you will see "One member, while joining the Committee in the full endorsement of the proposed content of the Programme of Work and Budget, reserved her Government's position on the budget level." So your reservation is in fact incorporated there.

Mrs M. FENWICK (United States of America): It is not in the joint report.



M. TRKULJA (Chairman, Programme Committee): In the case of the joint report, it was placed on the record.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): I would like to make a very brief comment in relation to the budgetary transfer of up to \$15 million to Chapter 4, Technical Cooperation Programme. My delegation is somewhat concerned about the way in which the proposal was submitted to the last session of the Finance Committee. From paragraph 3.41 of document CL 87/4 we notice that as of the end of March 1985 there still remain some \$26 million unallocated in the provision of TCP, and that the current approval rate of the TCP projects is allowed at \$3 million per month. This means that FAO has enough resources within Chapter 4 for the time being to meet any emergency project for rehabilitation in Africa.

Since the proposed amount to be transferred to TCP is quite significant, my delegation feels that this kind of proposal should have been presented to the current Council so that more Members - not simply the nine members of the Finance Committee - should consider it. Even doing that, we do not think that this would cause any severe constraint to the implementation of the rehabilitation project. I would therefore like to have some explanation from the Secretariat of the specific reasons why the Director-General submitted his proposals to the Finance Committee and not to the Council.

M. BALLA SY (Senegal): Comme vous, Monsieur le Président, ma délégation ne peut que s'étonner de cette discussion qui s'éternise autour d'une décision que le Comité a prise souverainement sur la base d'une délégation de pouvoir dont il dispose. Est-ce que nous voulons ici retirer cette délégation de pouvoir au Comité ou est-ce que nous voulons, pour le simple fait qu'un petit nombre de pays n'est pas favorable à cette mesure, remettre en cause une loi que les pays fondateurs ont établie?

Pour une raison d'information, il faudrait simplement que l'on puisse très rapidement prendre acte de la décision prise par ce Comité, qui répond au souci que nous avons tous, parce que nous ne pouvons pas demander que les 26 millions qui sont destinés à une exécution de projets dans le cadre du PCT et qui seront exécutés suivant la lenteur et la nécessité de préparation de ces projets qui sont connus, amputer l'efficacité de ces programmes pour résoudre un problème immédiat. Cela se traduira par un problème qui sera résolu ici, mais qui en créera un autre d'un autre côté. Je pense qu'il s'agit d'une décision dont le sens profond pourrait être contesté.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): What the Delegate of Japan has just said of course requires an answer, but I would now like to reply to my colleague and friend Mrs Fenwick, the Ambassador of the United States of America, about democracy. In fact, I have never said that I object to the fact that the view of the minority should be reflected in the report - it has been reflected and reflected clearly. But what we in the Finance Committee consider - and I say that here, now - is that minority views should not cover the majority view. This is democracy. I believe that if you, or anybody, were in our position on the Finance Committee and had to read, or try to understand, the views of the minority, which were presented at the end of lengthy discussions, I believe that you would be upset and lose control. They presented two or three papers to us like this (indicating) and asked us to accept them and to put them in our report. I do not think that this is democracy. We have to reflect their opinions and to accept them, but they should not cover the opinions and views of the majority. That is what I said.

M. J. BLAMEY (Australia): I simply want to say that my delegation shares Canada's concern about the wording of paragraph 3.43 regarding the minority view in the Finance Committee on the question of the transfer of up to \$15 million to the Technical Cooperation Programme from other Budgetary Chapters. The Australian Representative on the Committee, Mr John Sault, has - as the Chairman of the Committee has noted - written to the Chairman of the Committee. We will consider the response to his letter and pursue the matter further if we need to.

A. M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I am a member of the Programme Committee so, as I said yesterday, I wear two hats; but today I would like to speak in my capacity as Representative of my Government on the report of the Finance and Programme Committees as presented to us in document CL 87/4.

We would like to thank first of all the Chairmen of the two Committees for their exposition of the reports to us. We take note of the matter of the urgent needs of Africa in the face of the unprecedented calamity which has befallen the continent.

The matter of the transfer has two angles, one financial and the other programme. From the point of view of the programming priorities we fully and unanimously agree to the most useful work being done under the aegis of the TCP, because it provides an effective mechanism for providing assistance where it is urgently required. This morning the distinguished representative of the Federal Republic of Germany rightly called it "a firebrigade action". There can be no argument about the uniqueness of TCP as a vehicle for providing quick relief in emergency situations. In the context of Africa there was unanimous consensus, and I believe that there is unanimous consensus here in this Session, and on FAO's special focus on Africa and to the great urgency of coming to the help of Africa in its hour of distress, desolation and despondency.

I recall, as a member of the Programme Committee, that we wholeheartedly endorsed the recommendation of the Director-General to transfer up to \$15 million, and the Committee endorsed this for aiding the projects aimed at the rehabilitation of African agriculture. We were assured that the criteria laid down for the project as selected will be adhered to. My delegation appreciates the decision taken by the Finance Committee to allow the Director-General to transfer up to \$15 million to Chapter 4, and we note it with great satisfaction.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I do not wish to speak on the substance of paragraph 3.44 but on the issue which has surfaced here which pertains in our view first to the Finance Committee, I would like to state the following:

My delegation has great respect for the work of both Committees, and I myself had the honour to serve on the Programme Committee ten years ago- Apparently the Committee had some difficulties and misunderstandings amongst its members, but they did agree on this paragraph 3.44, which clearly states what was the decision of the Finance Committee whilst the minority view was yet to be inserted into paragraph 3.43.

I am very grateful to the distinguished delegate for Saudi Arabia for clarifying that the minority view should not cover the majority view. On the other hand, if a final decision is being taken I think that the minority view needs to be reflected adequately in the report. I do not wish to dwell further on that but I would like to state that we would urge the Finance Committee in future not to terminate its session unless it has agreed on its report. And if such an agreement could not be reached then they should report it to the Council. After all they are serving the Council.

Having listened carefully to the views expressed, Mr Chairman, I would also like to say that we would very much appreciate it if in future reports of the Joint Sessions of both Committees at least a little reference were to be made also to the minority views, that means on the first pages. We are grateful to the distinguished Chairmen of the Programme and Finance Committees who, in introducing the report, drew our attention to them. For easy reference, however, it would be useful to have these views also mentioned in the joint report so that one has not to go through the whole document, first in order to see also what was the view of the minority.

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Punto de orden

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Lebanon): Mr Chairman, as you said, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee have decided on this subject, and there is no need to discuss it. I would ask you, if the other delegates would approve it, that is okay. Otherwise let us leave it until tomorrow otherwise it is too late.

CHAIRMAN: Are you applying for a closure on the question? The distinguished Ambassador of Lebanon is asking for a closure on further discussion of this item. Is there agreement on this?

R. D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Mr Chairman, what does that mean; that we will not discuss nor take any further action on this item today and come back to it tomorrow?

CHAIRMAN: Certainly not. This is an information item in which the information on the basis of the discussion and the reporting etc. has been discussed. What the distinguished member of Lebanon says is that since it has come to us, the Finance Committee has exercised authority, which is rightly its own authority, and this item has come to us only for information, and we have discussed it at some length and so on. No further useful purpose will be served in discussing this item further. That is why I think the delegate of Lebanon wants a closure on further discussion of this topic which has been submitted to the Council for information.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I thought there may be a way of working our way to a solution so that you can have agreement by all countries as to how this \$15 million is to be used for African relief purposes. Is that not the substantive issue here?

CHAIRMAN: That is not the substantive issue at all for discussion just now.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente: el señor Jefferson abogó por la defensa de las minorías, pero no abogó jamás, ni ningún demócrata, por la prepotencia y la arrogancia de las minorías. Jefferson existió hace muchos años y esta nueva teoría aunque se nos exponga ahora a través de dos generaciones distintas tiene apenas cuatro años, cinco meses y cuatro días.

Hubiéramos preferido terminar este largo día dentro de un ambiente de calma, pero parece que la serenidad nuestra se confunde con la debilidad. Ya el Embajador de Arabia Saudita expresó su inconformidad por la forma sibilina que raya casi en la hipocresía con que un Miembro del Consejo inició este debate desafortunado. El dijo que sólo deseaba aclarar malentendidos, que no deseaba reabrir el debate, pero que este documento no era correcto. Nosotros creemos que hacer esa afirmación es insultar, es faltar el respeto al Comité de Finanzas y también a este Consejo que eligió a ese Comité, del cual forma parte esa delegación.

Hay hechos que son indiscutibles. Este Consejo elige un Comité de Finanzas que lo integra de nueve Miembros, con el propósito de disponer de un órgano.

CHAIRMAN: Since a closing motion has been proposed by Lebanon, are you going to support it? I think there is a point of order. Yes?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Apoyo la propuesta del Líbano, per según el Reglamento sólo pueden intervenir dos delegaciones para oponerse a ella; de manera que por eso prefiero terminar mi declaración.

R.C. GUPTA (India): Mr Chairman, I wanted to be sure that the motion of the distinguished delegate of Lebanon was taken as a formal motion, and if so it will be necessary for those people to speak who are opposed to that motion. I would formally move that discussion on this item be closed.

CHAIRMAN: According to the rules, yes. Let me read. "A delegate or representative may at any time move the closure of the debate on the item under discussion whether or not any other delegate or representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put: to the vote." So two members who are opposing the closure can speak.

Canada, would you like to oppose the closure? Since I do not find any opposition we all agree to close the discussion on this debate. Thank you very much.

16. Financial Matters:

16. Questions financières:

16. Asuntos financieros:

16.1 Financial Position of the Organization

16.1 Situation financière de l'Organisation

16.1 Situación financiera de la Organización

16.2 Scale of Contributions 1986-87

16.2 Barème des contributions 1986-87

16.2 Escala de cuotas para 1986-87

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Le programme des séances d'aujourd'hui indique, pour le point 16.1: Situation financière de l'Organisation, un seul document de référence qui est le document CL 87/4. Or, il y a un autre document qui a été distribué aujourd'hui et qui se réfère spécifiquement à cette question, c'est le document CL 87/LIM/1, intitulé: Situation financière de l'Organisation, qui doit être également pris en compte dans la discussion de ce point.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): On item 16.1, I wish to make the following comments on contribution matters. Your attention is drawn to paragraphs 3.61 to 3.70 of the report. You will note on payment of current assessments the Committee observed that percentage of receipts for 1985 as at 7 May 1985 was 38.08 percent, but that these receipts of 1985 assessments exclusive of cash surplus distributions which amounts to \$41 million showed a decline as compared to the percentage for previous years. The Committee also noted that cash remittances from Member Nations were at a lower rate than in any of the last four years.

Next I wish to make some comments on arrears. We noted that there were 55 Member Nations in arrears for a total of \$15.8 million. The Committee recommends to the Council that it appeals to all Member Nations with outstanding contributions, particularly those in arrears, to pay the amounts due without delay. The problem of outstanding contributions also has a bearing on the voting rights of some Member Nations. In accordance with Article III.4 of the Constitution 13 Member Nations were in danger of losing their right to vote at the November Conference and also 5 Member Nations did not qualify to vote under the above Article. Please refer to paragraphs 3.67 to 3.70 for further particulars on this aspect.

Taking all these considerations into account, the Committee recommends to the Council that it makes a special appeal to these 18 Member Nations.

At the Eighty-sixth Session of the Council the Committee was asked to review the problem of late payments and to recommend possible solutions, particularly as to the possibility of using incentives for early payments or of penalty for late payment, in order to ensure the liquidity of the Organization and to ensure full implementation of the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget.

In its deliberations the Committee considered several courses of action which would help to resolve the problem referred to in paragraph 3.75. It agreed that the charging of interest to Member Nations which did not remit contributions promptly was inappropriate. At the same time it felt that permitting them to share equally in the distribution of the cash surplus was not appropriate either, as these surpluses arose mainly from interest accruing from contributions received promptly.

Therefore it felt that the more appropriate course of action for FAO to follow would be to allocate any cash surplus proportionately according to the amounts and timings of the receipts of contributions. There was still the need to retain the expectation of a cash surplus, particularly to those Member Nations in arrears at the end of the biennium.

After considerable discussion, the Committee requested the Organization to pursue the matter further and to provide it with more alternatives for consideration at its Autumn Session.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): The Committee has before it, as the Chairman of the Finance Committee has mentioned, a recent distribution of a document CL 87/LIM/1 which is an update of the status of contributions to the budget through 18 June 1985. This was necessary since the Finance Committee report gave the status of contributions through 7 May 1985. In order to give the Council the complete picture as of today I am happy to report that we have now received a contribution in full from Vanuatu in the amount of \$19,729 which brings its contribution in full for 1985.

In addition, with regard to those Member Nations with voting rights problems, The Permanent Representative of Iran to FAO has informed the Organization that an additional amount of \$1,760,000 has been remitted by the Government today. Upon receipt of such an amount Iran's vote at the Conference would be ensured.

Also I would like to report that the Representative of Liberia to FAO has communicated to the Organization its efforts to remit funds to cover its arrears outstanding although we have not received any additional amounts at this point.

I am happy to report that the countries are making efforts to do so. This is the financial position as of today.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that very encouraging report. Are there any further questions of clarification that anyone likes to ask?

Then we will move on to the last item on our agenda, item 7, the report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture. You will recall that this has been discussed in great detail, particularly the International Code of Conduct on the Use and Distribution of Pesticides. Are there any other items that anyone would like to talk on?

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): Sí, señor Presidente: Nosotros, en el calendario para el día de hoy, en el documento CL 87/6, teníamos apuntado el tema 16, y en éste el 16.2, relativo a la escala de contribuciones para 1986-87. Usted no ha hecho mención a este punto sobre todo y mi delegación tiene algo que decir. No sé si usted piensa tratarlo posteriormente; si así es, nos gustaría saber cuándo.

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, I had taken items 16.1 and 16.2 together.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): La delegación de México se opone a que nuestro Consejo transmita el proyecto de Resolución relativo a la escala de cuotas para el próximo bienio a la Conferencia. Mi delegación ya ha expresado anteriormente sus graves reservas en cuanto a la escala de cuotas de Naciones Unidas para 1983, debido a los criterios empleados para la elaboración de la misma. Cuando el 22 período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO sometió dicha escala de cuotas, nuestro país se opuso a la misma porque consideró que la confección de cuotas de Naciones Unidas, al proponer la mencionada escala, no se apegó a criterios establecidos en la Resolución 36/231. A la Asamblea General; es decir, por falta de tiempo tan sólo un tercio de la tasación de las contribuciones de los Estados Miembros se basó en las estadísticas de ingresos nacionales brutos proporcionados por estos últimos, existiendo una sobrevaloración de los tipos de cambio y de las estadísticas mencionadas, al tomarse únicamente en cuenta precios constantes y no la inflación real, resultando así una tasación anómala e incompatible con los principios de justicia y de equidad; es decir, los parámetros utilizados para fijar la escala no eran objetivos ni correspondían a la realidad, a la luz de la grave situación económica y financiera de los países en desarrollo, en especial de los exportadores de hidrocarburos, y no se dio debida consideración a la capacidad real de pagos y al nivel de endeudamiento, así como a los problemas económicos causados, entre otras razones, por factores desiguales en las relaciones de intercambio en el comercio exterior.

Ahora bien, a mi delegación le sorprende que en este momento, cuando se ha evidenciado que la crisis económica no sólo no se ha resuelto, sino que se ha agudizado, una organización internacional quiera mantener una escala de cuotas desequilibrada que afecta a la economía de algunos países en desarrollo. Lo más correcto sería esperar a que se adoptara la nueva escala de Naciones Unidas para que basáramos la de la FAO en ésta y esperar que sea a la vez más justa.

En las actuales circunstancias, repito, mi delegación no puede aceptar que la propuesta escala sea sometida a la Conferencia. En todo caso, le pedimos a usted, señor Presidente, que transmita en la forma más diligente a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas nuestra preocupación y objeción por la forma en que se ha fijado tal escala y nuestro rechazo a que sea sometida a la Conferencia de la FAO.

A.F. de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): I present my support of the intervention of the delegate of Mexico, The Brazilian Government has maintained a firm position against the United Nations criterion which is based on the national income and per capita income statistics in the formulation of the scale of contributions of Member States. We assume the position of the United Nations General Assembly and Specialized Agencies.

As we have said before, Brazil is a developing country with huge economic and financial problems. In spite of these factors, and many others which I will not mention here, Brazil, as other developing countries, is being penalized by this scale with a contribution higher than that of some developed industrialized countries.

The Brazilian contribution at FAO equals 1.67 percent of FAO's budget being equal to the share of ten developing countries. Such a scale is obviously unfair as long as it does not take into consideration extremely important factors,, such as the capacity to pay of Member Nations, the particular economic and financial problems of each country, and the accumulated national wealth.

Therefore the Brazilian delegation cannot support the resolution on the Scale of Contribution as proposed by the Finance Committee. In this context the Brazilian delegation would also appreciate if the concern of the matter could be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with respect to the objectivity of the criterion used in the formulation of this scale.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): We assume that the Finance Committee when taking up that issue was aware of the fact that the same discussion is going on in the United Nations. But when they came to the decision to propose the resolution that we now have before us they must have felt that such a decision would have to be taken now, and the reasons are very well spelt out in the paragraphs preceding the resolution.

We had previous discussions as to whether this Organization, should have a scale of contributions of its own, and similar discussion might have taken place in other international organizations. But that would lead to many difficulties, in particular the fact that we would not concentrate sufficiently on our proper work. We therefore in the past came to the conclusions that the only way to avoid such discussions would be to follow the decisions being taken in the United Nations and to derive our scale of contributions directly from that of the United Nations. We continue to hold that view and we give support to the draft resolution before us.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): My delegation, noting that the proposed arrangement is in line with the traditional procedures which FAO has applied for many years under the same circumstances, would like to associate with the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany in supporting the recommendation incorporated in paragraph 3.83 of the report.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Solamente haremos una breve intervención hecha por el distinguido delegado de México. Nuestra delegación apoya que se espere a que se adopte la escala de cuotas de Naciones Unidas y que, en base a la misma, se adopte la escala de cuotas de FAO, que debe ser aprobada por la Conferencia. Esa escala debe tomar en cuenta los elementos que ya han sido expresados por las delegaciones de México y Brasil. Si bien esta organización tiene su propia escala de cuotas, la misma siempre se ha derivado de la escala de cuotas que se aprueba en Naciones Unidas y consideramos que este procedimiento debe seguirse tomándola en cuenta.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Colombia apoya las declaraciones de México, Brasil y Cuba. Muchas gracias.

H. JENNINGS (United States of America): My delegation would wish to associate itself with the point of view expressed by the Federal Republic of Germany. Our understanding is that it is not yet clear when the United Nations General Assembly will adopt a new scale of assessments. It is further our understanding that this Organization needs to have a scale of contributions determined at the Conference. It occurs to us that if the Council were to forward this proposed resolution to the Conference and it were to be discovered that the General Assembly had adopted a new scale of assessments before the meeting of the Conference, the resolution could be varied at that time. But it would appear to us that the best course of action for this Council would be to forward this resolution to the Conference for adoption.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administrative and Finance Department): The situation in which we find ourselves is as it has been described by the delegate of the United States. The Conference must in adopting the budget decide upon the scale of contributions that will be utilized for assessing Member Nations. The new scale that will eventually be adopted by the General Assembly this Fall is likely not to have been approved by the time the Conference concludes. In fact the last scale was adopted on 17 December and if that occurs again this year it certainly will be after the Conference concludes. While there may be reservations about the existing scale, if you do not know precisely what is in the new scale it will be difficult for the Conference to accept an unknown scale in November before the General Assembly acts. For those reasons the Finance Committee had proposed the resolution that you see before you as a timely action in which the existing scale be proposed. If there is action by the General Assembly before the Conference concludes, then certainly the new scale could be considered at that time. At this moment it does not look as if the General Assembly will consider this item until after our Conference meets.

CHAIRMAN: With this clarification shall we endorse the recommendation of the Finance Committee to forward the resolution to the Conference, subject to bringing out in the report the reservations of Mexico, Brazil and Cuba. Our report will bring out the views of these delegations.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I have only one comment. I wanted to state that the Drafting Committee meets after this meeting closes, and it is already 6.30. May I ask your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, that the remaining discussion on this item be taken tomorrow so that the Drafting Committee can start its work?

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): My delegation supports the motion put forward by the delegate of India.

CHAIRMAN: We have also to think of the Drafting Committee.

The meeting rose at 18.35 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.35 horas





## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/13

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Eighty-seventh Session  
**PLENARY**

Quatre-vingt-septième session  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

87° período de sesiones  
**PLENARIA**

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
TREIZIEME SEANCE PLENIERE  
13ª SESION PLENARIA  
(25 June 1985)

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 11.00 hours

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

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 11 heures sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 11 horas, bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

- III. ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WFP
- III. ACTIVITES DE LA FAO ET DU PAM
- III. ACTIVIDADES DE LA FAO Y DEL PMA
- 13. Preparations for the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference
- 13. Préparation de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO
- 13. Preparativos para el 23º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO
  - 13.1 Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Timetable
  - 13.1 Organisation de la session et calendrier provisoire
  - 13.1 Organización y calendario provisional del período de sesiones

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Item 13.1 deals with arrangements for the session and the provisional timetable of the Conference. As you will see there are two documents on this, both with the number CL 87/11. One is the normal document and the other is a Revision of two appendices A and B to accommodate certain changes which are proposed in the cover sheet of the Revision.

To deal first with the main document, the first CL 87/11, it is in the usual form covering all the items which are needed to be known to Member Nations when preparing themselves for the Conference. There are no innovations in it. The agenda is set out in Appendix A and on this I would draw your attention to two things, one is what is said in the cover sheet in the Revision about adding to the agenda and to the timetable, first the "Follow-up of Conference Resolution 8/83 and 9/83 - Plant Genetic Resources" which was not dealt with at this Council but should be dealt with at the November session of the Council and then at the Conference. Then, as pointed out there for completeness, item 7.4 on Pesticides should not only be discussed in the Conference but also at the Eighty-eighth session of the Council.

Furthermore I would like to propose a further addition to the agenda for the Conference, the new item 22, Other Administrative and Financial Matters. This is in view of the discussions and decisions which were taken at the last General Assembly on remuneration matters, and in line with what happened there I would like to propose the inclusion under item 22, a further sub-item 22.3 on Emoluments of the Director-General.

The timetable in the Revision has been revised slightly to include the item on Plant Genetic Resources.

It would also need an addition, which it should be possible to accommodate within item 22, which is taken by Commission III. It comes up on page B11 and it can be fitted in on the afternoon of Friday 22nd or at an earlier point. That can be left until we see how the Conference is proceeding. I hope it is now clear. The changes represented in document CL 87/11 Revision and the further change, an additional item 22.3, are as I have just described.

CHAIRMAN: Unless anyone requires any clarification, shall we proceed.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Señor Presidente, nosotros estamos plenamente de acuerdo con la modificación que ha sido presentada por el señor Subdirector General de la FAO. Teníamos originalmente una duda respecto de cuándo iba a revisarse el Informe de la Comisión de Recursos Fito-genéticos para este Consejo. No fue posible por razones técnicas presentarlo, pero nosotros esperamos que se verá en el próximo Consejo de la FAO en noviembre y finalmente se seguirán las consecuencias o resultados de las Resoluciones de la Conferencia de la FAO. Me refiero concretamente al 8/83 y 9/83 sobre recursos fitogenéticos.

Nos parece, por tanto, adecuado que, dadas las características del carácter programático, en el seguimiento de tales Resoluciones, éstas se incluyan en la Comisión II; sin embargo, señor Presidente, aplicando las mismas razones para el seguimiento de estas dos Resoluciones, a nosotros nos parece que por el impacto programático y presupuestario que el código internacional de conducta para la distribución y uso de plaguicidas tendrían sobre las actividades de la FAO, este código debería revisarse una vez que el Consejo de la FAO, en noviembre, lo haya visto, revisarse en la Comisión II más que en la Comisión I, porque los problemas de carácter conceptual han sido vistos y revistos y seguidamente el Consejo de la FAO hará los últimos señalamientos al respecto y las consecuencias que tendremos con este código serán, repito, de carácter programático y presupuestario. Por tanto, consideramos que este punto de la agenda debería tratarse en la Comisión II y no en la Comisión I. Esas con las dos observaciones que teníamos que hacer.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Very often I fully agree with what the delegate of Mexico puts forward. But now I beg to differ. It is the feeling of this delegation that the two issues - Code of Conduct as well as the issue of Plant Genetic Resources - should be dealt with in Commission I, as Commission I always traditionally dealt with items concerning agricultural policy issues and so on. I cannot see, so far at least, any particular impact of those two items on the Programme of Work and Budget, and particularly on the budget.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia apoya las propuestas de México.

J. GLISTRUP (Denmark): Just to support what the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany has just said. We also support that matters on agricultural issues should be dealt with in Commission I.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): We too would support keeping these two issues in Commission I, as the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany has recommended.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Ma délégation partage le point de vue exprimé par le Mexique et soutenu par la Colombie. Nous aussi pensons qu'il est plus judicieux dans ce cas d'espèce, de mettre ces deux points au niveau de la Commission II.

CHAIRMAN: The Mexican proposal is that the items relating to the Code of Conduct on Pesticides and the Plant Genetic Resources should be under Commission II of the agenda. Mr West indicated that they would be in Commission I. Germany, Denmark and the United States have proposed that they should be in Commission I.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Perdón que vuelva a intervenir, señor Presidente, pero evidentemente no se trata aquí de arrebatarlos unos a otros una parte del Programa. Hay razones que deben fundamentarse para explicar y coincidir sobre dónde debe tratarse un tema. No es por necesidad ni por conveniencia, sino por orden.

Las razones que hemos expuesto espero que hayan sido entendidas.

Respecto de los recursos fitogenéticos, como bien ya se señala en el documento CL 87/11, Revisión de los Apéndices A y B, y como se plantea en las medidas complementarias a las Resoluciones 8/83 y 9/83, ya están en la Comisión II por las razones que yo argumentaba, por las cuales también el Código sobre Plaguicidas debería estar en la Comisión II. Si revisamos en la página 9 del documento CL 87/11, Apéndice B, Revisión 1 el tema relativo a medidas complementarias para Recursos Fitogenéticos, ya está en la Comisión II, como bien debe ser. ¿Por qué debe ser así? Porque los problemas de carácter conceptual han sido ya superados, se ha creado una Comisión y esta misma Comisión va a decidir crear un subcomité o una subcomisión. Esto es lo que se debe tratar en la Comisión II, y el programa correspondiente o la forma que se le debe dar a esta subcomisión porque la Comisión ya está trabajando y ella se encargará de los problemas conceptuales y el Consejo lo va a revisar. Lo que nosotros tenemos que ver es el impacto que tendrá sobre el Programa y el Presupuesto de la FAO y cómo desarrollar las actividades de esa subcomisión. No vamos a discutir el Código Internacional o el compromiso internacional de recursos fitogenéticos; tampoco los problemas de políticas relativos, pero sí asuntos estrictamente presupuestarios y programáticos. Esta es la razón que nos lleva a esto.

Respecto al Código de Plaguicidas, se aplican las mismas razones.

Los problemas de carácter conceptual han sido ya revisados; ahora se volverán a tratar en el Consejo de la FAO y la Conferencia tendrá que ver cómo instrumentarlos, cómo llevarlos a la práctica a través del Programa y las asignaciones presupuestales correspondientes.

Nosotros hemos expuesto razones por las cuales confirmamos estas dos ideas que espero sean entendidas por todos y, si no, que nos aclaren por qué no.

R.C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): Es para apoyar señor Presidente, el criterio que nos ha presentado la Secretaría en el documento CL 87/11 en la Revisión 1 y 2 en cuanto que el punto 15 sobre medidas complementarias de las Resoluciones referidas a recursos fitogenéticos, en la Parte II, referida a actividades y programas de la Organización, entendemos que es el orden lógico después de todo el tratamiento que ha tenido este tema durante el año pasado y antes, mucho antes, aquí en la FAO.

En cuanto al Código de Conducta, entendemos que si ya éste ha tenido una discusión y el debate ha sido saldado, digamos en la parte política y en la parte de aceptaciones, creemos que también debería pasar ya al aspecto de las actividades y programas de la Organización.

G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Mi delegación se referirá solamente a la propuesta hecha por el distinguido representante de México. Nos parece que los argumentos que ha expresado la delegación de México son convincentes y, por consiguiente, mi delegación lo apoya.

R. C. GUPTA (India): We feel that there is a lot of substance and force in the suggestion of the delegate of Mexico that the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides should be discussed in Commission II. By putting this item under Commission I one would get the feeling that even if the Code is approved at the next session of the FAO Conference it remains at a policy level. We are extremely anxious that the Code should be implemented as soon as it is approved by the Conference and we would expect the Organization to monitor its observance and in the next session of the Committee on Agriculture to give us a report as to how the Code has been observed and to what extent member governments and all concerned are willing to go along in the implementation of this Code. This we expect to become a programme in the next biennium itself and we would like some action. With this end in view we strongly suggest that this item be put under Commission II for discussion.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I am sorry to come in again, but following the last statement this is apparently exactly where there are some different feelings about where the issue has to be pursued. It is not our opinion that the follow-up to the Code of Conduct for example, or the Plant Genetic Resources, has to be a special programme. The issues are to be dealt with in many programmes which FAO carries out. We would rather caution against making them into a special programme. That is why we felt that it has to be dealt with in the overall context of Commission I, which deals with food and agricultural policies and so on. It is very important to know whether it is convenient or not to apply more pesticides, fertilizers and so on, and the impact which they have on food production or not. That is an agricultural policy issue and it does not impede at all that within the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization. A follow-up to these two important issues is taken into consideration.

R. C. GUPTA (India): I regret I have been misunderstood when I used the words that we expect this to become a programme. I had no intention of saying it would become a separate programme or a sub-programme. I intended to say that it would require some action on the part of the Organization in terms of collecting information, preparing papers, giving information, and pursuing it. It would need action which might involve a certain application of resources. I am not saying it is a separate programme. To that extent it is something on which the Organization would take action and which we would expect to be considered in Commission II.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think this is a matter for the Council to decide, but I want to make one or two clarifications.

First of all, in the timetable which has been circulated, the follow-up on Plant Genetic Resources is already in Commission II. I trust there is no misunderstanding on this. There is no proposal to transfer it from somewhere else to Commission II - it is already in Commission II.

The proposal was, as I understood it, that the Code of Conduct which is at present shown under Commission I should also be taken in Commission II. In that connection, reasons have been deployed on either side, and I will not comment on those except to agree with the delegate of India just now that if we put it in Commission II, it does not mean necessarily it will figure in the Programme of Work and Budget either more or less or in any particular way. After all, in Commission II we have item 16, Relations and Consultations with International Organizations, and Recent Development in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO. It does not necessarily have any programme or budgetary significance. There are other items like that in Commission II. So I do not want there to be any misunderstanding on the significance of transferring the Code of Conduct on Pesticides to Commission II, if that is what Council decides.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Following on what the Deputy Director-General has just said, yes, I had not yet proposed that agenda items 4 and 5 should be put to Commission I, but I was going to do so. When I intervened for the first time, I said we would prefer that both items should be dealt with in Commission I.

R. D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Just to clarify one thing: I was under the impression that what we had before us was a draft; it was a proposal, and therefore it is up to us as a Council to decide. So the fact that the item may have appeared in this document in a particular Commission I do not believe is particularly binding at this stage in terms of what the Council may decide.

CHAIRMAN: You are quite correct. That is why this item has come up for discussion. The Mexican Ambassador has made a proposal. Mr West has clarified the item on Plant Genetic Resources in Commission II, and appropriately so because the whole budgetary position is coming up under the Programme of Work and Budget and also the discussion on Plant Genetic Resources. The question now is whether the Code of Conduct on Pesticides should remain as shown in the draft here, as it is, for discussion in Commission I, or whether we should shift it to the programme of Commission II. Both views have been expressed.

A. F. de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): We support the Mexican proposal.

J. M. WATSON (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá desea apoyar a México en su propuesta.

G. FRADIN (France): Ma délégation voudrait appuyer, d'une part, la proposition de la délégation de l'Allemagne afin que le thème sur le Code des pesticides reste dans la Commission I ainsi que sa proposition sur les ressources phytogénétiques afin que ce point soit traité dans une commission qui traite des questions de politiques et de fond.

Ms A. DELLA CROCE di DOJOLA (Italy): My delegation would like to support the proposal made by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): My delegation supports the opinion of the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany that these two matters should be dealt with in Commission I.

D. HUTTON (Canada): Also to lend the support of my delegation to the proposal of the Federal Republic of Germany, and also to note that we are dealing with a provisional agenda. Item 3 on that agenda is the Adoption of the Agenda by Conference, so perhaps the report could reflect this discussion. Perhaps we could leave it like that.

Mame BALLA SY (Senegal): La délégation du Sénégal voudrait appuyer la proposition faite par le Mexique.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): The Cyprus delegation would like to support the Mexican proposal.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban): A mon tour je voudrais appuyer la proposition faite par le Mexique.

M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Brevemente, señor Presidente, para demostrar el apoyo a la proposición mexicana por la delegación venezolana.

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I support the proposal made by Mexico.

C. KAREKEZI (Rwanda): Le Rwanda appuie la proposition du Mexique.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): We wish to indicate our support for the proposal of Mexico.

B. AGBO (Bénin): Nous appuyons la proposition mexicaine.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): This is a matter of judgment, but our inclination is to regard the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides as not sufficiently advanced yet to be transferred for consideration primarily in Commission II, but it should be considered in Commission I.

CHAIRMAN: Both views have been expressed, to retain the item in Commission I as shown in the draft document, or to shift it to Commission II. They are both Commissions of the Conference and all members can attend any of the Commissions they wish to. There has been one suggestion from the delegate of Canada to leave the matter as it is and when it comes to the adoption of agenda item 3 of the Conference the fact that a large number of Council members suggested that this item could be shifted to Commission II could be represented in the report, and a final decision taken at Conference time. That is one way of deciding this issue, if Council agrees. As far as pesticides are concerned, our Rapporteur can reflect in his report that many members of the Council would like this item to be considered in Commission II.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): A nosotros nos parece que han sido suficientes las manifestaciones, que seguramente habrá recogido usted, señor Presidente, en el sentido de que la mayoría de los países estiman que es conveniente se aplique un criterio claro al tratamiento de estos temas. Debemos pasar a la acción, ya que seguir con palabras, palabras y más palabras, y más conceptos de aquí al infinito, no puede llevarnos a ningún resultado útil. Hemos hablado, hemos discutido por años estos temas y es tiempo ya de que se tomen acciones concretas.

Los países industrializados, los únicos que se han expresado en contra, no quieren llevar esto a la práctica y a la acción. Aquí se ha dividido claramente la opinión entre los países del Norte y los países del Sur y lo que está detrás, señor Presidente, efectivamente es que ellos quieren que sigamos nada más que hablando, pero nosotros lo que queremos es llegar a la acción.

Respecto a los recursos fitogenéticos hay ya una acción desatada en términos administrativos, programáticos y presupuestarios que es la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos que ya tuvo una primera reunión. Esta ha decidido crear una subcomisión que debe ponerse en práctica en brevedad. Lo que debe hacer la Comisión II es justamente evaluar esos programas y los recursos presupuestarios correspondientes. Esto es lo que tiene que hacerse y no seguir discutiendo sobre problemas conceptuales, ya que hubo dos Resoluciones, la 8/83 y la 9/83 y ya no debemos tener más palabras.

Respecto del Código se ha discutido desde 1981 y ahora tenemos ya claras las diferencias de carácter conceptual y queremos que se lleve a la práctica a través de un seguimiento por parte de la FAO. No crear programas por órganos más o menos especializados, pero sí que haya una respuesta por lo menos en la información.

Las razones que estamos dando, creo que son dignas de tomarse en cuenta, son justas y son de fondo. Por tanto, y por la mayoría que se ha expresado aquí, le solicitamos a usted señor Presidente, que recoja esta opinión de la mayoría del Consejo y que la plasme adecuadamente en sus conclusiones.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je pensais que votre tâche était facilitée par les interventions en cascade qui viennent d'avoir lieu dans cette salle. Nous pensions, pour notre part, que l'on s'était clairement prononcé, que le Conseil s'est clairement prononcé pour que les problèmes qui ont trait au Code soient transférés au niveau de la Commission II et que les questions touchant aux ressources phytogénétiques restent bien entendu à la Commission II. Je crois que l'on s'exprime ici pour influencer une décision du Conseil et si nous avons pris la parole c'est justement pour faire en sorte qu'une décision soit prise à ce sujet. Pour notre part, nous pensons que le Conseil a décidé, mais nous estimons qu'il est normal que dans le rapport on fasse état du point de vue de la minorité qui a estimé qu'il fallait que tel ou tel point reste ou soit transféré dans telle autre séance. Moi, je crois que les conclusions devraient être tirées dans ce sens là.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr Chairman, on that subject I very much hope that the report will reflect the opinions expressed here in the Council.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I am much surprised that this particular item has engendered such reaction among certain delegates. Certainly, the question of motivation, of why certain delegates had determined to support one procedural approach or another, is not particularly helpful. This is for the work of the Council or, indeed, for the work of the Conference. All of us have at least strongly supported the idea of the Code of Conduct for pesticides. I do not think it is useful suddenly to say that certain delegations or certain governments, because they have chosen a particular procedural approach that makes the most sense in terms of the work of the Conference, have suddenly called into question their own support.

Even for something like the Plant Genetic Resources issue, which we have participated in but have not joined, I feel that is something on which one cannot start impugning the motivation of delegates or governments.

Mr Chairman, as we look at this issue let us try to take it as logically as we can. There are differences of views. I think those differences ought to be reflected, and that we should go forward.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Aunque los hechos incluidos en el debate de esta mañana parecen indicar lo contrario, a nosotros nos complace que se sigan haciendo declaraciones de apoyo sincero, sincero, lo subrayamos, en favor del Código de Conducta.

No queremos profundizar en el argumento, sino limitarnos a apoyar las conclusiones a que llego nuestro colega y amigo del Congo. Dieciseis Estados Miembros del Consejo han apoyado la propuesta mexicana; ocho se han expresado en favor de la República Federal de Alemania. La situación es clara, el Consejo decide recomendar a la Conferencia que el punto 7.4 pase a la parte segunda. En el Informe constará la opinión de la minoría en favor de que ese punto se mantenga en la parte primera y luego la Conferencia, soberana, cuando discuta el tema 3 tomará la decisión final.

Mame BALLA SY (Senegal): Je crois que dans une certaine mesure toutes les délégations qui se sont exprimées ont raison. Le délégué du Congo, appuyé par celui de la Colombie, a effectivement indiqué une tendance d'un plus grand nombre de délégués pour une solution. Je pense que notre Conseil devrait prendre en compte cette décision, d'autant plus qu'il s'agit de se déterminer en faveur d'un ordre du jour, pour lequel, en réalité, une majorité pourrait l'emporter.

En second lieu, Monsieur le Président, je crois que nous avons intérêt à nous limiter à cette décision majoritaire, puisque sinon, nous entrons dans des considérations qui pourraient heurter les susceptibilités. Je pense que les pays qui ont appuyé une position ont pu apprécier, et on ne saurait leur reprocher autre chose sinon que de n'avoir pas les moyens. Mais quant à étudier les documents, je pense que toutes les délégations ici étudient sérieusement les documents et se prononcent en toute connaissance de cause, même si c'est dans les termes les plus brefs.

Je crois, Monsieur le Président, que nous ne devons plus insister sur ce point parce que nous sommes tous d'accord pour le code. L'étude des ressources phytogénétiques a été initiée par la Commission II, je ne vois pas pourquoi on la priverait de la paternité de ce thème qui exige maintenant une autre phase qu'aucune autre Commission que celle-là ne pourrait apprécier.

Donc Monsieur le Président, je pense qu'il convient de faire respecter une décision à la majorité et que peut-être la Conférence pourra librement réformer, comme tel est son droit

CHAIRMAN: We will record the majority wish that this item 7.4 be dealt with in Commission II. Naturally, our proceedings will reflect the views of those who feel that it should remain in Commission I.

As far as Plant Genetic Resources is concerned, I hope that it is unanimous that it should remain in Commission II.

CHAIRMAN: Naturally, it will reflect that a few members felt that it should be shifted from Commission II to Commission I.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

13.3 Deadline for Nominations for Independent Chairman of the Council

13.3 Date limite pour la présentation des candidatures à la fonction de Président indépendant du Conseil

13.3 Plazo límite para las propuestas de candidaturas al cargo de Presidente Independiente del Consejo

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Monsieur le Président, le point 13.3 est libellé ainsi "Date limite pour la présentation des candidatures à la fonction de Président indépendant du Conseil".

En vertu de l'Article XXIII.1 du Règlement général, c'est au Conseil qu'il appartient de déterminer cette date de clôture pour la présentation des candidatures par les Etats Membres, et aussi la date limite pour laquelle le Secrétaire général doit communiquer ces propositions de candidatures aux Etats Membres.

Il est proposé au Conseil, dans le document CL 87/12., de retenir comme date limite, pour la présentation des candidatures, le vendredi 6 septembre 1985, à 17 heures, et comme date limite pour la communication de ces candidatures aux Etats Membres par le Secrétaire général, le vendredi 13 septembre 1985.

J'espère, Monsieur le Président que le Conseil pourra se prononcer aisément sur cette question.

CHAIRMAN: I take it that the date is acceptable to everyone.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

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)

17. Reports of the Forty-eighth Session of the Programme Committee and the Fifty-fifth Session of the Finance Committee (Rome, 6-17 May 1985)

17. Rapports de la quarante-huitième session du Comité du programme et de la cinquante-cinquième session du Comité financier (Rome, 6-17 mai 1985)

17. Informes del 48º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y del 55º período de sesiones del Comité de Finanzas (Roma, 6-17 de mayo de 1985) including: notamment : en particular:

17.1 Personnel Matters

17.1 Questions de personnel

17.1 Asuntos de personal

CHAIRMAN:

We move on to Item 17 of the Agenda, Reports of the Forty-eighth Session of the Programme Committee and the Fifty-fifth Session of the Finance Committee. Item 17.1 deals with Personnel Matters, paragraphs 3.88 to 3.99 and 17.2 with Other Matters, paragraphs 3.126 to 3.129.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): I wish to draw the attention of the Council to two important developments which have taken place this year relating to: a), changes in the salary scales and allowances; and b), pensionable remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories consequent to recommendations made by the International Civil Service Commission at its Nineteenth and Twentieth sessions held in 1984, and the decision of the United Nations General Assembly at its Thirty-ninth session held in the same year. I refer the Council to paragraphs 3.91 to 3.99 of our report, as well as Appendix C, which is the Tenth Annual Report of the ICSC, and to the table appearing in Appendix D.



The Committee was informed that the International Civil Service Commission had recommended the consolidation of 20 multiplier points of post adjustments into base salaries to meet the imbalance in the tax equalization fund of the United Nations. The Committee was also informed that the General Assembly had also disagreed with the International Civil Service Commission's recommendation for a post adjustment in order to adjust the New York index which is 9.6 percent below. The margin between net remuneration of the UN and the US Federal Civil Service was to be corrected by disallowing the addition of two post adjustment classes. The suspension of two post adjustments for New York which were due in December 1984 was applied to the other duty stations, including Rome. The difference in the remuneration of Professional staff, inclusive of post adjustments between New York and Rome, was about 33 percent.

The Committee was also informed that the ICSC had recommended a new scale of pensionable remuneration for Professionals and higher categories with effect from 1st January 1985. In this regard please see Annex D of the Report. The new scale provided for increases in rates of pensionable remuneration at the P-1 and P-2 levels, but decreases at levels P-3 and above. The FAO had no alternative but to apply the new schedule of pensionable remuneration with effect from 1st January 1985 since staff rule 301.061 indicates that provision should be made for participation of staff members in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund in accordance with the rules of the Fund.

The effects of the decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly on all of these aspects were discussed by the Committee, and we were appraised of the possible effects which would result in their implementation.

Firstly, the suspension of post adjustment would result in the reduction in purchasing power of the salaries of Professional staff by at least 5 percent. The decision to reduce base salaries was unprecedented in the United Nations System. Furthermore, the Organization would find it difficult to recruit suitable competent staff and also to ensure equitable geographic representation.

After considerable discussion the Committee felt that the steps that the Director-General proposed to safeguard the staff of FAO, particularly with regard to cost-of-living developments in Rome, and the decision to review this question with ICSC were correct and reasonable in order to prevent any long-term repercussions of an adverse nature.

The Committee also agreed with the proposal of the Director-General that until such time as the final decision is taken on such transitional measures relating to reductions in pensions, he would continue to make such recoveries and payments on the basis of the ICSC recommendation, but would continue the present system by placing the sum in excess of the amount to be recovered from staff and to be paid by the Organization into a separate suspense account subject to the existing financial regulations.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any discussion on Item 17.1? Are there any comments on the information given by the Chairman of the Finance Committee? There are none, so we can move on to Item 17.2. I believe Mr Crowther will indicate the latest position on development in that regard.

#### 17.2 Other Financial Matters 17.2 Autres questions financières 17.2 Otros asuntos financieros

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): It was reported to the Finance Committee that there had been difficulties in performing the internal audit activity at the World Food programme for some period of time. As a result of discussions and conclusion by the Joint Task Force, which will be reported to the Council as one of the next items, I am happy to report that the discussions with the World Food Programme have progressed satisfactorily and arrangements are now being finalized to complete that internal audit work which had been delayed. This can be discussed further in the next item, but the progress report at this time is rather positive.

CHAIRMAN: Does anyone want further clarification?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Monsieur le Président je ne sais pas si c'est à ce point qu'il faut que j'intervienne mais j'avais une préoccupation à exprimer au sein de ce Conseil; il s'agit des dispositions de l'article XXV-6 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, qui autorise l'Organisation à prendre en charge les frais de voyage de chaque représentant et où il est indiqué qu'il s'agit du chef de la délégation. Je voudrais obtenir un peu plus d'information à ce sujet, parce que je ne vois vraiment pas pourquoi il est précisé dans cet article qu'il s'agit simplement du chef de la délégation. Pourquoi ne pourrait-on pas laisser aux soins des pays membres de pouvoir disposer de ce billet qui est alloué à chaque Etat Membre du Conseil pour qu'il puisse bénéficier de ce billet ? Pourquoi préciser spécialement qu'il s'agit essentiellement ou exclusivement du chef de délégation ?

Je me demande s'il ne serait pas possible d'étudier cette question afin de nous faire une proposition concrète qui viserait à modifier cette disposition ? Jene sais pas si le Secrétariat peut me donner des éclaircissements là-dessus ?

D.K. CROWTHER: (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): That was a rule established some time ago, to reimburse the Head of Delegations rather than members of the delegations. It is a Council decision, in the Regulation, and it has been so established for some period of time. Of course, if the Council wishes to change.

CHAIRMAN: I think the question is not concerning the whole delegation - it is one member of the delegation, but not the Head of Delegation.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como el señor Crowther lo acaba de decir, esta disposición rige desde hace mucho tiempo, desde cuando no existían prácticamente las misiones especiales de los países en la FAO. Ello, reciente, ha demostrado que eso nos crea ciertas dificultades, particularmente a los embajadores o jefes de misiones de nuestros países en esta ciudad y que a veces, como en el caso de Colombia, limita la ocasión de que el representante de un gobierno pueda asistir a las reuniones del Consejo.

Naturalmente, somos conscientes de que este punto no estaba en la Agenda y estamos seguros de que nuestro colega y amigo del Congo no pretende que ahora vayamos a proponer este cambio, sino que simplemente el Consejo pida al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos que preparen un texto mediante el cual se proponga este cambio; es decir que los gastos de viaje de los países miembros del Consejo no se limiten al jefe de la delegación, sino a un Miembro cualquiera de éste, y con base al informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos el Consejo podrá tomar la decisión correspondiente.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Gracias, señor Presidente; Solamente haremos una breve intervención para apoyar lo que ha propuesto el distinguido Embajador de Colombia con relación a la propuesta del Congo.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation supports the proposal put forward by our colleagues. We believe that this is a reasonable request. In fact, on many occasions delegations from home are not able to go because they cannot be Head of Delegation. Nevertheless, it is good for a technical man of high rank to come from the country to give advice on country policy to the Head of Delegation whenever the Head of Delegation is from the Permanent Representation here in Rome.

CHAIRMAN: As it now stands, it reads as follows under Rule XXV sessions of the Council. "6. The travel expenses of the representative of each Member of the Council properly incurred in travelling, by the most direct route, from the representative's capital city or duty station, whichever is less, to the site of the Council session and return to his capital city or duty station, shall be borne by the Organization." It says "The travelling expenses of the representative of each Member of the Council" - it does not say "the Head of Delegation". If you approve, we will refer this further.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je respecte la proposition faite par mon ami de Colombie et je pense, après la lecture que vous venez de faire de notre Règlement, que c'est une décision qui n'a pas besoin d'attendre, d'autant plus qu'on ne modifie pas fondamentalement quelque chose. Il est reconnu qu'on prend en charge un délégué. Ce que nous ne souhaitons pas, c'est qu'on mette le chef de délégation. Il suffit de supprimer ce mot "chef de délégation" afin que chaque pays membre puisse envoyer quelqu'un de son choix, qui ne sera pas forcément le chef de délégation. Pour la plupart des pays ici représentés, les chefs de délégation sont déjà à Rome. Nous souhaitons toujours avoir un appoint qui vienne de nos capitales, et cela est important dès à présent. Nous pourrions donc nous prononcer sur cette question et donner des directives au Secrétariat pour qu'il les exécute.

Marne BALLA SY (Sénégal): J'allais justement poser une question au Secrétariat. Dans les documents que nous avons reçus, il est spécifié que c'est le chef de délégation qui a droit à cet avantage, alors que certains de nos pays qui ont envoyé un expert pour aider le chef de délégation qui se trouve sur place avaient déjà soulevé la question. La question est donc de savoir dans quel esprit le Secrétariat va faire cette précision et dans quelle mesure il est possible de rétablir cette situation. Il y a des pays qui ont désigné un agent venant de la capitale comme chef de délégation pour se faire rembourser, alors que d'autres pays en développement, qui n'ont pas jugé nécessaire de désigner cet agent comme chef de délégation, n'ont pas bénéficié de cet avantage. Ne sommes-nous pas là en présence d'une sorte d'"équité" qui pourrait fausser la règle du jeu?

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: This is a surprise item, so I shall have to call on my memory - but if I am right, this Rule originated from a time when there were no Permanent Representatives and it was assumed that the Representative of every member country would be coming from his capital. Therefore, it refers to the representative of each country, and it is quite possible that also in those dim and distant days, the fortieth anniversary of which we are soon to celebrate, there was only one representative who came. So that is how the Rule was formulated, and in referring to "the Representative" they obviously meant the Head of Delegation, because only one person can be the Representative - the rest are advisers, suppliants, and so on. We now have a different situation, and if the Council wants to change the Rule, I think they have to say "one member of the Delegation", or words to that effect. I think it would be wise to have the CCLM look at it to make sure that we have exactly the correct wording about which there can be no misunderstanding, and it can be put into effect as soon as possible thereafter. So, if the Council wishes to take a decision, it could be just a matter of finding the right wording and we would want to consult the CCLM on that.

CHAIRMAN: I think the spirit of the Council is that one member of the Delegation should be meant, so we will request the Secretariat to get it properly drafted and approved by the Finance Committee.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr Chairman, before we move to the next item I just want to clarify the decision taken regarding the amendment to the rules regarding the travel of our members of the Council. As it is stated Rule XLII-2 there are certain provisions for the amendments of this General Rule, and it would require a two-thirds majority of the Conference, and that the Conference would receive, the notice 24 hours before, and that the Conference receive and consider the Report and proposals of the Committee. I understand that the ruling indicates that this constitutes now a proposal of the Council to the amendment to be forwarded to the CCLM and this request would be forwarded to the next Conference for amendment. Is my understanding of your ruling correct Mr Chairman?

CHAIRMAN: Yes, except that I do not know whether there is need to go to CCLM.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think it is necessary to go to the CCLM for three reasons. One is what we are envisaging is a change either in the Rule or in the interpretation of the Rule. That is a legal matter as well as a financial matter.

Secondly, we want to be sure that if a change in the Rule is to be made the wording is legally sound, because at the moment it refers to the representative and we cannot change that to one representative we might have to change it to one member. Is that clear or not?

The third reason is that the CCLM might decide - I do not know - but it might decide it is not a change in the Rule but an interpretation of the Rule, in which case it need not go to the Conference. But as the distinguished delegate of the Philippines says, if it is a change in the Rule, it would have to go to the Conference.

M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Señor Presidente: Apoyo la posición del Sr. West porque si no se hace ese cambio diciendo "un miembro" y se sigue interpretando que es el Jefe de la Delegación, ocurre que en algunos países envían una persona y la catalogan como Jefe de la delegación, porque ellos quieren recibir ese estipendio. Entonces, queda en una situación bastante desairada el verdadero representante jefe de la delegación que está aquí, en Roma, colocándole una persona por encima de su categoría. Entonces, por esa razón creo que tiene perfecta razón el señor West y, perdónenme el pleonismo, al decir que se diga "un miembro de la delegación" y no el "jefe de la delegación".

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. We will adopt the procedure of Mr West for the CCLM who will then decide whether it is a matter for interpretation or a change of Rule.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I would like to take advantage of agenda item 17, and in particular 17.2 to raise an issue of some concern.

Without reopening the procedural discussion that we had yesterday, nor indeed questioning the decision taken by the Finance Committee on the matter of US \$15 million to be transferred for African assistance, I would like to recommend that the Finance Committee at its next session look very carefully at the speed with which commitments are being made, under the proposal to transfer US \$15 million to the TCP. The reason for doing this is that US \$15 million is a large amount of money. My understanding is that under the TCP programme the limitation for project size is US \$250,000. If my sums are correct, that means that we are talking about 60 projects that need to be approved very rapidly to meet the urgent needs of African countries in this time of distress.

Therefore, what I would hope that the Finance Committee could do at its next session would be to look at how rapidly commitments are being made, and then to consider whether, given the nature of the requirements, some of these projects may be larger than US \$250,000. It might make some sense at that time to reconsider whether using this money via the TCP mechanism would be the most appropriate method, because I imagine some very, very urgent projects which may be larger than US \$250,000 might require some rather rapid disbursement.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente: Nosotros tratamos de comprender la preocupación constante del mayor contribuyente en las cuestiones relacionadas con los recursos de la Organización, pero creemos que el Comité de Finanzas es un organismo respetable del Consejo, tomó una decisión basada en los Reglamentos. No quiero aquí repetir los párrafos del informe del Comité Financiero, pero se aseguró que ésto no exigía contribuciones extras, que no afectaban al presupuesto, al bienio en curso, que los proyectos se ajustarían a los criterios del PCT. Todas las salvaguardas posibles fueron tomadas por el Comité de Finanzas. Una actitud contraria a esa decisión, repetimos, contrasta con las decisiones ya tomadas, y parece péfido ahora que se viene jurando al Africa.

Nosotros creemos, señor Presidente, que, si bien la cifra de 15 millones en realidad tiene cierta significación, se justifica plenamente por la situación africana. Además, un párrafo del Comité de Finanzas - no quiero volver a leerlo - lo expresa adecuadamente y se hace referencia a la posibilidad de que, al inciar las cosechas en algunos de esos países, esas cosechas se vean afectadas y la crisis se agrave.

De manera que queríamos rogarle al distinguido colega de Estados Unidos que, por favor, no insista mas sobre este tema y respete la decisión del Comité de Finanzas.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I am afraid that perhaps I did not make myself as clear, as I should have and if the distinguished delegate of Colombia will bear with me I will make two points again. I am not questioning in any way whatsoever the decision of the Finance Committee; what I am doing is making, as a member of this Council, a suggestion to the Finance Committee that when it meets again it examines how rapidly this money is being disbursed so that we can ensure that this US \$15 million does go as rapidly as possible to the projects that are in need, and my only point is it may turn out that some of the limitations under the TCP programme may frustrate the ability to disburse this money quickly and rapidly to the countries in need. That is all I am suggesting, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

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. Tenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme

10. Dixième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial (ONU/FAO)

10. Décimo informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

J.C. INGRAM (WFP): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome this opportunity to present this Tenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes to the FAO Council.

Mr Chairman, WFP is a very operational organization and the Report before you essentially speaks for this. It contains many facts which I am not going to repeat, but facts which I think show very clearly that 1984 was a year of considerable achievement for the World Food Programme. The approvals for new projects for development and emergencies were at a record level. The tonnage of food actually shipped was a record, up indeed by one-third as compared with the previous year. Purchases, mainly from developing countries, were US\$82 million. The share of resources going to the least developed countries rose to 38 percent and so on.

But there are two facts which are not in the Report, and which I think show rather graphically just how big an organization WFP has become and the first of these is the turnover, the expenditure turnover of the programme which last year was nearly US\$800 million. That itself was up in dollar figures by 7 percent as compared with the previous year, and when you consider that in 1984 we had the marked appreciation of the US dollar, the actual increase in turnover was very much more than 7 percent.

Another figure is that of projects actually operational, development projects actually operational on the 31st December last, were some 288 in 87 countries, valued at US\$2.9 billion, some US\$713 million worth of new projects already approved were about to become operational.

Mr Chairman, these achievements speak for themselves but I would like to say something in detail about what the Programme has been doing in Africa. When I spoke last year to this Council we were all deeply concerned about the worsening crisis in Africa and the need for a massive response by the whole international community. WFP has certainly played its part, and I think I can quote the Secretary-General of the United Nations to this effect. He said: "The contribution of the World Food Programme to the United Nations effort in Africa has been particularly significant. The massive aid which it has provided has been central to the success of the operation. In 1984 for example, some ten million people, mainly drought victims, will have benefitted from WFP emergency assistance in African countries".

In 1985 that effort has been stepped up even further, so much so that for these first six months the value of new emergency assistance being extended by WFP to Africa has doubled as compared with the same period last year. I need hardly say that the unprecedented scale of the 1984-85 food emergency in Africa has put considerable strains on the entire Programme. Resources in terms of manpower, food and non-food items needed to deliver that food have had to be mobilized on a priority basis. In effect the

whole Organization has progressively become geared to meeting the African emergency. In addition to its traditional functions of allocation, purchase, transport, distribution and monitoring of emergency food aid, the Programme has taken on as part of an agreed division of labour within the United Nations System the following additional functions: WFP has become a clearing house for information in the field of food supply and food aid logistics for the entire international community. It has also been charged with improving overland logistics through in situ coordination of food shipments in African transit and recipient countries, and also responsible for the elimination of logistical bottlenecks through ad hoc arrangements including new investment and direct subsidies to governments.

Within WFP the focal point for this work is a new unit called the Africa Task Force Secretariat. It was established as a focal point at the beginning of this year. Its personnel have been recruited either by the redeployment of regular staff and also by temporary recruitment. At Headquarters that Secretariat has seven Professional officers and in the field it has some nineteen specialist officers who have been recruited largely on a temporary basis. Those 19 specialist officers, specialists in ports, in railways, in other aspects of logistics and also for coordination for food aid flows, are of course assisted by WFP's regular field staff.

As I say, the whole effort of the Organization in Africa has been deployed to support the efforts of the task force, which themselves are vital to the success of the entire United Nations System's operation. In pursuit of those efforts I will not detail all the things that have been done. Many countries will be aware of the detailed computerized reports that are sent out weekly and monthly and which not only bring together essential data but also make recommendations to donors regarding the timing of shipments and so on. But I do want to tell you about the ways in which this effort has brought about some very concrete results.

Let me give you a few figures which show just how dramatic the changes have been. Some of the countries most affected are inland countries and the chain in the food delivery from the port of entry to those countries is a very extended and difficult one. For example, at the beginning of this year the flow of food aid to Chad was 6 000 tons per month. Today the flow of food aid to Chad is 30 000 tons per month, so much so that our fears that we would need an airlift to meet the essential needs of Chad no longer apply.

A similar fivefold increase in flows from the beginning of the year to Burkina Faso have been effected, from 2 000 tons a month to 10 000 tons a month. Through the port of Cotonou to Niger the flow has been stepped up by seven times, from 3 000 tons to 21 000 tons, and from Abidjan to Mali, by road and also by train, we have had a doubling in the flow, from 12 000 tons per month at the beginning of the month.

These vital increases would not have been possible without the commitment of the staff resources I have spoken of. But I would also like to say that during those same first six months of this year the Programme has received and actually spent U.S. \$10 million in cash, not on our regular operations but directly in support of what is going on in Africa. Of that \$10 million, \$7 million has been for capital investment of one sort or another, mainly for ports, railways, handling equipment, storage and so on. The other U.S. \$3 million has enabled us to recruit the temporary staff I spoke of and also to provide them with the essential communications - radio, vehicles and so on - needed for them to operate the networks that they currently do in many of the most affected countries.

Of course this U.S. \$10 million would not have been possible, we could not have spent it if we had not received it, and I would like to thank very much those countries that have contributed these resources. I mention specifically the World Bank, Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States. I would also like to thank the private individuals and voluntary organizations which have contributed to this \$10 million notably in the Netherlands and in Japan, where particularly large sums of money have been raised for this effort.

Now of course when I say that WFP has stepped up the deliveries in this way, again it would not have been possible without the full support and cooperation of the transit countries. Every one of them has cooperated in a most important way and I would like to thank them most sincerely for that effort, which has not been done without some inconvenience to the flow of food and other commodities within their own countries.

I think one can perhaps underestimate just how big this whole operation in Africa has been and is continuing to be. The great Sahelian drought, for which the international community bestirred itself some ten years ago, for that the movement of food was 1.9 million tons. That took place over three years. In this six months of 1985 alone, 3.8 million tons have been delivered, exactly twice as much in six months as was moved in three years ten years ago. So it would not be possible without the full cooperation of the governments affected, the transit governments, the bilateral donors, and of course the organizations of the United Nations family. But even as we continue to devote maximum effort to the timely delivery of emergency food supplies, attention is required to the better use of food aid for the longer term development to sub-Saharan Africa.

The immediate problem is the use of food aid even under emergency conditions in ways which make a maximum contribution to development and avoid disincentives to increase production. On the positive side emergency food aid can be used to expand ongoing food aid development projects as has been done, for example, in Kenya and Botswana, where advantage has been taken of established administrative, logistical and technical management facilities.

New community level food-for-work activities can be organized requiring minimum technical inputs, as is being done in Mali. Settlement in suitable areas for those forced to leave their normal homes can be encouraged and supported with food, as is being done in Chad. And local marketable surpluses of food often exist even in the direst of circumstances and ways can be found to exploit these for emergency purposes as Save the Children Fund, for example, is doing in the Sudan with locally procured beans.

We have a great deal to learn from our experience in this disaster situation, and it is imperative that we learn it, because the structural problems of African agriculture are such that given the frequency with which drought occurs in the normal sequence of years we may expect over the next ten years or so that it will be necessary for us to rally again, as we have rallied on this occasion.

Therefore I would strongly urge that we begin to think already about the lessons, and I have just cited some of the ways in which food aid can be used more effectively in emergency situations. We in the Programme will have more to say about this to the next session of the CFA.

Meanwhile I would like to draw attention to the risk which is now increasing that with the very large quantities of food now on their way to some of the most affected countries, if the distribution of that food is not timed appropriately we may have a situation in which massive distribution is going on at the same time as the crop has just been harvested. Obviously that will have a serious depressive effect on prices. This is a serious problem which is building up and I would urge donors to be thinking right now about the need to provide money for storage, so that the food can be released in ways which do not have these disincentive effects. In some ways we have an opportunity, if we will only seize it right now, to bring about those food security reserves that are so necessary if the problems of the most affected countries in Africa are to be dealt with rationally in the years to come.

There are many other ways in which we should be concerned about the future, but there is only one more at this point that I would like to stress, and that is that food aid, especially emergency food aid, is in fact a growing part of the flow of development assistance in sub-Saharan Africa particularly the poorest countries. This means that because of the risks entailed in using food aid it is more than ever important that we develop sound methods for making good use of food aid in those circumstances. I must say that it is our strong impression in WFP that the effective use for the development of food aid is relatively neglected by national economic planners in Africa, by those responsible for donor coordination groups and, let it be said, by many donors as well. I am sorry to say that donors quite often speak about the need but in practice do something quite different.

For the long term it does seem to me that the route in Africa that needs to be followed in regard to the utilization of food aid is for that employment led growth strategy focusing on rural infrastructure which is described in Part II of the report before you.

We feel also that the innovative experience of using food aid to promote policy change that we have begun in Mali and will shortly extend to Senegal is something that can be applied in many other countries in Africa, and we would hope that the entire international community would join with us in promoting this kind of project where it is appropriate and where governments of the countries concerned see it as appropriate as soon as possible.

Finally, let me just say a few words about the Joint Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO on the Deliberations of the UN/FAO Joint Task Force. As you know, the CFA overwhelmingly welcomed the report and stressed the need for its immediate implementation. I would like to inform the Council that good progress in this regard is already being made and I would stress that progress is being made in a spirit of good will and cooperation.

I would like once again to thank the Director-General and assure him of my full cooperation. I think both WFP and FAO have important complementary roles to play and it is imperative that they work harmoniously together. I firmly believe we are now entering into a durable relationship of this kind.

I now commend to the Council the Tenth Annual Report of the CFA for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN: May we thank Mr Ingram for his lucid presentation.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas.



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/14

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**QUATORZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE**  
**14ª SESION PLENARIA**  
(25 June 1985)

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.40 hours,

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

La quatorzième seance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 40, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 14ª Sesión Plenaria a las 14.40 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)
- 10. Tenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the UN/FAO World Food Programme (continued)
- 10. Dixième rapport annuel du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (suite)
- 10. Décimo informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria del Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (continuación)
- 11. Relations of FAO with WFP
- 11. Relations de la FAO avec le PAM
- 11. Relaciones de la FAO con el PMA

CHAIRMAN: Items 10 and 11 are related. We have already heard from the Executive Director of the WFP in connection with Item 10. I now request Mr Crowther to say a few words about Item 11.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): You have before you documents CL 87/INF/15, Sup. 1 and Sup. 2 having to do with this specific item. You will note that CL 87/INF/15 includes the Joint Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO, and CL 87/INF/15 Sup.1 includes extracts from the reports of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee and the Joint Session on their deliberations on this subject. Supplement 2 gives the deliberations of the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) on this issue. It also includes extracts from the CFA Report having to do with this particular issue.

I am very pleased to say that the Director-General is very happy with the response both of the people who are implementing the findings of the Joint Task Force, on the part of the Executive Director, the Joint Task Force, and each of the members who are involved in implementing the actions that were included in the Joint Report.

As Mr Ingram has reported, there certainly is positive action on the side of everyone, and I am very pleased to say that the relations have been substantially improved and that implementation is on-going.

If there are any specific questions on this document we can entertain them, but I think that is all that needs to be said with regard to introduction.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): A los representantes de Colombia nos complace sinceramente que esté con nosotros nuestro distinguido amigo el señor James C. Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA. La presencia del Director Ejecutivo confirma la importancia de este tema, y su presentación valiosa, interesante y completa, nos ofrece la oportunidad de reiterar, en nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, nuestro más decidido y pleno apoyo al Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Sobre la parte primera, como hecho más sobresaliente de 1984 destacamos la valiosa asistencia del PMA para atender las necesidades críticas y urgentes de ayuda alimentaria de África al Sur del Sahara. Está muy bien que más de la mitad de los recursos totales del PMA, destinados a situaciones de urgencia, haya sido ofrecida a África y nos complació también oír al señor Ingram que ese esfuerzo se duplicará en 1985. Decimos esto porque habíamos tenido una ligera inquietud cuando observamos que en el párrafo 22 esos proyectos para África habían aumentado del 24 por ciento en 1983 al 35 por ciento en 1984, al tiempo que en el párrafo 25 se afirma que el promedio desde su fundación se ha logrado el 29,1 por ciento del total de los recursos para esa misma región. Habíamos observado, sólo como aficionados a las estadísticas, que tal vez esas cifras no indicaban ese notorio aumento, pero nos ha tranquilizado la declaración del Director Ejecutivo.

En cuanto a América Latina y el Caribe, la región a la que pertenece nuestro país, en el párrafo 25 de la parte 3 "Asistencias para el desarrollo", consideramos que es importante que se mantenga esa cronológica estabilidad regional de que se habla en ese párrafo 24. Los representantes de Colombia hemos demostrado constante preocupación por la situación de recursos en efectivo del programa. Los párrafos 67 y 68 indican diferencias desfavorables entre lo recibido y lo gastado en efectivo.

en 1984. La situación de los recursos en efectivo del Programa no es buena ni tampoco alarmante, como ha dicho el señor Ingram en otra oportunidad, pero nos preocupa que si se prolonga esa situación pueda causarse perjuicios al Programa más adelante en cuanto al transporte y demás servicios.

Pensamos que este Consejo debe reiterar el llamado que hacemos cada año cuando se nos presenta este informe, en el sentido de pedir a los donantes que cumplan las disposiciones de que sus contribuciones al Programa sean por lo menos en efectivo en un tercio de esa contribución. Esa situación de crisis de liquidez afecta también las compras de productos de que se habla en los párrafos 68 a 73.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que este Consejo debe instar, una vez más, al PMA a que intensifique las compras de alimentos en países en desarrollo. El distinguido colega y amigo de Malawi ha insistido sobre ello y nosotros le apoyamos plenamente. El incremento de las transacciones triangulares es muy importante para los países en desarrollo, como valioso estímulo para aumentar la producción de alimentos e intercambio comercial entre países vecinos o de una misma región. Esas transacciones triangulares tienen la gran ventaja de procurar ingresos de divisas a los países exportadores y de ofrecer a los países beneficiarios alimentos aptos para sus necesidades.

A este respecto este Consejo debe apoyar el párrafo 14 en el cual el CPA instó a todos los donantes a que aumentaran las transacciones triangulares justamente para estimular el aumento de la producción en los países en desarrollo, el comercio entre ellos, y también para que la ayuda alimentaria sea más eficaz.

Pensamos que el Consejo debe reconocer el hecho positivo de los donantes, párrafo 71, que usa el PMA como agente para comprar productos por su cuenta en transacciones triangulares. Esa actitud constructiva contrasta con la de otros donantes que dan instrucciones perentorias al PMA para que sólo compren alimentos en sus propios países o en otros países desarrollados indicados por ellos. Sin duda esa decisión desafortunada es la base del párrafo 72, según el cual sólo el 60% de las adquisiciones en 1984 fueron hechas a países en desarrollo.

Semejante actitud fue ampliamente criticada por el último CPA aunque ello hará parte del Undécimo Informe Anual, desde ahora el Consejo debe pedir a esos países que no procedan así, sino que faciliten el aumento de las transacciones triangulares. Sabemos que éste no es un problema simple, que existen obstáculos, que hay dificultades, pero no obstante la delegación de Colombia piensa y confía en la capacidad de la inteligencia y la imaginación del Director Ejecutivo. Pensamos, repito, que es deseable y ciertamente posible aumentar tanto el número como el volumen de la participación de los países en desarrollo en las transacciones triangulares.

Convendría recordar que en el 18º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, párrafo 20, se afirmó que la FAO puede desempeñar una función esencial difundiendo las informaciones relativas a los excedentes alimentarios en los países en desarrollo.

Siguiendo sus instrucciones, lo que vamos a decir cubre también el tema 11, la parte final de la positiva declaración del Sr. Ingram esta mañana, confirmando que ahora existe afortunadamente una luna de miel en las relaciones entre la FAO y el PMA; podríamos entonces aprovechar esa luna de miel y pedir en nuestro informe que el PMA utilice esa información de la FAO para aumentar cada vez más las transacciones triangulares en el futuro. Los gastos de transporte, en total en 1984 ascendieron a cerca de 150 millones de dólares, cifra apreciable de la cual podrían beneficiarse más los países en desarrollo si se incrementara el estático 11% de que habla el párrafo 81.

Este Consejo ha hecho reiteradas recomendaciones en el sentido de que se utilicen los barcos de países en desarrollo. Ojalá traten de cumplirse esas recomendaciones. Nos gustaría que se hicieran más esfuerzos en ese sentido, sobre todo ahora cuando, como lo dice el párrafo 3 y lo confirmó el Sr. Ingram, las asistencias del PMA a los países en desarrollo alcanza un nivel sin precedentes, de manera que esa coyuntura es favorable para incrementar la participación de los países en desarrollo en el transporte.

El cuadro A, última página, al cual se refiere el párrafo 27, demuestra que los recursos del Programa dedicados a proyectos de desarrollo parecen, así al menos lo creemos, solamente sembrar esta duda y estas inquietudes que han venido declinando regularmente en el curso de los últimos años.

Pensamos que los proyectos del PMA deben ser altamente prioritarios, los de desarrollo en particular, aquellos que pueden contribuir directamente a prevenir los déficits alimentarios y las crisis. Ojalá pudiéramos tener la seguridad, y para ello confiamos en nuestro Director Ejecutivo, de que se va a atender esa posible o aparente disminución de los recursos para proyectos de desarrollo y que esa disminución no se va a prolongar más allá de 1984, año que cubre este informe. Desearíamos saber cuáles son las previsiones para 1985-86.

Pensamos que los dirigentes del PMA, caracterizados por su dinamismo y competencia deben entrar seriamente en contacto con los gobiernos de todos los países, particularmente con los africanos, a entablar un diálogo para definir verdaderas prioridades y para identificar proyectos realmente benéficos.

En los párrafos 25 a 30, queremos destacar el esfuerzo que ha hecho el Programa para estudiar los proyectos. Esperamos que ese esfuerzo produzca positivos resultados que se reflejen en el próximo Informe Anual.

La Parte II: Políticas, Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, es de la mayor importancia para este Consejo. Estamos de acuerdo con el párrafo 10, según el cual la ayuda alimentaria en la medida de lo posible debe ser utilizada para el desarrollo a medio y largo plazo y no solamente como paliativo a corto plazo.

Particularmente a la luz de las crisis alimentarias, deseamos insistir en que el PMA intensifique sus esfuerzos, ya reconocidos y alabados, para ayudar sobre todo a los países menos adelantados a desarrollar su capacidad de producción alimentaria.

El PMA sobresale en el panorama de las Naciones Unidas como el Organismo que más se ha fortalecido, aun dentro de la crisis de la cooperación multilateral. Sin embargo nunca, en ningún bienio, se ha alcanzado la totalidad de la meta prevista.

El objetivo de promesas ordinarias para 1985-86 que inicialmente se propuso de 1 500 millones de dolares, el CPA debió reducirlo a 1 350 millones. Hasta ahora solo se han logrado 1 200 en recursos ordinarios, aportaciones del CAA y de la RAIE.

Las perspectivas para 1985 son inquietantes y parece que se detiene el avance del PMA. Esperamos que esto no corresponda a esta impresión, seguramente superficial.

Este Documento, sin embargo, nos indica que en 1985 las asignaciones disminuirán en un 26 por ciento en relación con 1984. De 925 millones se ha pasado a 680 millones. Las asignaciones para el desarrollo en 1985 volverán al nivel de 1983, concluye lamentablemente el párrafo 84.

En el CPA, y aquí también nos preocupa el párrafo 85 que habla de cómo esa reducción del nivel podría afectar aún en medidas limitadas el número de proyectos que se aprueban o aquellos en curso.

En el CPA el Director Ejecutivo nos tranquilizó en su declaración de esta mañana con elementos muy positivos que destacaba y que parecen darnos una seguridad que realmente nos complace.

Queremos concluir nuestra intervención apoyando el llamado del Sr. Ingram, del Director Ejecutivo, para que los donantes suministren asistencias que mejoren las actuales deficiencias del almacenaje de alimentos para que se establezcan las reservas de seguridad alimentaria y para que se logre una coordinación efectiva entre los donantes que hagan verdaderamente eficaz la asistencia del Programa.

Permítame, que al final y contra mi costumbre, presente una nota de sentido personal. Este Informe Anual comprende los períodos 17 y 18 del CPA, ambos tuve el honor de presidir y he tenido la satisfacción de haber sido sucedido por un distinguido representante colega y amigo, el Sr. Hostmark, de Noruega, a quien aun en su ausencia quiero rendir homenaje de amistad y simpatía. Proviene de un país nórdico avanzado y de gran sentido positivo de la cooperación internacional, a lo cual el Gobierno colombiano rinde homenaje permanente. La circunstancia de que durante 1984 yo haya presidido el CPA me ofreció la oportunidad de conocer de cerca la valiosa cooperación del Dr. Edouard Saouma, Director General de la FAO, y de todo su personal también; de los representantes del Secretario General de Naciones Unidas y, de manera muy directa y permanente la cooperación y el estímulo del Sr. Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, y de todo el personal de ese importante Organismo. Permítame que destaque, señor Presidente, particularmente la asistencia diaria que recibí del Sr. Haque, del Secretario del CPA, un funcionario internacional excepcional quien en todo momento estimuló mi función de Presidente con un espíritu serio, objetivo y realista.

Finalmente, una vez más el Gobierno de Colombia desea alentar al Sr. Ingram y a todo el personal del PMA para que continúen la valiosa labor que vienen realizando.

H. WETZEL (Germany, Federal Republic of): I should like to thank the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for the clear and lucid introductory statement on the Tenth Annual Report of the World Food Programme which we consider a comprehensive and balanced document.

The Report as well as the updated information we got from the Executive Director this morning provides us with a very informative over-view of successful activities, and reveals in a frank manner at the same time some concerns and problems.

At the outset I should like to pay tribute to the Executive Director and his dedicated staff. It is not necessarily the record level of commitment which is most impressive. Although this shows of course how much confidence WFP was able to generate - even more so the pragmatic approaches to quite a number of most difficult problems convinced us of the efficiency of the Programme which has once more underlined its role as the largest development source in international cooperation after the World Bank group.

WFP has been helpful in many respects. Most commendable are a number of various efforts to put the tasks of this Organization in the broader context of overall developmental efforts, both multilateral and bilateral. A sober look at the overall economic environment that WFP is operating in is indeed a main concern. In particular, the obvious trend to link food aid more effectively to overall sectoral economic strategies at the national level finds our strongest support and should be strengthened wherever possible.

The new liaison arrangement between the World Bank, which in 1984 provided a grant of US\$2 million, and WFP, may successfully contribute to a better integration of food aid measures into the overall development strategies as discussed in consultative groups and consortia. UNDP round tables could play a similar role.

When indicating our preference for strengthening the developmental impact of food aid measures, we feel that there is an urgent need for a more precise distinction between pure emergency measures and others with developmental components. Decisions on emergency aid allocations should be based on solid appraisals and upon agreed criteria. Emergency food aid and related measures alone cannot be considered the most effective answer to changing the unbearable situation in many parts of the world, in particular in Africa, if we really want to tackle the problems at the roots.

Coming now to some detailed information in the Report I have some brief comments. The allocation of 86 percent of the commitments to low-income countries - and here I understand to the vulnerable groups and rural poor - finds our support as well as the major emphasis on measures in response to the critical situation in sub-Saharan Africa. We commend the Executive Director on having made the appropriate administrative and organizational arrangements, both at Headquarters and at the field level. The weekly reports issued by the African Task Force Secretariat which cooperates closely with the United Nations Office for emergency operations in Africa, form an important element in our own decision making process at the bilateral level.

Coming to the cash position of the Programme, we were informed that the situation is not alarming but there is certainly ample room for improvement. If donors would contribute one-third of their regular pledges in cash there would be no problem at all. My Government did abide by the respective rules for many years and I am confident we will be able to maintain that position.

We noted with great satisfaction the continuing relative small amount of administrative costs. We hope the Programme can also be run in the future in such a cost-effective manner. One pre-condition is of course to maintain the high quality and dedication of WFP's staff. We also encourage the management concerned to remove soon all obstacles which impede the gradual introduction of limited rotation between field and Headquarters posts.

The Annual Report of the WFP to the FAO Council, to ECOSOC and to the World Food Council on the Programme's performance during the previous year covers the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Session of the CFA. One of the major topics of these sessions were discussions and decisions concerning a report of the Joint Inspection Unit on Personnel Problems in the World Food Programme. Paragraph 9 of the Annual Report before us touches upon certain difficulties for WFP in carrying out its Programme. Action has been taken in the meantime based on the work of the Joint UN/FAO Task Force and we notice this with satisfaction. We were highly pleased to hear from the Executive Director this morning, and this was confirmed by the representative of the Director-General some minutes ago, that good progress is already being made in the spirit of goodwill and mutual cooperation. We are furthermore pleased to hear of the favourable prospects in that we are now embarking on a durable relationship of these two organizations which indeed have to play an important complementary role.

R.C. GUPTA (India): My delegation had the opportunity of studying this Report in the last session of the CFA and as we said at that time we find it an extremely balanced, informative and comprehensive document giving a clear picture of the performance of the Programme in the year 1984. Since we are discussing items 10 and 11 together I would consider it appropriate to compliment the FAO Secretariat also for producing the two supplements of Information document 15, which makes it easier for us to have the views of the Programme and Finance Committee also in the same place. It will certainly assist in understanding the situation better.

We would heartily congratulate Mr Ingram and his colleagues in the World Food Programme for their deep commitment and dedication. We would particularly compliment the Executive Director for his comprehensive and candid presentation. The extent of the involvement of the Programme in alleviating hunger and assisting development is evidenced by the fact that at the end of 1984 it had 288 operational projects in 87 countries involving an outlay of over \$2.9 million. The performance of the Programme in the context of Africa particularly has amply demonstrated its resilience and strength and we could not perhaps say anything better than the observation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has complimented the Programme in making a significant contribution to alleviating the emergency situation in Africa.

Another notable factor is that the Programme has been able to do much more than it did in the 1970s, when 1.9 million tons of food aid was delivered over a period of 3 years, which performance has been doubled in a period of six months in the present year. It has also done extremely well in coordinating the efforts of various agencies in meeting the emergency situation in Africa by constituting an African Task Force Secretariat which has become a clearing house of information on food aid requirements and logistics.

With regard to the Programme we would comment on the fact that 9 percent of the population in the least developed countries have received 36 percent of the total development assistance in 1983 and 38 percent in 1984, and the Programme's commitment to low income countries continues to be as high as over 86 percent.

With reference to the outlook for the future, we note with some concern that the cash outgoings in 1984 were substantially higher than cash income and if this situation continues the Programme could be in very serious difficulties both in terms of having cash for transportation and handling of the commodities provided as also for making purchases of commodities not readily available or for making this operation cost effective by purchasing commodities in the same regions where the need arises.

We strongly urge all donors and international organizations to assist the World Food Programme by donating cash resources to the extent of at least one-third of their pledges to the Programme.

Another factor which we would like to highlight is the diversification of the parcel of commodities provided to the World Food Programme. If the Programme is to be treated truly not as a surplus disposal Programme it will be necessary for donors to see that they provide commodities which are needed by aid-recipient countries. I would not like to dwell upon the subject, but my indication should be clear enough.

Another aspect to which we would like to address ourselves is the effectiveness of food aid. The Executive Director dwelt at length on this aspect and while it is a matter of great satisfaction that the donor community and the international community at large has come forward in a most generous manner to assist Africa and the African crisis this satisfaction could be shortlived if food aid is not used as a proper resource to build ways and means to end the food aid itself.

As the Executive Director pointed out, in certain countries of Africa the crop is likely to be harvested shortly and if excessive availability of food aid acts as a disincentive and a factor depressing the prices this would go against all programmes and schemes for rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa because unless the producer gets adequate prices production will not rise. He has rightly emphasized the need for building warehouses for stocking of surpluses, otherwise either the crop or donated commodities would go to waste or they would serve as a disincentive to agricultural production.

Further, a lot of lipservice is paid to the need for rehabilitation but, as the Executive Director has pointed out, and I say this in all humility and in a spirit of friendship and brotherhood, the African countries themselves as well as the donor community have to take immediate steps to see that food aid is used in a manner which will have long-term beneficial effects. Employment-led equitable growth is the only manner in which we have to approach this subject and some of the approaches suggested by the Executive Director in terms of integrating food aid with other forms of assistance, integrating food aid with the development process is the right approach and we commend the suggestion about UNDP round tables to sort out these issues.

Lastly, we would like to address a few comments to item 11. As late as April 1985 the Finance Committee met and this aspect of relationship between the World Food Programme and FAO was discussed and the report of the Finance Committee makes rather depressing reading. But we are extremely happy with the observations of the Executive Director and Mr Crowther this afternoon and it is a matter of some satisfaction that the relationship is improving and progress is in the right direction.

Mr Ingram's comments that the two Organizations have entered a phase of durable relationship we find extremely heartening and we would encourage FAO as well as the World Food Programme to continue these efforts, because after all the two Organizations have common goals, a shared trust, and we are confident that they will be able to rise to the occasion and provide the maximum assistance they are capable of doing to the needy and hungry of the world.

ZENG XIANRONG (China) (original language Chinese): First I would like to thank the Executive Director of WFP, Mr Ingram, for his clear introduction of this item.

The report now under discussion is as excellent as it is informative. It gives an all-round review of the policy of food aid and the enormous amount of work done in 1984; it has also provided an outlook for 1985.

May I offer a few comments on this report.

Firstly, we are pleased to note that the level of commitments to development of the WFP has attained a new record as compared with 1983. This is brought about mainly by its ever increasing resources, enabling it to commit more development projects each year and to provide more food for emergency operations. Such a fact indicates that the WFP, under the guidance of CFA, has achieved gratifying results in implementing the recommendations of food aid adopted by the World Food Conference.

From the report we noted that the WFP, in allocating resources in 1984, has given priority to low-income countries and the LDC's as well as to countries in the African region. This has produced good results and is in conformity with the aim of food aid.

We are of the view that the WFP should consider itself duty-bound to provide to the African region as it is struck by serious calamities, helping these countries and their people to tide over the famine and rehabilitate agricultural production, as well as to integrate food aid with development activities. Undoubtedly, WFP is playing a significant role in this field.

The Chinese delegation would like to express its deep concern about the outlook for 1985 as contained in Part 8 of the report. No matter how one views it, the substantial decrease in the level of commitment for food aid in 1985 will have harmful effects on development. However, it is to be acknowledged that doing a good job in food aid, enabling food provided to play its due role is a rather complex matter, involving various factors from different areas as well as efforts from the parties concerned. For recipient countries of food aid, it is necessary to further strengthen planning, institution establishment and food management on the basis of experience gained in these fields. As for donor countries, more food and cash should be generously granted while recipient countries try to improve the utilization of food aid. By doing so, the donor countries can also help the WFP to improve its implementation of food aid policies and programmes.

Finally, we wish to put on record our endorsement of the report.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Hemos escuchado con mucha atención la excelente síntesis presentada por el señor Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, y quisiéramos expresar nuestro reconocimiento y expresar nuestras congratulaciones a él y a su extraordinario equipo por la labor desarrollada tal como ha sido presentada.

Deseamos intervenir para referirnos a algunos de los puntos subrayados por él en la parte 2 del Informe, especialmente a la conveniencia de utilizar la ayuda alimentaria no como un paliativo a corto plazo, sino como apoyo de una estrategia de crecimiento equitativo para las zonas rurales, a lo cual añadiríamos que debería convertirse en un principio a ser adoptado por la FAO, no sólo para el caso extremo de Africa, sino también para las áreas subdesarrolladas de otras regiones que reclaman ayuda alimentaria de parte del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación.

Esa estrategia de crecimiento equitativo para las áreas rurales del Africa subsahariana que hace hincapié no sólo en incentivar la producción de estas áreas, sino que incluye entre sus objetivos el dar prioridad al empleo sobre todo en la construcción y mejoramiento de la infraestructura indispensable para el desarrollo agrícola, nos parece por demás interesante.

Deseamos destacar el concepto de la ayuda alimentaria integrada en los planes nacionales de desarrollo de manera que sirvan como un estímulo para el incremento de la producción local y en conexión con este punto deseamos poner énfasis dando nuestro apoyo de manera expresa a dos conceptos expuestos por el señor Ingram: uno, la necesidad de crear la reserva de seguridad alimentaria; dos, la conveniencia de que la estrategia a seguir debe centrarse en las infraestructuras rurales existentes en los países de bajos ingresos deficitarios en alimentos y la necesidad de que los planificadores del desarrollo agrícola de esos países, así como los expertos enviados a dichas áreas rurales presten atención a los cultivos de productos autóctonos, añadiríamos nosotros.

En cada una de esas áreas existen cultivos y sistemas agrícolas tradicionales que han servido de base en la alimentación de muchas generaciones y que no deberían abandonarse en favor de cultivos exóticos sin mengua del verdadero desarrollo agrícola independiente, que debería ser una de las metas a seguir en estos programas.

Quisiera citar un solo ejemplo de nuestra propia experiencia en trabajos de campo realizados en mi país y en algunos otros de América Latina. Me refiero al sistema tradicional múltiple o de cultivos múltiples, como lellaman al multi crop system; este sistema común a varios de los países de América Latina, los cuales van adoptando nombres autóctonos de cada país, como la chinampa, la milpa en México, el conuco en Venezuela, la chacra chilena y el nombre que se me escapa en Cuba.

En todos ellos, el campesino planta en su pequeña parcela una variedad de cultivos que constituyen su dieta básica como el maíz ó los granos o la papa o la verdura y hasta la fruta.

Esto constituye una reserva alimentaria a nivel familiar, de la cual van cosechando oportunamente el producto que necesitan día a día, semana a semana.

De ese vegetable garden, que en Estados Unidos se está poniendo de moda por los que están siguiendo la nueva tendencia de alimentación naturalista huyendo del excesivo uso de fertilizantes en la producción de alimentos los campesinos recogen sus cosechas, los granos, y la guardan pero conservan en la propia tierra los tubérculos y las verduras para ser usados lo más frescos posible.

Queremos sintetizar nuestra idea relativa a la ayuda alimentaria pensando en las reservas de ayudas de la Comisión Mundial de Alimentos y en que pudiera adoptarse esta estrategia enseñando a los campesinos, apoyando su sistema de cultivo para que ellos no abandonen la agricultura de subsistencia. Yo pienso que la ayuda de la FAO o del Programa de Alimentos no debe tratar de estimular un desarrollo excesivo para estos países que necesitan alimento inmediato, que no tienen capital, para desarrollar una agricultura a nivel comercial, y por consiguiente, la agricultura de subsistencia. En estos casos sería más recomendable, y en eso pensábamos cuando el señor Ingram anunciaba la necesidad de que estos expertos que van a los países para ayudarles, prestaran atención a esas prácticas autóctonas que les serviría de inmediato, pudiéramos decir con menos costos para el Programa y que al mismo tiempo estimularía a los campesinos en algo que ellos conocen, dándoles empleo, que es otro de los objetivos que persigue el Programa y manteniendo una posibilidad de estímulo para un desarrollo agrícola a un nivel que no llegue al nivel de exportaciones o al nivel comercial.

Estas ideas mal hilvanadas, que deberían ser un poco mejor estudiadas por este Comité de Expertos que posee el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, podrían ayudar a muchos países, no sólo en Africa, estoy segura que también en América Latina, en donde estos sistemas de cultivo se practican tradicionalmente y que no llegan a desarrollarse a un nivel más alto por falta de estímulos de tipo capital o en vez también de nuevos cultivos que pudieran ser adoptados y adaptados a su clima.

No quiero recargar más la atención de ustedes con estas ideas, pero creo que pueden ser útiles si se estudian y si se incorporan a este Programa Mundial de Alimentos, como única manera de adaptarlas a las posibilidades de una ayuda local.

H. REDL (Austria): First of all, I would like to thank the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, for his clear introduction. My delegation attended the 19th Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as an observer. The 10th Annual Report was studied with particular interest. We noted with satisfaction that deliberations of previous years had been taken into account, and that 86 percent of the total performance was earmarked to benefit poor countries. The establishment of the Africa Task Force has proved successful as is shown by the report and has guaranteed concerted action by all the United Nations organizations concerned.

A very important part of the work of FAO and WFP, regular cooperation, was satisfactorily solved by the ad hoc task force. We are pleased that consensus was reached between the parties concerned, as they know best how to cooperate most efficiently.

This report is undoubtedly a good basis for future cooperation. We also hope the proposed changes will not entail increases in the cost. Therefore, we await with interest next year's report on the funding of this cooperation.

As concerns the policy followed by WFP, Austria welcomes the still valid principle that solutions to the problems of hunger have primarily to be sought at national level. This calls for decisions both as to agricultural production and other economic problems. Important as food aid is, it will always have to be geared to the conditions of the respective developing country. Furthermore, we should be quite sure that urgent short-term and long-term measures do not interfere with each other so that the food aid adopted in the national programme of the recipient country will stimulate production and support humanitarian practice.



The annual report further states that in the field of development aid the aforementioned priority of the poorest developing country was observed, as indicated in paragraphs 20 and 23. We welcome there the division into agricultural and structural measures. We hope these will remain.

My delegation noted with great interest the statement on the new management information system under which the services of an international firm, as well as of a group of experts, have been enlisted to examine and improve the existing information system of WFP. Among other things, this concerns the use of the International Computer Centre. It would be interesting to learn whether the costs accruing for this purpose have already found expression in the increased efficiency of the WFP Information System.

In conclusion, we would voice our appreciation that the previous setting of priorities, with particular emphasis on Africa, has continued, and that WFP will make efforts to guarantee the more efficient participation of the recipient countries in their national development programmes.

H. DA SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): To begin with, I want to express the thanks of my delegation to the Executive Director of the WFP for his presentation of document CL 87/6, which contains the 10th Annual Report of the CFA. This report is clearly marked by the excellent level of operations of the World Food Programme in 1984, reaching record levels of activity for the second consecutive year. Unfortunately, the perspectives for this year do not leave much room for optimism, since a decrease is foreseen of some 26 percent in the level of operation of the Programme in relation to the 1984 figures.

Another positive sign of the WFP activities in 1984 was the definition of a clear priority devoted to the most needy countries. In fact, 86 percent of WFP commitments were for the low-income food-deficit countries. At the same time, we were glad to notice very positive intervention by the Programme in other developing countries affected either by natural and man-made disasters, or by socio-economic crises, with direct influence on the availability of food for their people.

WFP has not only placed greater emphasis on responding to the critical needs of sub-Saharan Africa in 1984, but has also taken other measures aimed at improving the performance of all the Programme's activities related to the food crisis. This is especially the case in the establishment of a special unit known as the Africa Task Force Secretariat. Once again, WFP has the full support of my delegation for such an initiative. In fact, we are persuaded of the need to strengthen coordination to the greatest extent possible between donors, recipient countries and international organizations involved with food and development aid.

As regards the level of emergency operations approved in 1984, while recognizing the urgent needs, particularly of sub-Saharan Africa, my delegation wishes to express its support for the measures leading to strengthening the developmental impact of food aid in developing countries. This can also be achieved by integrating food aid programmes with national development plans in recipient countries.

Finally, my delegation would like to commend the World Food Programme for the excellent work it has been doing in developing countries. We urge the donor community to make available to WFP the necessary resources for the achievement of its noble hopes.

Ms. M. FENWICK (United States of America): I think we heard this morning one of the finest speeches that has been given. It was impressive in so many ways. I would like to congratulate both the Executive Director and the Director-General on the progress that has been recorded in the relations between the two agencies which are, of course, joined in the hope of benefitting those who have least in the world. The progress in that spirit of goodwill and cooperation is something that I think we were all very happy to hear.

I would also like to congratulate WFP on handling the enormous volume of food, in struggling with ports and trucks, and railroads which are not always in the best repair, and trying to get food where it is so desperately needed. I think it has been a significant achievement.

In that regard I was particularly happy to note the emphasis that the Executive Director gave to the cooperation of transit countries, as he called them, those whose facilities have been strained, used and sometimes over-used in an effort to reach people who otherwise would have no help.

May I again, as I have before, draw to the attention of this Council the magnificent performance of Cameroon, which has only one tiny port, and their compassionate and noble actions when all of their resources were being strained to provide food for Chad. The President, officials of the Government, and the people of Cameroon I think deserve applause and our heartiest commendation. I hope that they understand how much their gesture of compassion and solidarity has been approved.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I too wish to thank Mr Ingram for his introduction to this item. His comments on the lessons to be learned from our recent experience in Africa for present and future food aid shipments are well taken. I can assure him of our openness to his suggestions.

The impressive achievements of WFP during 1984 are well documented in its Tenth Annual Report. For the second year WFP has marked record levels of activity. The orientation of its Programme activities towards meeting the unprecedented need for food aid assistance in sub-Saharan Africa has been in the vanguard of the international community's response to the situation there.

My delegation can only reiterate its full support for WFP and express our great appreciation and admiration of the work that has been done by Mr Ingram and his staff. I would like to highlight several specific matters raised in this Report.

We commend the Executive Director for his decision to establish the African Task Force and for the establishment of the food aid information system. The issuance of the Task Force weekly and monthly reports dealing with food aid pledges and deliveries, and evolving logistical constraints along with more frequent direct contacts between WFP staff in Rome and in the field and the various donor agencies is proving to be one of the most useful and practical examples of coordination yet enjoyed in the field of international development assistance. The complementarity between these activities and FAO's Global Early Warning Information System is equally commendable. The computerization of WFP activities is an exciting development. After an initial somewhat shaky start for the WIS system, WFP is moving rapidly into the forefront on the effective use of these available technologies. From our perspective, WFP is in the initial phase and, a very difficult one, of a revolution in the use of this technology. I believe that other agencies in the UN System and elsewhere would benefit from studying their evolving approaches.

I would add that at this point we do not share some of the views raised by certain delegations that WFP at this time faces a cash crisis. I have our views on this subject and others have been raised at the CFA, so I will not repeat them here.

I would like to note briefly and positively the work I understand has been and will be done in implementing the decision of the Nineteenth Session of the CFA on the UN/FAO Joint Task Force Report. I would also like to thank Mr Crowther for his contribution to this implementation. I will not repeat the elements of our statement on this item made at that Session of the CFA. However, I believe it was a simple, clear statement of our position and I will only underline again the importance my delegation attaches to the full and speedy implementation of this Joint Task Force Report. I would like to commend the Director-General and his staff for the approach which they have so far adopted in the implementation of the decision.

Finally, I would also like to formally ask the Director-General to make a full report on the implementation of the Joint Task Force Report at the next session of this Council. The Director-General will recall that this was a substantive aspect of the Canadian statement at the CFA.

A.M. KHALED (Yemen, People's Democratic Republic of) (Original language Arabic): I should like to thank the Executive Director for his clear, comprehensive and balanced report, and the additional information he has provided on the activities of the Programme.

Having considered this Report, my delegation would like to thank the Executive Director, and we should like to express our appreciation for the role played by the WFP in providing aid to the countries affected by the food crisis in Africa. No doubt Mr Ingram has been very active in this respect, and we should like to commend his efforts.

We should also like to mention our own experience with the WFP which has resulted in cooperation in implementing many projects in several areas which have had a concrete impact on development efforts in our country. The atmosphere of understanding, cooperation and enthusiasm between officials of the Programme and our Government officials was very positive. We have been honoured by a visit by Mr Ingram to our country very recently and this has demonstrated his interest and his goodwill regarding the integration of food aid in development plans.

The prospects regarding the Programme are well known to my delegation and we will cooperate to implement all the necessary objectives.

We should also like to share the worries expressed by the Executive Director regarding the cash position which would restrict the Programme's ability to implement its activities.

My delegation should like to support the appeal to donor countries to carry out their commitment and to give cash contributions. We support the Executive Director's views on the continued crisis in Africa and the necessity for cooperation, consultation and coordination with the donor countries in order to overcome the crisis.

In conclusion we should like to express our appreciation and satisfaction for the ideas presented by the Executive Director regarding present relations between FAO and WFP, and should like to congratulate the Director-General and the Executive Director for this spirit of understanding and cooperation. We trust that this atmosphere will be further improved for the benefit of all in order to reach the humanitarian goals which the two organizations seek to achieve.

P. PONGPAET (Thailand): First of all my delegation wishes to express our thanks to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for his clear introduction to this document under consideration.

The Tenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes shows the record levels in the amount of assistance, provided for both development and emergency purposes by the World Food Programme in 1984.

As shown in the Report, we are pleased with the manner in which development assistance and emergency operations work hand in hand and that emphasis and priority were given to the low-income food-deficit countries, particularly in Africa.

My delegation is grateful for WFP's role as coordinator of emergency operations along the Thai-Kampuchea border in cooperation with the United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) as indicated in paragraphs 38 and 39.

The establishment of the African Task Force by the Executive Director of the WFP is commendable. This Unit has cooperated closely with the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa. We believe this kind of cooperation would ensure speediness and effectiveness in providing assistance to the needy people of this continent.

We believe that the food aid information system established by WFP would be strengthened with the support of the FAO Global Early Warning System. My delegation, therefore, supports the close cooperation of the World Food Programme and FAO and the coordination of their work.

My delegation has followed with interest the annual review of food aid policies and programmes conducted by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. We have seen the successful reviews conducted for both the donors and the recipient countries. We see that the reviews not only highlight the problems to be tackled but also provide good experience for the recipients, the donors and the World Food Programme. My delegation therefore supports the continuation of those reviews.

While we are supporting paragraphs 70, 71, 72 and 73, more emphasis could be given to the practices on triangular transactions. We believe that WFP and FAO could encourage these activities as their merits are well known to us.

On the Joint Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General on the FAO/WFP relationship, my delegation welcomes the decision taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO. We would be happy to see these two organizations working closely and more harmoniously for the benefit of the unfortunate people who are in need of assistance from FAO and the World Food Programme.

Last but not least, paragraphs 84 - 85, show that owing to the constraint on resources, the World Food Programme has had to set a preliminary commitment ceiling for 1985 at a lower level than that of 1984.

My delegation therefore wishes to support paragraph 86 and wants to add that the limited resources should be channelled only to those who most deserve it.

In conclusion my delegation endorses the Tenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes and commends the informative and comprehensive nature of this document.

F. de MENEZES (Sao Tome-et-Principe): Je voudrais me joindre aux autres délégués qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter M. Ingram, le Directeur exécutif du PAM, et son équipe pour le rapport qu'il a bien voulu nous soumettre, qui nous donne le détail des multiples activités et actions de cette Organisation pendant l'année 1984 et les perspectives pour l'année en cours. Tout notre appui va donc aux aides alimentaires dans le cadre de l'assistance au développement sans oublier évidemment ce que nous pourrions appeler les ballons d'oxygène que peut représenter l'aide alimentaire d'urgence. Je voudrais formuler le souhait que la capacité des interventions de la RAIU soit sensiblement renforcée et augmentée. Mon pays, Sao Tomé-et-Principe connaît bien et même très bien d'ailleurs les actions du PAM après une aide d'urgence et nous avons commencé cette année 1985 avec une aide alimentaire comme assistance au développement de notre pays, suite à un projet parmi ceux que le Directeur exécutif peut personnellement décider quant à son octroi.

Monsieur Ingram, je voudrais, au nom de mon gouvernement, vous adresser, directement aujourd'hui et dans cette session du Conseil, nos vifs remerciements pour ces actions que cette Organisation que vous dirigez si bien a pu faire par rapport à mon pays. Je voudrais également féliciter et remercier vos collaborateurs tels que M. Nastorg et Mme Valérie Sequeira qui ont su user d'une énorme abnégation et d'une grande patience pour que les projets actuels pour mon pays puissent avoir lieu.

J'ai passé le mois de mai dernier à Sao Tomé et j'ai pu m'entretenir sur place avec votre représentant M. Pita Gros à qui, en passant, je voudrais adresser par votre intermédiaire mes félicitations et remerciements pour toutes ses actions dans mon pays maintenant qu'il nous quitte pour un autre lieu d'affectation. En m'entretenant avec lui j'ai pu apprendre que l'aide actuelle suit son cours normalement avec pour sélection la question de l'acheminement des produits mais que même cela est en voie de solution. D'ailleurs je saisis cette occasion pour vous demander et demander à la direction du PAM de ne pas hésiter à contacter l'Ambassade de Sao Tomé-et-Principe qui est la représentation permanente auprès de la FAO quand il s'agit de ce genre de problèmes. Nous sommes au courant de tous les bateaux qui peuvent être appelés à décharger ou à charger à Sao Tomé.

Je voudrais finalement faire part à Monsieur le Directeur exécutif du PAM de ma joie d'apprendre que les relations entre cette Organisation et la FAO sont en train de devenir bonnes. Je dois féliciter le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et le Directeur général ainsi que le Directeur exécutif du PAM de toutes les actions et de la bonne volonté qu'ils ont mises à trouver une solution à cette situation. Une bonne entente entre les deux organisations ne peut qu'être bénéfique aux pays comme le mien qui ont besoin des actions conjointes des organisations. Quand un pays comme Sao Tomé-et-Principe n'est pas encore malheureusement de ceux qui bénéficient de beaucoup d'aide bilatérale, l'existence d'un organisme comme le PAM est pour nous essentiel, principalement quand elle est bien dirigée comme c'est le cas, et nous souhaitons que lui soient donnés les moyens nécessaires pour que ces actions soient rapides et efficaces.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation congolaise, à l'instar de celles qui se sont exprimées avant elle souhaite féliciter Monsieur Ingram, le Directeur exécutif du PAM pour son excellente introduction du 10ème rapport annuel du CPA. Il s'agit là d'un document que nous avons déjà appuyé au CPA. Cependant, vous me permettrez d'insister sur un certain nombre de points mais, auparavant, nous voudrions nous féliciter du développement continu des activités du PAM sous la direction de M. Ingram, son Directeur exécutif. Les records battus en ce qui concerne le volume d'aides alimentaires en faveur de projets de développement et de l'aide d'urgence, montrent le dynamisme de cet organisme qui a ainsi fait preuve de son efficacité, ce qui devait inciter les donateurs à tout mettre en oeuvre pour aider le PAM à atteindre son objectif de 1 350 millions de dollars.

Nous savons aussi que le PAM se heurte à des difficultés objectives qui limitent les activités de son action sur le terrain, notamment les obstacles qu'il rencontre dans l'acheminement de l'aide d'urgence vers les pays en développement et à l'intérieur de ces derniers. A cet égard, il faut remercier les donateurs qui aident le PAM à résoudre les problèmes logistiques de distribution et nous voudrions lancer un appel pour que cette assistance soit accrue afin de réduire la portée de ces contraintes. Mais il est maintenant évident que la mauvaise répartition des réserves alimentaires constitue un obstacle majeur qui joue énormément en défaveur de la célérité nécessaire pour l'efficacité de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons l'objectif de 2 millions de tonnes en deux volets pour la RAIU afin que les zones vulnérables puissent être en mesure de répondre aux situations d'urgence avec plus de promptitude.

Nos félicitations pour toutes les initiatives et mesures prises en faveur de l'Afrique et nous demandons au Directeur exécutif de continuer à privilégier cette région surtout du côté des projets de développement.

J'ai été très attentif ce matin lorsque M. Ingram a parlé de la nécessité d'intégrer l'aide alimentaire dans les plans nationaux de développement. Il s'agit là d'une idée chère à notre gouvernement et je dois regretter avec le Directeur exécutif que les donateurs ne jouent pas le jeu en la matière et se dissimulent derrière des législations nationales désuètes car celles-ci continuent à ne pas tenir compte du fait que l'aide alimentaire constitue désormais une ressource très importante dans la mise en oeuvre des programmes de développement dans nombre de nos pays.

Nous aimerions insister sur les opérations triangulaires dont on a largement reconnu les vertus à plusieurs égards et c'est pourquoi nous appuyons le fait que le volet espèces ne soit pas négligé dans les contributions d'aide alimentaire au PAM, même si la situation financière du PAM n'est pas alarmante. Cela se justifie surtout au moment où nous vivons une crise alimentaire sans précédent en Afrique et des efforts sont en cours pour relancer la production dans cette région. Ceci revêt une importance capitale lorsqu'on sait que les opérations triangulaires sont un stimulant précieux pour accroître la production agricole et répond aux inquiétudes que nous avons souvent manifestées quant à la crainte de voir l'aide alimentaire avoir des effets négatifs sur la production nationale en changeant les habitudes alimentaires des populations concernées et en renforçant ainsi la dépendance alimentaire de ces pays.

Pour terminer nous voudrions prendre acte du rapport commun du Secrétaire général de l'ONU et de la FAO sur les délibérations de l'équipe spéciale ONU et FAO chargée d'étudier les problèmes des relations avec le PAM. Nous tenons à féliciter, à l'instar du Directeur exécutif, les efforts faits par le Directeur général pour déléguer des pouvoirs étendus au Directeur exécutif afin de lui permettre de gérer le programme avec plus de souplesse sans que les relations des trois coopérations qui existent depuis plus de 22 ans n'en souffrent. Nous sommes particulièrement satisfaits de la volonté exprimée par tous de mettre en oeuvre les dispositions contenues dans ce rapport dans un esprit de confiance et de respect mutuel. Nous sommes d'ores et déjà satisfaits de ce que nous ont déclaré à ce sujet M. Ingram et le représentant du Directeur général.

Nous sommes certains que les effets synergiques qui résulteront de ce dialogue constructif contribueront encore davantage à solutionner les problèmes des populations qui souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition à travers le monde.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba quisiera, señor Presidente, por su intermedio agradecer al Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, señor Ingram, por la elocuente y constructiva presentación de este tema mediante la cual nos ha proporcionado datos adicionales a los que aparecen en el documento que analizamos y que son de gran utilidad a nuestra Delegación, y seguramente a todo el Consejo.

Mi delegación se congratula porque los esfuerzos fundamentales de la ayuda de urgencia en 1983 se dedicara a los países al sur del Sahara pero también porque el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en buena práctica del principio de universalidad que los caracteriza haya tenido en cuenta otras regiones en desarrollo, como bien se expresa en el párrafo 25.

Otro aspecto al que quisiéramos referirnos, al igual que lo han hecho otras delegaciones, es a la compra de alimentos en los países en desarrollo, la conveniencia y beneficios de las operaciones triangulares que ya han sido reconocidos por otros oradores, así como se recoge en el párrafo 14 del documento que analizamos y consideramos que este Consejo debe apoyar.

Sobre los problemas de transporte reiteramos la necesidad de que se incremente la práctica de utilizar los barcos de los países en desarrollo, lo cual en ocasiones agiliza la entrega de los productos además de otros beneficios que proporciona a los países en desarrollo.

Los proyectos de desarrollo que a nuestro entender son elementos de gran importancia, si no fundamentales, dentro de las acciones del Programa Mundial de Alimentos sufren una merma según se expresa en la parte 8, párrafo 84. Este aspecto consideramos que debe ser objeto de preocupación de este Consejo y muy especialmente si esta merma afecta a la buena marcha de proyectos ya aprobados por el CPA.

Finalmente, quisiera expresar la satisfacción de la delegación de Cuba por el contenido de la última parte del Informe del señor Ingram y en la cual se refirió expresamente a la colaboración existente entre la FAO y el Programa Mundial de Alimentos en el ejercicio de sus respectivas funciones, lo cual se ha logrado con la mejora de las relaciones entre ambas organizaciones, lo cual a nuestro entender se vierte en un beneficio neto para los países que necesitan la ayuda tanto de la FAO como del PMA, así como una mayor garantía para los países donantes de que sus generosos aportes sean utilizados coordinadamente y sin duplicidad de esfuerzos.

F.G. POULIDES (Cyprus): We have listened very carefully to the statement of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr. Ingram, introducing and commenting on the Tenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. I wish to express the warmest congratulations of the Cyprus delegation to Mr. Ingram for his lucid introduction of the Report.

It is indeed gratifying to note the Programme's impressive performance for 1984. In this respect we note the record levels for both emergency and development assistance provided in that area. We wish to comment most warmly on the creation of the special African Task Force, and particularly for the speedy delivery of food aid. This is indeed a great achievement which needs particular encouragement.

We note and welcome from the Report the continuation of the practice of the triangular transactions which have been official to the developing countries. For these transactions to be continued and increased, cash resources should be made available to the Programme. We would like therefore to appeal to the donor countries to provide the World Food Programme with as much cash contributions as they possibly can.

We note the developing countries' share of transportation which reached in 1984 about 11 percent of the total shipments. Considering, however, the tonnage owned by the developing countries, efforts should be made for a substantial increase of this percentage.

Finally, we were glad to note from the Executive Director, Mr Ingram's concluding remarks, that the Joint Report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of the Director-General of the FAO will result in an improved relationship within the UN family. We hope that in an atmosphere of goodwill, mutual respect and confidence the Programme will continue to grow and operate efficiently to the benefit of the developing countries.

With these observations my delegation fully endorses the Tenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Antes de nada permítame usted unirnos a los países que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra y felicitar muy sinceramente al Sr. Ingram por su excelente presentación del tema en examen.

La delegación de Panamá desea referirse muy brevemente al documento CL 87/6 que trata sobre el 10º Informe anual del Comité de Políticas y Programas de Ayuda Alimentaria, no solo con el propósito fundamental de expresar en líneas generales su apoyo a dicho Informe, sino también para efectuar algunos comentarios que el mismo le merecen.

En primer lugar, esta delegación toma nota del nivel sin precedentes alcanzado por las actividades del PMA en ese total, como se pone de manifiesto en la parte primera del Informe y análisis. Se nota no sólo un incremento de las asignaciones para proyectos de desarrollo, sino también para las operaciones de urgencia en relación con el año anterior, año que se consideró excepcional.

Nuestra delegación, además, comparte en general las políticas y programas de ayuda alimentaria señalado y en particular la expresada en los párrafos 12 y 13 del documento en examen referente a que el problema del hambre debe enfrentarse en el plano nacional y que la ayuda alimentaria debe integrarse en los planes nacionales de desarrollo.

Permítanos igualmente, señor Presidente, insistir en la necesidad de que todos los donantes aumenten las operaciones triangulares ya que compartimos la opinión que las mismas son un medio para estimular la producción de alimentos en países en desarrollo y el comercio entre ellos, tal como se indica en el párrafo 14.

Asimismo queremos expresar nuestra esperanza que la cantidad de recursos prometidos al PMA en forma de recursos ordinarios para el bienio 1985/86 logre alcanzar su totalidad o la cantidad más cercana a la misma y que aumente el número de países donantes.

Para concluir, sobre el tema particular de las relaciones entre la FAO con el PMA la delegación de Panamá desea subrayar que se complace que sobre la base de los trabajos del Grupo de Acción Conjunto NU/FAO el Secretario General y el Director General llegaran a un acuerdo y que este acuerdo se venga a materializar en la delegación de nuevas funciones al Director General Ejecutivo del PMA, las que, en nuestra opinión, aumentan la flexibilidad en cuestiones administrativas y de gestión de este Programa.

Expresamos nuestra confianza de que los acuerdos obtenidos contribuirán efectivamente a que el PMA siga actuando como hasta ahora, y mejor, en beneficio de los sectores que en distintos países necesitan de la asistencia de este Programa.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation would like to thank Mr Ingram for his excellent introduction to the Tenth Annual Report of the CFA which has highlighted and indeed supplemented the main activities and achievements of the Programme. We compliment the Programme and commend the Secretariat for the role they have played in meeting the critical needs of developing countries and particularly those stricken in Africa.

The phenomenal growth of the Programme from its modest beginnings in 1963 is a testimony of the efficient dedicated work performed by the Executive Director and his staff. This is further borne out by the records set in 1984-85 not only in the approval of new emergency projects, the tonnage of food shipped, the significant increase in purchases from the developing countries and the fact

that the share of resources to the least developed countries increases by 38 percent. We have also noted the appreciable growth in expenditure turnover as well as in the number and value of development projects that have become actually operational.

We welcome the priority attached by WFP to the African crisis, the increasing value of new emergency assistance to Africa, and the additional responsibilities assumed by the WFP in constantly adapting itself to the crisis. The establishment of the Task Force, the new clearing house of logistic functions undertaken by it, have borne some dramatic results including stepped up food aid delivery by as much as three to sevenfold volumes. We are also especially appreciative of the role played by both donors and transit countries in this process.

We welcome the innovative approaches and initiatives taken by the Programme to make a more effective institution, not only for humanitarian relief assistance but for social and economic development. In this connection we note in particular the Executive Director's approaches in Africa which point towards such potential replicative programmes as food for work activities in Mali, resettlement programmes in Chad, ways to usefully exploit marketing and local surpluses in Sudan, etc. which the Executive Director pointed out to us today.

In the overall context we support the specific focus and orientation in the following priority directions:- First, the concentration in the low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries, and the concern directed even to such aspects as alleviating internal transport costs and handling disabilities.

Second, stress on the integration of developmental food aid in the country's national food strategies and programmes to help increase food production, prevent disincentives to such production, whilst at the same time bolstering humanitarian objectives. We appreciate in particular the reference in paragraph 31 of document CL 87/6 which specifically refers to Bangladesh as an exception to the fact that national planning authorities have somewhat neglected coordination between WFP food aid with both bilateral and other forms of aid.

Thirdly, ways and means to meet emergency food aid with medium and longer term developmental objectives.

Four, approaches to broaden where possible the food basket to meet the appropriate needs of developing countries.

Five, the critical link between a properly administered food aid and world food security with its three essential components of production, stability of supply and access. We fully support the Executive Director's stress that a viable route for WFP's activities in an employment led growth strategy for rural infrastructure. Our own experience with the Food of Works Programme and the critical need to increase the purchasing power of the large number of unemployed in our country has demonstrably proved the validity of this approach.

Although we have noted with great satisfaction the rapid increase in the activities and commitments of the Programme for development until 1984 when its commitments to development projects reached US\$ 925 million for 2.1 million tons of food, we are concerned to note however that the commitments to development projects during 1985 will have to be reduced by about 26 percent because of resource constraints. This is all the more alarming because of the continuing critical food situation being faced by many developing countries. We are grateful to donor countries for their contribution to the World Food Programme, and would hope that in view of greater food aid needs and the unique role of WFP in this regard, the donors' support to the Programme will not only be continued but enhanced in the future.

In this connection, we would also urge the traditional and possible new donors to meet the balance of the WFP pledging of US\$ 1.35 billion fixed for the current biennium. My delegation also supports the call for contributing one-third of the Programme's resources in cash and services to make the Programme's operations more flexible and efficient, and to enable it to respond to the needs with appropriate commodities through local purchase or triangular transactions. We also support greater utilization of shipping capacities available in the Third World countries where possible.

In conclusion, my delegation has been actively involved in the sensitive discussions on the relationships between the FAO and the WFP. It is therefore a matter of great satisfaction for us that the CFA at its Nineteenth Session welcomed the joint decisions submitted by the Secretary General and the Director-General which will enable the two bodies to work together with greater efficiency, complementarity and effectiveness. We appreciate the Executive Director's assurance of goodwill and cooperation, and his expectation that this would lead to a more durable and fruitful relationship.

Mlle E. RAVAUX (France): Lors de la 19ème session du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire, ma délégation a eu l'occasion d'exprimer au PAM son appréciation pour l'ensemble de ses activités au cours de l'année 1984 qui font l'objet du dixième rapport annuel soumis à l'examen de ce Conseil. Elle remercie M. Ingram, le Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour sa présentation claire de ce rapport, présentation faite dans un esprit très positif.

Ma délégation souhaite saluer à nouveau les efforts déployés par le PAM en relation avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies et notamment l'OAA, en réponse à la crise alimentaire en Afrique subsaharienne. Cela est particulièrement sensible dans le domaine logistique où d'importantes actions ont été menées afin de favoriser et d'accélérer la réception de l'aide alimentaire d'urgence par les populations victimes de la famine.

Ma délégation souhaite, en association avec le Directeur exécutif du PAM, rendre hommage au dévouement manifesté dans ce domaine par le personnel du PAM qui n'a pas ménagé sa peine tant au Siège que sur le terrain. Nous nous félicitons des dispositions spéciales prises par le PAM pour assurer le succès de ces opérations et renforcer la coordination avec les différentes aides.

Ces dispositions concernent d'une part la diffusion régulière par télex d'informations sur la situation en matière d'approvisionnement, d'autre part l'organisation des transports de l'aide alimentaire: des réseaux logistiques ont été mis en place pour parvenir à une plus grande efficacité. Comme vous le savez, mon pays a participé à ces efforts en mettant à la disposition du PAM deux experts en logistique, l'un au Siège, l'autre sur le terrain. Nous apprécions aussi la création d'un bureau spécial au Siège chargé de coordonner toutes les activités entreprises par le PAM pour faire face à la crise en Afrique. Lors de la 19ème session du CPA du PAM, la délégation française a participé activement aux travaux du Sous-comité plénier chargé d'examiner les projets. Elle a pu constater ainsi les efforts importants déployés par le PAM pour améliorer le cycle des projets et renforcer son rôle dans le domaine de l'assistance au développement.

En ce qui concerne le rapport du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et du Directeur général de la FAO sur les conclusions de l'équipe spéciale chargée d'étudier les problèmes des relations entre le PAM et les organisations mères, ma délégation souhaiterait rappeler ce qu'elle a déclaré lors du dernier comité.

La France est satisfaite des conditions dans lesquelles se sont déroulés les travaux de cette équipe et apprécie que les délais aient été respectés pour la présentation des conclusions. Le texte auquel on est parvenu tient bien compte de la multiplicité des activités du PAM ainsi que de la complexité des liens avec les organisations mères.

Enfin, ma délégation constate avec satisfaction que la mise en application des conclusions de ce rapport s'effectue dans un esprit de coopération. Elle est heureuse d'apprendre que les relations entre le PAM et l'OAA se sont améliorées. C'est pourquoi elle leur adresse ses plus vifs encouragements afin qu'ils poursuivent leurs efforts dans cette voie constructive.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): México, como miembro del CPA, se pronuncio en su oportunidad en favor del informe anual que analizamos ahora. Por esta razón solamente queremos reiterar en este Consejo nuestra aprobación al mismo, que incluye los grandes logros del PMA, de los que sinceramente nos felicitamos. Apoyamos sobre todo la orientación hacia el desarrollo al que las actividades del Programa tratan de apegarse. En este sentido me parece justo señalar la constructiva intervención del señor Ingram al introducir este tema y apoyar el llamado que hizo tanto a los países receptores como a los países donantes para que actúen de acuerdo con esos lineamientos. Apoyamos asimismo que el Programa concentre gran parte de sus actividades en Africa, ya que esto no afecta la universalidad del Programa y está de acuerdo con la voluntad de la Comunidad Internacional de solidarizarse con la solución del problema. Estaremos esperando el documento que anunció el Director Ejecutivo al respecto en el próximo período de sesiones CPA, ya que estamos seguros que la experiencia adquirida en la práctica por el Programa podrá ser de gran utilidad para el sistema de las Naciones Unidas en su conjunto.

Nos parece muy adecuado que el Programa dedique atención a los problemas de naturaleza conceptual y no sólo pragmática. En este sentido sería interesante considerar y estudiar la manera en que la ayuda de emergencia pueda tener alguna incidencia en la estrategia de largo plazo tendentes al desarrollo, ya que debemos evitar que los recursos destinados a dicha ayuda de emergencia se sustraigan de la asistencia al desarrollo. En una primera aproximación nosotros sugerimos que incluso la ayuda de emergencia debiera formar parte de la estrategia de seguridad alimentaria. Sabemos que lograr esto puede ser un ejercicio extremadamente difícil; sin embargo, creo que valdría la pena intentarlo.



Para que tenga usted una indicación clara sobre la posición de México en cuanto a algunos de los puntos que se han tocado, permítame señalar nuestro apoyo total a las operaciones triangulares, a la utilización de buques de países en desarrollo y a que las contribuciones se apeguen a los textos básicos y comprendan una tercera parte en efectivo para darle así al Programa la flexibilidad que necesita.

Llamo su atención a las repetidas intervenciones del Director Ejecutivo en este sentido. Apoyamos también la diversificación de la ayuda alimentaria, lo cual tendría beneficios evidentes en el mantenimiento de los hábitos alimentarios de la población de los países receptores.

Al ser uno de los últimos oradores, me complace especialmente constatar la unanimidad manifestada hasta ahora en nuestro Consejo al expresar la satisfacción por la rápida y efectiva puesta en práctica de las medidas contenidas en el Informe del Grupo de Acción Naciones Unidas FAO, en consonancia con las decisiones adoptadas por los Estados Miembros en el CPA.

México, naturalmente, se une a este consenso y expresa su confianza en que la indispensable cooperación entre ambas Organizaciones continuará.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): My country's delegation usually makes clear when speaking in other fora our admiration for the practical work of the World Food Programme and the down to earth approach of its management. In keeping with this down to earth approach I will not take the time of the Council for the presentation of bouquets. I will only take up the challenge made by Mr. Ingram in the later part of his presentation this morning.

My Government is known to have strongly held views on the different value of food aid in the development process and when used for emergency assistance. These views are the result of much thought within governments and among our academic and non-governmental community. We would be glad to be involved in the meeting of minds which Mr. Ingram has commended between donors, planners and developing countries and international practitioners about the effective use of food aid in development.

In conclusion we welcome the positive response of all concerned to the deliberations of the UN/FAO Task Force. We are glad to hear from both WFP and FAO that the implementation of the decisions taken by the Secretary-General and the Director-General is proceeding well and we look forward to the progress report which has been promised in due course.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We have carefully gone through document CL 87/6 presented to us. We would first like to thank Mr. Ingram, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, for a comprehensive presentation of the Tenth Annual Report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. We were given in great detail the broad activities of the World Food Programme. We would also like to thank Mr. Crowther for his comments bearing on the matter of relations of FAO with the WFP.

First we would like to make a few observations on the report in document CL 87/6. We are happy to note that the year 1984 has been a year of considerable achievements for the World Food Programme and the commitments to development projects attained the high water mark of US \$925 million which is a record, thus surpassing the level of 1983 by US \$229 million. The commitments to emergency operations in 1984 outstripped that of 1983 by attaining the level of US \$234 million. We also observe with appreciation that the World Food Programme shipped far more food for both development and emergency operations in 1984. Thus in 1984 the Programme committed resources to the tune of US \$1.2 billion both for emergency and project assistance, which is no doubt a record achievement.

We appreciate that the Programme is conscious of and alive to the urgent need of strengthening coordination between the donors and recipient countries. We hope that the Programme will continue to address itself to cutting down the time lag between the pledges made and the actual delivery of food aid.

We are also happy to note that the Programme continues to underline and encourage the importance of triangular transactions.

We note with satisfaction that the World Food Programme has accentuated its focus on Africa in its hour of great need. We would like to congratulate the Programme for working in concert with FAO for alleviating the tragic situation in the African context.

We also wish to extend our deep appreciation to the WFP for the most valuable emergency assistance being extended to Pakistan for over 3 million refugees from a neighbouring country.

Finally, my delegation is happy to endorse the Tenth Report of the CFA.

Briefly a few observations on relations of FAO with the World Food Programme. We welcome the statement of Mr. Ingram that good progress is already being made on the report of the UN/FAO Joint Task Force and all this is being done in a spirit of good will and cooperation. We recall that the joint sessions of the Programme and Finance Committees in their deliberations in May 1985 wholeheartedly endorsed the delegation of authority to the Executive Director for running the Programme in an effective and efficient manner, and all this was later endorsed by the CFA in its session last month.

My delegation would wish to congratulate the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO for their constructive initiative in this regard. We share the optimism of those delegates who have preceded us that both FAO and the Programme will continue to play their complementary role in a spirit of accommodation, cooperation and goodwill to eliminate hunger, poverty and malnutrition from our unhappy world.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je voudrais moi aussi me joindre aux autres délégations pour exprimer mon admiration à l'adresse du Directeur exécutif du PAM qui nous a illustré le document CL 87/6, et nous a aussi fourni des informations complémentaires sur l'activité du PAM.

Nous approuvons ce projet. Nous approuvons aussi les principes qui guident l'activité du PAM, les priorités, la concentration des efforts et de l'aide alimentaire à l'Afrique, à l'adresse des pays à faible revenu avec un déficit alimentaire structurel.

Naturellement, il est regrettable de constater que par rapport à l'année 1984, qui a signé un record dans les activités du PAM, il y aura dans l'année en cours une diminution d'environ 25 pour cent de l'aide disponible.

Nous pensons que l'aide alimentaire doit naturellement être intégrée dans les programmes nationaux de développement. C'est une doctrine acquise. Mais je vois que les difficultés les plus urgentes restent toujours, difficultés de transport, de distribution, de célérité de l'aide. Là aussi il faut se pencher sur ce problème très important des transports, les problèmes logistiques, le stockage, pour faire en sorte que l'aide soit efficace, qu'elle arrive à temps et qu'elle soit destinée aux personnes qui en ont le plus besoin.

Je voudrais aussi insister, comme d'autres délégations l'ont déjà fait, sur l'utilité des opérations triangulaires, et aussi sur la diversification de la corbeille de l'aide. Dans de nombreux cas, ces deux règles pourraient simplifier le problème des transports. Il faut aussi un respect plus grand des habitudes alimentaires locales.

Enfin, je voudrais me féliciter aussi pour les paroles que M. Ingram a prononcées au sujet de la coopération avec la FAO. Je suis convaincu que le PAM et la FAO sont entrés dans une période de collaboration durable, fructueuse, et j'espère qu'après avoir célébré cette nouvelle phase, on pourra bientôt célébrer aussi les noces d'argent entre les deux Organisations.

HIDAYAT GANDA ATMADJA (Indonesie): I would like first of all to congratulate Mr Ingram on his excellent presentation.

Since its foundation in 1963, the WFP has proved itself to be an important international aid institution to combat hunger in the world, especially in the developing countries. It has played an effective role towards the development of the human being. Of course, this is due to the efficient management of the Executive Director and to the devoted attitude of the staff. A recent factor in its important role is the WFP effort in alleviating food crises and the development of rehabilitation in Africa. For these things, my delegation wishes to extend its warm appreciation.

My delegation fully supports the initiative taken to solve food crises and towards agricultural rehabilitation in Africa, as discussed in the document before us. We would also like to express our appreciation to the WFP for the attention given to other parts of the world so far as food problems are concerned. We have noted that although WFP is now concentrating its efforts on the problems in Africa, it still pays sufficient attention to the natural calamities and man-made disasters in other parts of the developing regions.

With regard to the problems of food aid delivery to enable food to reach the beneficiaries in the quickest possible time, in the spirit of cooperation with other Asian member countries my country has developed a scheme, the so-called Asian Food Security Scheme. Food reserves in the Scheme can be withdrawn by member countries whenever required for emergency operations.

Therefore, my delegation is of the view that this kind of scheme might be worth thinking about by WFP and FAO for implementation in other regions. While supporting the initiative of food aid integration into national development programmes, my delegation would particularly like to emphasize the important role of food aid in increasing food and agricultural production in developing countries, since this would be the key role for combatting hunger and malnutrition all over the world.

In order to stimulate food production in the developing countries, I appeal to WFP and other international communities to promote and increase triangular transactions in the implementation of food aid.

Finally, my delegation endorses the Tenth Annual Report of the CFA.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Ingram for his lucid introduction of this urgent item on the Tenth Annual Report of WFA. My delegation has nothing particular to mention, but I do want to congratulate WFP on its remarkable achievement in 1984. We are only hoping that the Programme will continue its efforts in this direction in the future. We fully endorse the report.

Turning now to the relationship between FAO and WFP, I think we were informed by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr Ingram, and the Assistant Director-General, Mr Crowther, that the decision taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO is now being carried out most effectively, and is having tangible results. I do not think I need reiterate what we have said already at the last session of CFA.

My delegation only wishes that a progress report could be submitted to the next CFA session, when the budgetary implication of WFP and the proposed changes are to be discussed, and a full report given on the implementations for the decision to be submitted to the Twenty-first Session. While the information on the financial and staffing implication of the new arrangement is not available to us at this stage, I would stress the need for maximum economies to be made with regard to the stated expenses of WFP when implementing the new arrangements.

J. GLISTRUP (Denmark): I would just like to endorse fully the Tenth Annual Report presented to us so elegantly this morning by the Executive Director of the WFP.

On the agenda item concerning relations between FAO and WFP, CL 87/4, the reports of the Joint UN/FAO Task Force and other relevant documentation, I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries who also took a common position on this matter at recent meetings of the CFA and in other fora. We are now glad to have this opportunity of presenting our views at this meeting of the FAO Council.

At the Eighteenth CFA meeting, the Nordic countries welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General and the Director-General to establish a Joint Task Force which, on the basis of the existing constitutional framework of the WFP, should review the administrative and financial problems encountered by the Programme and present its conclusions and recommendations to the Nineteenth CFA.

In the view of the Nordic countries, there is evidence that the administrative tools put at the disposal of the Programme, have not evolved at the same rate as the responsibilities entrusted to it. Since its inception in 1962, the WFP has grown from a small experimental programme to the largest source of development assistance within the United Nations system. Furthermore, since the Nordic countries, both individually and collectively, are large contributors to WFP, effective management of the programme resources has always been of paramount importance to us. The position of our respective countries has been motivated by genuine concern for the administrative capacity of the Programme to discharge its heavy responsibilities effectively.

In many practical and very concrete ways, we have demonstrated our full support for both FAO and WFP. However, the growing evidence of administrative difficulties between the two organizations in our view has posed a threat to the fundamental principle of multilateralism. The Nordic countries would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere gratitude to the Secretary-General and the Director-General for presenting us with their report. We recognize that the conclusions have been reached after intense deliberations and in a spirit of compromise on both sides. We would like to express the hope that this constructive dialogue between New York and Rome will continue.

Turning to the Summary of Conclusions of the Joint Report, we consider that the proposed administrative changes contained in the report represent a significant advance in the ability of WFP to handle its own affairs by providing increased management and administrative authority in the

areas of personnel, contracts, accounts and auditing to the Executive Director. However, in order to achieve the full advantage of the administrative changes proposed, we join the Secretary-General and the Director-General in reiterating the importance of cooperation, goodwill, mutual respect and confidence in the relationship between the two parties concerned. Indeed, these aspects cannot be stressed strongly enough as they are fundamental for our cooperation within the United Nations system.

Since the effect of the proposed administrative and financial changes to a considerable extent will depend on the way in which they are implemented, we would request the changes to be implemented in the fastest possible way. Indeed, in this respect, we have noted with pleasure the comments made here today both by the Executive Director and Mr Crowther.

Finally, the Nordic countries sincerely hope that the proposed changes will be sufficient to bring about the very efficient management of the Programme's resources to the benefit of developing and donor countries alike.

CHAIRMAN: I must apologize to Council members. I have an unavoidable commitment so I will have to leave. I shall request my colleague, Mr de Baschi to take the Chair. But before doing so, there are one or two suggestions I would like to offer of my own, because of my familiarity with the subject of food for development programmes for over twenty years.

First, I would like to join the chorus of praise given to our Executive Director, Mr Ingram, and his dedicated colleagues, particularly those working far away in remote parts of Africa and elsewhere. Their efforts have led to the successful report we have just heard. I would like to say only that although we are all happy at the expansion of the Programme, as mentioned two years ago on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the World Food Programme, WFP expansion means in effect that there is more human distress, more human need for food. Ultimately the success of the Programme will be measured in terms of promoting an accelerating agricultural development.

Secondly, Mr Ingram's report stressed the increasing need for purchasing home-grown food, procuring the marketable surplus in the area, and utilizing it for a food programme in the same country. I hope that the World Food Programme can consider, at least in a few places as a pilot project, where there is good untapped production potential, working with the national government to develop a method of announcing, prior to sowing, a remunerative price for the crop. This would be a tremendous incentive. I have seen the progress in India which has been brought about by the announcement of a remunerative price before the crop is sown. This coupled with the purchase of any marketable surplus, at least in some areas where there is large untapped production potential, would render WFP as a powerful mechanism to assure to the growers a remunerative price when they have something to offer for the market.

Of course, the experience in India, particularly in the chronically drought-prone State of Maharashtra where an Employment Guarantee Scheme for unskilled workers has been a great asset in terms of developing the ecological assets necessary for sustaining agricultural advance is useful.

Another important feature of the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra has been that over 60 percent of the labour force who joined the scheme are women. Nutritional studies have shown that when mothers receive food grain the child is the first beneficiary of the additional food grain. So one has a benefit which far transcends the particular work itself.

I think there are many innovative methods which WFP is working on which could be powerful instruments for using surplus grains and commodities in a way that would promote agricultural advance and agrarian prosperity, not hinder agricultural advance. There is a key method for utilizing this aid, how it is used, where it is used, and so on. There are many fascinating aspects of this Programme which I am sure future historians will chronicle.

M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the chair

M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-President du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia M. Francisci di Baschi, Vicepresidente del Consejo

Mame BALLA SY (Sénégal): Je dois donc intervenir sur le rapport du dernier CPA. En réaffirmant tout simplement que la situation alimentaire, notamment en Afrique, a été particulièrement préoccupante ces derniers temps pour notre continent et c'est pour cette raison que nous nous félicitons particulièrement des efforts consentis dernièrement par la Communauté internationale, la FAO et

le PAM, pour, dans un élan de collaboration qu'il convient de saluer, soulager les populations nécessiteuses de leurs souffrances. C'est pourquoi je voudrais encore réaffirmer toutes les conclusions de ce rapport qui d'ailleurs a été proposé en communication à notre présent Conseil.

Je ne saurais cependant m'abstenir de réaffirmer l'attitude de mon pays devant certains problèmes. D'abord la diminution de la proportion des projets de terrain financés par le PAM. Je crois que cette tendance a été signalée concernant le coût des travaux du CPA et qu'un souhait a été exprimé quant au renforcement de ces projets dans l'avenir. Je crois également que la lenteur parfois constatée dans l'acheminement de l'aide justifie qu'un apport beaucoup plus substantiel soit accordé au PAM pour lui permettre d'avoir tous les moyens de faire parvenir l'aide dans les meilleurs délais possibles car si celle-ci n'arrivait pas à temps je pense que ses effets bénéfiques pourraient en être compromis.

Il y a également une certaine réticence de quelques pays pour accroître leurs contributions en espèces au PAM. Cette attitude a l'inconvénient de ne pas permettre à cet Organisme de réaliser son souhait et d'accroître ses aides en produits susceptibles d'être produits sur place parce que certainement, dans le cas contraire, le PAM n'aurait pas les possibilités de favoriser davantage les transactions triangulaires qui auraient favorisé ce noble objectif du PAM et que mon pays voudrait appuyer et souligner.

Je sais qu'il y a des problèmes que des pays ont déjà mentionnés et que dans certains cas mon pays partage parce qu'il faut tenir compte dans toutes ces considérations de la qualité et de certains problèmes relatifs à ces transactions. Mais cela ne saurait point être des obstacles.

Egalement je pense qu'il convient de se féliciter de ce que nous avons entendu ce matin à propos du rapport commun du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et du Directeur général par le Directeur exécutif qui voit déjà là un rapport avec l'espoir que nous avons toujours formulé parce que je crois que tous les pays membres ici ne peuvent que souhaiter une excellente collaboration des deux organisations compte tenu des nobles objectifs qu'elles visent en commun. Je crois que l'effort de l'un et de l'autre qui a abouti à ce rapport et qui semble constituer un pas considérable en avant, si je tiens compte de ce que nous avons entendu ce matin, ne peut qu'apaiser en tout cas nos inquiétudes et nous donner beaucoup plus d'espoir, en tout cas à nous pays africains, dont les seuls soucis sont moins de nous immiscer dans des problèmes de cette nature que d'avoir des structures fonctionnelles et efficaces pour les préoccupations de notre pays.

C'est pourquoi j'aimerais appuyer les deux propositions faites par le Directeur exécutif, que le Président, en vous cédant ce siège, a bien voulu rappeler parce que nous pensons qu'il s'agit de propositions qui peuvent être particulièrement efficaces et intéressantes pour notre pays.

A.K. OSUBAN(Uganda): Speaking so late in the debate we note that most issues have been eloquently dealt with by previous speakers. Therefore, we are able to be brief.

We must commend the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and the Secretariat for the very informative and constructive information presented to us.

We wish to commend the Programme's record levels of achievements as listed in paragraphs 3 and 4, although these record achievements do imply that there is still a serious problem of hunger in the world.

We also commend the initiatives taken by the Executive Director concerning the African crisis and the work of the African Task Force Secretariat set up at WFP Headquarters to coordinate and improve food aid deliveries and logistics in cooperation with recipients, donors and other agencies.

My delegation is also happy about the record level of WFP commitments for development projects which rose by 33 percent over that of 1983. We welcome this orientation of programmes towards agriculture production and rural development since these are the areas at the core of the present food crisis.

We also note with appreciation that for the third time since the inception of the International Emergency Food Reserve its target of 500 000 tons of cereals has been reached in 1984. However, by contrast, of the target for regular pledges for 1985-86 biennium of US\$ 1.35 billion, only US\$ 999 million has so far been pledged. We are therefore concerned that owing to the Programme's resources constraints the Executive Director has had to set a preliminary commitment ceiling for development projects for 1985 substantially below the level of 1984. Therefore, we appeal to donors to increase their contributions to maintain or even surpass the momentum of 1984.

We wish to note with appreciation the improvement of working relations between WFP and FAO. We believe that this will improve the efficiency and services offered by each organization.

Finally, I wish on behalf of the Government of Uganda to thank the World Food Programme for the substantial resources given to my country.

My delegation fully endorses the Report presented to us by the Executive Director.

M. J. BLAMEY (Australia): Firstly, the Tenth Annual Report of the CFA: Australia was a member of the CFA which considered in detail a part of the Annual Report. Australia's views on the issues which have been raised in the Council here today are reflected adequately in that Report.

Moving to item 11, it is not our intention to offer any substantial comment on issues relating to relations between FAO and WFP. Once again, we have already done so in the Nineteenth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. In our view the consensus reached in that particular meeting of the governing bodies of the World Food Programme gave broad general endorsement and impetus to the implementation without delay of the range of decisions agreed jointly by the Secretary-General and the Director-General. We share the hope expressed here, and the hope I am sure of all members of this Council that these decisions will be implemented in a positive and constructive way and will lead to an improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the World Food Programme.

We began by saying that we do not wish to open a debate on the substantial issues which have already been discussed and resolved. We would however like to recall that the CFA agrees that the Executive Director of the World Food Programme would provide an interim report on the implementation of the agreed decisions concerning the relationship between the WFP and FAO, as well as a conclusive report on the outcome of the whole process in twelve months time. As a member of the FAO Council, we would appreciate similar reports from the Director-General on the implementation process.

M. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic): First of all, in connection with item 10 which we are discussing at present, I would like to say briefly that my delegation has already given its views on those matters in the CFA Committee.

Turning to item 11, I would like to welcome the conclusions reached, which will lead to an improvement in relations between WFP and FAO. My own concern relates to suggested amendments which have no financial implications, and which the Executive Director should implement as quickly as possible. As to those arrangements which have financial implications, we fully concur with the delegate from Japan, and at the last session of the CFA our Ambassador asked that these proposals be discussed within the framework of the Finance Committee and that a report be submitted to CFA concerning the financial implications contained therein.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation would like to associate itself with the other delegations in congratulating the World Food Programme Executive Director, Mr James Ingram, and his staff, for a job well done and for the achievements of the Programme as documented in its Tenth Report. We fully endorse this Report. The Philippine delegation is pleased to hear that the implementation of decisions taken by the United Nations Secretary-General and the FAO Director-General on the deliberations of the UN/FAO Joint Task Force is proceeding smoothly. This development is indeed very welcome, since it augurs well for cooperation between WFP and FAO. As food aid gains more importance, so does the cooperation between those two organizations also become very important. WFP has gained a lot of experience in meeting emergency situations and using food aid as a developmental tool - but so has FAO, in its 40 years of existence, gained a wealth of expertise in the field of agriculture and rural development. Improved cooperation between the two organizations cannot but contribute to the more efficient use of food aid and redound to the benefit of beneficiaries of the WFP.

C. KAREKEZI (Rwanda): La délégation Rwandaise voudrait tout simplement féliciter le Directeur exécutif du PAM qui a très bien présenté le 10ème rapport annuel du CPA et de la façon dont il a organisé la distribution des aides alimentaires d'urgence en 1984, année au cours de laquelle la sécheresse a affecté plusieurs pays d'Afrique, dont mon pays, le Rwanda.

Tout en appuyant ce rapport, ma délégation voudrait demander au Directeur exécutif de faire un effort supplémentaire pour que les vivres et aides alimentaires arrivent rapidement.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): My delegation would like to commend the Executive Director for the World Food Programme for presenting to this Council a most encouraging report, as reflected "by the wide range of activities and commitments to development projects at record levels. An increase in WFP expenditure could in one way be considered as an indicator of worsening food situation in the world. However, although this might be the case, my delegation views it as an indicator of WFP's increased attention to our world food problems. The record levels of activity and commitment to development projects indeed reflect the magnitude of responsibility, that WFP has, given available resources to execute its programmes.

Part I of the Report has clearly highlighted the 1984 activities and in this connection my delegation admires the way in which the major emergency operations in Africa and other parts of the world have been conducted. My delegation would however like to endorse the following observations which some of the previous delegations have pointed out as being areas requiring further attention when reviewing Food Aid and Policies and Programmes.

First, the content of paragraph 13 should be stressed and translated into action. We consider that projects which provide both emergency relief and food aid in the short term and incentive for increased production to support humanitarian objectives in the longer term, are a lasting solution to our present problems.

We further encourage the WFP to urge donors to increase triangular transactions both as a means of stimulating food production in and trade among developing countries. It is only through this line of action that food security programmes, which most of our countries are trying to launch, will survive.

Recalling what the delegate of Zimbabwe said last week, some of our countries are indeed living in harsh climatic conditions; we are vulnerable to slight changes in weather, and one year of drought is enough to place us in a desperate situation. It is therefore our wish that projects which look into food storage subsidies, over and above agricultural rehabilitation schemes, would go a long way towards ensuring food reserves within the reach of the needy.

Finally, I would like to join the other delegations who have expressed their sincere appreciation to Mr. Ingram, in that happily the relationship between WFP and FAO is once again more cordial.

L. GANSORE (Observateur du Burkina Faso) : Nous voudrions avant tout féliciter le Directeur exécutif et son personnel pour tous les efforts entrepris, aussi bien dans le domaine des secours d'urgence que dans celui des projets de développement.

En ce qui concerne particulièrement le rapport, nous y notons les efforts fournis par le Programme pour répondre à la crise alimentaire en Afrique.

Lors des sessions passées du CPA, Monsieur le Président, mon pays a toujours insisté sur les problèmes de communication et de transport, de l'entreposage et de la manutention des secours alimentaires. Il s'agit là de problèmes qui, faute d'une solution adéquate, nuisent à l'efficacité de l'aide alimentaire. C'est ainsi que nous approuvons les efforts faits par le PAM dans ce domaine et exhortons les pays donateurs à aider le PAM et les pays bénéficiaires à résoudre ces problèmes, particulièrement celui du transport interne.

Nous appuyons le paragraphe 13. relatif à l'intégration de l'aide alimentaire dans les plans de développement et insistons sur l'importance et la nécessité des opérations triangulaires. Nous lançons un appel aux pays donateurs afin qu'ils accordent un peu plus de ressources en espèces sur la base d'un tiers des contributions.

Enfin, nous avons pris note du rapport commun du Secrétaire général de l'ONU et du Directeur général de la FAO sur les relations FAO/PAM et nous nous réjouissons des bonnes perspectives qui s'annoncent car nous avons toujours estimé que les véritables victimes d'une détérioration des relations entre les deux organisations sont les pays à bas revenu et à déficit céréalier.

D. DANG MEKOULA (Observateur du Cameroun) : La délégation du Cameroun a suivi avec un grand intérêt les débats des Membres du Conseil sur ce point de l'ordre du jour qui porte sur le rapport annuel du CPA au Conseil de la FAO.

Après la brillante présentation du Directeur exécutif, nous pensons que ce rapport permet d'avoir une information précise et complète sur la grande dimension que continuent de prendre les interventions du Programme alimentaire mondial dans les domaines spécifiques de la compétence de ce vaste programme d'aide alimentaire que notre Gouvernement considère comme une forme spécifique de financement spécial du système des Nations Unies.

Nous nous félicitons de l'appui que les Membres du Conseil accordent aux activités du PAM dont l'efficacité et l'impact se sont confirmés au cours de ces précédentes années et donc son rôle reste déterminant dans la lutte contre la crise alimentaire que traverse l'Afrique.

Notre Gouvernement partage l'orientation que prennent les interventions du PAM et qui visent tout à la fois à satisfaire les besoins d'urgence et surtout soutenir l'exécution des projets d'accroissement de production agricole et alimentaire à moyen et à long termes. Utilisée à cette fin, l'aide alimentaire devient un investissement.

Ceci pour souligner que le programme de relance de l'agriculture retenu par le Conseil requiert pour sa réalisation des ressources techniques, financières et matérielles, mais également et surtout des ressources humaines dont le niveau d'intervention dans l'exécution des projets et programme devient un élément déterminant.

C'est dans ce sens que le Gouvernement du Cameroun a décidé d'orienter les interventions du PAM pour les axer essentiellement sur le soutien à l'exécution des projets inscrits dans le Plan national de développement. Les principaux secteurs bénéficiaires de cette assistance au Cameroun sont : le développement rural, la foresterie, les infrastructures.

L'efficacité des activités du PAM dans notre pays s'est renforcée au cours de ces dernières années par l'acquisition au niveau local des céréales destinées au Programme régulier du PAM, aux programmes d'urgence d'aide aux populations victimes de la sécheresse dans le Tchad, aux réfugiés de ce même pays au Cameroun, ainsi qu'aux paysans de la zone de l'extrême nord du Cameroun également victimes de la sécheresse.

C'est la concrétisation de la coopération triangulaire évoquée et soutenue ici depuis le début des travaux de cette session du Conseil.

Cette opération d'achat sur place dans les zones excédentaires des denrées au profit des régions déficitaires tant au Cameroun qu'au Tchad, a permis non seulement de décongestionner le port de Douala, mais aussi de réduire les charges de transport, tout en encourageant les zones d'acquisition à accroître leur production.

C'est pourquoi la délégation du Cameroun appuie fermement le renforcement des opérations triangulaires qui permettent de mettre rapidement et à moindres coûts à la disposition des zones affamées, des vivres dont elles ont besoin, un effort particulier devant aussi être fait pour stimuler les économies des pays en développement en faisant appel aux bateaux de leurs armements pour transporter des aides.

Nous avons été heureux de savoir que les relations entre le PAM et la FAO sont maintenant plus sereines.

Cette situation heureuse permettra à chacune des deux Organisations de se consacrer pleinement à leur mission en vue d'accroître l'efficacité de leurs programmes d'assistance dans les pays en voie de développement.

J.C. INGRAM (WFP): I would just like to thank the Members of the Council for their remarks on behalf of the staff of the Programme. Your interest encourages us to continue with the work. I think it is always gratifying to the Secretariat to know the delegations do take such an acute interest in the work of the Secretariat.

There were no real questions as such but I would note that the initiative that the Programme has taken in Africa has been very strongly supported. We will certainly continue our efforts. The need remains and the need must be met. We have noted the great emphasis on triangular transactions, and to the extent that we have the cash resources we will do our very best to ensure that these triangular transactions are increased.

We have also noted the remarks that have been made about the use of shipping from the developing countries. As has been explained in the past, shipping is done on a competitive basis and clearly, since most of the food that is moved comes from developed to developing countries, this is some kind of real constraint on the actual amounts of shipping that go to the developing countries, but we will certainly redouble our efforts to do our very best to increase that share.

In relation to the commitment level for development assistance, I think what we have to do is basically look ahead to 1986. I would very much urge in the spirit of the remarks made by so many delegations this afternoon, for the donor countries to review the extent of their pledge for the remainder of this current biennium, because their pledge of course is the foundation of the commitment level. I would like to make it clear however that donors are actually giving more all



the time to the World Food Programme, but they are actually giving a great deal more, relatively speaking, in support of the crisis in Africa and emergencies generally. That of course I suppose reflects what are the real priorities in the world today. So I would not like to give the impression that somehow we are getting less. Actually we are getting more all the time both for development and emergencies, but the rate of increase in emergencies is much faster than it is for development, and there it is. The same goes for cash; we keep getting more cash too, but again it is not growing as fast as the flow of food being provided to the Programme that both development and emergencies requires. So I would simply ask very much that the donor countries in their natural preoccupation, as we in the WFP are preoccupied, with the crisis in Africa, must nevertheless remember that it is the development programme that is the foundation of what we are all trying to do, namely to get rid of the need for food aid. So I simply ask once again you might review your contributions for this biennium.

I think with those remarks I will finish my observations for today, but once again I would like to thank I think the thirty-three delegations who intervened.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Just a very short note on behalf of the Director-General. I certainly would like to thank all of those Council Members who have intervened to show support for the implementation and action that has been taken as a result of the Joint Report of the Secretary General and the Director-General. Some delegates have mentioned that they would like to see a report from the Director-General at the next Council, and while the Director-General certainly will wish to report to the governing bodies on a regular basis, the next Council I would remind you is a very short Council preparatory to the Conference, but there is a Conference agenda item in the World Food Programme section called Other, and certainly this item could be reported at that particular time. But rest assured the Director-General will report to the governing bodies on a regular basis on this implementation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous en avons fini avec les points 10 et 11 de l'ordre du jour. Il est facile de faire une synthèse de nos discussions, parce qu'il y a une appréciation unanime du dixième rapport du Comité des politiques et programmes d'aide alimentaire du PAM. Il y a eu certaines remarques à propos du principe de priorité mais tout le monde a été d'accord sur la géographie des priorités. On a mis l'accent sur les opérations triangulaires, sur la diversification du panier de l'aide. On a surtout mis l'accent sur un principe fondamental, l'intégration de l'aide alimentaire dans les programmes de développement.

Ensuite, il y a eu des évaluations un peu différentes sur le problème de la liquidité du PAM. Certaines délégations pensent que la liquidité ne pose pas de problème, d'autres délégations pensent le contraire.

Sur le problème des nouvelles mesures qui ont été adoptées sur le thème de la coopération entre le PAM et la FAO, on a exprimé d'une façon unanime l'appréciation pour cette nouvelle phase de coopération efficace entre les deux organismes. Certaines délégations ont demandé un rapport dans les douze mois ou périodique, sur la mise en oeuvre de ces mesures.

Je pense que dans le Comité de rédaction on prendra acte de toutes ces décisions et la rédaction du rapport sur ce point ne devrait pas présenter de difficulté, du moins je l'espère.

7. Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 18-28 March, 1985) (continued)

7. Rapport de la huitième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 18-28 mars, 1985) (suite)

7. Informe del octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, (Roma, 18-28 de marzo de 1985) (continuación)

Le PRESIDENT: Vous vous souvenez qu'on a déjà travaillé sur ce point.

En effet, nous avons concentré nos discussions sur le point du Code de conduite sur les pesticides. Je veux remercier le Conseil, parce que le résultat a été positif. Mais on a laissé de côté certains points qui sont les suivants: rôle des cultures secondaires dans la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaire, transformation des denrées alimentaires et produits agricoles non vivriers, et enfin politique des prix agricoles.

Nous pourrions aborder de front ces trois points.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): I would like to reiterate our thanks to Dr Bommer for his lucid and comprehensive introduction to this item when we were discussing the Code of Conduct.

As participants of the Eighth Session of COAG, we would like to commend the Secretariat for the success of that session which was constructive and marked by singular convergence of views. In all, as Dr Bommer in his introduction and the Summary of Matters brought to the attention of this Council in the first few pages of document CL 87/9 has amply demonstrated, there has been significant forward movement and accomplishment not only on standing items before the COAG but also in important new directions.

We are now increasingly aware of the important work being done by the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Department and the regional UN offices. These have been highlighted by the consistent focus on what the Director-General in his opening statement to the Eightieth session of the Committee on Agriculture identified as three governing approaches.

First, the central issue of how to help more effectively developing countries meet the demand for food not met today, and yet which might increase by over a third over the next decade.

Second, focus on the primary role of small farmers in achieving a permanent solution to hunger and the vital need to help them acquire access to the factors of production and a share in the results.

Finally, the key recommendation that hunger and poverty must not be seen purely as technical issues but as consciousness of the real problem, namely the unjust ineffective economic, social and political structures that distort and constrain the development process.

We fully endorse this umbrella and believe that the Agriculture and Economic and Social Policy Departments have indeed focused on these broad objectives in pursuit of practical lines of action - firstly, promotion of food production through concentration of the programmes in natural resources, crops, livestock research and technology, and through such key policy measures as strengthening of the food information and early warning system, strengthening of capabilities to implement structural reforms required in food and agriculture, including programmes of education and extension of the role of women in food and food production, relieving hunger and malnutrition by focusing continued concern on nutritional aspects.

These priorities have been fully reflected in the implementation of the Programme of Work of 1984/85 and a guiding criterion for the medium and long-term outlook. In endorsing the objectives of the Major Programme 2.1 Agriculture and the selection of strategies, priorities, programme changes in means of action embodied in the proposed Programme of work for 1986/87, we regret that proposed increases in the budget for technological and economic programmes have been kept to the absolute minimum though attracting the highest priorities in terms of overall increases of the FAO proposed budget.

Among the many new initiatives taken at the eighth session we wish in particular to commend the preliminary report submitted by the Director-General on price policies. It is recognized that the subject matter is rife with complexities and cannot be subject to uniform application. Nevertheless we believe that the study to be submitted to the FAO General Conference after further refinement and improvement will constitute a particularly important and useful guide and tool to help governments effectively implement policies adapted to their own indigenous circumstances.

We also believe that the two other selected development issues, namely the role of minor crops in nutrition and food security and processing of food and non-food agricultural products, were of particular relevance and assistance to developing countries such as ourselves and provide grounds for further useful follow-up action.

In conclusion we fully support the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the ninth session and look forward to the discussion of such selected development problems as: dry-land farming systems; the effect of tenure and fragmentation of farm buildings in agricultural development; and requirements and strategies for improved production of roots, tubers and plantains.

We also endorse inclusion under the standing item on food and nutrition discussion of the topic "The Role of Food Quality and Standards in Food Security, Trade and Health".

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): We are glad that the other important part of the last COAG session is finally being taken up. We hope that the two postponements of the agenda item and the late hour will not lead to less interest being given to this subject.

My second remark concerns the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. My delegation had not offered its views on the topic when it had been discussed although we continue

to take great interest in it, considering it as very important. As our position was covered by the EEC representative, we felt that we should refrain from repeating the points and proposals that he has made.

As regards the session of the Committee on Agriculture, I can be very brief on the other part of it. We hold the view that this was a good meeting. From the results that it has brought about we should like to stress just the following: First, the findings on the medium-term and long-term outlook for food and agricultural development. Second, the round of discussions on the important topic of agricultural price policies. We look forward with great interest to the deliberations on this subject at the forthcoming 23rd Conference. Third, the role of the so-called minor crops which are and may be of greater importance for achieving food security if even more use is being made of those traditional local crops. Fourth, the potential impact of better processing and marketing of food and non-food agricultural products, also as an incentive to increase agricultural production and to improve rural infrastructure.

We should like to thank Dr Bommer and Dr Islam as well as their staffs for the good preparation and the backstopping of that session. The activities of these two departments headed by these two directors do cover the largest portion of FAO's activities. We very much hope that COAG will strengthen even further its role as important technical advisors of FAO through the participation and deepened dialogue of competent experts from all over the world.

M. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): First I would like to reiterate my thanks to Dr. Bommer and Professor Islam for this excellent report.

My delegation has already participated in the COAG meeting and we have stated our position concerning the subjects discussed. Therefore we agree on the content of this report, but at the same time would like to make some observations in this connection.

We commend the interest of the Director-General in achieving the maximum benefit out of the field projects, in drawing the relevant lessons and also in the continuous supply of high quality inputs along with the introduction of strict measures for the evaluation of field activities.

Second, we welcome the achievements made in all the fields, including seeds production in developing countries and also the FAO focus on assisting those countries in the production of the improved seeds they require.

Thirdly, we endorse the achievements in the field of animal husbandry and we also welcome the interest in grazing lands, especially in arid and semi-arid lands and also in ensuring the fodder security and also the vaccines production in developing countries.

As regards training, we wish to stress its importance and commend the increase in the training activities and the importance attached to small communities. We have requested an increase in the training activities undertaken by regional offices including the Near East Regional offices.

The Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87 covers the activities of the Organization and we fully agree with the Director-General in strengthening the TCP programmes because these programmes are very important for developing countries. We fully agree with the decrease in administrative costs. We welcome the absolute priority given to the increase in food production, the best use of land and water resources, the supply of basic agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and vaccines and we encourage their production locally.

We agree with the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the secondary crops, and we should attach additional importance to this aspect, especially in developing countries.

We fully agree with saying whereby developing countries should rely on their own efforts and achieve their self-sufficiency and this could be done through agricultural production and the achievement of reasonable growth and to increase their food production at a higher rate than the present one, which is 3 percent.

With a view to the problems of developing countries we have noted the efforts already deployed, but we think that there should be further efforts by the international community, and particularly developed countries and this in order to assist developing countries in improving their agricultural production. This could be done through further funding and assistance to these countries.

In conclusion we would like to commend the trend followed by this Organization in focusing the LDCs and the low-income countries and also the focus on women in the field of agricultural production.

We also commend the approach of the FAO in this connection.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): In my intervention on the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, I have expressed our approval of the report of the eighth session of COAG. Now I would like to say a few words on the pricing of agricultural products.

The pricing of farm products is an important agricultural policy issue which was fully discussed at the Regional Conferences in 1984. We hope that the Secretariat will further improve the report on the price policy of farm produce on the basis of the deliberations at the recent COAG session so that it can exercise its due influence on policy making concerning management of agricultural production of various countries. Today we have more and more clearly realized the profound influence that agricultural policies can exercise on agricultural production. We hope that, as a technical intergovernmental body of FAO to consider agricultural related issues, COAG will continue to devote more efforts to the elaboration of agricultural policies so as to play its advisory role in policies for FAO in drafting its programme of work. This will eventually help Member Nations in evolving and implementing rational principles and policies in agriculture.

G. FRADIN (France): S'agissant des trois points que vous avez soulignés en présentant ce point de l'ordre du jour je ne reviendrai pas sur les déclarations que ma délégation a eu l'occasion de faire lors des travaux du Comité de l'agriculture pour le détail desquelles je renvoie au Secrétariat. Je soulignerais simplement l'un d'entre eux, celui des politiques des prix agricoles, ce qui ne veut pas dire que ma délégation se désintéresse des deux autres et en particulier de celui concernant les cultures dites secondaires.

Au sujet de la politique des prix agricoles je souhaite renouveler nos remerciements au Secrétariat pour avoir engagé cette étude approfondie sur un sujet qui a été trop délaissé. Nous apprécions le fait que si l'on excepte quelques développements un peu extérieurs au sujet cette étude était à la fois précise dans son analyse cohérente, constructive et nuancée dans ses conclusions. Le rapport qui nous est soumis rend bien compte de la richesse du débat du COAG. Il met bien l'accent en particulier sur quelques éléments qui nous paraissent particulièrement importants: la nécessité d'assurer aux producteurs un prix incitatif à la production, la nécessité pour les gouvernements de mettre en place les bases logistiques adéquates et d'adopter les réglementations appropriées pour que ces prix soient effectivement perçus par les producteurs. Enfin l'importance de la coopération entre pays en développement dans ce secteur, notamment par la création de groupements établis sur une base régionale.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours

La séance est levée à 18 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.

## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/15

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**QUINZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE**  
**15ª SESION PLENARIA**  
(26 June 1985)

The Fifteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La quinzième seance plènière est ouverte à 9 h 45, sous la présidence de M. Francisci di Baschi, Vice-President du Conseil

Se abre la 15ª sesión plenaria a las 9.45 horas, bajo la presidencia de M. Francisci di Baschi, 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)
- 7. Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 18-27 March, 1985) (continued)
- 7. Rapport de la huitième session du Comité de l'agriculture (Rome, 18-27 mars, 1985) (suite)
- 7. Informe del octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, (Roma, 18-27 de marzo de 1985) (continuación)

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Monsieur le Président, le Congo, qui a activement pris part aux travaux de la 8ème session du Comité de l'agriculture, se félicite de l'excellent rapport actuellement soumis à notre attention sous la cote CL 87/9 et CL 87/9-Sup. 1. La délégation congolaise réaffirme son appui pour la façon dont le Secrétariat exécute le programme de travail 1984-85 et dont les objectifs majeurs de ce grand programme demeurent l'amélioration des revenus ruraux ainsi que la nutrition, tant en assurant une sécurité des approvisionnements alimentaires qu'un équilibre des échanges.

L'accent mis sur la participation des petits exploitants, des femmes et des jeunes au processus de développement doit être spécialement appuyé par le Conseil et, à cet égard, notre délégation est d'accord pour que le Conseil demande au Directeur général de poursuivre ses Consultations avec le PNUD en vue d'obtenir de celui-ci des ressources accrues pour l'agriculture et d'arriver à limiter au minimum les interventions de son bureau d'exécution, dont la mise en oeuvre des projets ne semble pas combler tous nos vœux, en raison de la composante "Formation" qui doit demeurer une constante des projets agricoles de la FAO. Nous encourageons à cet égard vivement l'intensification des activités de formation pratique entreprises par les bureaux régionaux qui s'adressent à de petits groupes.

Nous demandons également le renforcement des ressources pour encourager les activités liées au développement de la CTPD, qui nous paraît être une forme souvent mieux appropriée de transfert de technologies. L'examen des huit programmes relevant du grand programme montrent que le Secrétariat s'est acquitté d'une excellente manière de leur exécution et nous voudrions l'encourager à poursuivre ses efforts.

Quant aux perspectives à moyen et long terme en matière de développement alimentaire et agricole et son support immédiat, c'est-à-dire le sommaire du Programme de travail et budget sur lequel nous nous sommes déjà prononcés lors de l'examen du point 14 de notre ordre du jour, disons que nous approuvons le choix des stratégies et priorités et souscrivons aux modifications de programmes et de moyens d'action proposés pour ce grand programme, car elles reflètent les préoccupations qui ont déjà été exprimées ici par le Conseil. Au cours de cette session et de la précédente, nous avons déjà eu à nous prononcer sur cette question. Le Secrétariat peut donc compter sur l'appui ferme de notre délégation à ce sujet et surtout l'attention spéciale que le Directeur général continue à accorder à la résolution des problèmes alimentaires et agricoles de l'Afrique.

La volonté qui transparaît pour mieux utiliser les ressources de l'Organisation est un point d'honneur à mettre à l'actif du Secrétariat, sans que nous lui permettions de sacrifier l'efficacité par des réductions trop fortes des dépenses administratives qui restent, selon nous, un support important du grand programme.

Il est clair que les cultures appelées improprement "cultures secondaires" constituent la base alimentaire d'une importante proportion de la population de notre planète. Il n'est donc pas normal qu'elles n'aient pas jusqu'à présent été l'objet de grandes préoccupations. Aussi les efforts actuellement faits par notre Organisation pour revaloriser ces cultures afin de combler le vide longtemps entretenu à leur sujet ne peuvent que recevoir notre appui le plus ferme. Le développement de ces cultures et leur connaissance approfondie contribueront, j'en suis sûr, à renforcer les systèmes nutritionnels socio-économiques de nombre de pays. A cet égard, nous attendons avec intérêt les enquêtes de consommation recommandées par le COAG, car elles permettront d'en tirer des enseignements utiles pour orienter l'action de la FAO.

Nous appuyons donc toutes les mesures préconisées en vue de développer ces cultures par un accroissement des échanges d'information, de données, d'expériences sur leur production, leur transformation et leur conservation, qui à beaucoup d'égards gênent encore considérablement leur développement.

A. ACUNA HUMPHRIES (Panamá): En primer lugar, esta delegación destaca la importancia que realmente tuvo el recién pasado período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura de la FAO, cuyo informe discutimos en esta oportunidad. En segundo lugar, queremos destacar lo relativo al mayor uso posible de los resultados y de las recomendaciones que surgen de los proyectos de campo, así como que estas recomendaciones sean consultadas sistemáticamente.

Por otra parte creemos muy conveniente, en relación con los llamados cultivos secundarios y la relación que éstos tienen con la nutrición y la seguridad alimentaria, que además de atenderse a los aspectos agronómicos, se logren llenar las lagunas informativas que sobre los mismos existen, muy especialmente en aquellos aspectos que tienen que ver con estadísticas de producción y comercio.

Sobre el importante tema de las agroindustrias, que fue tratado en el aspecto de la elaboración de productos agrícolas, alimentarios y no alimentarios, creemos en la necesidad de consolidar siempre más la colaboración entre la FAO y otras organizaciones internacionales como la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial (ONUDI) y que esta colaboración tienda a la búsqueda de soluciones entre la desproporción que existe debido a la apropiación de valor en la fase de comercialización, en desmedro de las fases anteriores, o sea las de agricultura y procesamiento, que objetivamente contribuyen a desincentivar en muchos casos el resultado del desarrollo agroindustrial en nuestros países.

En el pasado período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura se efectuó la segunda ronda de discusión sobre política de precios agrícolas, esperando la delegación de Panamá que la tercera ronda que se efectuará en la próxima Conferencia de la FAO dé por resultado la adopción de una guía básica y útil para nuestros países.

Y finalmente la delegación de Panamá se pronuncia muy de acuerdo en que en el próximo período de sesiones del COAG se examinen los efectos de la tenencia y la fragmentación de las explotaciones agrícolas en el desarrollo rural, así como la determinación de la necesidad y del establecimiento de estrategias para el aumento de la producción de cultivos de raíces y tubérculos, así como de plátanos.

R. MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): Sobre el tema en estudio la delegación de Colombia quiere formular las siguientes precisiones:

En cuanto a los objetivos del programa principal, diseñados en el párrafo 9, la delegación de Colombia los aprueba, dando especial énfasis al mejoramiento de la nutrición, a la participación de los pequeños agricultores, las mujeres y los jóvenes, en el proceso de desarrollo.

La delegación de Colombia reitera al Director General la continuación de sus consultas con el PNUD para lograr que éste aumente los recursos con destino a la agricultura. Comparte con inquietud la observación que durante 1983-84 el programa principal 2.1 Agricultura había apoyado un programa de campo extrapresupuestario por valor de 375 millones de dólares EE.UU. Igualmente anota que estos recursos habían descendido en un 13 por ciento con respecto al nivel de 1980-81, como resultado de la reducción de fondos del programa.

Asimismo, la delegación de mi país destaca la importancia de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, el aumento constante de las actividades de capacitación, en las cuales debe participar mayor número de mujeres, y la mayor atención a los pequeños grupos.

La delegación de Colombia apoya al Comité en las prioridades de los programas que se orientan en dos directrices esenciales: promoción de la producción de alimentos, y aumento de la seguridad alimentaria, y el programa de acción se centraría particularmente en el logro de los resultados a nivel de campo. Coadyuva plenamente al reconocimiento especial de los problemas de África que se expresan en todas las propuestas. Apoya los párrafos 221, 222 y 223 del documento en estudio, y en cuanto al último hace especial énfasis en los "efectos de la tenencia y fragmentación de las explotaciones en el desarrollo agrícola" y comparte también otros temas sugeridos en el Comité, como los servicios de extensión agrícola, o la inclusión de la función de la mujer. Y, por último, la delegación de Colombia quiere enfatizar que los precios agrícolas deben incentivar la producción y deben ser recibidos por el agricultor, y que el diseño de políticas agrícolas racionales tiene innegable importancia en el campo de la agricultura.

H. ZANNETIS (Cyprus): My delegation is in broad agreement with the Committee's conclusions and recommendations. I would like only to highlight certain aspects which, in our view, need particular attention.

We more than welcome the continued increase in training during the period 1984-85, the emphasis on smaller groups and the inclusion of more women in these training activities. We support the reques

' of the Committee for further increases in training activities in the Africa and Near East regions, as put forward in paragraph 14.

We note with concern the decline of 13 percent in the extra-budgetary resources for agriculture as compared to the 1980-81 level, mainly due to the fall in UNDP funding. We support the recommendations of the Committee to the effect that the Director-General be urged to continue his consultations with UNDP in his efforts to increase the resources for agriculture.

In relation to the medium and long-term outlook for food and agricultural development in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87, we agree with the level of long-term goals and strategies for agricultural development, and we endorse the priorities of the eight programmes of major Programme 2.1. We welcome the special recognition of the problems of Africa and the emphasis given in concentrating FAO's resources on the poorer countries and on the smaller farmers in particular. We would expect that this considerable thrust on the part of FAO would be greatly strengthened if developing countries themselves offered the necessary incentives to the small farmers, including credit and marketing facilities to enable them to adopt improved packages of technology. In this connection we agree with the priority to be given to the development of small-scale water irrigation management systems for Africa and other developing countries.

In considering the role of minor crops in nutrition and food security the Committee noted that the nutritional, social and economic and even therapeutic significance of these crops had been underestimated in the past for a number of reasons. The result is that a large number of these crops are becoming less common and facing disappearance. Some species have already disappeared. Therefore, we believe that action is urgently needed and we support the recommendation in paragraph 169 providing accommodation to member governments, and paragraph 170 urging action at national level with the support of FAO and of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

We welcome the conclusions of the Committee related to the importance and role of agro-industries. We believe that for the development of agro-industries government policies are important in providing incentives and links between agricultural production, agro-processing, credit facilities and distribution. We support the recommendation that FAO continues to strengthen its activities in agro-industrial development.

In relation to the study on Agricultural Price Policies we note the conclusions of the Committee and we look forward to the revised study to be presented to the next session of the FAO Conference.

Finally, my delegation wishes to support the Committee's recommendation on the choice of selected development items which could be included in the provisional agenda of the next session of the COAG, as indicated in paragraph 223. They are important items and will enable the Committee to continue its tradition of serious professional as well as political commitment to the problems which affect the food and agricultural sectors of all member countries, but especially of developing countries.

H. REDL (Austria): The Austrian delegation actively participated in the deliberations in the Eighth session of COAG and commented during that meeting in detail on the activities of the Committee. The discussions confirm that the permanent solution to the problem of hunger can only be found in the organization of the future of the poor rural population. Agriculture mainly lies in the hands of small farmers and it is only they who can produce the required food. Adequate food supply and thus political stability can only be achieved if the poorest producers are assisted in finding efficient access to the means of production and gain an equitable share of their yields.

The programme of work submitted to COAG on Agriculture was thoroughly discussed, and we noted with satisfaction that the suggestions will be taken into account in the Programme of Work of FAO for the next biennium. Furthermore, the agricultural industry with its overall economic importance as the link between producer and consumer deserves our special attention. A particular type of problem is undoubtedly that of adequate producer prices as an incentive for increased production and the endeavour to keep food prices low. We are therefore looking forward with interest to the respective consultations during the Twenty-third Conference.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): We commented at length at the meeting of the COAG on the implementation of the current Programme of Work and Budget. Perhaps there is one point which we consider that the Council should particularly endorse that came out of that meeting, and that is the suggestion in paragraph 19 of the body of the report that a quantitative more in-depth assessment of selected areas on the implementation and success of the Programme in making their objectives was needed in future reviews of the COAG. In our view this would assist any future assessment of the relevance and effectiveness of those items reviewed, and ultimately of the Programme as a whole.



Concerning the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, perhaps it would be helpful to remember that in addition to endorsing the selection of strategies, priorities and programmes the Committee on Agriculture provided the endorsements summarized at the beginning of the document with a qualification which appears in paragraph 81, namely, that the Committee's decisions were "without prejudice to the respective priorities of the Member Nations regarding budgetary considerations which were not the object of discussion in COAG".

Concerning The Role of Minor Crops in Nutrition and Food Security, in subsequent considerations of the document and from the nutritional perspective we consider there was much to commend the original COAG document, but also in the Committee's recommendations there is the implicit suggestion that minor crops are a good thing of themselves. The report also includes a proposal that provision be made for powerful incentives for their use. We consider that some care needs to be exercised in what we might call the popularization of minor crops so that scarce research resources are not wasted and precious production resources are not misallocated. This is not a criticism of the potential role of minor crops, but simply a call for a balanced approach to their exploitation.

Concerning the Processing of Food and Non-Food Agricultural Products, I would simply like to draw attention to the links between export subsidies of some food exporters and depressed world food prices which may serve to inhibit the development of processing in other countries.

Concerning Agricultural Price Policies, we think the background paper and the report of COAG present a reasonable treatment of price policies per se. I understand that additional documentation is being prepared for the Conference on that subject. Australia has also been asked to provide information concerning our own experience in this area. I refer in particular to our experience with price underwriting on some commodities. Like the United States of America, we are always more than happy to assist the Secretariat in the supply of information for undertaking analysis of country experience. Clearly, the price policies of developed countries also have a significant bearing in any decisions in this area by developing countries.

Broadly, may I repeat that Australia expressly supports the introduction of the price policies which link domestic prices to world prices, and we consider that the work of FAO will assist in this direction. However, in view of previous comments my delegation has received on this matter, may I quickly note that the world prices I am referring to are true world prices, not prices that result from the current distortion of international agricultural markets, that is, not prices resulting from the market-corrupting prices of some agricultural exporters.

Concerning the proposals for future work we commend the proposed work on Dryland Farming Systems and ask the Secretariat to bear in mind the experience already available in countries such as Australia. In this regard may I say that Australia is very pleased with the recent visit to our country by a senior official of the Agricultural Services Division, although I was somewhat surprised to hear that he was virtually the only officer of that Division to have had that experience. We will be happy to share our expertise in cost efficient dryland farming practices and we think our experience could make a valuable contribution to many developing countries, especially to many parts of Africa.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I hope you will excuse me if I touch on a topic outside of your suggested limit at the beginning of the meeting.

The United Kingdom fully participated in the last meeting of COAG. My Government attaches considerable importance to the work of the Committee on Agriculture. We consider that it provides a very useful opportunity for professional experts from all Member Nations to exchange views with each other and to comment on the programmes of the Organization.

Here I should like to add my support to the statements of other delegations that have drawn particular attention to the need to provide adequate information for the Committee on Agriculture to function effectively. In this respect we would also like to draw attention to the suggestions made in paragraph 19 of the report. In our view the particular role of the Committee in relation to the programmes of FAO can only be adequately fulfilled if the Committee retains its professional nature and delegations of Member States continue to include senior professional staff with experience of both operational activities and policy formulation, a point touched on I believe in earlier references to the provision of tickets.

The Committee can provide an important service to the governing bodies and the Secretariat by focusing our attention on the major issues for the programme and suggesting priorities for action. The reflection of the technical conclusions of the Committee in the programme is an important element in maintaining the quality of FAO's operations.

We consider the debate at the Eighth session of the Committee on the pesticide code, minor crops and pricing policy to have been of particular significance. The delegate of China has already drawn our attention to the importance of pricing policy. In our view the paper on pricing policy and its subsequent consideration in the Committee provided a number of excellent guides to policy formulation in this complicated area, which we hope will be reflected in the work of the Secretariat, particularly in connection with the current study on the problems in Africa.

It is well known that in the view of my Government the current problems in Africa cannot be solved simply by increasing physical inputs, seeds, fertilizers and so on. Pricing policy has a central role to play in increasing production, and the study provides welcome support for the principles concerned in the Harare Declaration for those governments which are introducing appropriate pricing policy.

Again, in the context of the current concern with the situation in Africa, we would draw attention to the comments in paragraph 191(v) of document CL 87/9 on the problems which can be associated with injudicious use of input subsidies. We look forward to considering the revised version of the paper at the Conference.

Finally, we would also like to commend the exchange of views on the role of the so-called minor crops in nutrition and food security. During this debate we have listened with interest to the comments of many delegates on this subject, and we particularly agree with the remarks of the distinguished delegates for Congo and Panama. It is important that we recognize the value of traditional crops, both in terms of nutrition and of their ability to survive under marginal climatic conditions. We consider that in future greater reliance will have to be placed on these crops and it is thus important that we ensure that there are well supported research programmes to develop their potential. With these comments I confirm our support for the adoption of this report.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): Allow me to first make a few general remarks on document CL 87/9. We have read this document with great interest and fully support the objectives of the major programme which were designed to improve rural incomes, levels of nutrition, security of food supplies and the balance of trade.

We consider that the Committee was right to place so much emphasis on the importance of nutrition, food conservation and processing and for urging that small farmers, women and youth should be fully involved in the development process. If the energies of small farmers are properly channelled and if they are supported by providing them with the necessary timely inputs at prices they can afford, and are given extension support, they are capable of not only feeding themselves but their nations as well and can provide the necessary raw materials for agro-industries. To support this statement, in Malawi where over 90 percent of our people live and find employment in agriculture, over 80 percent of our food requirements is produced by the smallholder farmer. In addition, the smallholders contribute significantly to the production of cash crops.

The importance of involving women in nutrition and food conservation must be obvious to all members of the Council for it is said that if you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate the whole family. And, as we all know, the youth are full of energy and if their energies are properly channelled by involving them in agriculture, nutrition and food conservation practices, the youth can be a great asset to any nation. If I had time I would have wished to comment at length on the role of our Organization for youth, which is called the Malawi Young Pioneers; but due to lack of time I shall not touch on this matter.

In view of what I have just said my delegation wishes to join the Committee which reviewed FAO's Programme of Work in the food and agricultural sector in urging the Director-General to continue his consultation with UNDP to increase UNDP resources for agriculture.

Allow me now to make specific comments on some of the paragraphs in the document being discussed. On paragraphs 157 to 160 and 164 to 174: In my country, the staple food item for most of our people is maize, although in some parts of the country, mainly the lakeshore areas, i.e. people living along Lake Malawi and other lakes, cassava, alternated by rice, is the staple food for them. However, with the increased production of maize in the country, even the people in the lakeshore areas are depending more and more on maize which they are now growing in larger quantities than before.

In general, therefore, cassava, sweet potatoes, bananas and other tubers, e.g. Irish potatoes, may be termed "minor crops" in that they do not ordinarily constitute the main diet of our people. However, since some of these food items have a shorter growing period and because if maize, the main staple, failed, for example, due to insufficient precipitation, these so-called minor crops would in that event constitute the people's main diet. For this reason, we call these crops "insurance crops". The Council may wish to consider this as an appropriate name to designate

such food crops. It may be of interest incidentally to the members of the Council to know that in Malawi for most people sweet potatoes, cassava and bananas are usually eaten mainly as snacks but also they constitute a significant part of breakfast. These crops therefore have a significant role to play in both nutrition and food security for our people. Consequently my Government's policy encourages the growing of these crops in large quantities. In point of fact, my Ministry through extension has gone even to the extent of issuing free cuttings and/or seedlings to those who do not have them readily available. My delegation therefore fully endorses the suggested "prescription" contained in paragraphs 164 to 170.

On paragraphs 161 and 162, I wish to say that, in addition, the importance of products from trees, shrubs, wild foliage, mushrooms, pulses and oilseeds as presented in paragraphs 161 and 162 cannot be over-emphasized. In Malawi, some of these crops feature prominently in the Government's agricultural price policy.

May I now turn to agricultural price policies. My delegation considers this topic most important in that the Malawian farmer, particularly the small farmer, is extremely responsive to price incentives. Our experience in this area supports what is eloquently stated in paragraph 191, namely, that: it is essential that agricultural price policy is formulated and applied with close attention to the links which prices have with other aspects of economic policy; secondly, that price measures have to be operated in conjunction with other measures in order to be effective; thirdly, subsidies to reduce the cost to farmers of inputs to production, such as fertilizer, machinery or irrigation water should be used both as an alternative to higher producer prices and to encourage faster adoption of specific inputs. However, I must mention here that the World Bank and IMF appear to be in a hurry to remove them; sometimes they give the impression that price subsidies should be removed even before the small farmer is ready to absorb them. It is important to realise that hurried removal of subsidies on inputs can reduce crop production of a nation and render a nation to become an importer of a commodity of which it once was an exporter. In addition, rushed removal of subsidies can cause political upheavals: recent history in some countries is replete with examples.

My delegation fully supports the last sentence in paragraph 191(iii) which reads: "In order for the pricing policies of developing countries to be effective and for their export products to have freer access to markets it was necessary that all forms of protectionism be reduced and ultimately eliminated."

Regarding paragraph 191(v), my delegation is of the view that when considering producer prices of food crops it is necessary to safeguard in a deliberate way the interests of the domestic consumers in urban areas. It must be conceded that in most developing countries the income of the urban consumer does not often match with price changes particularly since IMF is pressing hard to have the price liberalization policy fully implemented for most commodities.

My delegation considers that what is stated under paragraph 191(vii) - Regional pricing - is correct. However, in our region through SADCC and other bilateral arrangements initiated by our Governments within the SADCC region, these problems are being effectively resolved.

My delegation fully supports the contents of paragraph 191(viii). In view of the importance we attach to this statement, it is the policy of my Government to announce crop prices every September, well before the next growing season, and the farmer has found this practice a useful basis for his decision making on what he will grow and how much.

In view of what I have said before, my delegation is in general agreement with the work programme of FAO on price policies and therefore fully supports the training role of FAO in price policy analysis including its macro-economic aspects. Finally, on processing of food and non-food agricultural products, my delegation would like to endorse the Committee's observations. Agro-industries are of strategic importance in agriculturally based economies. The role it plays in reducing post-harvest losses, especially among perishable products, in substituting imports and ensuring food security cannot be over emphasized. It is with this conviction in mind that I endorse the views expressed in paragraphs 171-186 of this report. May I add here that my country is at the moment engaged in agro-industrial studies. Its findings will definitely sound areas requiring development and it is my hope that donors will support our efforts financially, and I hope that when this report is ready FAO will certainly have a copy of it.

C.A. FERREIRA GUIMARAES (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to endorse the objectives of the 1984-85 Programme as well as the priorities selected to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. We support the strengthening given in the Summary Programme to research training activities and to TCPC and ECDC. It is our view that cooperation within the developing world can be greatly stimulated in such areas as agro-industrial development, agricultural mechanization and manufactured farm production inputs.

With respect, to agro-industry I want to recall that paragraph 184 of the Report presented by document CL 87/9 duly reflects the concern of the Committee with the scarce attention given to Latin America and the Caribbean in this field. At this point the Brazilian delegation would appreciate if the Secretariat could also indicate which measures are envisaged to remedy this situation.

As regards the Livestock Programme, the Brazilian delegation expresses its satisfaction with the activities already developed by FAO and those planned for the next biennium on small farmer support. In this context we mention paragraph 44 of the report by which the Committee endorsed the activities carried out on improved animal production, the work on small animal development, and on the regional networks for the exchange of experience on animal power.

We emphasize the importance we attach to paragraphs 114 and 119 of the report which welcome the emphasis given to small farmers for active support for rural development and to small animals as better suited to small farms. To complement the activities in this field it would be useful and of great interest if the Secretariat were to undertake a study on small and medium animal breeding by small farmers, not only as a source of food to their families but also a commensurate activity.

With respect to minor crops the Brazilian delegation strongly supports the four recommendations in paragraph 169 of the report. On the assessment of the locally produced additional crops, the evaluation of the nutritional value of minor crops as well as the development of appropriate agricultural policies and the processing technology to minor crops, Brazil at present is giving special attention and support to small farmers in order to increase traditional and minor crops for local consumption. The aim of this programme is to recover traditional food habits that have been lost in the last decade due to the relatively assured availability of the imported and sometimes of less nutritional value commodities.

As regards agricultural prices policy, we think that in order to ensure its usefulness the study on the subject should avoid known or have known generalities about price policies, giving the facts, recognizing that in the document COAG/85/8 that agricultural price policy is country specific. It cannot be uniform even for a few countries. This aspect should be taken into due consideration as well as the fact that any formation of individual country policies should be carefully up-dated for this study. On the other hand paragraph 194 of the COAF report deserves our deep support and draws attention to the strongly adverse facts of certain policies of developed countries, and to the small role played by developing countries in determining international marketing prices. The lowering of the world prices of some export commodities and protectionist measures imposed by the developed world are important deterrents to development.

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): We appreciate the activities of the Committee on Agriculture on whose plan of work and choice of topics for the next meeting we have no fundamental comments. We agree to its report as a whole. The results of the Eighth session rightly referred to a paradoxical situation where we can see growth of food reserves on the one hand, and a further increase of food prices and decrease in the amount of agricultural products exported by developing countries on the other hand. This has been unfavourably reflected in the increasing dependence of developing countries on further food aid and in the growing vulnerability of their national economies.

When formulating national price policies, developed countries should take account of their impact on the level and stability of world food prices and on the trade and production in the developing countries. Further, it is necessary to abolish discriminative and protectionist measures in foreign trade and to cooperate with the developing countries in order to improve both national and international price policies.

We also think it necessary to pay attention to methods influencing food production and consumption by means of price policy systems. We have only one little reservation: the part concerning Socialist countries could be a little wider. We hope that the document for the next session of the Conference will be prepared giving them a due proportion with the other political economic systems.

At the Eighth session attention was paid to the situation of small farmers in developing countries. According to our view, countries with insufficient food production need primarily public support for development of productive agricultural sectors. FAO should continue its successful coordination and cooperation with other United Nations organs and organizations with the aim to reach the construction of national food and agriculture assistance plans in developing countries according to FAO's programmes. In that connection we highly appreciate, for example, the Programme for Rehabilitation of Agriculture in the affected African countries which was discussed during the March meeting in FAO.

It is necessary gradually to decrease the indebtedness and the dependence by more effective production and by broadening the access to international markets. And we must continually ensure improvements in the qualifications of specialists, the organization of work and the preparation and implementation of technical and technological projects in agriculture and food production. At the last meeting of the Committee the role of the so-called minor crops in nutrition and food security, particularly in the developing countries, was discussed. We support this proposal regarding the minor crops, because an increase in production and consumption of these biologically valuable crops for which there are good cultivation conditions in some countries, can help to improve the situation of food supplies. The surplus of certain crops could be used for export because some advanced countries are not able to meet fully the demand for these crops by themselves.

In conclusion of my talk let me say that the Seventy-first session of the Executive Committee of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture, which is a regional body, was held in Czechoslovakia at the end of May this year. It discussed some programmes directly related to the work of the

Committee; programmes of cooperation in European agricultural research, issues concerning economic development of less advanced regions, the position of women in the development of rural regions and the like. The organization of the session of the Executive Committee in Czechoslovakia, the special excursions to our farms etc. are factors documenting our active approach to the work of the Committee as a whole and our interest in cooperation. We believe that in all countries, with no exception, great potential for agro-food industries are possible through large-scale agricultural production with purposeful and due respect to the existing conditions, and if developed in a stabilized manner in accordance with the need to cater for technical and other prerequisites. In our view the same applies to the development of the processing sector in developing countries.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (Mexico): Permítaseme referirme a algunos puntos específicos del informe COAG. En relación a la política de precios no coincidimos plenamente con que el estudio correspondiente cumplió con los objetivos deseados, en virtud de que debía estudiar tal política de precios tanto en los países en desarrollo como en los desarrollados, ya que es esta última la que tiene un impacto determinante en el comercio internacional tanto en el corto y largo plazo, y por tanto afecta directa e indirectamente la política de precios en los países en desarrollo. La carencia de tal estudio sobre los países industrializados es una limitante de fondo del documento correspondiente.

Asimismo, el hecho de que la mayor parte de la producción y comercio internacional de alimentos de los países en desarrollo es controlada por unas cuantas empresas transnacionales establece un factor oligopólico sobre la determinación de precios internacionales y nacionales que tiene que estudiarse a fin de sacar conclusiones útiles. Destaco en este sentido el párrafo 173.

Llamamos la atención sobre el hecho de que el orden económico internacional prevaleciente afecta de manera determinante las opciones de políticas internas de nuestros países e impone condiciones negativas a nuestro desarrollo agrícola tales como la orientación indeseable de la estructura de cultivo, la adopción de tecnología y la importación de insumos caros y poco apropiados a nuestras condiciones y a un desarrollo equilibrado y menos dependiente. También se inducen cambios en la producción, la comercialización, distribución, disponibilidad y patrones de consumo en nuestros países que, en buena parte, explican que de ser exportadores de alimentos muchos hayamos pasado a ser importadores netos.

Así, factores y agentes externos que influyen en los precios internacionales y actúan en nuestro desarrollo agrícola y alimentario ejercen una influencia determinante en las condiciones en las que las políticas de precios de países en desarrollo se deben desenvolver. Reiteramos nuestro interés en que se estudie la influencia de la ayuda internacional alimentaria y agrícola de todo tipo sobre los precios internos efectivos de nuestros países.

Subrayamos los esfuerzos que nuestra región de América Latina realiza a través del SELA y el CASAR en la estabilización de los precios internacionales y destacamos la importancia de sistemas de compensación o de trueque que superen los inconvenientes de falta de divisas.

Volvemos a alertar a la comunidad internacional sobre los negativos efectos que las medidas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados tienen en contra de los precios de nuestros productos agrícolas y la reducción del valor de nuestras exportaciones. Subrayamos la trascendencia de acuerdos internacionales de productos básicos y del nuevo Acuerdo Internacional del Trigo con cláusulas económicas.

Desearíamos también que el estudio abundara en la conveniencia de reservas estabilizadoras y de criterios de regulación y abasto y en buscar un equilibrio más adecuado entre el incremento de los precios de garantía y la subvención a los insumos así como prevenir el contexto de crisis económica de largo plazo.

Sobre los mal llamados cereales secundarios, párrafo 30, queremos coincidir plenamente con lo dicho por otras delegaciones en el tema relativo a la situación alimentaria mundial sobre la importancia y función histórica, geográfica, social y económica de estos cereales que son alimentos básicos, y advertir cómo su papel se ha visto gravemente afectado por un tipo de desarrollo y condicionante internacionales que efectivamente han convertido a estos cereales primarios y fundamentales para nuestra producción y alimentación, en cereales secundarios. Coincidimos con programas de difusión que rescaten su importancia y con que se recomiende a los gobiernos de países en desarrollo a estudiar e instrumentar su impulso así como el de legumbres, hortalizas, frutas y productos pesqueros.

Finalmente quisiera destacar el apoyo de mi delegación al párrafo 98 que recuerda los resultados de la primera reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y sugerir tener en cuenta sus recomendaciones, y a los párrafos 72 y 148 que se refieren a la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo.

J. MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): We are entirely in agreement with the discovery that the so-called minor crops, defined to include the coarse grains, fruits and vegetables, legumes, nuts, oilseeds, wild foliage and so on, are of very great value from many points of view, such as: their outstanding nutritional value; the agronomic value in many of them being hardy and drought-resistant; their enriching the soil through nitrogen fixation, as in the case of the legumes; their conveniently fitting into gaps in the annual crop cycle; their role in filling serious seasonal gaps in small farmers' nutritional levels; their particular importance for women and children; their income-generating potential through their own marketability and the marketability of their by-products, and for all these reasons, their significant contribution to food security and human nutrition in all parts of the world.

In the recent session of the Committee on Agriculture when this item was discussed, our delegation had expressed the view that the document on the subject, COAG/85/6, while apparently overstating the case for minor crops, had in fact really understated the case. For example, in respect of the nutritional value of the minor crops, in our view there was an understatement in at least two respects. First, the document does not bring out with full enough force the vast range of nutrients of all types, major, minor and micro, which are present in the minor crops. The minor crops are in fact nature's great storehouse of not only the nutrients specifically mentioned in the document, but a host of others: all the minerals from phosphorus and potassium, to zinc, iodine and molybdenum, a range of vitamins from A to virtually Z; the sugars, the proteins, the fats, and all these in forms that are the most natural and acceptable to the human body - without, or with very little, of the toxic and waste-disposal problems associated with other food substances such as animal food.

Secondly, the document had understated the therapeutic, curative and medicinal value of these crops in maintaining health and preventing disease, as well as actually curing ailments once they have taken hold. To mention a few examples, the garlic has been called the common man's ginseng; its prevention and cure of high blood pressure is only one of its many effects. The humble cabbage is a known cure for gastric ulcers. The raw juice of alfalfa can help promote hair growth in some forms of baldness of the head, while raw potato juice works miracles with ladies' complexions.

In short, the full importance of minor crops may be even more than what is admirably brought out in the document now being recommended to the Council. No wonder therefore that the wisest people on earth, the great philosophers of both East and West, had a diet of mostly what are now called minor crops. Not only that, the strongest people on earth, physically the strongest, have similarly thrived on such a diet. Tarzan himself, the first Tarzan of the movies of the 1940s, the German actor Johnny Weissmuller, before joining the movies won his six swimming gold medals in the 1936 Olympics while he was a vegetarian. Similarly, other great athletes - the world champion Japanese wrestler, Inoki; the Australian Olympic track stars, John Landy and Herb Elliot - all won their medals and broke world records on a diet of only fruits, vegetables, nuts and so on.

It is perhaps true that man, through evolutionary design, is basically a fruit and vegetable eating animal, having been a gatherer of fruits and foliage for much longer than being a cultivator and hunter. Let us look at our nearest cousins, the gorillas and the apes - they eat only fruit. The basic design of the human body (for example, the length of the alimentary canal, the structure of the teeth, the waste disposal system) is that of a fruit and vegetable eating animal. The minor crops fit admirably into this design.

It is therefore unfortunate that as a result of past neglect and bias against them, these have come to be regarded as minor crops, both in name and in substance. It is not that the neglect is because they are in any way really minor or negligible. Rather, the causation is the other way round, namely that they have come to be regarded as minor and negligible because they have been neglected. The neglect and bias may in turn be the result of a combination of factors, important among which may be distorted eating habits, plain ignorance, and a sham sort of modernity induced by commercial interests.

Therefore we would agree that there is a need to rehabilitate the image of the minor crops through a sort of promotional campaign, but what may be needed is not only a campaign directed towards consumers, as is suggested in paragraph 168 of the document, but even towards people such as doctors and agricultural planners and managers, whose often surprising lack of awareness can have a specially pernicious effect on the policies of government and the habits and tastes of society. The power of the mass media, especially of television in the Third World, has not been fully exploited in such promotional campaigns. In the field of nutrition this medium, television, continues to play a negative role through commercial advertisements with their unbridled freedom to mislead.

In the promotional campaigns FAO could also play a role through, for example, the variety of film-strips that it produces, which could effectively be shown in educational institutions etc. around the world. One may ask whether FAO considers it a good idea to produce appropriate filmstrips for this purpose. The existing published list of FAO filmstrips contains some, but not many, such filmstrips. For example, there is a useful-looking strip on "Promoting Consumption of Nutritious Foods" which explains the role of promotion campaigns and demonstrates the problems and processes of conducting promotional campaigns. Then there are three or four other filmstrips on particularly vegetables. The potato, the tomato and the artichoke have been given pride of place. But precious little or nothing else seems to be available on other minor crops. FAO may therefore perhaps like to look into the possibilities in this respect. However, viewing the overall problem as a whole, given the power of ingrained habits and of vested interest, something more than an educational type of promotional campaign may be needed. A more strongly interventionist approach on the part of governments may be called for: (1) in coming down heavily against misleading advertising; (2) in discouraging, even perhaps prohibiting, certain items of production and consumption; and (3) in the proper processing and milling of food items so as not to rob them of their nutritive value, and so on.

For promoting the minor crops we would like to agree that the Council should support the suggestion of the Committee on Agriculture that member governments should, with the support of FAO and other international agencies, actively pursue a number of measures, such as: identification of minor crops with potential for development; improvement of the statistical measurement of the crops with a view to filling up the information gaps surrounding them; reorientation of national and international research so as to focus more on the minor crops; development of processing technologies, especially with the aim of developing convenient foods based on the minor crops for the urban market; provision of incentives such as price support, credit facilities and inputs like quality seeds etc. for the minor crops; and the development of transport, storage and marketing facilities for such crops.

Finally, we also consider it particularly of great social importance as a basis for the formulation of truly people-oriented policies, that governments acquire the knowledge, as referred to at page 5 of the COAG document, about what the very poorest of people in their countries eat and what methods they have to employ in order to provide themselves with something to eat. One may venture to assume that not many governments have perhaps succeeded in acquiring such knowledge so far. One suspects that if such knowledge were acquired it may be discovered that, among other things, browsing, begging, and outright theft, of minor crops are the not so uncommon means whereby the poor in many countries actually endeavour to stay alive.

Coming to the next topic, price policies, we would welcome FAO's study on Agricultural Price Policies, a summarized interim report of which was submitted to COAG at its last session as document COAG/85/8, and the final draft of which is proposed to be submitted to the next FAO Conference. We consider this study timely and appropriate. We find the report comprehensive in scope, sophisticated in its analysis and techniques, and balanced in its approach to the various issues.

However, we note that at the interim stage the report has been unable to cover all aspects that were originally intended to be covered. Excluded were the gathering of facts on existing price policies in respect of the extent of price bias against agriculture; and also excluded is the gaining of more understanding of different kinds of price policy instruments and interventions used. It is hoped that when the full report is submitted to the Conference these aspects will also have been covered.

Regarding the report as it stands, we are happy to note that the report comes to the sensible conclusion that issues have to be considered in a country-specific context and all implications have to be examined in country-specific situations. The paper also comes to the moderate position that

price policy can and should play a role but that it is not an end-all and be-all. Given the magnitude of the observed Aggregate Supply Responses to Prices, a middle-of-the-road conclusion of this sort was reached, that price policies should be used but with other measures, such as infrastructure development, technology development, research development for stimulating production, and crop insurance, development of future markets etc. for achieving security for farmers.

Similarly, a middle-of-the-road position is adopted with respect to the criteria of factors on which the prices ought to be based. Among the three criteria are cost of production, agricultural terms of trade and international prices. The report comes to the cautious conclusion that no single use of any of these factors is called for but there should be multiple criteria incorporating all these various factors.

It is our view that, in the given circumstances, both in respect of the objective conditions, social and economic, prevailing both internally and internationally in the countries of the world, and given the state of the art as far as the theory and practice of price policies are concerned, there seems to be no option but to adopt a middle and cautious position like the one adopted in the report. Any other position, either on this side or that side of the middle, runs the greater risk of being in error. There are too many unknowns and also too many opposing considerations.

We also see from the report that price policies have a multiplicity of objectives, often conflicting objectives, as stated in paragraph 191 (i) and also has to take account of a multiplicity of criteria in fixing the levels of support prices. Given this multiplicity of objectives and criteria which, however, cannot be balanced against each other in any objective, quantitative manner, the exercise of pricing policy becomes an exercise in the art of the possible, and exercise in judgement. This situation is reflected in the exercise of our own pricing policies in Pakistan. The objectives of our agricultural pricing policies are: (a) to provide incentives to the producers to raise productivity and production by adopting improved technology; (b) to avoid waste in the use of inputs and ensure rational use of land, water and other production resources; and (c) to develop production and cropping patterns in line with national requirements.

As regards the determination of these support price levels, our Agricultural Price Commission in Pakistan reviews the cost of production of the various crops and changes therein as a result of changes in factor input prices, the stock position of the commodity, the purchasing power of the farmers, parity between input and output prices, the world supply and demand situations, the possibilities of exports, and the prices prevailing in neighbouring countries. The Commission also takes into consideration the impact of support prices on the cost of living and other sectors of the economy. The final decision on the level of support prices reflects the judgment of the Commission, depending on the analysis of available relevant factors, as it is not possible to assign any specific weight to the abovementioned parameters.

Next, I would like to mention one of the disturbing aspects of pricing policies which is referred to in the interim document but which perhaps needs to be brought out more elaborately in the final report. This concerns the question of equity and the possible regressive distributional effect of a pricing policy. Landless labourers, a large and growing category at the very bottom of the social and economic ladder, can suffer a drop in real income when the level of support is raised on producer prices.

As is stated in paragraph 120" of the report, it is generally difficult to assess and measure the ultimate distributional effects. Paragraph 129 of the interim report listed three apparently necessary conditions for a price policy aiming at higher production not to clash with equity. More often than not, these conditions are not likely to be met in practice in most developing countries. Therefore, the document would do a great service in boldly bringing out these distributional effects of pricing policy.

We agree with the suggestion in paragraph 197 of the document for the inclusion of eight specific considerations for inclusion in the final report. We would especially like to emphasize the first of these, regarding deeper analysis of the effect that the pricing policies of the developed countries have on the developing countries. We would also like to emphasize the sixth of these which calls for further analysis of income distribution effects on pricing policies including their impact on small farmers. With these views, we recommend that the final report be completed and submitted to the FAO Conference. Regarding the processing of food and non-food agricultural products, we would like to endorse the strategies and policies presented in document CL 87/9. We would like FAO to strengthen its activities in agro-industrial development. The aim of these activities is to help in reducing the dependence of the developing countries, and the rural areas within those developing countries. This they can do by substituting for imports and for ensuring food security, as pointed out in the document, by means, for example, of the composite flour programme curtailing heavy dependence on wheat imports; by the development and marketing and processing of food and non-food products to reduce the dominant role of transnational governments



in the field at present through the development of packaging materials as referred to in paragraph 179, and so on. In this context we would like to stress the role of ECDC and TCDC at regional level. With these words we support the efforts of FAO on agro-industrial development, and endorse the strategies and policies presented in the document.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le délégué du Pakistan qui a lancé d'une façon très efficace cette campagne de promotion pour les produits qu'on appelle "secondaires". Je le remercie aussi de ses conseils. Je pense que la FAO pourra développer cette campagne. Pour ma part, je suis absolument convaincu des qualités des produits que l'on appelle "secondaires".

R.C. GUPTA (India): At the outset, I would like to point out that the document under consideration, CL 87/9, is not a Secretariat paper. It is a report of an FAO Committee with a universal membership, so while making comments on this report we must keep in mind that this is the result of our own efforts. Incidentally, my delegation participated in this meeting and we were also members of the Drafting Committee. We fully endorse and support this particular report, and would strongly recommend its adoption by the Council. In accordance with your instructions, Mr Chairman, we will confine our comments to only three aspects of this report namely, minor crops, processing of food and non-food items of agricultural origin, and pricing policies.

With regard to the role of minor crops, after our distinguished colleague from Pakistan has recounted at length the beneficial effects of minor crops in alleviating nutritional distress, in contributing to income generation in rural areas, and particularly assisting small farmers, I would like only to underscore a few points. In our experience, these crops, particularly pulses and legumes which are an important food item in our situation - these crops are highly susceptible to hosts of diseases and pests, perhaps more so than the normal cereal crops like wheat and rice.

Secondly, where there have been breakthroughs in finding high-yielding varieties of rice and other major cereals, a lot of research effort has to go into finding suitable varieties of these crops which can withstand moisture stress, are resistant to disease and pests and yet have high yielding properties. We would particularly like to highlight this aspect. This is mentioned in the report among the recommendations made by the Committee on Agriculture, particularly in paragraph 164, which more or less outlines future work in this area. Sub-item (iii) speaks of "review of agricultural research priorities at national level within the context of food and nutrition strategies".

Paragraph 165 goes on to say that while certain international institutions and centres such as the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), UTA, and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) have done useful work in this area "but on the whole the re-orientation of agricultural research centres towards minor crops had been too recent and too limited". We would strongly add that in any future consideration of the role of minor crops, these aspects have to be stressed. We have to find appropriate varieties and suitable agricultural practices to ensure that production of these important crops increases.

With regard to the processing of food and non-food items we would underline two aspects. Firstly the institutional framework for encouraging food and non-food processing industries. In this respect need of credit and of the institutional structure, both for manufacturing and marketing, are very important. In our experience, we have found cooperatives to be an effective medium both in terms of having the benefit of value-added prices passing to the producers themselves and also as an efficient means of promoting the processing of agricultural produce.

In the COAG, we invited attention to another important area, the packaging of processed foods. We find that either the packaging material is derived from imported raw materials, or indigenously it is mostly based on forest products. While we are taking great care of one aspect of agricultural development, that is, to stop food waste and to give income to the farmers, in processing food and non-food items we would be at the same time causing incalculable harm to another aspect, which would erode the very base of agriculture - the forest. So if the packaging is not to come from forest resources, if this resource is to be conserved and saved, we will have to pay greater attention to the packaging aspects of processed foods.

On the third item, Agricultural Price Policies, as we also stated in the COAG, this is an extremely valuable document and would be of great assistance to developing countries in formulating proper pricing policies. It clearly brings out the factors which have to be taken consideration and the informed political judgment which has to be applied when various parameters are known. In paragraph 197 the Committee emphasizes certain aspects of this study which the Committee would have liked to have been studied in greater detail. We are sanguine that when the complete report on this aspect is presented, the various points will be kept in mind. Particularly in paragraph 197, some

of these aspects have been specified. The first is "deeper analysis of the bearing of developed country policies on developing country prices and price policy options,...". This is a very important subject.

Another subject we would emphasize is "additional analysis of experience with input subsidies, including their use for disadvantaged areas", and lastly, it is necessary to have more empirical evidence of responses to price changes, including analysis of the effect of removal of price incentives. On this subject, the document mentioned that a 10 percent increase in a certain area has the effect of increasing production by 5 percent, but there is the reverse argument that if prices do come down there is a harmful effect on production. More evidence should be gathered on this subject.

Lastly, while discussing other matters, the Committee emphasized certain areas for further analysis and study. We would like to underscore the importance of dry-land farming systems both for agricultural production in general, and particularly in the context of minor crops which, in our situation, are mainly produced on marginal land. With these brief comments, we strongly support this report and urge its adoption by Council.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I shall touch only one of the many items taken up by the Eighth session of the Committee on Agriculture, which I had the honour to Chair. My delegation gives this report its full support.

The item I should like to refer to is the specific aspect of agricultural price policies, the pricing policy for agricultural inputs required by food production, particularly fertilizers. It is universally recognized that fertilizers play an important role in increasing agriculture and food production in the developing countries, especially when used with the high-yield varieties. FAO estimates that over 50 percent of the increase in cereal crop production yields in developing countries since 1965 can be ascribed to fertilizers. There is still a great potential for increasing fertilizer use and accelerating production growth in developing countries.

However, if fertilizers are to play a role in realizing crop production increase, certain conditions have to be taken into account. One is the so-called price/crop ratio. As many delegations have already noted, farmers are indeed responsive to pricing policies. They are ready to apply fertilizers if the value cost ratio is favourable. We should not underestimate the farmer. He estimates the value of the crop increase resulting from the fertilizer applied. He estimates the value of that crop increase due to the application of fertilizers and compares it to the value of the fertilizer applied. This relationship is the so-called value/crop ratio. If the value/crop ratio is favourable, the farmer can be induced to use fertilizer. A value/crop ratio of less than 2 is not recommended by technicians; that is, if the value of the increase due to fertilizer applied is less than double the cost of fertilizer, then the farmer is in danger of losing money if something goes wrong such as the weather.

With the introduction of high-yielding varieties in the 1970s the Philippines increased its rice production and was able to induce the farmers to use increasing amount of fertilizer. From being a rice importer it has become a marginal exporter of rice. Recently an exogenous factor has come onto the scene. The Philippine peso was devalued in relation to the U.S. dollar by 240 percent. Since about 90 percent of the fertilizer is imported, the cost of fertilizer should go up by 240 percent. Since internal wages have not gone up by that amount, the price of rice cannot be adjusted by 240 percent. Therefore, the farmer is caught between the low price of his produce and the high price of inputs and, therefore, he has no longer any incentive to use the fertilizer. Unless a favourable value/crop ratio is restored the farmer will be using less and less fertilizer. Since the devaluation we have become again an importer of rice.

Since we know the problem, it would have been possible for us to make adjustments in our price policies either by adjusting the price of the input or by adjusting the price of the output. However, we are not entirely free to do so; we are prevented from doing so by some multilateral lending agency. As part of the loan scheduling package the removal of subsidies for fertilizer has been placed as a condition, and the result is the continuation of the present anomalous situation.

I believe that many other countries are in the same situation as the Philippines. The Philippine delegation in an earlier intervention requested a study of an alternative production system requiring less high-cost fertilizer input, as voiced by our Ambassador. We know that many such alternatives are still in the experimental stage such as Azolla, and the supply of organic fertilizer is not always readily available.

I understand that it is the intention that the Agricultural Price Policy Study is going to be submitted to the Conference. I was wondering whether in the submission of this study of agricultural price policies this aspect of the agricultural pricing policy, that is, the price of agricultural inputs, would be further studied and expanded before it is submitted to the Conference. I believe

that a country has either to choose to subsidize the inputs or to import food. I believe that many will agree with me that the first alternative will be the less costly one and probably the most conducive to greater security to food supplies. I believe that many other delegations would support this view as the more rational policy. This is probably not very clear to some multilateral lending agencies or perhaps their priorities may not necessarily coincide with those of developing countries.

Sra.M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Simplemente pido la palabra porque quiero manifestar expresamente mi apoyo a este documento y poner de manifiesto mi complacencia porque en él se hayan dedicado algunas páginas especialmente a los asuntos de los cultivos secundarios, aunque si bien desearía dedicar especial interés en dos puntos que contempla el informe. Uno es el relativo al desarrollo rural y a la atención que debe merecer en ese proceso de desarrollo de la mujer. La educación de la mujer, no es necesario decirlo aquí, es un elemento fundamental para el proceso de desarrollo de las áreas rurales puesto que es ella la que realmente lleva la responsabilidad de todas las tareas importantes como son el mantenimiento del hogar, la educación de los niños y en buena parte más del 50 por ciento de la carga de trabajo como factor de producción; pero esto lo viene haciendo la mujer en las áreas que llamamos atrasadas, muy justamente, y que otros llaman países subdesarrollados. Este trabajo, repito, la hace de una manera empírica, siguiendo simplemente la tradición de sus abuelas, de sus generaciones anteriores, mientras ellas van enfrentándose a situaciones cada vez más nuevas en donde no pueden prepararse por sí mismas para hacer frente a las necesidades que tienen que ver en la educación de los niños, con los problemas de la formación y con los problemas de la condición del hogar y, al mismo tiempo, trabajar.

Por estas razones pienso que un programa de capacitación para la mujer, entre otros programas de la FAO que caen dentro de su campo específicamente, pudiera ocupar un poco más la atención de la FAO, cuando se trata de la ayuda en el caso de la seguridad alimentaria o en el caso del mejoramiento agrícola, porque en esos casos la mujer es factor decisivo, factor importante y en mejores condiciones ella estaría también en posibilidad de prestar su apoyo y de ayudar a ese desarrollo. Quisiera decir que el desarrollo rural puede ser equivalente al desarrollo de la mujer, sin ella que es factor importante en esas áreas, el desarrollo rural estaría un poco fallido si no la tomamos en cuenta.

El segundo punto, y que ya parece una cantinela en mis intervenciones, se refiere a los cultivos secundarios. Los mal llamados cultivos secundarios, pero que son cultivos muy importantes aunque sigamos llamándolos secundarios y que, igualmente, les damos una categoría de cultivos menores. Yo desearía que de alguna manera en algunos proyectos de la FAO, que ya no serían trabajos de campo, se buscara la forma que expresara mejor el concepto de los llamados cultivos secundarios. Ojalá que este rapport que ha tomado este asunto dándole una importancia bastante relevante, en comparación con el anterior, pudiera dejar planteada para ustedes una petición o una propuesta para que la FAO pase de inmediato de las palabras a los hechos en relación con estos cultivos secundarios. Ya el delegado de Pakistán • apuntó, y nos complació escucharlo, en todas las bondades de estos cultivos. Nosotros somos testigos, ya que venimos de una región de las mal llamadas regiones tropicales, que son intertropicales o ecuatoriales, de que muchos productos que hoy están descubriendo el hombre de las zonas templadas, lo consideran ahora muy importantes.

Permítaseme, que yo traiga ahora una anécdota interesante. Cuando yo estudiaba en Boston, hace unos cuantos años, una amiga me decía que cuando fuera a Jamaica tendría miedo de comer papaya, ya que se creía que era una fruta que hacía daño y no era conveniente para la salud de las personas. No hace apenas una semana tuve el placer de escuchar de nuestro Director General Adjunto, el Sr. West, que la papaya era una de sus frutas preferidas. Esta fruta ha recorrido un largo camino, del menosprecio en que lo tenía esta señora bostoniana desde hace unos treinta años atrás, al presente en que se aprecia, como lo apreciamos nosotros, quienes somos nativos de los países de la papaya.

Por esa razón, digo, es un poco la ignorancia, el desconocimiento de las bondades de los productos, de las bondades de estos frutos el que hace que el prejuicio de los hombres de las zonas templadas que en fin de fin, han sido los que van imponiendo los productos en los mercados, pues van reconociendo las virtudes de estos productos o de estos cultivos y los van poniendo de moda e inmediatamente sube el precio, la estimación, el consumo y se mejora la economía de aquellos países atrasados, perdónenme esta parte anecdótica de mi intervención, pero soy maestra antes que nada y me parece que es útil decir estas cosas para que ustedes lo asocien con otros ejemplos.

Quiero manifestar mi apoyo total a este rapport que considero no solamente extraordinario, sino muy ajustado a la realidad y con ello doy las gracias al señor Presidente por haberme dado esta oportunidad.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est moi qui vous remercie Madame l'Ambassadeur, vous avez fait une déclaration très intéressante.

R.D. KAUZLABICH (United States of America): I want to join with many of the other speakers who have expressed their support for the important global price policy study that FAO is undertaking. Obviously, we look forward, as they do, to reviewing the revised version before the Conference so that we can thoroughly comprehend and discuss this at the Conference itself. I would like to make a couple of observations on that because we have heard a number of delegates who have emphasized certain aspects of that price study, and I think there are others that need to be emphasized as well.

Obviously, the policies of developing countries are important in that, but we would like to stress in the context of this study that issues that are of concern to us include the importance of minimizing government intervention and allowing market forces to operate and the need for developing countries to implement price policies that are producer-oriented rather than consumer-oriented. The price study ought to address the adverse effects of over-valued exchange rates, and there ought to be some sort of general preference for output prices rather than input subsidies. And, finally, that price policy is only one of a number of complementary agricultural policies that it should take into account.

J. GAZZO F. D. (Observador de Perú): Yo me quiero felicitar por el excelente documento que tenemos a la vista y que fue elaborado en el COAG, en la última reunión que fue dignamente presidida por el representante de Filipinas. Hay tres puntos que me interesan en forma primordial: el primero, el concordante con todas las delegaciones y especialmente con la de Venezuela en la palabra de "cultivos secundarios". Se me ha dicho que es una tradición de FAO llamarles "cultivos secundarios", pues es una mala tradición, así que habría que cambiarla porque en América antes de que llegaran los españoles ni se conocía el trigo, o sea que había otros cultivos primarios para ese continente que después fue occidentalizado con un cultivo de clima templado no obstante de que la mayoría de los países en vías de desarrollo están entre el Trópico de Cáncer y el de Capricornio, o sea son apropiados para los cultivos de clima tropical o subtropical. De manera que eso de "cultivos secundarios" implica una especie de nombre paliativo porque yo, país donante, primero apoyo los cultivos primarios y después los secundarios, así que también nos ponen en una situación desventajosa con el nombre de secundarios.

Además se debe tener en cuenta que en una época estos cultivos fueron los primarios en algunos continentes; por consiguiente, yo podría poner la identificación de "cultivos autóctonos"; además no basta con identificarlos, sino que hay que redomesticarlos porque muchos de estos cultivos fueron abandonados y apenas se encuentran pocas plantas; habría que coleccionar semillas y propagarlas, estudiar sus hábitos agrícolas, o sea, redomesticarlos.

Yo pensaría que el nombre de secundarios aunque sea tradición es una mala tradición, porque para los países en desarrollo nos interesan los cultivos cuya ecología, como bien lo dijo la Embajadora de Venezuela, es apropiada para su producción. No tenemos áreas de trigo, no tenemos áreas canadienses donde se pueden sembrar extensivamente cultivos de trigo, no queremos producir trigo a un precio mayor porque entonces, sencillamente, nos hacemos el harakiri; producimos trigo a mayor precio del mercado internacional y esos terrenos son apropiados para otros cultivos, y con el trigo casi se hace economía de escala. Son grandes países con grandes áreas los que pueden producir a un costo unitario menor, de manera que yo recomendaría que comencemos a pensar por cambiar el nombre "secundario" porque no es un nombre que nos conviene a los usuarios, digamos a los países en vías de desarrollo.

Sobre el segundo punto, la política de precios, nos interesaría conocer más a fondo la política de precios de los países desarrollados porque nosotros no pensamos que la política de precios sea un fair play; hay muchas empresas transnacionales que imponen a través de ofertas y demandas la política de precios y digamos que nosotros no podemos proyectarnos al futuro, y es el caso de la caña de azúcar. Hace apenas 15 ó 20 años que en Perú se renovó toda la maquinaria para explotar la caña de azúcar; gran parte de nuestra deuda externa es debida a la renovación del equipo y ¿qué pasó?, los países desarrollados nos están desalojando de las áreas de la caña de azúcar. ¿Por qué? porque están obteniendo fructosa y dulcificantes a base de cultivos de clima templado; ahora se obtiene azúcar del maíz, se obtiene azúcar del sorgo y sencillamente los costos de producción han bajado a tal punto que todo el gasto que hicimos en implantar y modernizar nuestras fábricas a cinco centavos de dólar la libra no tiene razón de ser. Por eso es que hay una gran concatenación entre la política de precios y de producción de los países desarrollados con la nuestra, y si. no tenemos ese dato no podemos proyectarnos en forma apropiada.

Finalmente, respecto a los fertilizantes yo diría que en mi país hemos tenido una gran experiencia; hemos tratado de hacer subvenciones al consumidor, al productor, al intermediario, pero hemos encontrado que la subvención que mejor ha trabajado es cubrir el flete interno, o sea que la unidad de nitrógeno, de fósforo y de potasio cueste lo mismo en cualquier punto de la República. Muchas veces en Perú el costo del transporte era el 30 y el 40 por ciento del valor del fertilizante; entonces el agricultor que estaba a 500 kilómetros del centro del consumo no podía competir con el agricultor que estaba cerca y que usaba el mismo fertilizante, y se ha hecho un balance y se ha hecho que los costos de producción sean más o menos uniformes en relación al fertilizante.

Como es un insumo de gran valor multiplicativo, puesto que en menos de un año de un período vegetativo se obtiene la respuesta, hay que darle mayor importancia que al trabajo genético, sobre todo para puntos de emergencia, cuando necesitamos dar un salto.

Pero también hay que tener cuidado, hay que zonificar; la mayoría de nuestros países en desarrollo tenemos zonas de muy poco riesgo, o sea, zonas donde se pueden usar altas fórmulas de fertilizantes porque no hay sequías, no hay heladas, no hay enfermedades, tenemos zonas de riesgos intermedios y zonas muy riesgosas, de manera que habría que tener fórmulas apropiadas para cada una de esas zonas, que hemos tenido experiencia cuando se ha recomendado una fórmula tipo high energy. Para la Zona Andina han venido heladas y el agricultor no sólo ha perdido el cultivo sino el dinero que le costó el fertilizante. De manera que tenemos que ser sabios en este consejo.

Por lo demás, aprobamos y apoyamos plenamente este magnífico documento y recomiendo solamente que comencemos a pensar en esa palabra de "cultivos secundarios."

LE PRESIDENT : Je constate que j'ai déjà deux suggestions pour changer la définition de ce produit produit autochtone ; produit d'assurance, ainsi qu'a suggéré le représentant du Malawi.

E. BONEV (UNDP): I would refer to only one paragraph of the Report of the Eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture - paragraph 11 which refers to UNDP. I would like to make some clarification as this paragraph has been referred to by several delegates in urging the Director-General to continue his consultations with UNDP to increase UNDP resources for agriculture. Many present here will know the policies and procedures of UNDP, but some of you perhaps do not know, and for the latter I should give some brief account of these. I apologize to those who do know, because they have to hear it repeatedly.

The only authorities which decide on priorities as to where UNDP financing should go are the governments of recipient countries. There is no other authority or institution - I say that repeatedly, because merely urging the Director-General to contact the Administrator and discuss this matter would not produce the results expected by this Council. If you want to have a greater share for development of agriculture in the UNDP-financed programme, it is necessary to urge your governments to give higher priority to agriculture. I would like to say, however, that FAO remains the major executing agency of UNDP-financed projects and programmes. It has somewhere around a 25 percent share of UNDP resources - this has been stabilized now for more than a decade, and, on the average, this rate of FAO's share in the resources continues.

Unfortunately, financial constraints have been experienced lately, not only by UNDP but by the whole of the UN system due to internal economic difficulties of the member countries. Also, following the appreciation of the dollar, increased contributions in terms of national currencies have not resulted in a 14 percent annual growth rate of UNDP's resources as envisaged earlier. We very much hope that this trend will not continue in the future, since there are some signs of revitalization of national economies.

I would, however, like to refer to another side of the dollar strength, because our resources are measured in this currency. According to the estimates made by UNDP, the strength of the dollar and the low inflation rate over the past few years will lead to a delivery value about 20 percent higher than that actually planned by UNDP. So, while I do not say that we are happy with the financial situation at present, I would like to point out that, when measuring UNDP resources in dollar terms, we have to consider also the other side of the strength of the dollar in terms of future delivery. The financing of services, equipment, fellowships, and especially experts, is effected not only in dollars but also in other national currencies.

If we really want an increase in technical assistance in the field of agriculture, there are two important conditions to be fulfilled: it would be necessary for governments to increase their contributions to UNDP and to give high priority to agriculture.

Once again, it is only the governments who establish their priorities and decide on their programmes, and neither the Administrator of UNDP nor the Director-General of FAO can interfere.

LE PRESIDENT : Je remercie le représentant du PNUD de ses informations et de ses suggestions très importantes.

Mrs R.A. SAMAD (Observer for Associated Country Women of the World): I thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor and I am really grateful to the representative of Venezuela for bringing into consideration the role of women in rural development. I have been listening to the very interesting and very highly prepared discussion on the policies for agricultural development. I would like to give my humble opinion about the problem of consumption of agriculture produce in a society.

We produce things then we know what to consume, not first we produce things and put into consumption, and here comes the role of women. Especially in underdeveloped countries, we know that women play a very important role. They spend most of the time in the kitchen. What for? For the consumption, for the nutrition of their children, for their family, so it is the women who know what things are good for the health of the child, for the husband, and therefore I would suggest that while making the policies on production, women should be given some importance or they should be taken into consideration with their views.

For example, here I have been listening to the experts from all over the world, but I do not see any women who are mainly responsible for the consumption - well not for the consumption but for the preparation of food, so I would suggest that in future there should be some women representatives from at least the underdeveloped countries who can give the real picture of the consumption pattern, and then the experts, they are there to produce. For production also the women work as labourers, hired labour or helping hands. They are never taken into consideration as policymakers or to decide what to produce. This is my humble opinion.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I apologize for coming in at this late hour. The Canadian delegation simply wanted to strongly endorse the remarks made by the distinguished Ambassador for Venezuela, specifically on the critical role of women in rural development, and also with Pakistan and others on the role of minor or indigenous or national crops, whatever we wish to call them.

In Nairobi next month there will be a UN Conference which in part will review and examine the last decade, the Decade of Women, and I think that all assessments will show that we have indeed a long way still to go in recognizing and supporting the key role of women in development. I read sometime ago that approximately - these are the World Bank estimates - 60 to 70 percent of all agricultural labourers in the world are women, and yet the percentage of women who attend international or national training courses is still about 15 percent. We still have much to do in this field.

Finally we also, like the United States and others, look forward to the results of the Global Price Policy Study.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous voulons intervenir parce que nous aussi avons lancé un appel au Directeur général pour qu'il puisse, en rapport avec le PNUD, faire en sorte que le projet exécuté par la FAO pour le compte du PNUD puisse s'en trouver augmenté.

Je crois que la réponse que nous a donnée le représentant du PNUD est juste en partie. Je crois moi aussi qu'il est vrai qu'il appartient aux gouvernements de pouvoir faire en sorte que les ressources affectées au niveau de l'agriculture, dans le cas du PNUD, puissent être élevées, mais je crois que la question qui a été soulevée, et je l'ai dit en particulier dans mon intervention, c'était le fait que le PNUD avait désormais un peu trop souvent tendance à faire en sorte que les projets agricoles soient exécutés par le Bureau d'exécution du PNUD. Je crois que le problème se pose à ce niveau, et nous aurions voulu que le représentant du PNUD puisse nous éclairer sur cette question.

Je suis membre du Comité du Programme, et au niveau du Comité du Programme nous sommes inquiets. Nous voudrions savoir pourquoi on a trop tendance à confier maintenant des projets au Bureau d'exécution parce qu'après analyse nous avons abouti au fait que le Bureau d'exécution, dans la mise en oeuvre de ses projets, néglige les aspects de formation auxquels nous tenons beaucoup. Cela est très important parce que ce bureau exécute les projets en sous-traitance avec d'autres sociétés peut-être privées qui négligent ces aspects de formation auxquels nous attachons beaucoup d'importance au niveau de la FAO.

La vraie question se situe à ce niveau-là. Nous savons tous qu'il appartient à chaque gouvernement de pouvoir affecter les ressources que le PNUD met à la disposition du gouvernement. Mais je crois que c'est au niveau de l'exécution de ces programmes qu'il y a un problème qui se pose, sur lequel nous aurions voulu avoir des éclaircissements beaucoup plus amples de la part du représentant du PNUD.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que le représentant du PNUD désire prendre la parole après cette intervention de l'Ambassadeur du Congo?

E. BONEV (UNDP): In my intervention I did not refer specifically to the statement made by the representative of Congo, but I noted very carefully what the distinguished delegate said in this regard, and I will bring it to the attention of headquarters. However, I would be very pleased if he could give me a specific case of such an experience in his country. Certainly this need not be done during the meeting. We could meet outside this room and he could give me some further information as to where the UNDP Office for Projects Execution, for instance, interferes or acts without the consent of the government. I find it difficult to understand how there can be such practice, knowing from experience all the stages of the procedure for project formulation and approval, as well as for the determination of the Executing Agency, in all of which the government concerned is having its say.

LE PRESIDENT: Il ne reste qu'à organiser cette rencontre secrète du PNUD et le représentant du Congo.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I sincerely apologize for asking for the floor again. In the Programme Committee of the FAO we had the opportunity of looking at this aspect. What we felt was difficult to explain was that when UN has a specialized agency dealing with food and agriculture, why should this effort be duplicated by the UNDP, by trying to institute projects in this field by subcontracting to outside private agencies. Certainly FAO could not explain this because it is not FAO's field of work.

We would like to know from the UNDP representative here, if it is possible, and to have some explanation why, whereas the international organizations are feeling the constraint of funds, why should this effort be duplicated and why should not all the UNDP projects in food and agriculture be executed through FAO.

LE PRESIDENT : Je pense que le représentant de l'Inde pourrait se joindre à cette rencontre. Pour le moment, je ne vois pas d'autre solution.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): First of all I would like to say that we note with appreciation the efforts of the Director-General, the full endorsement and acceptance of the Report on the Eighth session of the Committee on Agriculture, and when the Council has expressed its satisfaction with how this COAG session has been performed and the excellence of the report, I think a lot of the satisfaction in COAG should go certainly to the Chairman of the Eighth session of COAG who is with us, Mr Carandang from the Philippines, the two able Vice-Chairmen, Dr Grabisch and Mr Abdelhadi, who supported him.

From the comments made I can only say that we listened with great interest, particularly on singling out some of the items, in particular food statements, and I think that these statements made by a number of delegations, for instance doubts expressed by the Australian delegation to the priority of so-called minor crops, would have been overcome after this had been described by many other delegations. On the other side we certainly have not yet come to a conclusive terminology because we know how difficult it is to meet this wide variety which now I think comes under this terminology of minor crops.

At the same time I have to reply to some specific questions raised, and I think it was the distinguished delegate from Brazil who wanted to have more information on what we mean by "plan to do" and are doing in Latin America in regard to agro-industrial development. I would like first to refer that we have quite a tradition in our collaboration in Latin America in this Report on agro-industry, and there is almost no institution in Latin American countries dealing with food processing which has not, at one year or the other, been supported or even set up through the assistance of FAO.

Therefore, it is now very much opportune that our Regional Office is forming a regional network in agro-industry development, on which we place a high importance to mobilise the existing expertise in the countries for further collaboration in the TCDC and ECDC aspect. There are certainly a number of specific activities which are undertaken at the moment. I can only mention a few, particularly the Inter-island Programme on Fruits and Vegetables, again minor crops, in which a number of islands in the Caribbean participated, and the planning process is being completed and we are now seeking the financial implementation of this. There is the same collaboration in the field of hides and skins.

Various activities in the field of apiculture are underway, particularly related to the control of the Africanized bee, which is a dangerous bee in Latin America, and in apiculture in general we have successfully established various measures of collaboration between Latin America and African countries in recent times which we have implemented and we are trying to follow up.

Finally, I would like to underline that we have fully noted various valuable successes made and support given to the various items which should be considered in the next COAG session. In this context I would like to assure the delegate of Australia that there is more than one expert in FAO who has knowledge and experience of dry farming in Australia. Some even lecture on it at the Dry-Land Farming Congress in Australia. So I do not know who this single man is to whom he has referred. We are certainly aware of the expertise in his country and will make use of this expertise fully in preparing this next item on dry-land farming. Now it is for Dr Islam to comment further.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I will just respond to a few questions relating to a pricing policy study and one or two questions on minor crops. As delegates have observed, the Secretariat is indeed engaged in advising, expanding and improving the document which was submitted to COAG on pricing policy for submission to the FAO Conference this year.

We are particularly paying attention in our Division to the suggestions made in the report of the Committee on Agriculture on pages 25 and 26 of the document before the Council. Particularly the issues to which delegates have repeatedly drawn attention - one, updating data and more reference to country exercises; two, analysis of the impact of developed countries' policies on stability of level of world prices, and on pricing policies and the implementation in developing countries; three, the impact of pricing policies on income distribution within the agricultural sector and on the economy as a whole. These are very complicated, complex and difficult issues, as delegates have recognized, but we will try our best to do whatever we can within the short compass of time that we have left before the Conference to consider as much as possible these issues.

Special reference has been made by a number of delegates to the question of input subsidies. This is also one of the areas mentioned in the report before the Council and this is very controversial, a topic of controversy right now among the international community, especially in the context of the adjustment policies which a large number of developing countries are now following. In agreement to it the international financial institutions are referred to. We have tried to cover this issue and we will expand the coverage of this issue in the final report.

I suppose there are three issues which the delegates mentioned. The first is the speed and extent of adjustment of input subsidies under these various programmes and their implications for both production and equity in distribution. Some of you have referred to the other factors, other circumstances which accompany the policies regarding input subsidies and they are very relevant in determining the impact of input subsidies on their removal on both production and equity. Thirdly, it was mentioned in the course of the debate that there is no uniform model for agricultural price policies that can be recommended for particular countries. This is a point well taken both in our report and in the discussion in the COAG. The treatment of Socialist countries was rather inadequate in our interim report and we hope to expand this in the final report.

As far as minor crops are concerned, I would like to emphasize here that our Programme of Work for the next biennium does include as far as the Economic and Social Policy Department is concerned, further work on information and additional analysis of the role of minor traditional crops, let us say, or insurance crops covering production, marketing and research, and this information will be collected and analysed as far as possible on a regional and sub-regional basis. Secondly, attention has been paid to the promotion of efforts at both national and international levels in respect of the traditional crops.



LE PRESIDENT : Je pense qu'avec ces deux interventions de M. Bommer et du Prof. Islam nous avons terminé notre discussion. Je dois dire que nos travaux ont été fort intéressants et très utiles. Le rapport du Comité a été approuvé sans réserve, et même avec enthousiasme.

On a souligné certains problèmes comme la nécessité d'approfondir avec un supplément d'analyse la politique des prix agricoles. On a souligné le rôle des cultures secondaires ou traditionnelles locales autochtones. On a surtout parlé du renforcement du PCT en tant que véhicule des nouvelles technologies. On a souligné aussi la coopération, dans le même secteur des technologies, entre pays en développement, le rôle des petits exploitants et la formation pratique des femmes et des groupes de petits paysans. Ce qu'a dit le représentant du Canada donne vraiment la mesure du problème du rôle des femmes dans la production agricole et dans l'alimentation : il s'agit de 60 pour cent de la main-d'oeuvre agricole dans les pays en développement alors que les femmes participent seulement pour 13 pour cent aux programmes de formation. Il s'agit là certainement d'un problème à résoudre.

A.Y. Bukhari, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair

A.Y. Bukhari, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence

Ocupa la Presidencia A.Y. Bukhari, Vicepresidente del Consejo

8. Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers (Rome, 19-22 February 1985)

8. Rapport de la neuvième session de la Commission des engrais (Rome, 19-22 février 1985)

8. Informe de la novena reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes (Roma, 19-22 de febrero de 1985)

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): In introducing the Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers contained in document CL 87/8, I wish at the same time to bring the Council up-to-date on the world fertilizer situation.

Fertilizer report prices have declined since the Commission met in February this year. The lower price levels reflect supply considerably exceeding current demand. Exports have been strong but demand in the developed and centrally planned economies has been weaker than in 1983-84.

As happened in 1981/82, some producers are starting to close some plants and annual maintenance shut-downs ; are beginning earlier and could be more prolonged than usual to reduce inventories.

In 1982 about three million tons of nitrogen capacity was idled in North America. Potash production was reduced by around two million tons. A number of phosphate rock mines with annual capacity of 20 million tons were idled as was over one million tons of phosphatic fertilizer capacity.

There are no comparable data for Western or Eastern Europe. However, European producers made adjustments in production because of reduced sales and growing inventories particularly of potash and nitrogenous fertilizers. This idle capacity was gradually brought back into production and by the latter part of 1984 was producing again.

The closure of plants had an adverse effect on the many people who were laid-off from their jobs. It also adversely affected the economic life of the communities in which they live.

Would it not be better to keep these plants operating and have governments channel the surplus production to needy countries?

In reviewing the fertilizer situation at its Ninth session the Commission noted that although world fertilizer production and consumption increased in 1983/84, the increases were mainly in North America and the Latin American countries. It expressed concern at the only slight increase in Africa and Asia, and the decline in consumption in Latin America. It noted that the growth rate in fertilizer consumption was far below what was required to achieve self-reliance in food and food security in the developing countries.

In his opening address to the Ninth session of the Commission on Fertilizers, the Director-General stressed that while food aid had to be considered as an important relief measure for the food crisis in Africa, the more lasting solution to the problem of hunger was to increase food production in the countries concerned. Even though technological progress may reduce some users to inorganic fertilizers, considerably better use can be made of organic sources of plant nutrients like animal manure and crop residues, but the total demand for mineral fertilizers will continue to grow. The only way the world can continue to feed itself is by the use of more intensive farming methods. Therefore, the Director-General emphasized that fertilizers, along with improved seeds and water, were an essential input in bringing about increased productivity in food production to enable the world to become more self-reliant.

The Director-General stressed the substantial advantages of fertilizer aid. A ton of fertilizer can often be translated into ten tons or more of grain. Furthermore, fertilizers impose less strain on over-burdened distribution systems, and provide a surge in the purchasing power from increased production.

In this connection, the Commission generally expressed concern about the negative reply to this Organization from the UNDP and the IMF to the Director-General's approach to assist the most needy countries in obtaining fertilizers. The Commission requested the Director-General, therefore, to approach these Organizations again. It also requested the Director-General to appeal to the fertilizer-producing countries for increased bilateral fertilizer aid and multilateral aid generated through the IFS. This, the Director-General has done.

Under the prevailing conditions of financial difficulties, cooperation in fertilizer aid, and particularly the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme, (IFS), are of special significance for developing countries. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Austria, Ireland and Italy for their contributions to the IFS, and urged others to support the Scheme. I am pleased to be able to report that since then, FIAC has made a contribution to the IFS, and Ireland has pledged further support. However, much more is needed.

As Council will recall, assistance through the IFS reached a peak of 247 000 tons of fertilizers material in 1975-76, or 18 percent of total fertilizer aid in that year. In 1982-83, it was only 31 000 tons, one-eighth of the peak year and less than 3 percent of total aid.

The Commission expressed concern with regard to investment in new capacity due to low fertilizer export prices. Unless prices rise to the level of realization precisely required to encourage new investment, it is possible enough additional capacity, especially in nitrogen, would not be forthcoming to meet expected demands towards the end of the present decade.

The Commission noted that if the realization prices were applicable to developing countries, governments would have to subsidize the establishment of new plants or introduce major adjustments for relative prices of agricultural products and fertilizers.

The subject of fertilizer subsidy is a very important one, which we have just discussed. It has various implications for both developed and developing countries. FAO and FIAC are preparing a publication on fertilizer strategies which will be available later in the year. This is to be given general distribution, and will be used in regional seminars. Such seminars provide an opportunity for countries to exchange experience, as does the FAO/ESCAP/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (FADINAP). The Commission felt that such a network should be established in Africa, and possibly in Latin America as well. Latin America also has an organization, MULTIFERT, which assists member countries in purchasing and selling fertilizers. The Commission recommended the experience of this organization with regard to fertilizer marketing be explored for possible adoption in other regions. In the light of this recommendation, the Director-General invited the General Manager of MULTIFERT to visit Headquarters, and I am glad to see him sitting here in the Council.

The Commission expressed satisfaction with FAO's fertilizer activities, and fully endorsed their direction and future orientation. However, it stressed the need for increasing the efficiency of fertilizer use for extending use on rain-fed crops and the use of biological nitrogenous fixation and organic materials in integrated plant nutrition systems. The Commission also stressed the importance of training and extension, particularly the value of the fertilizer programme, in reaching small farmers and involving rural women in these activities.

The Commission expressed satisfaction with the work so far undertaken by the Secretariat, in being kept informed of World Bank and UNIDO activities in the field of fertilizers. The Commission requested a number of studies be undertaken for consideration at its Tenth session; these are indicated in paragraph 64 of the report. These proposals will be carefully considered in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): On behalf of all of us, I thank Dr Bommer for that introduction.

A. ACUNA HUMPHRIES (Panamá): Primero de todo la delegación de Panamá aprecia realmente la presentación exhaustiva que nos hiciera el Subdirector General de la FAO Dr. Bommer. La delegación de Panamá considera que la Novena reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes de la FAO se constituyó en una de las más importantes celebradas por esta Comisión en su casi once años de constituida.

Sobre el contenido mismo del documento que presenta el Informe de la Novena reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, el documento CL 87/8, queremos subrayar no con preocupación el señalamiento que hace el párrafo 36, y lo hacemos porque en efecto un posible déficit en la fabricación de fertilizantes nitrogenados, crearía situaciones aún más difíciles para el mundo en desarrollo golpeado ya por la crisis económica, los altos porcentajes de los ingresos de éstos dedicados al servicio de la deuda externa, los siempre insatisfactorios precios de los productos de exportación, la carencia de divisas, problemas éstos a los que se viene a agregar en no pocos casos los desastres naturales, así como los artificiales causados por el hombre.

Nuestra delegación considera que la cooperación internacional en el campo de los fertilizantes es realmente necesaria para lograr un incremento significativo de la producción de alimentos.

Es por esto que nosotros nos hacemos eco del llamado que a este respecto ha efectuado el Director General de la FAO a las comunidades internacionales a fin de que aumenten sus esfuerzos para incrementar significativamente la ayuda en fertilizantes.

De las deliberaciones de esta última reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, merece destacarse el tema relativo a las empresas conjuntas, así como las posibilidades reales que estas empresas puedan tener en forma creciente y en un futuro próximo, en el abastecimiento de fertilizantes.

Sobre este particular destacamos la importancia de las recomendaciones consistentes en que la Secretaría de la Comisión de Fertilizantes, en cooperación con el Comité Consultivo de la Industria de Fertilizantes y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial (ONUDI), con el pleno acuerdo de los países interesados, realicen estudios analíticos sobre las empresas conjuntas que estén teniendo buenos resultados.

Tal como se indicó en forma general en la intervención inicial de esta delegación el primer día de reunión de este Consejo, insistimos en esta oportunidad en señalar la experiencia latinoamericana de la primera empresa, creada por el sistema económico latinoamericano, SELA, y que es conocida por las siglas MULTIFERT, del cual habla el documento del Informe en el párrafo 30.

Igualmente es oportuno informar a este Consejo, tal como rápidamente lo señalara el Dr. Bommer, que por invitación del Director General de la FAO se encuentra en estos momentos en esta Sede el Dr. Rolando Armuelles Boutet, Gerente General de esta empresa de cooperación económico-latinoamericana en materia de fertilizantes, con el propósito exclusivo de informar sobre las actividades de MULTIFERT, lo mismo que precisar los términos de la asistencia efectiva que la FAO puede prestar a esta empresa, la cual puede, próximamente, atender también al abastecimiento de otros insumos agropecuarios, y lo que es más, igualmente se contemplan y estudian las posibilidades reales que de estas experiencias fundadas sobre realidades concretas que puedan servir en otras regiones del mundo como Africa y Asia.

De esta forma, hay que reconocer que la FAO ha dado pronta respuesta en cierta forma modesta pero significativa y con efectos multiplicadores a las necesidades sentidas de países de la región de América Latina y el Caribe, y es por esto que en esta oportunidad la delegación de Panamá felicita sinceramente al Director General y a sus colaboradores del Departamento de Agricultura, teniendo que agregar que es ésta una forma efectiva de materializar una de las prioridades de esta Organización, cual es la promoción y asistencia, la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en vías de desarrollo. Es por todo esto que la delegación de Panamá aprueba el Informe de la Novena reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes que recoge el documento CL 87/8.

The meeting closed at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas



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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/16

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**SIXTEENTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**SEIZIÈME SEANCE PLENIÈRE**  
**16ª SESION PLENARIA**  
(26 June 1985)

The Sixteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours A.Y. Bukhari, Vice-Chairman of the Council, presiding

La seizième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 30, sous la présidence de A.Y. Bukhari, Vice-Président du Conseil

Se abre la 16ª sesión plenaria a las 14.30 horas, bajo la presidencia de A.Y. Bukhari, 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)
- 8. Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers (Rome, 19-22 February 1985) (continued)
- 8. Rapport de la neuvième session de la Commission des engrais (Rome, 19-22 février 1985) (suite)
- 8. Informe de la Novena reunión de la Comisión de Fertilizantes (Roma, 19-22 de febrero de 1985) (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): As you know, the documents which we are going to be discussing through the course of the afternoon are the Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers and the Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We actually participated in the work of these groups and, therefore, I trust that you will be brief in your contributions and that you will not repeat yourselves and go over arguments that we heard during the deliberations of the respective sessions

Ms A.L. PETERSEN (Denmark): Let me start by thanking Dr Bommer for his clear and informative introduction this morning.

The Danish Delegation has studied with interest document CL 87/8, the Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers held in Rome on 19-22 February 1985. We endorse the view that in the present critical food situation, especially in Africa, fertilizer along with improved seeds and water is an essential input to bring about increased productivity in food production. In this context we would like to express our appreciation for the work carried out by the FAO International Fertilizer Supply Scheme since its inception in 1974. The concept of combining fertilizer aid with activities under the fertilizer programme at country level thereby assuring the optimum use of the supplies by the immediate beneficiaries is a concept which we very much support.

With regard to the future Programme of Work of the Commission, my delegation is concerned about the proliferation of activities in various Commissions and Committees. You will no doubt have noted that we mentioned specifically the value of high-level technical competence when we made our comments under agenda Item 7 when discussing matters referring to the COAG. We feel that the time has perhaps come when the problem of fertilizer could be part of the agenda of the Committee on Agriculture. In our view this would make the debate more comprehensive and help to focus better on all aspects of increased agricultural production.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Mr Chairman, we are very pleased to see you in the Chair this afternoon.

The United States supports the activity of FAO in the field of fertilizers. We think that the FAO fertilizer programme and the general FAO activity in fertilizer research, statistics and education are very worthwhile. The monitoring of production and marketing conditions by the Fertilizer Commission is quite helpful to both developed and developing countries.

We would like to see FAO expand its statistical activities to include information on fertilizer inventories, costs and possibly the profitability of the industry. Also, we would hope that FAO fertilizer investment in production cost analyses, which are based largely on data from North America, could be expanded to include similar data for other developed countries, developing countries and socialist countries as well.

While the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme plays a role in supplying fertilizer aid to developing countries, many countries, including the United States which has bilateral aid programmes, prefer not to participate in this programme. Still, the IFS does provide a useful vehicle for those donor countries which do not have continuing bilateral aid programmes. While we do not participate in the FAO IFS, we do provide substantial fertilizer aid through direct assistance. We might note in this regard that in 1983/84 we provided almost US \$ 58 million in fertilizer aid, which increased our fertilizer aid to developing countries by more than 50 percent between 1983/84. There are several sources of aid to maintain fertilizer supplies, as I have noted, including the IFS and individual country bilateral aid programmes such as that of the United States.

Obviously, we share the Commission's concern that credit availability may be limiting fertilizer use in developing countries. We are also concerned about how fertilizer needs are to be financed. To the extent that fertilizer imports are a major factor in contributing to balance-of-payments problems, they would automatically be taken into consideration in any IMF overall balance of

payment support decisions. As we have noted at the Commission itself, any proposal to consider an IMF facility to finance specific commodities such as fertilizer imports would, we believe, be inconsistent with IMF's traditional focus on overall balance-of-payments positions rather than on particular commodities or sectors.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to some concerns that we had in terms of the wording of the Commission's Report regarding the role of IMF. We feel that the language which Dr Bommer

cited this morning - that the commission requested the Director-General not to cover sufficiently the views of the United States on this particular issue - I think, because it is of relevance to the work of the Council, we do need to make sure that indeed the language reporting on the results of activities such as the Fertilizers Commission does adequately reflect that there were dissenting views and that this was not a consensus view of the Fertilizers Commission.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo) : Nous voudrions nous aussi remercier M. Bommer pour la présentation fort précise qu'il a faite du rapport dont nous sommes saisis, Monsieur le Président.

Ainsi que cela ressort de la liste des participants placée en Annexe du document pertinent à l'examen, nous avons eu le privilège de prendre part aux travaux de la 9<sup>ème</sup> session de la Commission des engrais, qui a eu lieu ici à Rome, du 19 au 22 février de cette année.

A ce titre, et par souci de suite, nous appuyons entièrement le contenu du rapport de cette session de la Commission dont notre Conseil est actuellement saisi au titre du point 8 de son ordre du jour, sous la cote CL 87/8.

Monsieur le Président, les engrais, voilà là un des groupes des facteurs de production dont on a beaucoup parlé, dont on parlera encore pendant longtemps au cours de nos "fora", tant au cours des sessions des conférences et consultations techniques régionales organisées dans le domaine de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, qu'au cours des sessions des organes directeurs de notre organisation. Nous venons d'ailleurs d'en parler au cours de la dernière consultation sur la CEPD qui s'est tenue du 3 au 7 février 1985, sur l'initiative et sous l'égide de la FAO, consultation à laquelle nous avons aussi participé et aux travaux de laquelle nous avons apporté notre modeste contribution.

Par souci de brièveté, ainsi que vous nous y avez invités, nous ne nous étendrons pas sur l'importance de ces intrants agricoles que sont les engrais.

A l'occasion, nous aimerions insister sur les conclusions des travaux de cette neuvième session de la Commission des engrais.

A la lumière des résultats de la neuvième session de la Commission des engrais, nous avons noté non sans préoccupation qu'alors que le taux d'utilisation des engrais dans les pays en développement, particulièrement en Afrique, reste encore globalement bas, l'offre mondiale des engrais et fertilisants sera inférieure à la demande au cours des décennies à venir.

Par ailleurs nous continuons à être préoccupés en constatant qu'alors que les utilisateurs dans les pays en développement estiment que le niveau des prix d'acquisition des engrais est trop élevé au regard des prix des produits agricoles qui sont bas, les investisseurs des fabriques d'engrais jugent, eux, ces mêmes prix d'engrais insuffisants pour les inciter à investir dans de nouvelles usines. Nous sommes d'ailleurs d'autant plus préoccupés que les dernières informations mises à notre disposition ce matin par M. Bommer, qui a mentionné la fermeture de certaines fabriques, sont venues renforcer davantage notre préoccupation. Ceci constituait à nos yeux une situation grave, quand on sait que les engrais, autant que les autres intrants agricoles, sont indispensables à l'accroissement de la production agricole.

Nous nous félicitons des mesures préconisées par la Commission des engrais à sa neuvième session en tant qu'élément de solution à la situation de déséquilibre, mesures parmi lesquelles nous avons pu noter celles ci-après que nous appuyons, à savoir la consolidation des structures et mécanismes existants, notamment par l'exploitation optimale des capacités des fabriques actuelles, le renforcement des ressources du Programme international d'approvisionnement en engrais, l'usage des monnaies non convertibles détenues par le PNUD pour l'achat des engrais destinés aux pays les plus pauvres, l'extension des facilités de financement du FMI à l'achat des engrais destinés à l'aide, ceci malgré l'opposition d'un certain nombre de membres de notre Conseil.

Nous avons également noté trois autres mesures préconisées par le Conseil. Il a été envisagé la création d'entreprises mixtes entre pays détenteurs de matières premières et ceux ayant les ressources financières et les connaissances technologiques requises. Nous avons également noté qu'il a été préconisé l'intensification des procédés de fixation de l'azote biologique, les recherches dans le domaine du génie génétique, l'intensification de procédés de recyclage de matières organiques dans le cadre des systèmes intégrés de nutrition végétale. La FAO a joué un

role de premier plan dans ce domaine des engrais, par l'intermédiaire du Programme international des engrais, et nous exhortons les partenaires concernés, fabricants, commerçants et utilisateurs, à mettre en oeuvre ces mesures de la neuvième session de la Commission des engrais. Pour l'Afrique nous souhaitons que ces mesures trouvent leur début d'application par les donateurs et bailleurs de fonds, dans le cadre du financement des projets de relance de l'agriculture de 21 pays d'Afrique les plus touchés, projets dans lesquels les engrais occupent un volet important parmi les intrants agricoles.

Nous terminerons en espérant que le Conseil et la Conférence de notre Organisation réserveront à ce rapport l'appui qu'il mérite.

POINT OF ORDER POINT D'ORDRE PUNTO DE ORDEN

A. ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe) : Comme vous l'avez déjà dit, Monsieur le Président, les deux rapports qui nous sont soumis, et qui sont le Rapport de la neuvième session de la Commission des engrais et le Rapport de la seizième du Comité des pêches, nous sont soumis pour information et c'est ce que le représentant du Congo vient de confirmer.

Comme nous voyons que la liste des orateurs inscrits pour parler du point 8 est très longue, et comme nous constatons un certain retard dans l'étude des points inscrits à l'ordre du jour, nous craignons, si la discussion continue de la même manière, que cela ne dure des jours et des jours.

Pour cette raison, je voudrais proposer de clore le débat sur ce point 8 de l'ordre du jour pour passer au point 9, c'est-à-dire le rapport de la seizième session du Comité des pêches.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Personally, I agree with you, Lebanon. I said this at the beginning of the Session. Does anyone second this point of order that we guillotine the debate on item 8? (Continued in English) Are there two speakers against this motion, that we close this debate?

J. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We would like to speak against this motion, simply to say that we consider these to be important subjects. We consider that it is important that they be considered by the Council and that the Council has the chance to consider them fully even though they are only for information, because this is a part of the process of the governing of this Organization. Therefore we oppose the motion and we prefer that there be a proper consideration of this item.

CHAIRMAN: I need another speaker - but I would like to say that nobody says the subject is not important. It is important, and everybody knows this.

Fertilizers are like food for human beings - without fertilizers there can be no plants. That is why Africa and other poor countries are crying out about the shortage of fertilizers. But, as I said, this is a report by your Committee - you were there, in the Committee. Perhaps the United Kingdom did not attend this meeting, but most if not all of us were there. So the repetition is just for me - for everyone else it is just wasting time, especially now when we are coming to the end of the Council. We still have many important items, including the adoption of the report, and we have only two days, tomorrow and the day after. I am ready to work on Monday, but Saturday - no. Is there anyone against the motion?

HARTAWAN ADANG (Indonesia): Thank you for giving me the floor at this juncture, especially as we are discussing the report of the Commission on Fertilizers. This is not a point of order, but because my country has extended its contribution to the Council, permit me also to extend our contribution to this comment on the Report of the Ninth Session. If you will permit me, I would like to continue my delegation's statement. If you meant that you are inviting me to make a comment or to second the motion, then permit me not to agree with the motion that has been put forward by the delegate of Lebanon. My delegation would agree with the opposition of the delegate of United Kingdom and feels that the chance should be given to the representatives of the governments who are present at this Council meeting to discuss the matter.



CHAIRMAN: We now have two speakers against the motion, so we have to continue our discussion.

HARTAWAN ADANG (Indonesia): First of all my delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the Secretariat for providing a very comprehensive document on the matter under discussion, and especially also to Dr Bommer who has introduced the paper very clearly and precisely.

My delegation would lend its support to the programme of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. It extends its appreciation to developed countries who have contributed to the scheme to enable the developing countries to promote their food products. If we understood correctly paragraph 43 of the report, in which it is mentioned that the fertilizer scheme is aimed at minimizing the dependency of the developing countries on the food assistance given by the developed countries, unfortunately we believe that there is such a dependency on fertilizer assistance from developed countries. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, my delegation is of the view that this scheme should be promoted only on a short-term basis, but in the long term we urge that kind of assistance should be directed towards the effort of fulfilling fertilizer requirement at national level, and especially should be geared at constructing a fertilizer plant in the developing countries themselves.

Let me put it this way. Every assistance whether from bilateral or multilateral resources should be geared toward a self-sustaining on fertilizers. It might be necessary as well to develop such a programme which could also be promoted under the auspices of Economic Cooperation among the Developing Countries, such as in our region, namely Asian Fertilizer Project between Indonesia and other Asian member countries.

CHAIRMAN ('original language Arabic): Thank you very much, representative of Indonesia, and thank you particularly for being brief. I hope that other members will be equally brief.

S.S. KAMVAZINA (Malawi): My delegation is very happy to be given the floor and to comment on the Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers. I will try to be brief and make a summary of the summary that I have already made.

I wish to start my comments by supporting the statement made by the Director-General in his opening address on the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers. I feel it is very important, very necessary to re-emphasize here that while we all appreciate that food aid should be considered an important but temporary relief of the food crisis in Africa, the long-term solution to the food crisis is in the provision of the means to produce food. Accordingly inputs that will increase productivity of the most depleted soils of the African region will definitely be a crucial factor in resolving this problem. To this end most countries are putting their efforts to become more self-sufficient in food by placing high priority on inputs like credit and other extension packages that include provision of fertilizers and improved seed.

We expressed our views in an earlier statement that most of our countries are living under harsh climatic conditions. In most cases we have only one rainy season and I think it is important here to take a maximum advantage of that one rainy season that we have, and one of the ways is by the use of packages that are going to improve production. I think we have to consider fertilizers and irrigation as a means to boost production in most of our countries that are now facing the food crisis. It is very important to note here that in most African countries, and Malawi in particular, we are highly dependent on smallholder food production for our staples. It is desirable therefore that appropriate incentives geared towards smallholder production of food should be provided in order to stimulate and increase food production.

To this end, whatever packages we have or whatever we want to introduce, it must be within the reach of the smallholder farmer. I must admit here that we have not been able to reach the smallholder farmer with affordable packages. This is so because the fertilizer that has been produced has been presented to the farmer at a very high cost, a cost which he cannot afford. We believe that subsidies will drive us to a point in attaining increased food production in the present climate when the cost of inputs are above the reach of the smallholder farmer. On the other hand we have also noted that most donors are not in favour of subsidizing farm inputs wherever they exist. They would like to see the subsidies phasing out. As such we are faced with the situation where we have expensive fertilizer on the one hand, and a farmer who is not producing enough food because of shortage of the means to purchase that fertilizer on the other.

It is this aspect that I support the Director-General's statement at paragraph 2 which I quote "To further ensure fertilizer supplies, the Director-General proposed that in cooperation with relevant agencies, developing countries should be assisted to use their installed fertilizer production capacity to the fullest, and that expanded international cooperation was essential to complement the present inadequate supply".

We in Malawi have gone further than this. We consider that we should have also our own fertilizer plant. This is so because Malawi is a land-locked country, and to get a fertilizer in time is the question because, first of all the ports through which these farm packages or farm inputs come through are not in our territory so we have to wait. We are at the mercy of those who control those ports.

It is true that in the Africa region as a whole, and Malawi in particular, the major constraint to provide fertilizer in a timely and cost-effective manner is the inherent deficiencies of the facilities of fertilizer marketing and distribution systems, it is necessary to point out here that, much as we agree with this statement, in other areas things beyond the borders of the countries concerned should be taken into account, and this is why we stress the need for local production of fertilizers.

We welcome the recommendations at paragraph 24 of the document of the Commission on Fertilizers. As I said earlier on, we have conducted studies in this area and we hope that donors will be looking at the proposals favourably. Lastly, I wish to commend the various donor countries that have come forward to our rescue on fertilizer aid. What has not been possible for us to fulfill are demands where such aid has been attached to national budgets in terms of structural adjustment. It is a fact that most countries in Africa have budgetary problems. Malawi is no exception. If our agricultural base is to be improved, fertilizer aid should be considered as a special case, and in this particular case I think subsidies should be considered. Credit packages must be considered on a basis of affordable rates to the smallholder farmer. To this end we also solicit donor agencies to look into our existing fertilizer credit funds and replenish them in a manner that will enable the inputs to be within the reach of the smallholder farmer.

Sra. M. LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Ante todo, señor Presidente, mil disculpas por llegar en retardo en nuestra complacencia por verlo dirigir este foro y al señor Bommer por la excelente presentación del tema.

Al analizar este informe que trata de uno de los insumos básicos para la producción agrícola, la delegación mexicana quiere poner énfasis en algunos aspectos que considera deben tomarse en cuenta en nuestras deliberaciones para actuar de forma congruente y solidaria.

De los estudios realizados por la FAO se desprende que más del 50 por ciento del aumento del cultivo cerealista de los países en desarrollo desde 1965 se debe atribuir a los fertilizantes y que se considera viable que éstos contribuyen en un 50 por ciento al logro de la meta establecida de duplicar la producción para el año 2000 a nivel mundial.

Por otra parte, contrasta el nivel de utilización desequilibrada entre los países industrializados que usan ciento once kilogramos por hectárea y los treinta y tres kilogramos por hectárea en promedio que utiliza el conjunto de países en desarrollo, entre los cuales existen a su vez enormes contrastes ya que en Africa 29 de los 49 países una menos, 2 kilos por hectárea, o en la región de América Latina en donde el 50 por ciento de los fertilizantes es consumido por Brasil.

De hecho el informe de la Comisión expresa su preocupación por el índice de aumento actual del consumo de fertilizantes que es muy inferior al necesario para lograr la autosuficiencia y seguridad alimentaria en los países en desarrollo.

Los problemas de falta de divisas, peso de la deuda externa, desequilibrio de la balanza comercial y otros de carácter económico son causa fundamental de que los países en desarrollo no puedan importar, o en algunos casos producir los fertilizantes.

Por otra parte, en el corto plazo a nivel mundial la capacidad instalada no será capaz de satisfacer la creciente demanda, y las inversiones, siendo muy altas, no parece interesar en los países desarrollados y los precios debieran bajarse para ser accesibles a los países en desarrollo y éstos, que estarían muy interesados en disminuir la dependencia y lograr la autosuficiencia, no pueden afrontar las inversiones por lo que requiere que las instituciones financieras de desarrollo apoyen esta actividad y la FAO asista a los países en la identificación y preparación de proyectos nacionales, subregionales y regionales con fórmulas innovadoras para su logro.

La asistencia en materia de fertilizantes solicitada por el Director General al Fondo Monetario Internacional y al PNUD ha sido negada, por lo cual durante su Noveno período de sesiones la Comisión pidió al Director General que insistiera en su gestión. Nuestra delegación insta al Consejo a que ratifique dicha solicitud al reiterar su preocupación sobre el tema de los fertilizantes.

La delegación mexicana desea insistir en el fortalecimiento del IFS así como la revitalización del Programa Internacional de Fertilizantes para apoyar a los países con mayores problemas de desarrollo.

Asimismo consideramos importante subrayar la recomendación del párrafo 54 relativo a que los informes de la Secretaría de la Comisión contengan más datos sobre las actividades del Programa de Fertilizantes dentro de la FAO y de las políticas generales de desarrollo, así como en los programas de fomento agrícola a los países, de apoyo ampliamente en programas de trabajo propuestos por la Comisión.

Finalmente la delegación mexicana desea expresar su satisfacción uniéndose a lo ya expresado por la delegación de Panamá porque la FAO cumpliendo con lo comprometido ha iniciado los pasos oficiales en relación con MULTIFERT, la empresa de comercialización de fertilizantes en la que participan varios países de la región latinoamericana, que es ejemplo de cooperación entre países en vías de desarrollo y debe ser fortificada para servir de ejemplo y apoyo para nuestra zona y otras regiones.

A. LOUCA (Cyprus): In responding to your plea for saving time I shall limit my intervention to two points. The first one is a note of concern with regard to the decline of the use of fertilizers. Unfortunately this decline occurred where the most serious shortages exist, namely in Africa.

The situation has improved only slightly during 1983/84 in Africa and Asia, but it worsened in Latin America. I think at that international level both consumption and production of fertilizer recovered during this period. The reasons behind this lack of recovery in the use of fertilizer in developing countries can only be attributed to the deteriorating economic situation of these countries, the balance of payments problems, and their inability to import the required quantities of input of production.

Another area of concern to my delegation is the availability of resources to the International Fertilizer Scheme and the constant drop of fertilizer aid to developing countries, both bilateral and multilateral, from 1974 to 1982. We appreciate in this respect the generous offers made by the governments of Australia, Ireland and Italy to IFS. We were happy to hear during the introductory remarks of Dr Bommer the new contributions to the scheme made by FIAC. We hope that other countries in a position to do so will provide the scheme with the required resources.

The IFS has proved to be of valuable assistance and it should be assisted to be effective.

The interests of the international community in the less fortunate countries should not be limited to providing emergency assistance only when people are starving. People should be assisted to improve agricultural performance and purchase their own food.

With these brief observations the delegation of Cyprus endorses the report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers.

J. MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): We would like to refer to the following four related aspects on fertilizers: (1) the problem of supply instability in the fertilizer industry, and hence the question of the stability of fertilizer supply to developing countries; (2) the question of self-sufficiency in developing countries; (3) the choice of technology in fertilizer manufacturer; (4) the more fundamental choices on the overall approach to soil fertilization. In order to save time I will cut out the last part and hand the written statement in so that it can be included in the verbatim records.

To take the three aspects one by one, the first is the problem of instability. As was brought out in the Review of the Fertilizer Situation and Outlook, fertilizer supplies and prices have been experiencing upward and downward swings over the last two decades -- a sort of cyclical behaviour of prices, profitability and production. Perhaps such instability is inherent in the nature of an industry that requires huge investments in large scale plants, with long gestation periods, but where the demand is fluctuating.

The question should be asked, however, whether the structure and behaviour of the industry itself affects the intensity of the cycles, whether by dampening the cycles or further accentuating them. Perhaps the Fertilizer Commission could go more into the question of the structure and behaviour of the industry than it has done so far. Regarding structure, we should know who are the major producing units and how they are related to each other; how oligopolistic or competitive is the industry; who are the biggest among the producers; what is the role of the multinationals; and so on. At present one does not even possess a list of the major producers. Perhaps future documentation can include such a list or inventory.

As regards behaviour of the industry, one should know whether there is collusion or not in the matter of price behaviour; and in the matter of output behaviour whether the industry is so able to control or manipulate the volume of production as to ensure that profits do not fall below a certain level, above normal profits in the economic sense. Or is it that there is so much competition that strong tendencies do exist towards normal profits. Also, how does the very large public sector in the industry behave in all these respects. It seems that people make various suppositions and counter-suppositions in these respects, but not enough is really known to enable us to understand the possible structural and behavioural causes of instability.

For the immediate future, there have been warnings of the possibility soon of a major technological breakthrough in nitrogenous fertilizer production. The question that arises is, will such a breakthrough lead to a repetition of the situation 20 years ago in 1963 when the dramatic technological breakthrough in nitrogen production, through the centrifugal compression process, had led to such a heavy rush of investment to cash in on the super profits awaiting the early comer that the whole industry went later into a major slump in the late 1960's when all the new plants came simultaneously on stream. Will there be a repetition of such a cycle, or has there been some sort of historical learning process to prevent it?

A similar volatile situation in the fertilizer field had arisen, though for altogether different reasons, in 1973/74, when prices had shot up manifold and market supply had fallen down.

The relevance of such instability for the developing countries is that the disruption of prices and availability takes place to the extreme detriment of the developing countries.

During the crisis of 1973 governments as well as industry in producing countries had preferred to divert supplies to their own domestic users, even to the point of breaking supply contracts already entered into with the developing countries.

In view of the characteristics of the industry we find it heartening to see in the document, under paragraph 64 item vii at page 7, concerning the future programme of work of the Commission, that the Commission has recommended an investigation into the structure and interrelationship of the fertilizer industry with particular view to price formation and marketing. We hope that the considerations recounted by me just now will be covered under this item and funds will be found for this particular investigation that is recommended by the Fertilizer Commission.

Coming now to the second point of the four aspects that I started with, the question of instability is relevant to this second aspect, which is the question of striving for self-sufficiency in production in the developing countries by inscreasing domestic plant capacity.

The danger here is that of setting up white elephants, as pointed out in the Director-General's speech at page 22 of the document before us. In this respect studies by the CECD and some independent researchers have indeed shown, or implied, that fertilizer production may not be the best candidate for import-substitution in many countries. It would be wasteful of resources which could be used more productively elsewhere. It may not even be foreign exchange-saving, as some researches have shown. Furthermore, the earlier experience of many countries showed how difficult was the efficient management of fertilizer plants. For a host of technical, managerial and economic reasons, the chronic problem, at least initially, has been a gross underutilization of capacity in these countries.

The possibility or likelihood of such inefficiencies therefore poses a very hard choice for the developing countries. The hard choice arises because, as opposed to the consideration "efficiency", is the consideration of "self-sufficiency" in a vital resource. In the case of food, and all resources that produce food, arguments of self-sufficiency have to be considered against the arguments of efficiency. And it could be a perfectly rational and acceptable choice, in certain given circumstances, to sacrifice efficiency for self-sufficiency. Given the instability in the world market, trade is too fragile and unstable a mechanism to be depended upon in all circumstances. Therefore we entirely agree with the recommendation made by the Commission at paragraph 24 for facilitation developing countries to produce their own fertilizer and FAO's role in it.

Related to the question of production is the question of technology to be used in the manufacture of fertilizer, which is the third of the four points I started with. In this respect UNIDO-sponsored mini plants, mentioned at paragraph 61 of the document, are of considerable interest. But in this respect it is relevant to ask how many of these are really mini plants. I think the position in this respect is that a plant with a capacity of 50 000 nutrients tons per annum has been found by UNIDO to be generally the most optimum from a technical point of view. This really is not terribly mini, though it is on the smaller side of the common run of nitrogenous fertilizer plants today. Third, it is not clear whether the smallness in size is also accompanied by a simpler technology, simpler in terms of equipment, process and feed stock, and whether it is more labour-intensive than the highly capital-intensive large plants of today. The need is to develop not only a smaller plant but also a more labour-intensive plant.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your cooperation.

J. MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): Finally, regarding the fourth and last point regarding the choice on the overall approach to soil fertilization, this has to be based on the objective conditions prevailing on the global and domestic fertilizer scene. Some of these can be recounted as under:

(i) A perpetual global shortage of fertilizer - shortage defined not in relation to the market (in which there may be no shortage in terms of effective demand) but shortage in terms of global needs for food security, shortage from the point of view of the capacity of the earth to sustain its increasing population. FAO's study, "Land, Food and People", has projected that 150 million tons of fertilizer will be required annually in the developing countries to reach the lower (intermediate) level of fertilizer use for a less ambitious scenario on carrying capacity in various regions of the world. The study "Agriculture through 2000" also projects a rate of annual growth in fertilizer use far above that being achieved at present. The questions which therefore arise are: will the developing countries be able to afford all this? (the question of purchasing power); and will, indeed, the earth be able to afford all this (since feedstock of oil and gas is a depleting resource).

(ii) A second feature on the global scene is the present inability of the developing countries to afford to buy fertilizers in the quantities they need. Even with the relatively low and declining fertilizer prices prevailing after 1980, developing countries are unable to afford the import of fertilizer due to balance of payments problems, debt burden and depreciation of their currencies vis-a-vis the dollar. Whatever they are able to import, they are unable to provide to their farmers at sufficiently attractive prices without imposing a heavy fiscal burden on government finances due to subsidies.

(iii) A third element in the international fertilizer scene is the wide disparity in fertilizer production and consumption between developing and developed countries - for technical, economic and historical reasons. On the production side, as the document before us shows, in 1968-69, developing market economies accounted for less than 5 percent of total fertilizer output. The situation of course has been improving; and we are heading by 1988-89 to a 40:40:20 ratio between the output of the three economic classes namely the Developed Market Economies, the Centrally Planned Economies and the Developing Market Economies. But still for the developing countries production falls far short of needs. Not all countries have the benefit of oil or cheap natural gas reserves (phosphate rock or an extensive irrigated agriculture (70 percent of land is irrigated), an old-established extension and research network, and a large fertilizer "market". Many of the developing countries are far less placed than this, with no feed back available to them.

Given this situation, we have to look further afield, and more fundamentally, at the whole question of fertilizers and our present over-dependence on chemical fertilizers and the grand option in the longer run is to reduce our dependence on them altogether. In the place of the possibly hazardous use of chemical fertilizers which, also, are capital intensive and therefore expensive to produce, the developing countries have the choice to go in more for an "integrated" nutrient approach. Greater emphasis may be placed on some old-fashioned solutions such as organic recycling and, simply, better and more careful farming practices - as well as the more "modern" use of biological nitrogen fixation. It is heartening to see a shift in emphasis in this direction in FAO, and we strongly welcome what is stated at paragraphs 49 and 53 of the document regarding Integrated Plant Nutrition Systems etc. and the recommendation made at paragraph 64 for FAO to undertake further investigation on the subject.\*

Sra. R.A. SUAREZ MELO (Colombia): Ante todo queremos agradecer al señor Bommer por la presentación clara y exacta de este tema.

Atendiendo a la solicitud de la Presidencia haremos solo un breve comentario en relación al presente documento pues debido a la complejidad de los diferentes temas debatidos anteriormente vemos que nuestras labores se han retrasado un poco y no desearíamos contribuir a acrecentar esta demora.

En el pasado mes de febrero durante la Novena Reunion de la Comisión de Fertilizantes del Director General expreso una vez más la difícil situación que dio origen a esta Comisión en 1974.

Igualmente señaló los innumerables esfuerzos que viene realizando la FAO en la rehabilitación de la agricultura africana.

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\* Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

En este contexto es factor preponderante la acción de los fertilizantes que junto con políticas adecuadas de riego y suministro suficiente de semillas contribuirán al alivio de la alarmante realidad africana.

Somos conscientes de la importancia del uso de los fertilizantes y estamos convencidos que son elementos vitales en todo el desarrollo y recuperación agrícola. A este respecto deseamos manifestar que nuestra delegación considera preocupante lo mencionado en el párrafo 17 de este documento CL 87/8 en el apartado 2, bajo el título "Política Mundial de Fertilizantes", pues es insatisfactorio el descenso en el consumo de los tres nutrientes: potasio, fósforo y azufre, en determinadas regiones, entre ellas la nuestra.

Creemos así decisivas y apoyamos, las recomendaciones formuladas por la Comisión en el párrafo 24 y en el 25 tendientes a subsanar esta disminución incrementando a mediano y largo plazo la producción y aplicación de fertilizantes.

Apoyamos igualmente los párrafos 29 y 30 e insistimos en que la experiencia de MULTIFERT como excelente modelo sea objeto de un estudio especial particularmente en nuestro ámbito regional, caribeño y latinoamericano.

Finalmente, queremos manifestar nuestro total acuerdo y pleno apoyo al párrafo 49 del documento que ahora se debate. Creemos ser vital y de un constante integrador para la nutrición vegetal el empleo de materias orgánicas y la fijación biológica del nitrógeno, más aún si se tienen en cuenta los aspectos económicos de definición de costos involucrados en un medio como el nuestro de países en vías de desarrollo.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation also thank Dr Bommer for his excellent presentation of the Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers. We commend the Commission on its useful and informative report and for all it has accomplished since its inception. My delegation participated in the Ninth Session of the Commission; hence we support all the recommendations contained in the report. However, on one or two points I have some short comment.

We support the important work of FAO in the International Fertilizer Programme. In view of the important role it is playing, it deserves better support from the donor countries than it is getting at present. Because of the difficulties in developing countries in respect of their food supply, the present levels of multilateral and bilateral aid from the donor countries should also be increased.

Regarding the fertilizer programme, my delegation supports the work of that programme, and would encourage FAO to give greater priority to such activity as the promotion of biological fertilizer, organic fertilizers and plant nutrition systems. We stress the need for extending fertilizer use in order to increase food production. Lastly, we endorse the report for adoption by the Council.

C.A. FERREIRA GUIMARAES (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to thank Dr Bommer for his presentation of document CL 87/8. My delegation supports the concept endorsed by the Commission on Fertilizers that the most lasting solution to the problem of hunger and malnutrition lies mainly on increased food production, and particularly on the increase of agricultural productivity in the developing countries. In this connection, my delegation wishes to stress the importance of the rational, balanced and regular use of fertilizers as an essential input to help countries toward food self-reliance.

With regard to the Review of Current Fertilizer Situation and Outlook, we wish to express our deep concern with the decline in fertilizer consumption in Latin America. Among other factors, like changes in subsidy policies as have occurred in Brazil, fertilizer purchase and consumption in Latin America have been adversely affected by the serious external debt problem, limited by heavy interest charges. In this connection, my delegation favours the increase in fertilizer aid in order to reverse present negative trends both in Africa for the rehabilitation of its agriculture, and also in other countries with insufficient levels of consumption and difficulties in their balance of payments. For this purpose, the international community is invited to give its support, either bilaterally or multilaterally. Revitalization of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme would also be very desirable. We think that the multiplying effect of fertilizer use justifies the extra effort by donors to provide this input to the region most affected by a food crisis.

Finally, I wish to inform you, Mr Chairman, and the Council that after three consecutive years of decrease in the consumption of fertilizers, Brazil in 1984 experienced an increase of about 45 percent in fertilizer consumption, as compared with 1983. However, this level is still 20 percent below that reached in 1980.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): The suggestion of my delegation that the debate should run its natural course was really a matter of principle, not because we intended to subject this Council to a diatribe I

We welcome the Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers. We did not participate in the Commission, but agree with the report subject to the following comments and queries. As we implied in our comments earlier under item 7, we think the use of fertilizers for the recovery of food production is probably less direct and certain than generally is upheld in the report. Where countries rely on rain-fed agriculture the supply of fertilizers by aid through free or subsidized distribution is unlikely to be helpful in moving towards true recovery and true self-sufficiency. The massive application of fertilizers is not an answer to the problems of Africa.

Like our colleagues from the United States of America, we cannot support the further approach, as suggested in paragraph 20, to the IMF on the question of the IMF extending facilities for the procurement of fertilizers. We consider this would introduce distortions in the work of the IMF.

Thirdly, we are puzzled by the recommendation in paragraph 64 that FAO should carry out further work on price stabilization measures including buffer stocks, when paragraph 31 of this same paper records the view of the Commission that buffer fertilizer stocks are not feasible. However, there are various other suggestions in paragraph 64 for further work, funds permitting, and after examination of earlier work by the Commission. We particularly support two of these suggestions, which are, "measures required to implement the efficiency of fertilizer use" - paragraph 64(vi) - and the examination of "experience of the successful application of alternative or low-cost measures of nutrient supply including biological nitrogen fixation, recycling of wastes, etc." - paragraph 64(v). I need not repeat in this Council the view that the use of nitrogen fertilizer needs to be carefully controlled since its excessive application, particularly during wet weather, is not only wasteful but allows too much to groundwater supplies.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): I appreciate your principle, United Kingdom. Thank you.

R. PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Report of the Ninth Session of the Commission on Fertilizers clearly reflects two basic features: first, the decisive role of fertilizers for crop production and second, the inter-relationship with overall economic conditions. The present fertilizer production capacities throughout the world are sufficient to meet demand. Nevertheless, consumption is stagnating in many countries. This shows how fertilizer use is dependent on the price:cost ratio. The farmer must be able to realize a price for his products which makes worthwhile the use of fertilizers, seed and other inputs.

As regards direct fertilizer supplies as aid, my delegation recalls that supply bottlenecks led in 1974 to the establishment of the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme. Much has been achieved through this Scheme. But conditions have meanwhile changed. There is no lack of commodity, but there are financial limits. Fertilizers are being made available by the Federal Republic of Germany within the framework of bilateral, technical and financial cooperation. FAO has been informed about that. Requests from the countries concerned are carefully examined. We welcome the efforts of FAO to coordinate fertilizer aid with the FAO Fertilizer Supply Scheme. FAO deserves appreciation for its manifold fertilizer activities, in particular under the various regional field programmes.

We fully support the efforts towards a better and more efficient use of fertilizers, and towards including organic components which are available at local level. In this respect, great success has already been achieved in many developing countries. Therefore, these efforts should be continued.

With regard to paragraph 20 of document CL 87/8 concerning an eventual extension of IMF facilities for the procurement of fertilizers, we maintain our position already expressed during the session of the Commission. In our view, the IMF should not differentiate according to individual causes in considering balance-of-payments deficits.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Gracias, señor Presidente: Vamos a ser muy breves. En primer lugar queremos dar nuestro apoyo al informe 9 de la reunion de fertilizantes. Hemos participado en esta reunion y así ahora reiteramos nuestro apoyo. A la vez también queremos reiterar esta vez también nuestro total endoso a la labor que realiza el Programa de Fertilizantes y destacar que la consideramos como una de las principales actividades que hace la FAO. Queremos también en esta oportunidad dar el apoyo a las delegaciones que se han referido a la experiencia de Multifert.

Para nosotros, parte de las orientaciones del Programa de Fertilizantes debe estar dada hacia facilitar la cooperación entre países en desarrollo para la producción y comercialización de nuestros países, que son los que tienen materias primas, son los que disponen de recursos naturales para la producción. En ese sentido nos remitimos al punto referido a fertilizantes sobre consultas de cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo que tuvo lugar en la FAO hace pocas semanas en el capítulo de insumos, que tiene que ver siempre con fertilizantes.

Otro aspecto que nos interesa en favor de nuestras estrategias para el uso de fertilizantes es el de poder disponer de mayor información acerca de los resultados logrados y que se vayan conociendo sobre el empleo de fertilizantes en distintos cultivos y bajo diferentes condiciones ecológicas de los países. No debemos olvidar tampoco el interés que merece el conocimiento de los problemas que crean a diversos cultivos las deficiencias en elementos menores, la interacción de otros factores físicos y químicos presentes en el suelo natural: aridez, drenaje, acidez, etc. Estos aspectos creemos que deben ser tenidos en cuenta cuando se evalúen los resultados del uso de fertilizantes, y es la FAO, con sus servicios técnicos, el Organismo que nos pueda dar una información completa que en el análisis global del tema fertilizantes considere también estos aspectos particulares de la utilización y uso de fertilizantes.

Finalmente queremos decir, que debido a la escasez de recursos de que se dispone actualmente en nuestros países en desarrollo, debido principalmente a problemas de precios y comercialización, los agricultores no disponen de un sistema de fácil acceso a los insumos. En ese sentido la Argentina ha desarrollado una experiencia en el último año, que es la de distribuir fertilizantes a pequeños productores, nada más que a pequeños agricultores, a ser pagados posteriormente con una proporción del producto obtenido del cultivo. Con este procedimiento, que se inició ya el año pasado, en Argentina se han sembrado más de 2 millones de hectáreas para la producción de cereales. Otra cosa que la FAO podría proporcionarnos también es una actualizada y continuada información sobre la evolución del mercado de fertilizantes, los precios por unidad y sus perspectivas a corto y mediano plazo, como también los acuerdos que se vayan logrando entre países en desarrollo para la producción de estos insumos.

Por nuestra parte estamos desarrollando la elaboración de fertilizantes nitrogenados y Argentina está dispuesta a cooperar con los países que se interesan en este tipo de problemas.

R.C. GUPTA (India): Mr Chairman, let me say how happy we are to see you presiding at the deliberations of the Council. We would like to compliment Dr Bommer for his clear introduction.

Our delegation had the privilege of presiding at the last Session of the Commission, and we would like to place on record our deep appreciation of the work of Dr Couston, the Secretary of the Commission, in assisting the work of this useful Commission in the FAO.

I would like to confine my comments only to one particular aspect, Mr Chairman, in view of your direction to be brief, which is in regard to the price of fertilizers. We have a somewhat unusual situation in the case of fertilizers. Whereas the fertilizer industry is languishing with some capacity under-utilized or unutilized altogether, on the other hand the use of fertilizer, particularly in the developing world, is declining. We can think of various alternatives such as biofertilization, increasing efficiency of fertilizers, increasing extension efforts to make proper use of fertilizers, but nevertheless the problem continues.

In terms of dollars the price of fertilizer might have declined but in terms of local currencies and payment capacities of developing countries, fertilizer prices are becoming more and more prohibitive, and the cost/value ratio, because of the adverse terms of trade of agricultural commodities is going down, as is the use of fertilizer in the developing countries.

We will have to address ourselves to this situation and in our opinion we have to approach it in certain ways. One of them is that further research and study is necessary to reduce the cost of production of fertilizers. Another concern, which we voiced in the Commission meeting, is that perhaps fertilizer prices are not reflective of the true prices. We strongly urge the Fertilizer Commission to study the structure and inter-relationship of the fertilizer industry with particular attention to price formation and marketing. We would look forward to such a study by the Commission.

Mr Chairman, I should like to say one more word about the situation in my own country. In India the use of fertilizer has gone up from 3 or 4 kilograms per hectare about a quarter of a century ago to about 48 kilograms per hectare now, and food production has increased from 50 million tons to 151 million tons over this period. According to our plans our fertilizer requirement would go up from 8.4 million tons of nutrients now to about 14.5 million tons of nutrients by the end of this decade. Our import requirement of fertilizer would go up from 3.5 million tons at present to about 4.5 million tons of nutrients by 1990. I am giving this information particularly as a signal to the fertilizer industry that we will continue to be a major importer of fertilizers.



L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente: Quiero también unirme a los colegas que se han sentido felices por verle presidir a usted las sesiones de nuestro Consejo, Señor Presidente, nosotros no tuvimos el honor de oír el informe del señor Bommer, pero estamos seguros que con la misma maestría y experiencia de siempre nos hizo un buen informe, una buena presentación.

Señor Presidente, queremos primeramente expresar que vamos a tratar de no ocuparle mucho tiempo, pero sí creemos que no por ahorrar tiempo podemos dejar las cosas sin aclarar, porque la cuestión es que se siguen complicando y las cosas sin aclarar son malas. Primeramente creemos que la Comisión de Fertilizantes (esta Comisión surgió en momentos muy difíciles para los fertilizantes) surgió como una decisión para especializar el estudio de la situación de fertilizantes, y esta-situación de fertilizantes no se ha despejado. Creemos que al contrario, creemos que en estos momentos la situación es más difícil que cuando se creó la Comisión, y no por falta de trabajo de la Comisión, no por falta de trabajo de la FAO, sino por situaciones totalmente exógenas, por problemas de precios, por problemas de proteccionismo, por problemas de producción, por una serie de problemas que la Comisión ha discutido con bastante profundidad. Nosotros creemos, en ese contexto, que debe mantenerse como instrumento especializado hasta que la situación crítica desaparezca. Ese es nuestro criterio porque brinda un marco muy especial para discutir uno de los insumos más importantes que tiene la agricultura, si no el mas importante, en estos momentos en que, después de siglos de trabajar la tierra, ya la tierra necesita una inyección de energía para poder rindarnos tres o cuatro veces más producción, con cuatro o cinco veces más población. Por eso creemos que si hay una Comisión que es necesario que exista es esta Comisión por su especialización, y además lo demuestra este informe. Este informe es un recuento, es muy especializado y muy amplio de situaciones, que ninguna de ellas se puede llamar como una situación irrelevante o como una situación que no deba haberse discutido. Desde el número 1 hasta el número 67 son cuestiones que todas llevaron atento trabajo por su necesidad. No creo que se pueda expresar aquí que esta Comisión no es necesaria.

Segundo, señor Presidente, vamos a dar nuestros criterios sobre el informe. Primeramente nosotros estamos totalmente de acuerdo con el informe en toda su extensión. Queremos, para ahorrar tiempo, apoyar en todas sus partes, el informe que hizo la distinguida representación de México y la distinguida representación de Pakistán, así como el Congo.

Creemos que en el Informe, el párrafo 5 es muy interesante, porque la declaración del Director General reiteró el convencimiento de que los fertilizantes, en las condiciones adecuadas es esencial para fomentar la producción.

El párrafo 17 es una de las cuestiones que hace pensar en la necesidad de mantener la Comisión por la gravedad de la situación; el consumo mundial de los diversos nutrientes disminuyó por segundo año consecutivo, si bien aumentó el consumo general en los países en desarrollo, descendió el de cada uno de los tres nutrientes en Africa. Hemos constatado la situación peligrosa y la situación en descenso que tiene este problema de los fertilizantes.

En el párrafo 20, se habla con bastante realidad de que a pesar de la rehabilitación de la agricultura en Africa, se requieren esfuerzos no sólo a corto plazo sino también a medio y largo plazo. Por consiguiente la ayuda debería prestarse durante varios años. Esto ha sido analizado y llevó a la Comisión en general, a expresar su preocupación tras la respuesta negativa dada por el Director Gerente del Fondo Monetario Internacional, respuesta que se consideró negativa en los momentos y en la situación que se hace, porque fue una sugerencia del Director General de que el Fondo ampliase sus servicios para facilitar la compra de productos que pueden resolver el problema en muchos lugares. Sin embargo esto fue negado por los mismos distinguidos representantes que lo están negando aquí, pero consideramos que la Comisión pidió al Director General que insistiera ante el Fondo para que se reconsiderase su posición en vista de las dificultades por que atraviesa.

Consideramos que debe mantenerse de la misma manera que viene en el Informe.

Igualmente el párrafo 21 toma nota con preocupación de la respuesta negativa del Administrador del PNUD. También la Comisión trató este problema en profundidad y reflejó su criterio.

El párrafo 24, en su segunda parte, pide a la FAO que en cooperación con otros organismos apropiados, llevara a cabo estudios nacionales y regionales para obtener una evaluación objetiva del potencial de los países en desarrollo, especialmente de los africanos, para la producción de fertilizantes en el contexto general de su economía agrícola. Esto se analizó, se discutió y se le pidió a la FAO porque es una necesidad independientemente de que podamos hablar ahora de costos y beneficios del Presupuesto; pero esto es una necesidad creciente en el mundo en desarrollo y la FAO está interesada en esa necesidad en la forma en que se pide aquí.

El párrafo 29, es un párrafo donde se hace un análisis sobre las empresas mixtas y también se analizan las posibilidades sobre los problemas de abastecimiento, y esto no es otra cosa que el resultado de la mala factibilidad de análisis hechas por organismos que hoy son los acreedores y responsables de que no estén produciendo.

En el párrafo 33 se expresaron las delegaciones de América Latina y el Caribe con un análisis muy profundo de los resultados del trabajo que viene realizando como empresa mixta en el sector de los fertilizantes MULTIFERT, que es la primera empresa creada por SELA y que tiene ya once Estados Miembros y llevó a la Comisión a plantear este párrafo en el que se le preveía un próspero futuro. Por lo tanto se consideró que era útil la MULTIFERT, como un elemento de ejemplo en este tipo de empresas.

Ahora hay una serie de párrafos muy importantes que sería bueno o malo repetir; pero cuando las respuestas no dan soluciones, creo que no es malo repetir. Aquí se habló de que no debemos repetir, ¿pero cómo resolver si no repetimos? ¿Quedándonos tan tranquilos cuando no se resuelven los problemas? Hay unas cuestiones muy interesantes planteadas sobre la especialidad de esta Comisión que profundizó en los problemas de sequía en las regiones; esta situación que no permite tener agua suficiente ni la fertilización. Sin embargo se pide que se debe extender la ayuda y aumentar la eficacia de los cultivos a fin de obtener variantes de agua. Esta es una cuestión que considero importante para el futuro de la agricultura sobre todo para el Sahel.

En el párrafo 54, la Comisión recomienda a la Secretaría que adopte un enfoque distinto en futuros Informes sobre las actividades relacionadas con los fertilizantes, en particular sobre el Programa de Fertilizantes. Deberían facilitarse más datos sobre la integración de esas actividades dentro de la FAO y en los planes y políticas en general de desarrollo, así como en los Programas de Fomento Agrícola en los países. La Comisión entró a analizar toda una serie de problemas críticamente también, con plena conciencia de que estaba realizando un trabajo profundo, no por arriba, ni superficialmente.

Quiero referirme al párrafo 64 sobre el futuro Programa de Trabajo de la Comisión. Creo que el número 64, da una amplia gama de actividades que debemos mantener en su totalidad porque van a garantizar, en la medida posible, el que los fertilizantes puedan mejorar un poco y repito, que el trabajo es una exposición muy sucinta de una Comisión que es necesaria mientras el problema de los fertilizantes no se resuelva.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): Where did you get this information that the Commission was going to discontinue its activities? I am sure that it will continue if the Council wishes it to do so.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): There are one or two points which have been raised in the debate which are probably worth addressing, and also, from the meeting of the Commission itself, the question of the IFS - the International Fertilizer Supply Scheme - has been addressed on a number of occasions during this Council Session. We are not a major contributor now, although when the Scheme began I think we were among the largest contributors, if not the largest. Perhaps it is worth noting that we do not believe that the circumstances are the same as when the Scheme was introduced in relation to supplies and prices. Circumstances have changed, and frankly our own judgment is that there are probably better ways of using our own aid resources. Consequently I am quite happy to support the proposal in paragraph 64 that there should be an examination of the IFS. I believe the study should be fairly wide and should include some analysis of why donors by and large are not attracted to the Scheme. We would of course be happy to contribute our views, Mr President.

With regard to the proposals for the expansion of IMF facilities to encompass fertilizer inputs : Australia has considerable reservations about the introduction of any new commodity specific facilities in the IMF, since we consider that IMF assistance should be made available on the basis of a particular commodity. However, we do not have any objection to a request to the IMF from FAO for a review of the IMF facilities as they relate to the problems of low-income food-deficit countries, and I would mention this in terms of the Fertilizers Commission.

There was also the question concerning fertilizer inputs versus food aid. I suppose there could be benefits in importing fertilizers for food-deficit countries - I think that was a qualification which we looked at. However, I would suggest that there are other choices open to countries than attempting to encourage production through input subsidies, as was raised I think this morning. There are probably more cost-effective ways of encouraging production. I can say that we in Australia speak from experience on these matters, and would suggest that any government giving thought to such proposals should think twice. I think we would give particular prominence to alternative and low-cost alternatives to nitrogen supply, on which Australia's agriculture is based. Simply speaking, we cannot afford the alternatives and we believe that many developing countries with similar ecological circumstances to our own are in the same position.

To this end, I think the Fertilizer Programme of FAO has played an important role, and we believe it will continue to do so. However, we would perhaps like to see a little more comprehensive and quantitative analysis, using concrete examples of success stories - which is the only way, we believe, in which you can effectively demonstrate to government administrations the benefits to be gained by these sorts of prices, where applicable.

The question of fertilizer prices has also been raised, and the fact that these perhaps are not true prices. This is an argument which we have been through at some length. It is claimed that the prices are too high, that they are false prices. On the other hand, we have excess capacity in the industry. We talked about the closing down of capacity, with the likelihood that in the future there would be insufficient capacity to produce fertilizer requirements, and that fertilizer prices at the moment are insufficient to encourage new capacity, so it raises the potential for shortages. We would reiterate our belief that the only cure is to restore the input/output price ratio between fertilizer and agricultural commodity prices, which does reflect the distortion or corruption of international agricultural markets.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Queremos, señor Presidente, expresar primeramente nuestra complacencia por verle a usted presidiendo esta reunion y al mismo tiempo deseamos manifestar que vamos a dar nuestro pleno apoyo al Documento que está en estudio, ya que consideramos que es excelente.

Deberemos, sin embargo, centrar nuestra breve intervención en el párrafo 64, primero para enfatizar nuestro respaldo a la experiencia del proyecto MULTIFERT, que está demostrando cómo una empresa joven de carácter mixto integrada por países en vías de desarrollo puede ser útil y puede realizar una labor bastante apreciable que ha merecido el consenso de apoyo de esta reunion, en beneficio de los otros países en vías de desarrollo.

Al mismo tiempo queremos referirnos también en el párrafo 64, al punto (vi), que se refiere a las medidas necesarias para influir en la eficiencia de muchos de los fertilizantes. Esto lo hacemos preocupados como estamos, no tanto por la importancia de los precios, del consumo y del aumento o disminución de la producción, sino por la preocupación que nos lleva a pensar en el efecto del uso de estos fertilizantes en los consumidores. Nosotros sabemos por experiencia que estos fertilizantes pueden ser arma de dos filos en mano de personas que no están preparadas o que no han sido debidamente instruidas para su uso. Hemos presenciado el caso de agricultores sin mucha experiencia, lamentablemente también sin muchos escrúpulos, que abusan de los fertilizantes para obtener productos que aparecen a la vista muy hermosos, que atraen al consumidor, pero que no son precisamente los mejores frutos para la salud del ser humano.

Por esta razón aprobamos realmente esta caución que se hace en cuanto a la preocupación por la eficiencia del uso de los fertilizantes, a que aludía el delegado del Reino Unido y desde este punto de vista queremos apoyarlo pensando en la salud de la masa consumidora y en la necesidad de instruir o de buscar la manera de que los fertilizantes puedan ser usados con precaución o con medida, de manera que no puedan resultar dañinos.

Es posible que en un ramo como los cereales los fertilizantes puedan valorizar la producción y su resultado pueda ser evaluado como positivo atendiendo especialmente al volumen, a la cantidad de kilos por hectárea, o toneladas por hectárea, porque desde este punto de vista la cosecha está evaluada desde el punto de vista económico, pero hay otros renglones como la agricultura o cultivos frutales en los cuales este uso indiscriminado de fertilizantes no es siempre saludable y así podemos temer no solamente en el fruto en sí, sino también en las consecuencias, por ejemplo, del uso indiscriminado abusivo de estos fertilizantes. En ello se revela, como lo hemos dicho antes, que los resultados del uso de fertilizantes mejoran en volumen, en aumento de la producción, pero no en calidad del producto.

Tratamos de destacar estos puntos por cuanto ello ha dañado la salud de los consumidores de tales productos, aspecto que está muy directamente vinculado a la defensa de la seguridad alimentaria y a la preocupación por la alimentación que concierne a la FAO, y en este sentido al perjuicio que puede derivarse del uso incontrolado, abusivo de los fertilizantes.

Por ejemplo nosotros hemos tenido experiencia en mi país, lamentablemente, de que estos determinados fertilizantes, fundamentalmente químicos, pueden contaminar las aguas de los ríos, acidificar los suelos, no siempre dan los resultados esperados en la obtención de una cosecha eficiente y, por consiguiente, si bien las cosechas pudieran ser positivas ese daño que ellos hacen a los suelos y a las aguas, que son insumos fundamentales para la agricultura, no son realmente positivos. Por eso consideramos, pues, que este párrafo 64 podría ampliarse insistiendo más en el número 6 en cuanto a estas medidas que deben tomarse como precaución extrema para educar a estos agricultores, especialmente a los pequeños agricultores que deben usar los fertilizantes con medida, y tal vez la FAO podía insistir también en el uso y desarrollo de los fertilizantes orgánicos que estamos viendo que reconocemos que son sin duda eficientes aun cuando no lleven la producción a los extremos en que el comerciante o productor aspira para tener un buen resultado en cuanto a su precio.

Especialmente eso quería decir como una sugerencia para alertar en el uso de los fertilizante para beneficio de la salud de los consumidores.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): Thank you very much, Your Excellency - your comments were certainly very much to the point and show that you are well versed in agricultural matters.

F. de MENEZES (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Permettez-moi de remercier et de féliciter M. Bommer pour le rapport qu'il nous a présenté et féliciter aussi la Commission des engrais pour le résultat de leur dernière réunion qui paraît dans le rapport qui nous est soumis. Les engrais sont nécessaires pour n'importe quelle culture agricole et pour nous, qui parlons aujourd'hui dans toutes les instances internationales de la sécurité alimentaire, il est normal que nous puissions parler des engrais en ce qui concerne les cultures vivrières mais, en ce qui concerne nos pays, les îles de Sao Tomé-et-Principe la culture de rente, qui est celle du cacao, comme nous l'avons déjà déclaré dans plusieurs réunions de cette Organisation, cette culture est la base qui constitue notre pouvoir d'achat pour l'importation des produits destinés à l'alimentation de notre population. Il faut également parler en matière d'engrais pour ce qui concerne les cultures de rente, et mon pays, pour maintenir une production minimale, a toujours eu besoin d'énormément de fertilisants, de pesticides et d'insecticides. Si aujourd'hui nous connaissons la production qui est la nôtre c'est parce que, après notre indépendance, après 1975, les engrais nous ont fait défaut. Nous nous sommes adressés à la Communauté internationale, même à la FAO et en passant je voudrais remercier ici, au nom de mon gouvernement, en tant qu'Ambassadeur auprès de notre Organisation, le gouvernement de l'Autriche pour l'aide qu'il nous a octroyée en 1981-82 suite à la demande que le Directeur général avait lancée en notre faveur pour quelques centaines de tonnes d'engrais qui ont pu nous parvenir. Ainsi notre agriculture a pu bien marcher pendant l'époque coloniale et même quelques années après l'époque coloniale et elle s'est centrée surtout sur une utilisation maximale des engrais tels que l'urée et les autres produits. Aujourd'hui nous nous trouvons dans une situation très difficile par rapport à la fourniture des engrais. Nous sommes un tout petit pays insulaire, pays moins avancé. Il existe un programme et des actions substantielles qui ont été prônées par les Nations Unies elles-mêmes lors de la Conférence à Paris en 1981 et nous voudrions attirer l'attention du Conseil, de l'Organisation et des pays donateurs sur le cas de pays comme le nôtre, qui n'ont pas les moyens d'une production locale. Nous parlons d'enthousiasmer, d'encourager les pays à produire localement les engrais mais nous n'en avons pas les moyens et ne prétendons pas avoir les moyens de les produire. Nous demandons donc qu'une action précise, encourageante soit faite en faveur de pays comme le mien.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I wish to assure you that we will not be very long. Mr Chairman we also of course wish to thank Dr Bommer for his introduction.

Our delegation wishes to emphasize our full support for the initiatives of the Director-General and to commend the Commission for its work. Mr Chairman, given the importance of fertilizers in virtually all areas of agricultural production, we must all be concerned about the deficiency in donor contributions, more so in the context of those countries whose agriculture is in a crisis situation at this time, and which are the focus of the Rehabilitation thrust. In this regard it is even more alarming to know that the world fertilizer consumption of the major nutrients declined in 1982-83 for the second consecutive year and more specifically, reduced consumption of all or some nutrients in critical areas, worst of all in Africa. Mr Chairman, with particular reference to paragraph 22, fertilizer use at the national level, our delegation wishes to urge FAO to take a comprehensive and incisive look at this area. Our suggestion in this regard reaches beyond the mere quantities available by imports or otherwise. The focus of our thoughts is on the efficiency of use of whatever is available on the farm. We consider this an area for comprehensive review. Of course this relates to in-country recommendations by agronomists and other research scientists in relation to specific crops on specific soils in specific regions, etc. Even where FAO is unable to provide actual physical supplies to countries which may seek assistance Mr Chairman, we suggest that there be available expertise, possibly two or three-man teams, soil chemists, soil surveyors, production specialists, etc. who could go into a country and analyze what is being done by the combination of researchers, agronomists and extension workers: That is to say look at the package of recommendations and see to what extent it is integrated, evaluate the total programme and be in a position to give advice on new directions, new lines of action. Then there could be a monitoring programme even on a sample basis among the countries. In essence Mr Chairman, our suggestion here relates specifically to efficiency of use at the country level. Beyond this specific suggestion, we wish to repeat our endorsement of the work of the Commission.

M. BALLA SY (Sénégal): Je m'excuse de prendre aussi tardivement la parole dans ce débat très intéressant, mais laissez-moi vous dire, Monsieur le Président, que le fait d'être souvent votre voisin m'a permis d'apprécier vos hautes qualités, l'opportunité et le privilège de vous exprimer toute ma satisfaction de vous voir guider nos travaux sur ce point qui est particulièrement important pour nous. Je ne serai pas très long puisque le document lui-même ne l'autorise pas, d'autant qu'il est soumis à notre attention avec les qualités de concision qui font que notre débat ne devrait pas être très long. Une autre raison est que mon pays a eu l'honneur de participer à son élaboration.

Je crois que les délégués des pays qui m'ont précédé ont suffisamment insisté sur l'importance des engrais qui constituent un intrant dynamique mais très rare dans nos pays et qui constituent, hélas, l'un des facteurs limitants de l'accroissement de notre production agricole. Je crois que, si notre objectif est d'aider ces pays confrontés aux difficultés de l'alimentation et de leur permettre de surmonter ces dernières, nous ne pouvons pas ne pas mettre l'accent sur les moyens dynamiques de production comme les intrants en engrais. Aussi voudrais-je réitérer l'appui que mon pays donne au Programme international pour l'approvisionnement en engrais tout en souhaitant que ces ressources puissent être sensiblement accrues même s'il est vrai que nous devrions souhaiter que la FAO renforce ses efforts dans le sens d'une amélioration du fonctionnement de ses institutions. Permettez-moi rapidement d'appuyer certaines dispositions des paragraphes 20 et 21 parce que des pays comme le nôtre ne peuvent pas ne pas se préoccuper de certaines réactions du FMI et même du PNUD face à ce problème sous le seul prétexte que pour le cas, par exemple, du FMI, celui-ci ne doit s'occuper que des problèmes de balance des paiements et je pense que c'est là une position incohérente de vouloir nier que l'achat d'engrais ne peut pas avoir des incidences importantes sur les balances des paiements. Donc je pense qu'il y a des effets induits, indirects sur ces mêmes balances que le FMI a le devoir de regarder avec beaucoup d'attention. Je crois que cette réaction ne saurait nous convenir et en tout cas ne pas nous priver du droit de soutenir avec force l'idée principale de ce paragraphe 20 ainsi que celle émise au paragraphe 21.

Il est également important de souligner les paragraphes 37 et 40 qui traitent du soufre et surtout des perspectives qui sont assez sombres compte tenu de la rareté de cette importante matière et c'est là une occasion pour nous de nous féliciter de certaines actions déjà entreprises au niveau de certains pays dont le mien pour encourager, pour en tout cas promouvoir la fixation biologique de l'azote. Notre pays a abrité un atelier ainsi que d'autres pays africains et je crois qu'il s'agit d'expériences que la FAO doit poursuivre avec autant d'efforts que ceux qu'elle a fournis jusqu'à présent puisqu'il s'agit d'une alternative assez importante pour des pays comme le nôtre.

Les paragraphes 43 et 44 retracent également une certaine inquiétude des pays comme le nôtre, qui concerne d'une part la diminution de l'aide en matière d'engrais et d'autre part le grave problème de la dette extérieure des pays en développement, qui est souvent aggravée par ses importations d'engrais. D'où la nécessité de revenir aux conclusions de l'article 20.

Permettez-moi pour conclure d'appuyer également au nom de mon pays l'article 64, qui donne des orientations très pertinentes que la FAO devrait poursuivre avec les efforts que nous lui connaissons et la détermination dont elle a toujours fait preuve.

En conclusion je pense qu'il n'est même pas utile de se prononcer sur une proposition qui, semble-t-il, voudrait après une neuvième session de notre Commission demander la suppression de celle-ci. Cela d'ailleurs ne pourrait procéder que d'un lapsus que l'auteur de cette déclaration devrait désormais regretter puisque, parler de la nécessité de réhabiliter l'aquaculture dans nos pays, de la nécessité d'accroître la production et dire qu'un organe qui s'occupe de l'étude de ces problèmes afin de les cerner, de voir dans quelle mesure on peut les résoudre avec beaucoup de dynamisme, soutenir une telle idée ne peut procéder que d'un lapsus - qui peut nous arriver à nous tous parce que dans le débat il est toujours difficile de se faire comprendre - et je suis sûr que cela ne peut être mis que sur le compte d'un malentendu et je pense très sincèrement que c'est une question qui devrait être hors de propos au cours de nos débats.

CHAIRMAN: I thought so in fact. Now I think I have to ask if somebody from the members of the Council wants to take the floor. If not, with your permission, I give the floor to the Observers.

D.K. YOMAN (Observateur de la Côte d'Ivoire): Ma délégation n'avait pas l'intention d'intervenir sur point compte tenu du fait que la Commission des engrais ouverte à tous les Etats Membres de la FAO qui le désirent avait déjà longuement épluché la question, mais quelques déclarations faites ici cet après-midi nous amènent à vous faire connaître notre position sur l'utilité de l'existence d'une commission séparée chargée des engrais. En effet, ma délégation ne peut accepter que la Commission soit supprimée et intégrée au Comité de l'agriculture. Il s'agit en effet ici d'une question très spécialisée, voire controversée mais les engrais constituent un des intrants les plus importants à notre époque pour réussir une bonne agriculture, performante sur le plan de la productivité agricole.

Ce n'est pas à vous, représentants de l'Arabie Saoudite, que nous donnerons des leçons dans ce domaine. Nous nous rappelons des propos du Directeur général à la Commission des engrais et à d'autres occasions, ici à la FAO, lorsque de retour d'Arabie Saoudite il nous a décrit, chiffres à l'appui, les résultats obtenus par votre pays en matière de production alimentaire.

Certes en Afrique nous n'avons pas des moyens financiers et technologiques susceptibles de nous permettre de recourir à une telle densité d'utilisation des engrais à l'hectare comme en d'autres lieux, non seulement en Arabie Saoudite, mais aussi en Asie et en Amérique latine.

Mais il est urgent et salubre pour nos pays de dépasser ce taux d'utilisation d'au moins 1 kg à l'hectare pour les engrais.

C'est pourquoi la Côte-d'Ivoire souhaite insister auprès de ce Conseil pour que les initiatives de la FAO dans ce domaine, avec MULTIFERT et autres, et qui passent par une collaboration et un échange de vues bénéfiques par le biais de la Commission des engrais, continuent à faire l'objet de réunions spécialisées et non pas éludées dans le cadre d'un autre comité.

Notre rôle est d'attirer beaucoup plus l'attention de la communauté internationale sur ce lien indispensable qu'il y a entre utilisation des engrais et production alimentaire, afin que les gaspillages actuels dans certains pays prennent fin au profit de nos terres et de nos populations.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, ma délégation voudrait réitérer la position constante qu'elle a adoptée dans cette enceinte, à savoir que nos délibérations engagent tous les organes auxquels elles se rattachent, qu'il s'agisse des comités techniques, des commissions ou du Conseil.

Nous ne cherchons donc pas à rouvrir les débats ou bien à essayer de remettre en selle des questions déjà traitées et qui ont fait l'objet d'un large consensus des organes subsidiaires du Conseil. Certes chacune des délégations représentées aurait fort bien apprécié que ses vues soient toujours reflétées dans les différents rapports que nous élaborons, mais, Monsieur le Président, c'est une chose impossible, vous le savez.

Il est peut-être temps de mettre fin à cette discussion. Je vous remercie.

J.F. NGUEMA-NZE (Observateur du Gabon) : Monsieur le Président, nous sommes très heureux de vous voir présider cette réunion cet après-midi.

Permettez-moi de passer rapidement au point de l'ordre du jour en discussion. Nous pensons, Monsieur le Président, que la seule solution de rentabilisation n'est pas dans la fixation de prix compétitifs des produits agricoles, tel que nous l'avons entendu tout à l'heure. Pour notre part, nous pensons que la rentabilisation de l'utilisation des engrais réside dans le choix des techniques de production, dans la taille des unités de fabrication d'engrais, la gestion de ces unités, l'importance du marché auquel s'adresse la production.

A cela, Monsieur le Président, nous appuyons les observations pertinentes de notre collègue l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela relatives à l'attention qui doit être apportée à la qualité et à la quantité des engrais dans leur utilisation. En effet, une mauvaise utilisation de ceux-ci peut avoir des conséquences néfastes aussi bien pour les cultures que pour la texture et la structure du sol qui les abrite.

Je sais aussi, Monsieur le Président, que lorsqu'un pays fait appel au Fonds monétaire international pour redresser sa situation économique et financière, le Fonds intervient en proposant au pays à redresser un certain nombre de mesures, entre autres l'augmentation de la pression fiscale, la structuration des services administratifs, etc. Le Fonds intervient également pour redresser la balance des paiements du pays qui connaît un sinistre financier et, en dernier recours, Monsieur le Président, et pas le moindre, il s'agit de redresser les structures et l'appareil de production. Dans ce dernier cas, nous pensons que le FMI doit intervenir en ce qui concerne le financement et les achats d'engrais.

C'est pour cela que nous ne pensons pas qu'en faisant intervenir le FMI en matière d'approvisionnement et de production d'engrais soit détourné de ses objectifs ou de son intervention habituelle. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

A. RODRIGUEZ PIRES (Observateur du Cap-Vert) : Le document CL 87/8 est un document qui a respecté la tradition de la Commission. C'est un document parfait.

Monsieur le Président, je ne manquerai pas d'apporter la position de la délégation cap-verdienne. Notre préoccupation en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 21 - et d'ailleurs le Sénégal l'a bien indiqué en ce qui concerne la position de la Banque mondiale - c'est le fait de la réduction

drastique de la contribution des pays donateurs habituels au programme d'engrais de la FAO, programme vital pour la production agro-alimentaire, surtout dans les pays affectés par la sécheresse.

Nous souhaitons tous que la toute-puissance alimentaire soit atteinte dans tous les pays du monde, notamment dans les pays d'Afrique.

Monsieur le Président, je suis tout à fait d'accord avec l'attention que ce document porte à la formation des cadres, car évidemment l'utilisation efficace d'engrais suppose avant tout d'avoir des cadres bien formés, non seulement des cadres universitaires mais de tous les niveaux, de façon à ce que de tels produits soient utilisés de façon très rationnelle.

Je suis tout à fait en accord avec le document sur l'importance du rôle de la formation.

Je tiens également à soutenir ce que vient de dire le représentant de la Côte-d'Ivoire, notamment en ce qui concerne la Commission d'engrais. Pour nous, il serait souhaitable que cette Commission continue d'exister car elle constitue un forum où les techniciens peuvent se réunir et dégager des stratégies claires et cohérentes en ce qui concerne la problématique des engrais.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

E. BONEV (UNDP): I apologize for taking the floor on this item, but I think I would fail in my duty if I did not make some clarification concerning paragraph 21 of the report of the Commission on Fertilizers, which was reflected in the introductory statement of the Director-General of FAO in his opening remarks when he made some reference to the IMF Managing Director and also to the Administrator of UNDP in regard to assisting the least developed countries in purchasing fertilizers.

Unfortunately, it would be difficult, in an introductory statement, for the Director-General to explain why UNDP was not in a position to finance such a project, or to effect such purchases, in view of the brief nature of such a statement. It was also due to lack of UNDP's presence during the Commission's meeting that we did not have the opportunity to explain at that time. It seems somewhat regrettable that this matter is reflected in the report of the Commission, especially since UNDP and FAO have now been co-operating for the benefit of the developing countries already for more than three decades and FAO is fully aware of the mandate and policies of UNDP which exclude using its resources - no matter convertible or non-convertible currencies, both representing part of the total UNDP resources - for purchasing fertilizers or for other purposes not connected with technical assistance projects in the country or on a regional and global basis. These points should have been explained to the Commission, and I do hope that, in the future, the secretariat will accept this burden, should UNDP be absent, to explain, on our behalf the mandate, policies and procedures whenever it seems necessary.

For your information, 80 percent of the total resources of UNDP are allocated to low-income countries with a ceiling of per capita annual income of \$500, and the LDCs are the most favoured among them, but it is not the UNDP Administrator who decides how the resources should be used, but the governments themselves and the Governing Council of UNDP. As I have already mentioned, UNDP's mandate imposes limits and constraints similar to that of the Technical Co-operation Programme of FAO. We are most concerned with the very grave situation of the LDCs, but it should not be forgotten that UNDP is not a banking institution.

In this connection, I would like also to refer to my statement on the previous item regarding a certain dissatisfaction expressed by two delegates in respect of the Office for Projects Execution of UNDP and my subsequent personal meeting with these delegates outside of this conference room, when I explained the principles ruling UNDP and its Office for Projects Execution, but neither of these two delegates could give me any specific example of such an unfortunate case in his own country which I could report to my Headquarters.

CHAIRMAN: It is a very important point and it should be reflected in the report if the member of the Commission asks. This is their report and they reflect it. I appreciate your clarification, but I think Mr West is willing to take the responsibility in this matter and take the floor to say something about this.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: if I did not cover it, then Mr Bommer would have to, and if I do it now it will save him doing it in his own statement.

The Representative of the UNDP made very clear his dissatisfaction with the Director-General's statement on this matter. It is good to hear frank discussion between brother or sister agencies. I have been guilty of it myself in other meetings in the past. But I must say that I do not make it a practice to attribute reasons or motives to the statement of Mr Morse or anybody else when I am in their governing bodies. If I have any comment to make, I make it on the basis of what is said, assuming it has been said for a good reason and not just because of brevity or some interpretation that I might put on it. So I do not think that the Council should take note of the statement by the Representative of UNDP that the Director-General did not give reasons because his statement was too short. It is his affair how long his statement is and why he says things.

In that connection, I would however point out that the paragraph under discussion is not reflecting the Director-General's view, but the Commission's view and it is for the Council to criticize or praise or not the Commission's views and not for the Secretariats of the Organization or other bodies.

A proposition was made but it was not found possible to meet it. The Commission therefore requested the Director-General to explore ways of carrying out this idea. Now we hear it is not within the mandate of the UNDP to respond. We accept that. If it is not within the mandate now, however, it might be put within its mandate by the Governing Council if the matter is put before the Governing Council. Surely, the mandate is not completely immutable for ever, and if what seems to us to be a very good idea, of utilizing currencies which could not otherwise be utilized, could not be exploited, let us look and see if there is some other way because to the Commission, to the Council itself, this is a very important question and the countries need help so let us try and find every possible way of providing that help.

I do not feel that either the Director-General, or the Commission, or the Council should be criticized for discussing this idea or told it is impossible to consider alternatives.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr West. We have now finished the list.

E. BONEV (UNDP): I would like to explain.

CHAIRMAN: I am not going to open the debate now. If you have a certain point to make more clear please do so now.

E. BONEV (UNDP): I wanted just to say that I did not want what I said to be misinterpreted. I did not blame the Director-General of FAO. I said for the sake of brevity he did not explain the reasons why the Administrator refused. I never blamed the Director-General, and I would like this to be taken note of.

CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will take note of that. I think you are right. But Mr West made himself clear also, and he had the right to say what he said. I did say at the beginning that this was a Report of the Commission, not a report of the Director-General. The Commission has the right to put in what it wants, as does the Director-General. But thank you for this.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): On behalf of the Director-General, I am very glad to know that after the participation in the debate of 26 delegations, including three or four observers, the Council has endorsed the acceptance of the Report of the Commission. Certain individual Members repeated reservations on particular points, as is reflected in the Report. I say this purposely, otherwise I will be blamed by the delegation of the United States of America for misinterpreting the Report. I would like to say that because apparently there was a misunderstanding. I cited only those paragraphs on which quite clearly the Director-General had been requested to take action by the Commission, which normally I would not have repeated, as I would not have repeated the whole Report with all the reservations that were made, all the points stated, with a footnote, and so on. This is not normal practice in an introduction but the point is well taken. This was not in any sense violating any opinion expressed in the Report of the Commission.



By the way, we have had a debate already on this so I think it has been repeated, as it has been in the deliberations of the Commission as such. The delegation of the United States stressed the need for better information. This was supported by a number of other delegations. We said that we will continue to accumulate intelligence on fertilizers, but it is valuable to hear that the regional activities we have in Asia in FADINAP and in the developing countries of Latin America are exactly on the same lines, to improve fertilizer intelligence for the information of Member Countries to improve their bargaining power in the whole fertilizer business.

In the same context, I draw the attention of the delegation of Argentina to the fact that FAO possesses a considerable data bank of fertilizer use data, of various soil types in various countries and the various climates. It is open to any Member Country to use this data bank. At the same time, as mentioned by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, it would be the base on which we would be ready today to send to you a commission of experts to look into the country situation, how to better streamline, better formulate fertilizer recommendations based on your own assessments, on figures we have had from all the national bodies available in the world community, and the literature. We shall have to wait for further action from the commission; it is part of our whole work particularly related to the fertilizer programme, and if there is a fertilizer project we are ready to give assistance at any time at the request of Member Governments. This can be used here. We can base our opinion on the expertise, even to challenging the statement of the delegation of the United Kingdom. We are not talking about the massive use of fertilizer in Africa, but about an urgent need to increase fertilizer consumption in Africa. I cannot see how Zimbabwe can be exporting food if they do not use fertilizers, on top of which the African countries can produce their own fertilizer. So why is this? Why are other countries like Tanzania not playing? They are running us into the ground asking for fertilizers. This is not a solution. It is an important part of it but it is not a solution. Even the statement that fertilizers must be used to lift agricultural production is challenged. It is said it depends on how much rain there is. Even in semi-arid regions fertilizers are used. The statement by the delegate of Australia did not tell us how they have to utilize phosphates, they need phosphates otherwise they don't get nitrate, but how can they afford it? We need fertilizers. Please don't let us blind ourselves.

I think the most important country here is China. China is the top country in using organic fertilizer in the traditional way. They have traditional use of all sorts of manure, night soil, what-have-you, the most intelligent and the most developed type of fertilizer use. They use their own nitrogenous fertilizers as well. But at the same time, China has become one of the largest consumers of mineral fertilizers in parallel. Why? Ask China. The answer to the whole question is that you have to put in much effort in improving organic fertilizer use, and you come to the level of China. But you must not believe that we can solve food problems as we see them, including Africa, solely in this way; particularly as we know that a number of organic systems, such as nitrogenous fixation, will not function without other nutrients being supplied - phosphate, sulphur, and so on. "Azola" will not work because it is heavy with phosphate. This no one tells you. It makes you think you will solve with one organic solvent the whole fertilizer question. This we should know about and then we can make the right use of it.

In talking about this subject there is an important statement concerning the endangering of human health by fertilizers. I can challenge this because as a young student, the first thesis I wrote was on this question, comparing all we knew of what had been done in research in the '20s, '30s and '40s, comparing the use of chemical fertilizers and organic fertilizers in human health. And the answer, would you believe? There is no difference. There were the same answers in the United States of America, in Germany, in various countries where there are the same students of research. And this whole question has come up again. It has reappeared. Many things come in waves, just as in agriculture, but the same answer is there. We might say that this problem is absolutely minor, that there are mistakes which can be made but mistakes can be made with everything. A mistake is when you are considering the standing capability of a crop and although the quality may look right, the material may be rotting, and so on. It is a question of misuse. We talk of endangering human health, but there is no scientific evidence whatsoever. On the contrary; normally, those crops fertilized with mineral fertilizer together with organic fertilizer are more balanced, more healthy, and have a higher content of the valuable components such as vitamins, proteins, and so on, than those produced in more primitive conditions.

Pollution is another important question. In Africa, we are talking about increasing fertilizer use from 8 kilograms per hectare; in Britain it is 150 kilograms per hectare, so there is a long way to go. There is some argument in Germany about water pollution. Often the pollution is worse from organic fertilizers being used at the wrong time of year and therefore, you can have a heavy contamination from organic fertilizers and from manure, particularly in intensive livestock raising in European countries when this stuff is being used in the winter season and it percolates down to the groundwater. So it is not always a question of chemical against organic fertilizer. The question is to use the right balance of combined organic and mineral fertilizer.

I did not want to give Council a lecture, but I was challenged by a number of comments that we should not be distracted from our belief in orientation. I underline what the Director-General said that there is a considerable need, but Africa needs much more fertilizer; it needs not only more, but it needs rapid help. Strong support was given in the Commission for fertilizer production and I am glad to say we are discussing with UNIDO and the World Bank how we can arrange means to help African countries to further upgrade their capabilities in fertilizer production, particularly concerning costly plants which are not operating at full capacity. There are also marketing problems. Therefore, MULTIFERT was well received in the Commission as one example and other examples were cooperation in fertilizer use, barter, agreements by ways of getting fertilizer against produce which already happens in some countries - Mexico has done this recently, I think, and other countries do it as well.

I noted with pleasure that Venezuela is to become a Member of MULTIFERT. I had heard that they were not a Member of MULTIFERT, so it will be a pleasure to hear their statement.

Other points were raised which I hope I have covered. Perhaps I was carried away on this one point. But I should underline here that future discussion of the price policy question in the Conference will come back to this very difficult subject of the fertilizer/produce/price relationship and the relationship to overall economic agricultural policy, which for a number of countries is a serious matter.

To find the right solution for each country in the encouragement of the use of a particular fertilizer, in spite of the present price level, is one of the key questions of price inputs or price effects on future fertilizer production.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): Mr Chairman, I have one technical point. I think Dr Bommer knows the situation very well, but I did not want others to become confused. As is well known, Australia's soils are very poor soils and have a long history of tillage. Many of them are marginal lands in ecological situations that are very akin to those of Africa and the Near East. While it is certainly true that we do need phosphate to stimulate the production of clovers and medics, the use of both phosphate and nitrogen is uneconomic in many situations. Also, I think there are many economies in the use of phosphate such as placing the fertilizer next to the seed, and so on. In many of our agricultural situations on marginal lands we cannot afford to pass over the land more than once, so that the seed is sown and everything is done in one passage. I think this is something to remember. In fact, in many soils that have a phosphate history there is a deep concern to avoid any over-fertilization with phosphates, and in many parts no fertilizer is used because the phosphate history is there. This, of course, requires a rather sophisticated soil testing infrastructure, which I acknowledge, to support this sort of economy. But I think the point is still made that economies are still essential in fertilizer usage for efficient agricultural production.

F. de MENEZES (Sao Tome and Principe): I should also like to thank Dr Bommer for the explanation he gave. I would like to ask Dr Bommer what will be the situation for small island countries. What will be the situation for countries that cannot produce fertilizers? We have been talking about projects to encourage local production of fertilizers. What possibility is there for us, for instance, to have a regional project? I ask myself if we could have a regional project for fertilizer from which Sao Tome could buy fertilizer, of course at a special price, for our crops, which are the same crops as grown on the continent.

CHAIRMAN: This is a highly technical question and I do not think that this is the place to answer it, but I hope that at the next meeting of the Commission you will put this question to them for their answer.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): It is actually that we try to learn, for instance, from such an arrangement as MULTIFERT, how a number of small countries in Africa can have a similar arrangement in order to be in a position to buy at a lower price in world markets than others. This is why there would never be a recommendation that you should produce your own fertilizer, but rather that you should have a stronger position in the market in order to get fertilizer at a reasonable price. I think this is probably the position. We are working from two directions to do this for African countries, and I hope we will succeed in the future.

CHAIRMAN (original language Arabic): We have finished our discussion on this item. I believe that the summary of the discussions in which we have all participated would include the fact that fertilizer is one of the most important agricultural inputs which should be available to developing countries in order to assist them to increase their agricultural production. This is something on which we all agree.

The majority of the speakers this afternoon referred to the problem of the high world prices for fertilizers and the declining supply which has led to an increase in prices. It has also led, undoubtedly, to a decrease in the use of fertilizers in developing countries, particularly those that suffer from economic crises.

The majority of speakers referred also to the need to encourage investment in order to produce fertilizers locally, which is very commendable.

Speakers have also referred to the importance of the IMF and the need to support this scheme.

Speakers also voiced their support for paragraphs 63 and 64. We hope that this will be undertaken by the Commission in the future. All speakers without exception referred to the important role assumed by the FAO in this field and the need for the Organization to continue in this connection in order to assist developing countries.

I believe that these were the most important points which have been raised in the discussions. The Drafting Committee will undertake their task now and it will be referred back to us.

9. Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (Rome, 22-26 April 1985)

9. Rapport de la seizième session du Comité des pêches (Rome, 22-26 avril 1985)

9. Informe del 16° período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (Roma, 22-26 de abril de 1985)

J.E. CARROZ (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department): The Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries held last April was an auspicious one, as it was the first session convened after the World Fisheries Conference and 1985 marked the 20th anniversary of the Committee. We had a record attendance, more than one hundred countries and some twenty international organizations. The session was chaired by Mr William Gordon, head of the fisheries administration in the United States, and, at the invitation of the Director-General, H.E. Pedro Ojeda Paullada, Secretary for Fisheries of Mexico and Chairman of the World Fisheries Conference, addressed the Committee as guest of honour.

It is apparent from the discussions and recommendations of the Committee that we benefitted from the momentum generated by the World Fisheries Conference held in 1984.

It seems to me that it is also relevant to mention that, according to preliminary data, total fish catches in 1984 reached an all-time high of 80 million tons. The increase was almost equally distributed between developing and developed countries. In particular, there were increased catches off the Pacific coast of Latin America, due to the recovery of small pelagic stocks after a severe El Niño phenomenon in 1983. There were also higher catches in the world's major fishing nations, Japan, the Soviet Union, China and the United States.

Nevertheless, there is ample evidence that as far as marine fisheries are concerned, catches have been levelling off in the past ten years. We are definitely entering what I would call the era of management. Furthermore, there are indications that a number of stocks, for example in the South Atlantic, are subject to increasing pressure. Hence the need for conservation and management plans, based on stock assessment and continuous monitoring of marine resources. As demand for fish and fishery products continues and will continue to increase, it becomes also necessary to place greater emphasis on the development of inland fisheries and of aquaculture and mariculture, as well as on the reduction of waste, since millions of tons of fish are lost because of poor handling techniques, both at sea and on land.

This situation was recognised by the World Fisheries Conference in its Strategy and Programmes of Action and has been taken fully into account by the Director-General when preparing programme proposals for the fisheries sector.

These two matters, follow-up to the Conference and a review of the Director-General's proposed Summary Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 in respect of fisheries, were in fact the main items on the agenda of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

The Committee unanimously endorsed the Director-General's strategies. It approved the content and areas of emphasis of the programme proposals, and expressed its satisfaction at the notable net increase in the resources proposed for the Organization in fisheries during the next biennium. I am sure that you have considered details of the Committee's views and recommendations in document CL 87/7 before you. I can assure you that we are also taking due note of the remarks which were made during the debate held in the Council on the Summary of Work and Budget, for example by the distinguished representative of Brazil.

As regards the follow-up to the World Fisheries Conference, the Committee reviewed in detail the format, scope and periodicity of progress reports which will be submitted to its future sessions and to those of the governing bodies of FAO on the implementation of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and the Programmes of Action adopted by the Conference.

In this regard, Mr Chairman, and with your permission, I should like to refer briefly to a few points of particular interest.

The first one concerns the decision of the Committee on Fisheries to establish a Sub-Committee on Fish Trade, which will serve as a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products, as envisaged by the Strategy and one of the Programmes of Action. Earlier this year, an expert meeting had thoroughly considered this matter, including terms of reference and financial and other implications, but it had left to the Committee the decision on the most-appropriate form for such a mechanism. To be fair, I should say that some countries would have preferred a more *ad hoc* type of arrangement; they were also concerned about possible duplication of work carried out by OECD and GATT. In this respect, the expert meeting, in which representatives of EEC, GATT, ITC (the International Trade Centre), OECD and UNCTAD participated, had come to the conclusion that the work of FAO in fish trade matters was complementary and not overlapping. We will of course do our best to ensure this. In fact, the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade make it clear that it will be concerned with technical and economic aspects of international trade in fish and fishery products. In addition to periodically reviewing the situation and outlook of the main fishery commodity markets, it will deal with suitable measures to promote international fish trade and to improve the participation of developing countries in this trade. Its work will be practically oriented. It will aim at identifying fishery commodity development opportunities, including the upgrading of products and the promotion of quality standards.

As regards the implementation of the Programmes of Action, the Committee was unanimous in its appreciation of the support provided by donors, mainly UNDP, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. It seems now very likely that we will reach in 1985 the yearly target of \$15 million, and this without counting the assistance received in kind, for example from France, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom, or the activities carried out by countries and organizations on a bilateral basis, but within the framework of the Programmes of Action.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, the Committee also reviewed the measures taken or proposed to implement a number of resolutions adopted by the World Fisheries Conference with regard to specific aspects of fisheries management and development. I would refer in particular to the one concerning the Role of the Fisherman and indicate that the Committee, in a way like your Council in November of last year, was not in a position to support the proclamation of an International Year of the Fishermen and of a World Fisheries Day, in view of the considerable procedural, programme and financial implications. On the other hand, the Committee endorsed the suggestion made by the World Fisheries Conference that the Director-General should be invited to consider adopting "Fishermen and Fishing Communities" as a theme for World Food Day next year. I have pleasure in reporting to you that the Director-General has recently decided to adopt this subject as one of the two themes for the 1986 World Food Day.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr Carroz, for your introduction. The document is clear and I hope does not require a lengthy debate.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je voudrais d'abord remercier M. Carroz de la présentation de ce point à l'ordre du jour. Si je vous ai demandé la parole parmi les premiers orateurs c'est que je voudrais faire une déclaration au nom de la Communauté Européenne sur le problème de la pêche. Comme vous le savez, la pêche est du ressort de la Communauté, je me permettrai donc de lire une déclaration au nom de cette Communauté.

"La Communauté Européenne tient à exprimer sa satisfaction d'avoir participé à la seizième session du COFI qui a coïncidé cette année avec le 20ème anniversaire de ce Comité.

"Il y a lieu d'autant plus de se féliciter, qu'au plan de nos relations interinstitutionnelles se confirme un resserrement des liens notamment dans le secteur de la pêche. A cet égard il est à rappeler que comme il a été démontré par la participation de la Communauté à la Conférence mondiale, la Communauté européenne joue un rôle important sur la scène internationale en matière de pêche. Le thème principal du 16ème COFI avait trait aux suites à donner aux décisions ou résolutions de la Conférence Mondiale.

"A cet égard, et comme nous avons déjà eu l'occasion de le souligner lors de la 86ème session du Conseil, nous nous félicitons du succès de la Conférence Mondiale et des objectifs fixés dans la stratégie et les cinq programmes d'action. Il est bon de noter à cette fin que ceci a également été confirmé par le Parlement européen dans une résolution récemment adoptée.

"Concernant la rédaction des rapports à l'intention de la Conférence FAO, nous notons avec satisfaction que ces rapports peuvent également être axés sur les activités conduites hors du cadre de la FAO, notamment par les autres organisations. Nous aurons ainsi l'occasion de présenter en détail notre importante action en matière de pêche, entreprise dans le cadre de la Convention de Lomé, dans les accords de coopération avec des pays en voie de développement, ainsi que dans le cadre des accords de pêche avec des pays tiers.

"Un autre point qui a particulièrement retenu l'attention du 16ème COFI concerne la création d'un cadre multilatéral pour les consultations sur le commerce international des produits de la pêche. La Communauté, qui initialement était en faveur du maintien de cette initiative dans le cadre du COFI lui-même, s'est finalement rangée aux côtés de ceux qui réclamaient la création d'un sous-comité, compte tenu de l'intérêt de nombreux pays, notamment en développement, pour cette demande, étant entendu que les travaux ne devraient pas faire double emploi avec ceux d'autres organisations internationales, telles que le GATT ou la CNUCED.

"Toutefois, qu'il nous soit permis de constater, avec regret une lacune dans le texte du rapport, concernant la participation de la Communauté aux travaux du Sous-Comité. Nous souhaiterions que la Communauté dispose d'un statut d'"observateur privilégié" lui permettant une participation active aux travaux sur la pêche et la politique commerciale, qui sont du ressort de la Communauté Européenne.

"Enfin il est à souligner que la Communauté suivra avec le plus grand intérêt les travaux visant à élaborer un système normalisé de marquage des bateaux, ainsi que l'échange d'informations techniques concernant la protection des animaux marins vis-à-vis des dangers représentés par l'enchevêtrement de fragments de filets de pêche et autres détritiques."

A. ABDEL MALEK (Liban) (langue originale en arabe): Merci de m'avoir donné la parole. Je voudrais, avant de parler des pêches, bien clarifier devant le Conseil ma motivation lorsque j'avais demandé de clore la discussion sur le sujet précédent. En effet, j'ai le souci d'épargner nos efforts et notre temps, car nous avons encore beaucoup de choses à discuter et surtout parce que le sujet a été longuement débattu devant le comité concerné et que plusieurs membres ont répété ici ce qu'ils avaient déjà dit au sein du Comité. De plus, le Conseil doit simplement enregistrer ces positions.

Pour ma part, je n'ai émis cette demande de clore la discussion qu'après consultation avec mes collègues. Or j'ai le regret de constater que ces collègues, qui étaient pourtant d'accord au moment où je les avais consultés, se soient déniés, et je déplore que nous ayons dû poursuivre cette discussion beaucoup trop longtemps et que nous soyons très en retard sur notre programme. Je suis l'un des membres du Comité de rédaction, et normalement les autres délégués finissent leurs travaux à 18 heures, tandis que les membres du Comité de rédaction doivent travailler jusqu'à minuit tous les soirs afin de préparer le rapport qu'il faut adopter au plus tard vendredi, dernier jour de cette session.

A présent je retourne à mon propos et je remercie M. Carroz pour l'exposé intéressant qu'il vient de présenter, ce qui ne nous a guère surpris par ailleurs, puisque M. Carroz nous a habitué à la clarté, à la précision, à la perspicacité dans tout ce qu'il a entrepris jusqu'ici.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais féliciter le Directeur général pour la politique qu'il a adoptée en vue de soutenir les programmes techniques, économiques et sociaux, parmi lesquels le Programme des pêches.

L'augmentation proposée aux ressources de ce programme, c'est-à-dire 3,7 pour cent, ainsi que les nouveaux postes que l'on envisage de créer, tout cela est une preuve éclatante de l'intérêt qu'apporte le Directeur général au Programme des pêches. Nous ne saurions qu'appuyer cet intérêt.

La délégation libanaise appuie totalement tout ce que l'on a dit au sujet du Programme des pêches en aquaculture, car les ressources halieutiques fournissent les protéines nécessaires et sont précieuses dans notre lutte contre la malnutrition.

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic): I thank our colleague, the Ambassador of Lebanon, and I agree with what he said at the outset of his statement. I only hope, however, that this will not prompt further reaction. We welcome the activities of the Ambassador of Lebanon, and let us hope that we can forge ahead and that we will not further delay our debate. I thank His Excellency the Ambassador of Lebanon and give the floor to Australia.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): In order to be brief I will just say the Council does have an important role to play in attempting to focus some of the issues that come from the reports of the Technical Committees; some of which are extremely long.

I would like to also compliment the FAO Secretariat on the extent of the implementation achieved already on the recommendations of the World Fisheries Conference. Australia is already providing assistance in a number of fisheries areas which is consistent with the directions outlined in the Programmes of Action. An important aspect of Australia's development assistance in the area of fisheries is its support for regional organizations such as the Fisheries Agency and South Pacific Commission. Australia will comply fully with the reporting requirements developed by FAO for monitoring the progress on implementation and recommendations of the World Fisheries Conference, but we would urge the Secretariat that this does not become an unwieldy information gathering exercise of limited benefit.

We have no strong views on the question of fishing vessel markets.

We also accept the decision of COFI in favour of the establishment of a sub-committee on fish trade to serve as a multilateral framework for consultations on international trade in fishery products. The work undertaken in other multilateral bodies which have specific areas of competence will help to focus the work of the sub-committee.

With respect to the FAO Fisheries budget for the next biennium, the strategies and priorities were endorsed by the Committee with the recognition, at least by a number of delegations, that such endorsement to the proposed Programme of Activities in the fishery sector was without prejudice to their final position with regard to overall budgetary and financial implications. I think that it is reiterated in paragraph 52.

We reiterate the view expressed at COFI that FAO should not down-grade its fishery management policy work. We regard this as the key to implementation of fisheries development policies. Proper attention to management in the early stages of development we believe will prevent the build-up of excess fishing capacity and ultimately of over-fishing.

Australia regards this aim as one of the key elements of the strategy of fisheries management and an end development agreed to at the World Conference.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, protection of living resources from entanglement is not an important issue in Australian waters as yet, but Australia welcomes FAO interest in the issue.

M. MAZLAN b. JUSOH (Malaysia) : My delegation wishes to express our pleasure at seeing you in the Chair and would also like to compliment Mr. Carroz for his introduction of the document CL 87/7 with which we are fully satisfied.

As highlighted by Mr. Carroz, we do wish to highlight the necessity of extra budgetary funding in the implementation of the Programmes of Action. Activities like stock assessment and management of fisheries need high capital, and it is essential that such funds be identified and committed to these activities. In this respect we are happy to note the generous commitment of some donor countries in the implementation of the Programmes of Action. We greatly appreciate this thought.

As Mr. Carroz himself said, we have entered into an era of management. We cannot agree more with him. We wish to emphasize the importance of fisheries management as part of the Programme of Action. Malaysia has recently passed a new fisheries legislation which incorporates a comprehensive set of management measures to ensure the conservation and rational exploitation of the country's valuable fisheries resources. Given some data available to indicate the level of exploitation that should be pursued, these are inconclusive and need further refinements. Furthermore management techniques need to be constantly reviewed from the point of view of resource availability, social and economic situations. Since the inshore fisheries resources of many developing countries are under heavy exploitation it is essential that FAO maintains a strong emphasis in fisheries management. Thank you very much.

Sra. M. LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (Mexico): En primer término deseamos expresar nuestra felicitación al Doctor Carroz por la excelente presentación del tema. La información que nos ha presentado respecto al desarrollo mundial de la pesca en su conjunto es muy alentadora, si bien hay un llamamiento a la necesidad de la ordenación de las pesquerías marinas que todos debemos atender.

A finales de este período de nuestro Consejo estaremos celebrando el primer aniversario de la Conferencia Mundial para la Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero, este importante evento que, como lo mencionara nuestro Secretario de Pesca y Presidente de este evento, ha marcado el inicio de un proceso donde la voluntad de cada país y de la Comunidad Internacional en su conjunto y a través de las instituciones especializadas, podrá poner en práctica la estrategia, los cinco programas de acción y las nueve Resoluciones que, junto con los principios emanados de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar, habrán de marcar una nueva era de la pesca en favor de la humanidad.

La delegación mexicana desea felicitar al Director General de la FAO por el impulso que está dando a la instrumentación de los resultados de la Conferencia y expresa su apoyo al informe del 16° período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, el cual se desarrolló en un ambiente en el que el espíritu de los resultados de la Conferencia Mundial para la Ordenación y Desarrollo de la Pesca estuvieron muy presentes.

Fuimos informados de las medidas complementarias que ya han sido cumplidas y los pasos fundamentales que ya viene dando la FAO como protagonista principal en las tareas para instrumentar la estrategia y programas para la ordenación y desarrollo de la pesca. Estas acciones deberán sumarse a las de los Estados Miembros y la de los Organismos y Organizaciones Internacionales interesados.

En este contexto, la Conferencia dio la encomienda al Director General de que examinara y analizara periódicamente las tendencias en lo que respecta al total de los recursos financieros asignados al sector pesquero e informara sobre el particular al Comité de Pesca y a los Organos Rectores de la FAO, por lo cual se presentó al COFI y fueron aprobadas una serie de sugerencias para la presentación de informes periódicos, el primero de los cuales se presentará el próximo período de la Conferencia y en los sucesivos períodos del COFI. Dichos informes comprenderán no solamente los proyectos ejecutados por la FAO, sino también información sobre las acciones que en el marco de la estrategia y programas de acción realicen los distintos países u otras Organizaciones, lo cual podría lograrse a través de cuestionarios especializados.

Respecto al financiamiento de los programas de acción, nuestra delegación se congratuló de la favorable respuesta del PNUD y de numerosos países donantes que permiten un alto coeficiente de financiamiento extrapresupuestario, como había sido previsto, y si bien une su voz a la de numerosos países que sin menoscabo de aplaudir el apoyo a ciertas regiones con grandes problemas como es el caso de Africa, hace notar el desequilibrio en la asistencia a nuestra región, en donde algunas subregiones requieren de especial asistencia. Esperamos que conforme a lo solicitado, FAO continúe sus gestiones en búsqueda de solución a este problema.

Nuestra delegación quiere expresar su especial reconocimiento al Gobierno italiano por haber dado su generoso apoyo financiero al programa especial de acuicultura para América Latina a través del Centro de Pirasunga y de un grupo de centros nacionales, que deberán operar un sistema integrado bajo la coordinación de la FAO y en combinación con COPESCAL y los países miembros. Esto permitirá, junto con la buena voluntad del Gobierno brasileño de contribuir al desarrollo de la acuicultura a través de un sistema de capacitación de recursos humanos.

De otra parte, la delegación mexicana reitera su apoyo al programa y presupuesto del Departamento de Pesca, el cual fue objeto de amplio consenso por los países, quienes lo catalogaron de necesario y realista, ya que vendrá a reforzar áreas de particular interés para los países, ya que reflejaron en un efecto favorable en la utilización racional y conservación de los recursos pesqueros en las aguas marinas y continentales, en el apoyo a las Comunidades Pesqueras, los pescadores artesanales e industriales, así como a los procesos de conservación, transformación y comercialización de los productos de la pesca, el fomento a la acuicultura, la planificación de las inversiones y el mejoramiento de la información y apoyo a las actividades regionales de la FAO.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, la delegación mexicana desea expresar su complacencia por la formalización de relaciones de la Organización Latinoamericana para el Desarrollo de la Pesca (OLDEPESCA) con la FAO, que sin duda permitirá coadyuvar al desarrollo de las actividades pesqueras de la región.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation would like to thank Dr Carroz for his brilliant and lucid introduction of the report of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, which is before us for consideration.

As we all know, the Committee met following the historic World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, and in view of the paramount role of FAO in implementing the strategy and the five Programmes of Action approved by the Conference, the main task of the Committee at this Session was to consider steps required to follow up and put into practical reality the important and far-reaching decisions of the World Fisheries Conference.

My delegation is very pleased to note that in addition to reviewing the progress made in the implementation of the strategy on the Programmes of Action, the Committee also recommended a number of important measures to follow up the implementation of the Programmes of Action adopted by the World Fisheries Conference.

My delegation strongly supports these recommended steps as they will facilitate rapid implementation of the strategy and the Programmes of Action and thereby assist developing countries in increasing fish production and in improving their individual and collective reliance on fisheries.

In this connection special reference may be made regarding the Committee's decision to establish a sub-committee on fish stock to serve as a multilateral forum for consultation between producers/ exporters and consumers/importers on international trade on fishery products.

The progress made in the implementation of the strategy and the Programmes of Action, as mentioned in paragraphs 8 to 29 of the report, is very impressive and encouraging. My delegation would join with the Committee in expressing our sincere appreciation to the Director-General and his dedicated staff for their prompt measures and impressive results achieved in the implementation of the Strategy and Programmes of Action, especially at such a short time since the holding of the World Fisheries Conference.

It is also gratifying to note that the annual requirement of \$15 million has been received or committed for implementation of the Programmes of Action in 1985. My delegation, while paying tribute to the donor countries and agencies for their support for the implementation of the Programme of Action for 1985 would also urge on them to continue their assistance in future years. We would also commend the Director-General to continue his efforts to maintain the momentum generated by the World Fisheries Conference.

Turning to my country's fisheries policies and prospects, may I be permitted to mention that in view of the vital contribution of the fisheries sector to our economy, food and nutritional needs, and in view of its future potential, we have been attaching great importance to the development of this sector to our national development programme, and a comprehensive fisheries development programme has been incorporated in our Third Five-Year Plan which will begin from July 1985. The Programme envisaged a substantial increase in fishery products. The Programme includes fresh water fish culture, saline and fresh water shrimp farming, management, conservation, and utilization of open water fisheries, the creation of sanctuaries, research and training. Steps are also being taken to popularize scientific and extensive 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 provided for the establishment of landing centres, preservation and marketing facilities, motorization of fishing boats and improvement of fishing gear.



Further, in order to improve and ensure the quality of fish and shrimps for export, a scheme for fish inspection and quality control has been taken up. We hope that in accordance with resolution 5 of the Conference necessary technical and financial arrangements will be forthcoming to assist us in implementing our development programme and projects in the fisheries sector during our Third Five-Year Plan.

Further, in view of the importance of the strategy which the Director-General rightly described as a New Charter of World Fisheries and the Programmes of Action as the guidelines on rational management and better use of world fisheries resources, we would welcome the report which the Director-General will submit on the World Fisheries Conference and the progress achieved in implementing the strategy and the Programmes of Action to the forthcoming FAO Conference.

Referring to the Programme of Work of FAO in fisheries during 1986/87, the Bangladesh delegation reiterates its support for the overall strategy and priorities of the Work Programme and the proposed increase in the resources for fisheries in response to the recommendations of the World Fisheries Conference.

However, our delegation would like to stress that increased attention should also be paid in the fisheries programme to the following sectors that have some relevance to the conditions in Bangladesh, and probably to similarly placed countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean regions. These are: development and management of flood plain fisheries with appropriate case studies for exchange of experience and information; development of fish feed technology using inexpensive and indigenous raw materials; and a programme of utilization of shrimp by-catch for human consumption or for industrial use.

With these suggestions, my delegation endorses the report for adoption by the Council.

R. MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia, señor Presidente, se complace en que usted, distinguido Embajador de Arabia Saudita, presida este importante Foro. Su inteligencia y sagacidad garantizan el mejor éxito de las presentes deliberaciones. Asimismo agradecemos al Sr. Carroz, Jefe del Departamento de Pesca que tan bien trabaja y merece ser reforzado en esta Organización, por su magnífica presentación.

Sobre el Documento en estudio la delegación de Colombia quiere precisar las siguientes observaciones.

Registra con beneplácito la aprobación de la Estrategia para la Ordenación y el Desarrollo de la Pesca diseñada en la Resolución n° 1 de la Conferencia Mundial, en donde conviene destacar las políticas y estrategias nacionales e internacionales de ordenación y desarrollo de la pesca a la luz de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar de 1982.

Relieva la función especial y necesidades de las pesquerías en pequeña escala que representan alrededor de la mitad del abastecimiento mundial de pescado destinado a la alimentación.

La contribución puesta a disposición de la FAO hasta la fecha demuestra que la cantidad y la finalidad de la ayuda para el desarrollo depende de las políticas y prioridades de los donantes. Hay un desequilibrio en los proyectos y programas entre las distintas regiones, que afecta a América Latina y el Caribe y África Austral, y precisa que la FAO realice consultas ulteriores con los donantes para subsanar esta anómala situación.

Los informes sobre los progresos en los Programas de Acción deben comprender los realizados fuera del marco de la FAO por los distintos países u otras organizaciones, como la Organización Latinoamericana para el Desarrollo Pesquero y el Organismo de Pesca para el Pacífico Sur.

La delegación de Colombia apoya la decisión de establecer un subcomité sobre el comercio pesquero que serviría de fondo para las consultas sobre los aspectos técnicos y económicos del comercio internacional de pescado y productos pesqueros. Apoya la composición diseñada en el párrafo 48 del Documento.

Por último, la delegación de Colombia apoya en general el Programa de Actividades propuesto en el sector pesquero; ratifica las estrategias y prioridades del Director General y considera que las propuestas están bien equilibradas y reflejan las principales necesidades del desarrollo y ordenación de las pesquerías mundiales. Estima imprescindible la especial promoción de la Cooperación Económica y Técnica entre los países en desarrollo y la satisfacción de las necesidades especiales de los estados insulares pequeños y los países sin litoral. Comparte la satisfacción expresada por el Comité por el notable aumento neto de los recursos propuestos para las actividades de la Organización en materia de pesca en el nuevo bienio 1986-87.

F. de MENEZES (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole maintenant; ne craignez rien, je serai bref. Je n'ai pas l'habitude de préparer mes textes et je réagis aux discussions que nous avons.

Je suis heureux de prendre la parole après le représentant de la Communauté économique européenne. Nous avons un accord avec la Communauté et j'ai été heureux d'entendre M. l'Ambassadeur d'Italie parler au nom de la Communauté.

Je remercie M. Carroz pour le rapport de la Commission des pêches qu'il nous soumet. Malheureusement mon pays n'a pu participer aux travaux de cette Commission; nous ne pouvons pas être partout.

Comme je vous l'ai déjà dit à plusieurs reprises, nous sommes surtout producteurs de cacao mais, Etat insulaire, comme le dit un de mes collègues à Bruxelles, nous sommes "sea locked". Nous avons de l'eau partout et la pêche est une activité très importante chez nous. Si vous connaissiez l'histoire de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, vous sauriez que les dix-septième et dix-huitième siècles ont été l'ère du sucre. Ensuite, nous sommes passés à l'ère du café. Depuis la fin du siècle dernier, nous sommes à l'ère du cacao. Nous souhaiterions qu'à la fin de ce siècle nous soyons à l'ère du cacao et de la pêche qui représente la deuxième activité de nos îles.

Nous voudrions donc appuyer le rapport qui nous est soumis et appuyer également la création d'un sous-comité du commerce des produits de la pêche qui est très important pour nous. Nous espérons pouvoir participer souvent aux travaux de ce sous-comité.

Mais chaque fois les mêmes questions se posent et M. l'Ambassadeur d'Italie l'a très bien dit. Il y a plusieurs organisations qui s'occupent des mêmes choses, et nous nous adressons toujours à la FAO. La FAO est connue dans mon pays plus spécialement pour l'agriculture. On oublie que la pêche existe également au sein de la FAO. Nous avons déjà adressé à la FAO plusieurs requêtes, et je dois dire que l'Organisation a déjà fait différents travaux pour notre pays, mais les choses ne semblent pas tellement avancer. Et je profite, puisque j'ai la parole, au sein de ce Conseil dont nous sommes membres, de l'occasion qui m'est donnée pour demander que l'on fasse davantage.

Nous parlons des accords de pêche. Quand nous nous trouvons devant des partenaires qui veulent discuter avec nous, certainement en toute franchise, il nous manque toujours des techniciens, des experts, pour nous aider dans la conclusion de ces accords. Nous avons des accords de pêche avec la CEE, avec notre ancienne métropole le Portugal, avec l'Espagne, etc. Mais il est temps que des îles comme mon pays puissent un jour avoir la possibilité de faire leur propre pêche en haute mer.

Au paragraphe 62 du rapport il est dit: "... améliorer la capacité des pays en développement de concevoir et de construire- des bateaux pour la pêche en haute mer." J'espère vraiment que ceci ne restera pas lettre morte.

Aujourd'hui des îles comme Sao Tomé-et-Principe connaissent des problèmes pour la capture. Les eaux de nos pays sont exploitées abusivement par des bateaux qui utilisent des systèmes détruisant notre patrimoine en matière de pêche. Nous n'avons pas les moyens de contrôler ce genre de choses. Il y a une instance pour discuter ces problèmes, c'est la FAO dont nous sommes membres. Il est dommage que dans les rapports ou les activités de cette Commission on ne parle pas de ces problèmes. Je ne vais pas discuter tous les paramètres que peut comporter un accord de pêche et dire si les pays les respectent ou non et si nous pouvons nous adresser à la FAO pour nous aider à une meilleure surveillance de ces accords, mais je vous laisse ceci comme réflexion.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, permítanos felicitar al Sr. Carroz por su completa y clara presentación de este tema 9.

La pesca constituye un significativo renglón de la actividad económica de Panamá, representando, en promedio, durante los últimos diez años aproximadamente el 28% del Producto Interno Bruto Agropecuario.

Por otra parte, nuestro Gobierno considera que la aportación de la pesca a los objetivos sociales, económicos y nutricionales del país adquieren cada día mayor significado, y se considera que está llamada a desempeñar un rol de vital importancia para el logro de nuestra seguridad alimentaria.

Dentro de este contexto, la delegación de Panamá, considera oportuno referirse brevemente a los resultados del recién celebrado 16 período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca, en el que se trataron temas de gran importancia, tales como las medidas complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros, lo mismo que la labor de la FAO en el sector de la pesca durante el bienio 1986-1987.

Respecto al primer tema, destacamos la importancia que nuestro país concede a la recomendación del Consejo anterior en el sentido de que la Conferencia apruebe una resolución especial sobre los resultados de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca y las actividades complementarias correspondientes. En efecto, nuestra delegación considera que los resultados de esta Conferencia son de primordial importancia para el ordenamiento y el desarrollo de la pesca, dentro de las realidades prácticas relativas a esta actividad, según el nuevo régimen jurídico de los Océanos.

Expresamos una vez más nuestro reconocimiento al apoyo ya proporcionado por los donantes para la ejecución de los Programas de Acción en 1985 y los exhortamos a mantener y superar el impulso que en tal sentido dio la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca.

Para la delegación de Panamá, asimismo, tiene una importancia fundamental el marco para las consultas sobre el comercio internacional de productos pesqueros, razón por la cual damos nuestro apoyo, en esta oportunidad, al Subcomité de Pesca recientemente creado.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, deseamos reafirmar nuestro apoyo, en líneas generales, a las estrategias y prioridades determinadas por el Director General en su Resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87, ya que consideramos que estas propuestas están sumamente equilibradas y vienen a reflejar las principales necesidades de ordenación y desarrollo de la pesca, y se ajustan a las recomendaciones de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): We found that the Session of COFI was a very successful and useful meeting. Particularly we were glad to see that it gave a favourable hearing to the entanglement issue which we found particularly important. On the issue of international trade in fish and fishery products, we took the position at the COFI meeting that the subject should be dealt with under COFI itself rather than setting up a new sub-committee. However, we accepted the majority view that a sub-committee should be established, with the understanding that no additional financial obligations would be incurred as a result.

LI ZHENHUAN(China) (original language Chinese): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Carroz for his excellent introduction of the report which gives us such substantial and up-to-date information on the situation with regard to fisheries.

The 16th Session of COFI was very successful in that the delegates had full discussions on various agenda items. The Report of the 16th Session of COFI was adopted smoothly and the Session achieved its envisaged objectives. We are satisfied with the results.

We support the important measures taken by FAO in fishery management. We agree with the proposal contained in the document to enable the Director-General to obtain knowledge of the impact of the World Conference on Fishery Management and Development and the progress of the follow-up actions. Member countries are requested to submit progress reports. We consider, for the purpose of achieving better results, it is necessary for the FAO Secretariat to design a standard report format as a model for the member countries. In working out the format the Secretariat should take into consideration the concrete conditions in the developing countries and try to make it simple, flexible and feasible. As for Document COFI/85/2, among the five Action Programmes, the question arousing concern is how to provide assistance for fishery development, for this is the guarantee of the implementation of the Strategy. The Integrated Fish Farming Research and Training Centre for Asia and the Pacific in Wuxi, China, jointly set up by UNDP and FAO has achieved gratifying results in disseminating China's experience in fresh water fish culture in developing countries. But according to the decision of UNDP, the Centre will become a self-funding institution after 1984. In order to enable the Centre to continue its operations and play its effective role, the Chinese Government has decided to contribute US\$50 000 to cover its expenditure for 1985 and 1986, and will participate as before in activities such as training, research and information collection.

As China is a developing country, its pledge is modest. In doing so, we hope to contribute what we can to strengthening cooperation with FAO and promoting world fishery development.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your contribution of \$50 000.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo) : Nous aussi nous voulons joindre notre voix à celles qui se sont déjà exprimées pour remercier M. Carroz de la présentation très claire qu'il a faite du document dont nous sommes saisis. Notre délégation étant de celles qui ont eu le privilège de participer activement à la préparation et à la tenue de la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches nous serons extrêmement brefs dans notre présente intervention afférant

à l'examen par notre Conseil du point 9 de son ordre du jour concernant le rapport de la seizième session du Comité des pêches, rapport auquel nous avons également contribué en notre qualité de membre du Comité des pêches.

Notre délégation se félicite de l'important travail de diffusion des résultats de la Conférence sur les pêches abattu par le Secrétariat de la FAO ainsi que par le Président de ladite Conférence, nous avons nommé M. Ojeda Paullada, ministre des pêches du Mexique qui nous a honoré de sa présence à la seizième session du Comité des pêches tenue du 22 au 26 avril dernier, ici même au siège de la FAO et a contribué ainsi à la sensibilisation de la Communauté internationale sur l'importance de cette charte des pêches. Nous sommes solidaires des résultats auxquels ont abouti les travaux de la seizième session du Comité des pêches et appuyons en conséquence le rapport qui en est résulté. Notre délégation accorde une grande importance au suivi de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches et elle recommande au Secrétariat d'en rendre compte aux organes directeurs de l'Organisation au moyen de rapports intérimaires et sur la base d'indicateurs préalablement choisis.

Nous sommes d'avis, avec le Secrétariat et le Comité des pêches de recommander que les évaluations relatives à la stratégie adoptée par la Conférence mondiale des pêches prennent appui sur les huit éléments proposés par le Secrétariat. Nous appuyons les priorités et le budget proposés par le Secrétariat pour le secteur des pêches au cours du biennium prochain.

Nous partageons l'avis du Secrétariat quant à sa proposition suggérant que la stratégie sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches ainsi que les cinq projets d'action soient appliqués étape par étape et nous exhortons les pays donateurs, les organisations internationales à participer à cette mise en oeuvre. Nous remercions d'avance à cette occasion les pays qui ont manifesté leur intention de contribuer financièrement à la mise en oeuvre desdits programmes d'action.

Les pays en développement parmi lesquels figure le nôtre attendent beaucoup de la réalisation de ces programmes d'action.

Enfin nous aimerions terminer notre brève intervention en disant que nous marquons notre accord avec les propositions du Comité des pêches visant à ce que les délais, la périodicité d'examen des rapports de situation sur l'état d'application de la stratégie des pêches et des cinq programmes d'action qui l'accompagnent soient fixés l'an prochain après évaluation de la situation par le Comité.

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): I would like to congratulate the Assistant Director-General for his excellent introduction. Being a landlocked state, my country is not unfamiliar with the issues of fisheries!

Of course, our country contributes to the development of the world fisheries and to the follow-up to the World Conference on Fisheries in 1984 which concerned the field of freshwater fisheries.

We agree with the Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, especially with the conclusions submitted for the attention of the Council. Management and the development of fisheries has significantly influenced the world food situation and helped to cut down the protein deficit in many developing countries endangered by malnutrition and famine as contained in Resolution 4 of the World Conference.

We also welcome the cooperation established between FAO and UNEP in the field of protection of the fish resources of the seas and rivers, their renewal and measures against increasing pollution of those seas.

We agree that fishermen and their communities should be the theme of the World Food Day 1986. We do not object to the establishment of the World Food Day to be celebrated in June, but we think that the number of festive international days and years within the United Nations is so large that the effectiveness of this form of education and publicity projects is falling. In any case, it would be proper for similar events of FAO to be closely coordinated with the United Nations and other specialist agencies.

In conclusion I would like to draw your attention to centuries of tradition, experience, vast scientific research and practical applications of the effective methods of fish breeding in a number of landlocked countries, including Czechoslovakia. A number of special FAO studies in this field proved the effectiveness of the production of protein per every hectare or freshwater surface, and the World Conference on Fisheries took that into consideration in evaluating new programmes. Czechoslovakia is ready to offer its experts for implementation of UN/FAO/UNDP projects. I refer to the successful activities of our specialists in introducing fish into water basins in Nigeria, Mozambique and other countries within the FAO/UNDP programmes. Czechoslovakia institutions are available for the training of experts and technicians of developing countries. In respect of the freshwater aquaculture in Europe I suppose that it would be appropriate to

consider the possibility of establishing a new European cooperative network in this area without imposing any burden on the regular FAO budget for the next biennium, and similarly in the case of other networks open for developing countries from the European areas. Such networks could help with the transfer of extensive advantages, especially to the African continent.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure that Dr Carroz took note of your experience in this area.

J. MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): Mr Chairman, the Committee on Fisheries at its last meeting discussed matters connected with fisheries and we had the opportunity to express our point of view in considerable detail at that meeting. Therefore, as you have directed, I would merely like to reiterate our support and express our satisfaction for the Strategy and the Programme of Action for fishery management and development, and the FAO programme for the next biennium in support of the Strategy and Action Programme. We find the guidelines and principles embodied in the Strategy and the Programme extremely comprehensive extending its considerations over an extremely wide canvas from the local to the global, from the small fishermen to giant countries, and from the question of sport to the question of survival.

We find the following elements reflected in the various parts of the Strategy as particularly important and worthy of support. We hope that they will be reflected in all future programmes, and we also hope that the reporting system endorsed by the Committee will adequately cover the aspects, some of which cannot be reduced to quantitative terms. The various elements are: for the small scale fishermen and his family the need to monitor and to avoid the possible conflict with the activities of large scale fishermen; the role of fish in removing under-nutrition especially the under-nutrition of women and children, and the role of the World Food Programme in this respect; the development or the improvement of simple processing methods to produce low-cost, high-yield products, high quality products that could be within the budgeting power of the poor sections of the community; the utilization of by-catches or discards; the improvement in the marketing and the avoidance of harvest losses; the importance from the view of the developing countries in stock assessment and, therefore, technical assistance and training, and funds for this purpose. This important point was also mentioned by Sao Tome and Principe about how to create a surveillance system for illicit activities within territorial waters of other fishing countries or private sector sources. Other elements are: how to avoid or reduce trade tied in any way to excess rates, which sometimes has been the practice, and was discussed in the expert consultation; how to create more value in the processing system. This was also one of the items recommended in the technical consultation.

Finally, from a more global point of view and a general point of view there is the development of aquaculture, for example, in Thailand and Malaysia crocodile culture. They are advancing towards various types of culture, including crocodile culture. Another element is training and technology for agriculture and other purposes, and of course, from a global point of view the avoidance of pollution and how to conserve fishery resources, which has been emphasized by the Assistant Director-General in his opening statement.

As an aside I would like to add that it is partly thanks to all of the international efforts and the efforts of the FAO we are now beginning to give fish their due place in terms of importance and the respect which we attach to them. Perhaps since the time that our ancestors left the deep waters for life on land we have never taken too kindly to fish. Even the English language and idiom reflects this. The position in other languages may be the same. In our idiom we invariably seem to bring the fish in whenever something or someone is slippery or slimy or in some way unpleasant or undesirable. We do not give the same treatment to other animals. When we admire someone we say he is a cool cat, what a lion of a man, a sexy kitten. It is quite the contrary for fish. When we are thinking of a greedy, rapacious money lender we call him a loan shark. When we want to mislead someone we throw a red herring. When there is something fraudulent or mysterious in a bad way we call it fishy. When we are caught in a very uncomfortable position we feel like a fish out of water, and we always find ourselves fishing in troubled waters. We never like to fish in untroubled waters. The only time that we have a happy association with sea animals is when we have a whale of a time, but a whale is not a fish. Again, we would say in a fishy way it is a different kettle of fish.

Let us hope that the Committee on Fisheries will, among its other achievements, also be able to reform the English language, take fish out of the deep waters and elevate them to a higher position indeed as well as in word!

HIDAYAT GANDA ATMADJA (Indonesia): First of all I would like to congratulate Dr Carroz for his excellent presentation.

The Strategy for Fishery Management and Development has already passed through several fora of discussion, evaluation and improvement. My delegation is of the view that the substance is sufficiently comprehensive. The application of the principles and guidelines is flexible, not binding and always respects the sovereignty of the countries concerned. Therefore, my delegation supports the implementation of the Strategy.

With regard to the Programmes of Action, which in the implementation seems to be limited by the possibility by obtaining the required funding, my delegation is of the view that one of the possible solutions might be by stimulating and promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation supported by FAO multilateral and bilateral assistance. To strengthen the regional and sub-regional cooperation now might be the proper time to use the services of experts available in the region or sub-region under the auspices of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. By doing so the funding could be utilized more efficiently.

With respect to the funding problems, my delegation extends its appreciation to the donors who have given or committed contributions for the implementation of the Programmes of Action, as indicated in paragraph 23 of the document.

With regard to the Multilateral Framework for Consultations on International Trade in Fishery Products, my delegation is of the opinion that such a forum would be an important means for promoting market orientation of fisheries development and, in turn, for increasing the income earnings of a country from fish products, and improving the quality of life of the fishermen and fish farmers of the developing countries.

Therefore, my delegation fully endorses the establishment of a sub-committee on fish trade as referred to in paragraph 48 of the document.

In conclusion, my delegation will fully support the work of the Committee and in particular the Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

R.F. DEARE (United Kingdom): My delegation, like others who have spoken before, wish first to thank and congratulate Mr Carroz for his very lucid and informative introductory statement. My delegation welcomes this report on what was a most interesting and instructive meeting of the Committee on Fisheries. I would like to comment on three particular items. In view of the time I shall be brief, but the brevity of my comments should not be taken as an indication that we attach only passing importance to this subject - the contrary is the case.

First of all, the Programme of the Work for the Fisheries Department is we believe a well-balanced programme which provides an excellent and appropriate response to the recommendations of the 1984 World Fisheries Conference. I agree with my friend from Australia, who said that much has been accomplished in a short time, and I was very glad to hear from Mr Carroz that FAO is likely to reach the target of \$15 million for the Programme of Action in 1985. My Government continues to support the Programme of Action by implementing a comprehensive bilateral fisheries research and development programme, and we are always ready and pleased to cooperate with FAO in this. FAO has a crucial role in data collection, analysis, and dissemination of information in this particular sector. We believe that it is uniquely placed to perform this function, which is beyond the capabilities and resources of any other national or international agency. We are therefore sure that all Member States will wish to acknowledge this by giving full support to the system of regular reporting on progress in implementing the Programme of Action.

The last area on which I would like to make a brief comment is in relation to assessment, conservation and management of fish stocks. As Mr Carroz has mentioned in his introductory statement, there is a growing need for international action in this particular area, and this is one point where we believe that FAO alone has a unique ability to give a lead, particularly, as noted in paragraph 58 of the report of the Committee on Fisheries, where stocks transcend the boundaries of exclusive economic zones. My delegation would very much wish to commend the work of FAO in this field.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 18.30 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas.

## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/17

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Eighty-seventh Session  
**PLENARY**

Quatre-vingt-septième session  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

87° período de sesiones  
**PLENARIA**

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIX-SEPTIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE  
17<sup>a</sup> SESION PLENARIA  
(27 June 1985)

The Seventeenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

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

La dix-septième seance plénière est ouverte à 10 h, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 17<sup>a</sup> sesión plenaria a las 10,00 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)
- 9. Report of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (Rome, 22-26 April 1985) (continued)
- 9. Rapport de la seizième session du Comité des pêches (Rome, 22-26 avril 1985) (suite)
- 9. Informe del 16 período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (Roma, 22-26 de abril de 1985) (continuación)

R. SALLERY (Canada): First of all let me say how much we appreciate the constructive and professional manner in which you and your colleagues have chaired this Council meeting. I think we have been particularly fortunate in the high quality of our elected bureau, and we are most grateful to you and to your Vice-Chairmen for the high standards which they have set at this meeting.

Let me also thank Dr Carroz for his very helpful and thorough introductory comments yesterday, and join others who have congratulated the FAO Secretariat on the extent of implementation of the Programmes of Action of the World Conference.

We, like many others in this room, were active participants in the Committee on Fisheries and we therefore endorse the report. We supported the budgetary parameters outlined during the COFI meeting while at the same time making it clear, along with others, that we did so without prejudice to our final position on the overall budget.

We were reminded the other day by the Ambassador of the Philippines, Dr Clave, that the FAO programmes, our programmes, must do three things.

They must be responsive to the needs of Member States, especially the developing countries. The programmes must be relevant to current times and needs and also to future needs and concerns. Lastly, they must be designed to help us achieve food security, not just talk about it. We share these views and believe that by and large the FAO Fisheries Department is meeting these general parameters. After all, fish is, or at least can be, as many delegates have pointed out, a major contributor to world food security.

In reviewing the report of the discussions of the COFI, paragraphs 65 and 66 of the document under review still strike us as somewhat vague regarding the action intentions. This may be only because the programme has not been spelled out. Regarding the plans of FAO with respect to the focus on fisheries management, we were very pleased to hear yesterday Dr Carroz' comments that this is now an area of management. We would simply like to reiterate the comments that we made at COFI and support the comments of Dr Carroz that the FAO Fisheries Department must now strive to give major emphasis to fisheries management.

We believe that well-planned development programmes are an important part of our efforts to achieve food security, and the major problem with fisheries development today, as we see it, does lie in the absence in many places of practical management of existing resources. Economic waste brought on in some cases by gross over-capitalization, by over-fishing, and by lack of planning have consistently in many places led to a continuation of poverty and certainly costly economic inefficiency. That means simply that the limited resources that we have are being wasted. The management of existing fisheries resources is thus a major task, and we believe that here FAO can play a major, informative, demonstrative, active and pragmatic role in helping member countries to effectively manage these vital but ultimately limited resources. Of course, financial, economic, technological, productive and social aspects of fisheries development which we spoke about in COFI are all important, but management is critical to all of these aspects.

Let me join other delegations - indeed with the Director-General - in confirming the necessity of ensuring that we as members of the Council and Conference clearly define our priorities and make the best use of the limited resources available to us, eliminate where necessary those less efficient programmes, and, for our delegation, some management practices with effective reporting and accounting mechanisms would go a long way in helping us to achieve this end.

So in connection with paragraphs 65 and 66, perhaps the Secretariat would be good enough to outline for us what pragmatic steps they will be, or are, taking to improve fisheries management: this can be done either here or at the Conference itself.

One last point. We would once again stress the role of women in fisheries. The role of women in fisheries, as in agriculture, is critical; and, if we do have a Year of the Fisherman let us ensure that "Fisherman" includes "Fisherwoman". But such years, like resolutions and declarations



in addition to costing a fair amount of money which might be better spent on other programmes, cannot take the place of concrete action on a daily basis to help all people - men and women - to help them help themselves to overcome the tragic cycle of poverty.

R. PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of): The Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the Report on the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries. It mainly reflects the considerations of the Committee, and shows that the necessary first steps are being taken to implement the objectives as defined by the World Fisheries Conference. The Federal Republic of Germany will continue its efforts within the framework of the competent international organizations, including FAO, within the EEC, and beyond that also at bilateral level, to contribute to progress in the field of fisheries, which is so important for many countries. The planned Programme of Work of FAO for the following years seems to us a suitable framework to make progress possible.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany also welcomes the establishment of a sub-committee on fish trade. Despite basic doubts about new, costly institutions, the establishment of such a committee can be justified. A body for the discussion of fisheries trade issues is necessary, and the link to COFI and/or FAO may in the last analysis be the simplest and most cost-advantageous solution. This decision was taken under the assumption of no overlapping with the pertinent trade institutions, UNCTAD and GATT, as Mr Carroz confirmed in his lucid introduction.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): First of all I would like to thank the Assistant Director-General, Dr Carroz for his as always lucid and articulate introduction to this urgent item yesterday.

At the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries two important items were deliberated. One is a follow-up on the World Conference on Fishery Management and Development, and the other is a programme of work and budget related to fisheries. In regard to the first item, my delegation believes that the Strategy and Action Programmes adopted at the World Conference were very meaningful and useful for the furthering of self-reliance efforts in developing countries. Since the World Conference was held only last year, we cannot expect instant results from the follow-up activities. However, we are pleased to note that many positive actions have already been taken by the FAO Secretariat and other related international agencies. In particular my delegation notes with appreciation that the total funds committed, or appropriated in principle, in the implementation of the Programme of Action by FAO has reached approximately \$14 million, as stated in paragraph 23 of the report. In responding to Resolution 2 of the World Conference and to the request of FAO, my country has increased our Trust Fund in the fisheries sector for this fiscal year from US \$200 000 to US \$700 000. My country, with a vast amount of experience in fishery development, has been extending fairly large-scale bilateral assistance. Annually we send out about 190 experts and accept more than 160 trainees through governmental and semi-governmental agencies. Our Grant Aid alone accounts for around US \$32 million. In extending our bilateral assistance we would like to give full consideration to the objectives of the action programmes.

With regard to the multilateral framework for consultation on international trade in fisheries products, my delegation endorses the establishment of a sub-committee on fish trade, a compromise solution reached after a long and difficult discussion at the expert consultation in February and the Sixteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries held this past April.

With regard to the other important items discussed by the Committee, the Programme of Work and Budget related to fisheries, my delegation fully appreciates the detailed explanation given by the Assistant Director-General and his staff at the meeting concerning our queries. Their explanations greatly helped us to understand the necessity of each programme and sub-programme in the Fisheries Section of the Programme of Work and Budget.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the Fisheries Department of FAO for their most positive attitude in the follow-up of the important results of the World Conference on Fisheries.

C.A. FERREIRA GUIMARÃES (Brazil): Allow me to present our thanks to Mr Carroz for his presentation of the Committee on Fisheries, I wish to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the Brazilian Government for the results of the meeting of COFI, and in this regard we endorse this report.

The Brazilian delegation welcomes the decision to invest more resources in the implementation of the strategy for fisheries development and management. We believe that that measure will contribute towards developing the activities of ECDC and TCDC, to which we give high priority in which - particularly the latter FAO has been deploying so many efforts.

The Brazilian delegation also welcomes the decision to develop additional efforts with donor countries in order to correct imbalances in distribution of regional resources. We are sure that in that process, to collaborate with regional bodies in or out of the United Nations framework, can be a measure of the utmost importance. As a matter of fact FAO will stand to gain much by active cooperation with other UN agencies such as IOC and UNEP in the field of marine resources and inland waters.

My delegation would also like to express once again the interest of the Brazilian Government in the expansion of the activities encompassed by sub-programme 2.2.2.1, marine resources and environment, for it will allow an assessment of stocks and resources in areas of Brazilian interest.

To conclude, I wish to reiterate that my delegation supports the decision to establish a sub-committee on fish trade under the Committee of Fisheries.

E.X. BADILLO (Venezuela): Nuestra delegación apoya antes que todo el documento CL 87/7 que discutimos hoy. No tenemos ningún tipo de reservas; sin embargo, hubiésemos apreciado que se le diese más importancia a la participación de la mujer dentro de los programas dirigidos al mejoramiento económico y social de las Comunidades Pesqueras. En nuestro país la mujer del pescador, en su gran mayoría, tiene labores muy arduas que llevan desde la responsabilidad de los trabajos de casa hasta la preparación y comercialización del pescado en mercados populares. Creemos que es en este punto donde la FAO puede elaborar algunos programas de capacitación.

Otro asunto no menos importante es el problema de la pesca de arrastre. Venezuela tiene una plataforma continental poco profunda, por lo que aún hoy en día, a pesar de las prohibiciones, barcos de diferentes nacionalidades practican la pesca de arrastre en unos fondos marinos no rocosos, dañando, naturalmente, la existencia de las especies en su crecimiento natural. Tanto es así, que en el futuro corren el riesgo de extinción, como ha sucedido con varias especies en las cercanías de las islas venezolanas del mar Caribe. Ahora bien, en el día de ayer, en el magnífico resumen que nos hizo el señor Caroz, explicaba que en los últimos diez años la captura mundial de pescado se había reducido o estabilizado. Si tomamos en cuenta que también en esos últimos diez años los barcos recolectores han mejorado su capacidad de obtener por medios electrónicos de refinada tecnología, mayor cantidad de peces en faenas de largos meses ininterrumpidos, nos encontraríamos, no con una relativa estabilidad, sino con una comprobada disminución de especies debido a esa explotación indiscriminada y sin descanso de los recursos marinos. Si a esta situación le sumamos el peligro ecológico que representa la pesca de arrastre, estaremos destinados, sin pecar de pesimistas, a depender cada vez más con mayor necesidad de la importación de alimentos, cuando necesariamente luchamos por lo contrario.

Creemos que la FAO debe adelantar estudios y proyectos para que en un futuro no muy lejano se pueda acabar con esta nefasta práctica de la pesca de arrastre.

R.C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): En aras de lo atrasado que estamos en el Programa, vamos a ser breves. En primer lugar queremos agradecerles y sobre todo hacerle llegar que nos sentimos muy alentados por el éxito que ha conseguido en la búsqueda de financiamiento para la ejecución de los programas en acción. En cuanto al documento, queremos ser muy cortos en nuestra exposición y daremos nuestro total apoyo en los términos en los que está, tal como fue aprobado por la COAG. Finalmente queremos decir que reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la labor que se realiza en el Departamento de Pesca, en particular la que realiza el doctor Carroz al frente del Departamento.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): First of all, my delegation wishes to thank Mr Carroz for his clear and concise introductory remarks on the outcome of the Sixteenth session of the Committee on Fisheries.

My delegation is pleased to note that FAO has taken necessary action to implement the Strategy and Programmes of Action as adopted by the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. We fully support the Director-General's proposals for the preparation of detailed progress report for submission to the next session of the Committee on Fisheries and also to the Council. We are gratified to learn that for 1985 several donors have agreed or committed to provide funding support to regional fisheries projects executed by FAO in the amount close to US\$ 15 million which was the target set by the World Fisheries Conference. We sincerely hope that FAO will be able

during 1985-1989 as support to ensure the effective implementation of the Programmes of Action during 1985-1989 as envisaged.

My delegation attaches great importance to the issue concerning international trade in fish and fishery products. We welcome COFI's decision to establish a sub-committee on fish trade to facilitate intergovernmental consultations on this important issue.

Finally, I should like to conclude my brief statement by expressing our full support to the Director-General's Summary Programme of Work and Budget in fisheries for the next biennium. We consider the fisheries programme very concrete and the level of resources proposed justified. My delegation is particularly pleased to note that one fixed-term staff member would be outposted to the Southeast Asian region to strengthen FAO's activities in the field of fisheries management. We hope, however, that he will not produce a lot of paper, but will initiate action which will be of benefit to the countries in the region.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to place on record its support for the strategy of Fisheries Management and Development. In this regard, we therefore wish to congratulate Mr Carroz and his staff for the excellent report.

Our delegation wishes to register our appreciation to the Director-General and FAO for the tangible support given to Trinidad and Tobago via various Technical Assistance projects.

We also have a particular concern, in the interest of other Caribbean territories also, that, reportedly, there is a current view that the CARICOM Secretariat, our regional organization, does not at present have the capability to undertake statistical surveys and studies of the kind necessary for this area of activity.

We are at variance with the view and recommend that if, upon a real evaluation there is this inadequacy of capability, FAO provide assistance in improving CARICOM's capability in this regard.

J.E. CARROZ (Sous-Directeur général, Département des pêches) : Tout d'abord j'aimerais, au nom du Directeur général, remercier les nombreuses délégations qui ont appuyé ses propositions de programme de budget dans ce secteur de la pêche. J'aimerais également remercier toutes les délégations qui ont bien voulu adresser des rapports d'encouragement à l'adresse du Département des pêches.

J'aimerais aussi saisir cette occasion pour exprimer notre gratitude non seulement aux donateurs qui ont déjà contribué à la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'action, mais à ceux qui, au cours de cette session, ont indiqué qu'ils étaient disposés à nous aider. En particulier, j'aimerais exprimer notre gratitude au distingué représentant de la Chine pour sa contribution à la coopération technique entre pays en développement dans le secteur de l'aquaculture.

J'aimerais aussi remercier le distingué représentant de la Tchécoslovaquie pour son offre d'assistance et d'expertise dans le domaine de la pêche dans les eaux intérieures et de l'aquaculture.

Il y a eu en fait très peu de questions. Il y a simplement deux points sur lesquels je pourrais faire quelques observations. Le premier concerne la très intéressante observation du distingué représentant de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, hier après-midi. Il s'agit du rôle de la FAO dans l'assistance des pays en développement lors de la négociation d'accords bilatéraux dans le secteur de la pêche. C'est un point qui a été examiné par notre Conseil il y a déjà deux ou trois ans, et nous avons été autorisés non pas à participer directement aux négociations entre pays en développement et pays tiers dans ce secteur de la pêche, mais à aider les pays en développement à se préparer à ces négociations et à fournir l'assistance technique nécessaire - et par technique j'entends également assistance juridique ou commerciale. En fait, pour nous limiter à la région de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, je peux dire que plusieurs pays nous ont demandé une telle assistance dans le cadre de notre programme d'action et, pour cette année seulement, en 1985, nous avons reçu des demandes d'assistance de la Sierra Leone, de la Guinée équatoriale et de la Mauritanie, de sorte que nous sommes à la disposition de Sao Tomé-et-Principe, s'ils le désirent.

Le second point, et c'est le dernier, concerne les observations qui ont été faites sur l'importance à donner à l'aménagement des ressources biologiques de la mer ou des eaux intérieures.

J'ai naturellement écouté avec beaucoup d'intérêt les interventions des distingués représentants de l'Australie et du Canada et je peux les assurer que la question de l'aménagement rationnel des ressources de la pêche est devenue notre préoccupation principale. Je ne peux pas donner de détails ici, mais je peux indiquer que notre action va être menée sur le plan national, sur le plan régional et aussi sur le plan mondial.

Nous savons que le premier programme d'action adopté par la Conférence mondiale l'année dernière concerne précisément la planification et l'aménagement des pêches. En fait, nous avons déjà reçu une vingtaine de demandes d'assistance directe à des pays en développement pour la formulation de plans d'aménagement.

Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Nous avons également l'intention d'organiser des cours de formation et des séminaires sur l'aménagement des ressources marines et nous en aurons, cette année au mois d'octobre, pour les pays de l'Asie du Sud-Est à l'intention des administrateurs de haut niveau. Nous aurons également des séminaires de ce genre dans d'autres régions, en particulier en Afrique occidentale.

J'aimerais dire quelques mots sur le rôle de nos commissions régionales de pêche. La FAO a un réseau de neuf commissions de pêche : six pour les pêches marines et trois pour les pêches intérieures. A l'origine, ces commissions s'occupaient essentiellement du développement de la recherche (établissement de laboratoires), puis elles se sont préoccupées beaucoup des développements, surtout pour les pays en développement. Je dirais que maintenant l'accent est mis de plus en plus sur l'aménagement et que des mesures concrètes d'aménagement ont été étudiées et recommandées par plusieurs de ces commissions. La semaine prochaine, par exemple, nous aurons à Bangkok, une réunion de la Commission des pêches pour l'océan Indien, qui est la commission dont la composition est la plus nombreuse - 42 pays membres - et le point essentiel de l'ordre du jour de cette commission sera le problème de l'aménagement des thons dans l'océan Indien, de sorte que je puis assurer le distingué représentant du Canada que le document que nous soumettrons à la Conférence de la FAO au mois de novembre contiendra des détails sur cette activité.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I apologize for coming back, and thank you Mr Carroz for your comments.

There were no comments which were made about the importance of women in the fisheries sector, and I know the FAO was very concerned with this. It seems to many of us that we keep referring to this and yet nothing seems to happen, and I suspect that a lot of it lies in our own hands. We are delegates and yet we keep sending our traditional male representatives and so on to many of the training programmes. I would very like to support Venezuela's request to have perhaps specific programmes identified and tried for those countries which are seeking them for women.

J.E. CARROZ (Sous-Directeur general, Département des Pêches): Nous avons en fait, ce matin au Secrétariat, préparé le projet de rapport sur les discussions que nous avons eues hier et nous avons inséré un paragraphe spécial sur le rôle des femmes dans le secteur de la pêche qui est souvent très important d'ailleurs et même dominateur dans certaines régions. Et je peux dire que plusieurs de nos programmes régionaux, en particulier dans le Golfe de Bengale - et nous avons également un programme régional en Afrique de l'Ouest sur les pêches artisanales - ont des composantes très importantes sur le développement du rôle de la femme dans le secteur de la pêche.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr Carroz. May I add my voice of congratulations and gratitude to Mr Carroz and all his very dedicated staff for the outstanding work being done by the Fisheries Department, I also sincerely thank the delegates who have spoken on women in fisheries development. This is an area which, although Mr Carroz has explained - he knows my views - I think there is a tremendous opportunity here. Particularly I have always felt that in addition to the traditional fishermen and fisherwomen families, there are enormous opportunities in landless labour families for the introduction of aquaculture particularly training in induced breeding. Induced breeding requires very small tanks, and even those who live in huts can take to it. Post-harvest technology is another area where training is needed. Whatever FAO could sponsor would be of very great value. I am mentioning this because normally in terms of training one thinks only of traditional fishermen communities, but I think there is a tremendous opportunity here for assetless, landless labour women.

The only other two points I would like to make are in connection with Resolution 6 of the World Fisheries Conference on the conservation of living resources. We now know that there is a much greater awareness of plant genetic resources, forest genetic resources and animal genetic resources, but aquatic living resources conservation in my view requires a little additional effort in terms of awareness generation. During last year the World Wildlife Fund and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural resources (IUCN), launched a plants campaign. Many of you must have read large advertisements in all newspapers around the world on what is called a plants campaign. It has certainly generated a tremendous degree of awareness, and next year is a Wetlands Campaign of the IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund for the wetlands of the world. I feel FAO could work with them in trying to see that mass media also generate awareness of the need for the conservation of aquatic resources. The danger for the loss of fish genetic resources increases with the spread of new techniques that are being introduced with exotic fishes and carps. The native ones are then likely to get lost, I know because of constraints of resources for FAO itself cannot undertake campaigns but this is where joining together with other organizations which are working in the area would be a great help.

Another point which I feel requires much better attention, again through appropriate special projects, are linkages with the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO in the integration of integrated pest management with aquaculture. It will help both, and in fact farmers will take more interest in integrated pest management where we do not use chemical pesticides wherever there is water. This is particularly true of ricelands and wetlands. One could combine aquaculture with the integrated pest management, and there is enormous scope in south and south-east Asia in particular for this kind of integration.

Finally, Forestry and Fisheries, the linkages between the two, in my view also need to be strengthened. This is particularly true of coastal forestry where we want also to prevent coastal erosion. There is a great opportunity here of linking coastal afforestation programmes with mari-culture programmes so that we can have thriving coastal communities which will get some income from mari-culture and some income from growing crops. I know at least that both in the east and west coast of India, Casuarina, cashew-nut and coconut grow well in that order.

I know that the Fisheries Department and other Departments of FAO are working together but there are tremendous opportunities here for a synergy multiplier effect by working together. I want on behalf of all of you and on my behalf to thank Mr Carroz and all his staff for the great work they are doing.

12. Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO

12. Faits nouveaux survenus dans le Système des Nations Unies et qui intéressent la FAO

12. Novedades de interés para la FAO registradas en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): The Council will remember that its last session in November 1984 it had considered recent developments in the United Nations System of interest to FAO on the basis of document CL 86/12. Developments since then are reported in the document which is now before the Council as C 85/9.

I would therefore like to limit myself in this brief intervention to updating you on a few developments since last April, when the document was prepared. But, as you may know, a number of developments will take place during the rest of the year which are of importance, for example ECOSOC and the General Conference on the Development of Women, and the General Assembly at the end of the year.

Concerning the activities of the ACC Task Force on Rural Development, the Council will recall that ECOSOC, at its July 1984 session, approved the proposed programme of work in its three main areas, namely: (1) joint action at country and regional levels, (2) people's participation in rural development, and (3) monitoring and evaluation of rural development. At its March 1985 meeting, the Task Force discussed and agreed on a detailed work programme for 1985.

At the initiative of FAO, the Task Force had a discussion on the impact of the international economic recession on rural development at the country level and its implications for resource availability for rural development in the United Nations System. The discussion highlighted the negative impact that international economic recession had on some specific groups: landless agricultural farmers, small farmers, rural women and children.

Concerning the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least-Developed Countries, to which the document refers in paragraphs 23-31, the Council will have noted the important events which will take place this year for the mid-term global review of the implementation of the SNPA.

The most important meeting will be that of the inter-governmental group of the LDCs of UNCTAD from 30 September to 11 October which would carry out the mid-term global review and readjust the programme for the second half of the decade. As it is indicated in the document, FAO has contributed to the background for the meeting by preparing an assessment of agricultural and rural development sectors in the LDCs. FAO has also participated in the meeting of experts from donor countries, multilateral and bilateral financial and technical assistance institutions, and representatives of the LDCs which took place in Geneva from 1-10 May 1985. The meeting concluded, inter alia, that the aims of review meetings remained valid. However, adequate preparatory work and structured follow-up were essential for the success of these meetings. It underlined the need to give priority to human basic needs, such as food and nutrition, and to the rehabilitation of the agricultural resource base.

A further matter on which I would like to bring you up to date relates to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy. There is no tangible progress to report on this item. We had reported to the last session of the Council that the United Nations Committee of Universal Membership on the Review and Appraisal of the IDS was not able to conclude its work and, therefore, the report which was scheduled to be submitted to the Thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly could not be prepared. A resumed session of the Committee was held in May 1985 during the first regular session of ECOSOC but yielded no concrete result. The Committee might be reconvened in September with a view to completing its work on the report to the forthcoming fortieth session of the General Assembly.

With regard to IFAD, paragraph 62 of the report under consideration indicates that negotiations are expected to be concluded shortly on the Fund's replenishment. The expectation was to achieve final agreement on the global level and the specific amounts to be contributed by individual countries and by categories. Unfortunately, the eighth consultation on this subject, which was held in Rome from 16 to 17 May, did not succeed. Prospect is uncertain and, at best, the level of replenishment which could eventually be achieved would be at a much lower level than anticipated.

It may also be noted that the Executive Board of IFAD, which met in a special session on 18 May, gave its approval to the launching of a Special Programme for the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa affected by drought and desertification, and IFAD was asked to go forward with its planning and to initiate a fund-raising campaign aimed at mobilizing at least US\$300 million in additional resources over the coming four years. The President of IFAD said that the programme would complement and draw from the other emergency assistance programmes, including FAO's African Rehabilitation Programme.

FAO participated in the fourth session of the High Level Committee on the Review of TCDC in New York from 28 May to 5 June 1985. The meeting is convened biennially by UNDP as mandated by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The UNDP document before the meeting indicates that the organizations which provided information had supported collectively some 450 TCDC activities at an estimated cost of approximately US\$52 million. FAO accounted for nearly 190 TCDC activities at a cost of US\$16 million during the period November 1982 to October 1984.

FAO highlighted in the meeting the priority given to TCDC in the Programme of Work and Budget for the current biennium as well as in the proposals for the next biennium.

The High-Level Committee's recommendations include, among others, the need for a clearer identification of TCDC dimension in the projects and activities of the organizations, and bodies of the United Nations System, increased use of equipment, services, experts and consultants from developing countries and increased use of country, regional, interregional and global IPFs for TCDC activities. The Committee also recommended to the UNDP Governing body, currently in session, to make available additional resources for TCDC activities during the balance of the third programming cycle up to a total amount of US\$1.5 million.

The Seventh session of the Inter-Governmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development was held in New York from 28 May to 7 June 1985. As reported in paragraph 33 of the document before you, the General Assembly had established an informal open-ended inter-governmental working group to consider the long-term arrangements for the UN Financing System for Science and Technology. As you know, the Financing System was set up by the General Assembly in 1979 on a recommendation made by the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development in Vienna in the same year. At present, it is administered on an interim basis by UNDP. The Fund has a target of US\$300 million as core resources and an additional US\$300 million as non-core resources. It is reported, however, that the UN has been able to raise only about US\$50 million so far. At the IGC meeting, once again, no concrete progress was made for the establishment of a viable and durable Financing System.

In conclusion, the Inter-Governmental Committee requested the Secretary-General to pursue his informal consultations and submit his recommendations to the forthcoming fortieth General Assembly.

#### WFC

I should like to remind the Council that the World Food Council held its Eleventh session in Paris from 10 to 13 June. It elected the Minister of Agriculture from France as its President for the next period.

The Council focussed its attention on the following three main issues:

- The food crisis in Africa and the implementation of food strategies. Stress was put: on the fact that emergency relief to Africa must be paralleled by stepped-up rehabilitation and long-term development. In this regard, WFC appealed for support to the FAO rehabilitation programme in Africa and for the establishment and improvement of national early-warning systems;
- The second item was improving access to food by the undernourished. The Council, in particular, emphasized that a significant reduction in the number of undernourished people at the end of the century required some reorientation of current development priorities and policies to meet the multiple objectives of growth, equity, self-reliance, improved efficiency and productivity, with a view to bringing about more equitable participation of all people in development; changes in production patterns, including greater emphasis on labour-intensive technologies and on small farmers as a major source of food security and employment generation;
- Finally, WFC reviewed external economic constraints on meeting food objectives, in particular in the fields of finance and trade.

A final point which may be mentioned concerns UNIDO and its conversion into a Specialized Agency of the United Nations System.

With the announcement last May by a number of Eastern European Countries that their governments had completed the process of ratification of the UNIDO Constitution, UNIDO is now at the eve of becoming a Specialized Agency.

According to the procedure envisaged a one-day meeting was called by the Secretary-General in New York on 10 June last. It is learned that the required number of notifications has now been made to the Secretary-General. The next step is to call the first General Conference of UNIDO as a Specialized Agency. This is expected to be convened on 5 or 12 August 1985 at Vienna.

The Conference would be divided in two or three parts, the first one next August would have to agree on the memberships of the New Industrial Development Board and of Programme and Budget Committees as well as elect the Director-General of the new Agency. After which the Conference would adjourn for 3 or 6 months to allow the Secretariat, the Programme and Budget Committees and the Industrial Development Board to fulfil their tasks.

FAO as you know maintains very close working relationships with UNIDO as many of our respective activities are complementary. We naturally look forward to continuing such harmonious co-operation with the new agency.

With these brief introductory remarks may I submit, through you, Mr Chairman, document C 85/9 for the consideration of the Council.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Cada vez que discutimos este tema en el Consejo y la Conferencia, señor Presidente, nuestro colega y amigo André Regnier confirma su conocimiento y dominio de estos asuntos, reflejo de la competencia con que este distinguido funcionario cumple sus altas responsabilidades.

A la delegación de Colombia le complace que este Documento demuestre una vez más la forma activa, dinámica y constructiva como la FAO se mantiene en contacto y colaboración permanentes con los otros Organismos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas. A base de esa actuación constante que debe ser encomiada y apoyada sin reservas por este Consejo, la FAO ha logrado, particularmente en los últimos diez años, liberarse de la torre de marfil en la que se le mantuvo encerrada por largo tiempo como consecuencia de las políticas conservadoras que han estado prevaleciendo en esta Organización. Hoy la FAO ocupa un lugar serio y respetable en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas y asegura así la necesaria e indispensable interrelación que debe existir entre todos los factores que son determinantes para la solución de los problemas alimentarios y agrícolas, problemas que no pueden considerarse ni resolverse aisladamente.

Como lo indica el párrafo 3 con visión realista y positiva, la FAO tomó la iniciativa innovadora de que el Grupo de Acción del CAC, sobre el Desarrollo Rural examinara el impacto de la recesión económica internacional en el desarrollo rural a nivel nacional y también sus repercusiones sobre la disponibilidad de recursos para ese desarrollo en el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que en nuestro Informe debemos destacar este valioso aporte de insumos importantes para que el CAC estudie este asunto de gran importancia para los países en desarrollo, únicas víctimas de la recesión económica que ahora están superando los países desarrollados.

Recordamos todos la pausable iniciativa del gobierno francés, Francia siempre en favor del Tercer Mundo; se realizó en París en 1981 la Conferencia sobre los países menos adelantados. Dice el párrafo 22 que recientemente la Asamblea General aprobó una Resolución sobre el nuevo programa sustancial de acción a favor de esos países menos adelantados ya que existe profunda preocupación por el continuo deterioro de la situación económica y social de los países menos adelantados.

En efecto, el párrafo 25 afirma que según todos los indicadores económicos la situación de esos países en lugar de mejorar ha empeorado desde 1981.

Debemos destacar y apoyar la participación de la FAO en todas las actividades en favor de los países menos adelantados, sobre todo el trabajo de nuestra Organización en el análisis del sector agropecuario y desarrollo rural en esos países. El hecho de que los países menos adelantados, los Estados y las poblaciones más pobres del mundo hayan sufrido ese deplorable retroceso confirma las reiteradas afirmaciones de los delegados de Colombia sobre la campaña en marcha contra la cooperación internacional, cuyos efectos agravan el actual e injusto orden económico internacional. Y todo ello se cumple bajo una dirección bien conocida, como vamos a demostrarlo en el resto de esta intervención.

Nos complace que el apoyo a las inversiones a favor de los países en desarrollo sigan constituyendo actividad prioritaria de la FAO, como lo dice el párrafo 58. En ese párrafo 58 se habla del Banco Mundial, del FIDA, de los Bancos Africanos y Asiáticos de Desarrollo; ¿desapareció el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, nuestro BID? Hacemos esta pregunta porque tampoco encontramos al BID en el cuadro con que concluye el párrafo 64. Preguntamos por el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo ya que en documentos anteriores siempre se incluía y además sabemos que la FAO mantiene muy buenas relaciones con nuestro Banco, que ya no es sólo regional, sino que cuenta también con la participación y el apoyo de numerosos e importantes países de Europa y otras regiones.

Los párrafos 59 al 63 confirman lo que ya conocíamos cuando consideramos los temas 4 y 5 del período de sesiones en curso. Una baja significativa en las asignaciones multilaterales al sector agrícola; hay una tendencia descendente en los niveles de asignaciones destinadas expresamente al sector agrícola; cada vez son menores los fondos para préstamo en condiciones de favor; los fondos concesionarios de los principales donantes y que disminuyen aún más y el resto lo canalizan a través de sus propios programas de ayuda. Y lo que es peor, el párrafo 63 concluye con la afirmación de que, cito: "Las perspectivas a largo plazo son aún más sombrías".

Todos estos son acontecimientos que afectan el trabajo de nuestra Organización. No obstante, la FAO por medio del Centro de Inversiones, como aparece en los párrafos 64 a 66 sigue asistiendo muy eficazmente a los países en la preparación de sus proyectos del sector agrícola. Las cifras contenidas en esos párrafos son significativas. La FAO debe continuar esa importante función para Beneficio de los países en desarrollo.

El párrafo 62 sobre el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola, FIDA, debió aparecer en tinta negra, en caracteres de luto; el FIDA ha muerto.

El FIDA se disuelve lentamente, inclusive se nos dice que en el ambiente interno hay síntomas preocupantes de deterioro.

Estamos agradecidos a los 19 miembros de la OCDE, o sea a todos los Miembros de ese importante grupo menos uno, y también a los colegas y hermanos de la OPEP quienes no obstante sus actuales dificultades financieras han estado en condiciones de enunciar ya sus contribuciones a la segunda reposición del FIDA. Todos estamos a la expectativa, la Comunidad Internacional está inquieta. Los términos de esta declaración son forzados por las circunstancias. Hemos agotado todos los argumentos, hemos hablado nosotros y muchos de nuestros colegas sobre las características fundamentales del FIDA, el valioso trabajo que realiza ese Organismo con personal reducido, la necesidad de que el FIDA siga apoyando a los pequeños y medianos campesinos, hemos usado todos los términos; todos esos ruegos se han perdido entre la incompresión; incompresión seca, dura, inmodificable. Ya no hay nada que hacer. Como los tiempos del Imperio Romano en el Coliseo, muy cerca de aquí, el Emperador ha bajado el dedo pulgar. Pero el FIDA no es un caso aislado, es apenas un eslabón de la estrategia que se cumple de manera fría, calculada, inflexible, con el objetivo de minar y debilitar progresivamente el sistema de las Naciones Unidas, porque la cooperación bilateral produce dividendos de varios órdenes.



Este proceso se inició hace exactamente cuatro años, cinco meses y siete días, pero debemos prepararnos para lo peor porque aún faltan por lo menos tres años, seis meses y veinticuatro días. Ya el Senado, ya el Senado, repetimos, y seguramente la otra rama del Parlamento hará lo mismo, ha aprobado una ley mediante la cual se condicionan las contribuciones de ese importante y respetable país al voto ponderado en los organismos internacionales y a la reducción en un 20 por ciento de los sueldos de los funcionarios internacionales. Este es un hecho, una dura realidad.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the United States wants to make a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I just wonder how much longer my country is to be the subject of attack in this manner. It is not the issue at hand.

CHAIRMAN: I would request the delegate of Colombia to be brief.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, voy a terminar y yo no he nombrado a ningún país.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous allons dire nous aussi que nous sommes satisfaits de la présentation de ce rapport tel qu'il nous a été fait par M. Regnier qui ne s'est pas départi de ses habitudes pour nous présenter cet excellent document. Nous sommes satisfaits qu'au cours de sa dernière réunion annuelle, en mars de cette année, l'équipe spéciale du Comité administratif de coordination ait consacré un débat spécifique aux répercussions de la récession économique interne sur le développement rural au niveau des pays et sur le volume des ressources disponibles dans le système des Nations Unies pour le développement rural.

A cet égard nous appuyons entièrement le paragraphe 3. Mon gouvernement accorde une extrême importance au suivi de la CMRADR étant donné la complexité des problèmes de la réforme agraire et du développement rural, que des missions interinstitutions nous semble une approche très appropriée pour effectuer ce suivi. Les tables rondes et ateliers régionaux constituent une façon rationnelle de cerner au plus près les problèmes de la pauvreté, de l'évolution des structures agraires et du développement rural aux niveaux tant régional que national. La priorité accordée à la surveillance et à l'évaluation du développement rural mérite les efforts déployés actuellement par l'équipe spéciale. Espérons que la poursuite de l'examen des principes directeurs concernant la conception et l'emploi de méthodes de surveillance et d'évaluation dans les projets de programmes de développement rural sera menée à son terme. Pour ce qui concerne la décolonisation et les questions connexes nous sommes satisfaits de la manière dont la FAO applique les différentes résolutions de l'Assemblée à cet égard pour priver le régime raciste et belliciste de l'Afrique du Sud de son soutien. En tout cas nous souhaitons que tous les pays puissent mettre effectivement en oeuvre ces résolutions pour aider l'action de la FAO en ce sens.

L'aide aux peuples namibiens doit être appuyée par le Conseil et nous devons exhorter le Directeur général à poursuivre son effort dans ce sens à un pays membre, même si ce pays reste encore occupé.

Pour ce qui concerne le FIDA nous partageons les préoccupations déjà exprimées ici par notre collègue de Colombie, nous partageons ses préoccupations. Nous n'avons pas perdu tout espoir de voir la deuxième reconstitution se faire. Nous espérons que tous les pays mettront de la bonne volonté pour qu'une solution soit trouvée à ce problème car ceci, vous le savez, a une incidence sur les activités de la FAO étant donné la coopération étroite qui existe entre la FAO et cette Organisation. C'est pourquoi je tiens à relever ici ce qu'a dit hier le représentant du PNUD qui s'est amusé à nous divertir un peu par une déclaration qui nous a surpris. En effet, profitant de notre absence de cette salle, il est venu lancer un cri de victoire au Conseil pour dire qu'il nous accablait et que nous n'avions pas pu donner d'exemples précis pour ce que nous disions hier. Je crois que cela est tout à fait faux. Nous avons devant nous un document qui est le seizième rapport d'activité du Comité d'Inspection des Nations Unies et lorsque nous lisons les paragraphes concernant le bureau de l'exécution des projets du programme des Nations Unies pour le développement, nous savons que ce bureau fait plus que ce qu'il devait faire et nous avons exhorté le Directeur général à poursuivre le dialogue avec l'administrateur du PNUD pour que des activités encore plus importantes soient confiées à la FAO et que le Bureau ait de moins en moins recours aux sociétés privées pour exécuter les projets agricoles dans nos pays étant donné que ces sociétés privées sont moins soucieuses d'assurer une formation sur place. Je crois que cela est un fait confirmé par le corps commun des inspecteurs et il n'est pas question pour nous ici d'écouter ce qu'il nous a dit à ce sujet.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We thank the Secretariat for the clear and fairly comprehensive document, C 85/9, presented to us this morning. It is a very detailed resume of the Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO. We wish at this point to thank Mr Regnier for providing us with a succinct presentation on this document.

We appreciate FAO's involvement as a leading specialized agency in the field of food, agriculture and rural development with other UN agencies and bodies. These joint activities underline the importance of effective coordination with a view to pooling common resources in order for the developing countries to profit from combined experience in the various areas of the UN System.

To assist you in your challenging task to finish by mid-day, and realizing the time constraints, I will be brief and make only a few observations.

We observe with great satisfaction that FAO has made a notable contribution to the work of other bodies and agencies in the UN System in so far as it has a bearing on the promotion of food, agriculture and rural development activities.

We note with interest at paragraph 3 of the document that it was at FAO's initiative that discussion took place on the impact of the international economic recession on rural development at the country level and its implications, on resource availability for rural development in the UN System.

We appreciate FAO's association with the ten-point strategy of the AGC task force. However, we are disappointed to note that no tangible progress has been achieved toward the implementation of the goals and targets of the substantial new Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries.

We have noted with interest at paragraph 5 of the document that FAO prepared a comprehensive paper bearing on its assessment of the agricultural sector and the rural development sector of the Least Developed Countries. The results of this assessment will be of great value to this Council.

We are also happy to note the report of the World Food Council at Paris, its concern for African drought, and its initiative in proposing a programme of the order of US\$300 million which will be drawn on and will complement FAO's Programme of Rehabilitation on Africa.

The matters of concern to this Council include the continued decline in multilateral and concessional assistance to the agricultural sector at the global level, and the uncertain prospects of IFAD's replenishment. We hope that when we are here for the Conference in November we will hear the good news from Mr Regnier that agreement has been reached to replenish IFAD and to give it new life.

Finally, we welcome this document which presents up-to-date information on the recent developments in the UN System of interest to this Council.

Ms M. FENWICK: (United States of America): In all good spirit I would like to tell our dear friend and colleague from Colombia how grateful we are for the open and implied compliments that he gives our country so faithfully and so repeatedly. It is wonderful to see someone from his country, with whom my country has worked for so long in so many good enterprises, who knows so well the scope and size of our interest and concern, to speak of us so warmly. It is a great satisfaction to us all.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I also would like to thank Mr Regnier for his useful and informative report. When he was talking about IFAD he indicated that the Eighth Consultation of IFAD did not succeed. My understanding is that the Eighth Consultation has not finished, that it has been suspended while negotiations continue. Certainly from our perspective, IFAD is not dead; it is having difficulty,

but the Canadian delegation, like many others in this room, is still working to find a viable formula for its survival. We believe very strongly in the work of this institution and we will do all we can, as I am sure others will also, to ensure its survival.

We regret somewhat the tenor and the tone of an earlier somewhat emotional intervention which we believe will not help the situation, nor do we believe that it is justified.

We listened with interest to what the UNDP representative had to say yesterday and took note of Mr West's comments. The subject area is one of interest to many of us and, obviously, will have to have more examination.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I raise my flag simply to suggest that members of the Council would wish to be associated with the remarks of Mr Regnier today in extending the hand of friendship to the new UNIDO, which should have completed the process of coming into being by the time we next meet, and to the continued cooperation between this Agency and its predecessor.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The document before us, as well as the agenda item for the Twenty-third Conference which we have recommended present the recent developments in the United Nations System of Interest to FAO which is going to be taken up at the Conference in November. Important events, as Mr Regnier has told us and as we knew from our own information, have not yet taken place, for example, ECOSOC's deliberations on food and agriculture and the Conference on the Role of Women in Nairobi. There are also others.

We are grateful to Mr Regnier for giving us some indication of the results of the recent Eleventh Session of the World Food Council, and we think this was very useful.

Without by no means underestimating the report on rural development, on which the distinguished delegate of Colombia so eloquently spoke, an action which also finds our support - and of course without underestimating the importance of many of the other issues in that report (I shall refrain from touching upon them) - we look forward to a full deliberation on the very important item before us at the forthcoming Conference.

My delegation wonders very much from which part of the world the campaign against international cooperation might be underway - we have not so far noticed that; on the contrary, the clear declaration given by the Heads of States and governments of seven major industrial nations and the President of the EEC on 4 May 1985 contrast with such a suggestion. Three paragraphs concern the relations with developing countries, and, although I do not wish to delay our proceedings here, with your permission and with that of the distinguished delegates I would like to read these paragraphs:

"Relations with Developing Countries

"Sustained growth in world trade, lower interest rates, open markets and continued financing in amounts and on terms appropriate to each individual case are essential to enable developing countries to achieve sound growth and overcome their economic and financial difficulties. Flows of resources, including official development assistance, should be maintained and, wherever possible, increased, especially to the poorer countries. In particular, more stable long-term finance, such as direct investment from industrial countries, should be encouraged. We welcome longer-term debt restructuring agreements between debtor countries and commercial banks. We continue to stand ready, where appropriate, to negotiate further multi-year reschedulings of debts to governments and government agencies.

"We continue to encourage the constructive dialogue with the developing countries in the existing international institutions with a view to promoting their economic development and thereby their social and political stability. We emphasize the crucial role of, and the improved cooperation between, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group in supporting policies by debtor countries necessary to strengthen the confidence of domestic and foreign creditors and investors to mobilize domestic savings and to ensure efficient use of resources and sound long-term development. We agree to work to ensure that these institutions are equipped with the necessary resources and instruments, and we stand ready to discuss an increase in the resources available to the World Bank which may be necessary in the coming years. We remain concerned over the particular problems facing a number of developing countries that are neither among the poorest nor foremost among the group of major debtors. We agree that consideration should be given to easing the financial constraints of these countries on a case-by-case basis.

"We are deeply concerned about the plight of African peoples who are suffering from famine and drought. We welcome the positive response from our citizens and from private organizations, as well as the substantial assistance provided by the governments of many countries and the establishment by the World Bank of the Special Facility for sub-Saharan Africa. We shall continue to supply emergency food aid. In addition, we shall intensify our cooperation with African countries to help them develop their economic potential and a long-term food strategy, based on their own agricultural programmes. We are prepared to promote increases in food production by supplying agricultural inputs such as seed, pesticides and fertilizers, within the framework of agricultural development projects. We agree upon the need to improve the existing early warning systems and improve transportation arrangements. Political obstacles in the countries concerned should not be allowed to stand in the way of the delivery of food to the hungry. We emphasize the need to examine the establishment of a research network on dry zone grains. We shall strengthen our cooperation with African countries in fighting against desertification. Continued efforts are needed by all countries in a position to contribute to any or all of this work. We call upon the Soviet Union and other Communist countries to assume their responsibilities in this regard. We have set up an expert group to prepare proposals for follow-up measures to be reported to Foreign Ministers by September 1985".

I do feel that this clear declaration of political will stands on its own, and on behalf of my own delegation I would like to re-state what I said at the end of my statement on the Programme of Work and Budget: that international cooperation is a great challenge in itself. It becomes even more challenging if the winds blow against it as it surfaces in many parts of the world at the present time. We feel that there is no alternative to international cooperation, which as such encompasses also the bilateral relationships. At the same time however, none of us should forget that international cooperation is based on the voluntary actions of our peoples and governments.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je voudrais remercier M. Régnier pour la présentation très concise et très complète qu'il nous a faite sur l'ordre du jour.

Je voudrais partager le point de vue exprimé par mon collègue canadien sur la situation au FIDA, notamment concernant la méthode la meilleure pour résoudre cette situation rapidement et de façon positive.

E. BONEV (UNDP): I appreciate very much the information which we have received from the introductory statement of the Secretariat of FAO in relation to item 12, Recent Developments in the United Nations System of Interest for FAO. Especially interesting for me was the news about the most recent developments concerning the high level meeting of TCDC and then the UNIDO transformation into a Specialized Agency and so on, and I would like to reiterate our appreciation once more here at this meeting, as representative of UNDP, since this is an item on which I can say how much we appreciate the cooperation we have with FAO, which is a long-time cooperation now.

I never thought that we would have any point on which we would have any sort of disagreement, and I still do not think that we have reached such a point - although if somebody thinks this, he is at liberty to do so. But UNDP will continue its efforts in this regard, and this will be all to the benefit of the developing countries, because only frank relationships and good cooperation can lead to good results, and these results will after all affect the developing countries. That is why we are here in FAO and that is why we are here in UNDP: to serve the interests of the recipient countries, the developing countries, and to listen to and to take the advice of the governments.

Let me just mention one point concerning the statement of the distinguished delegate of Congo. He said that when I spoke yesterday he was unfortunately absent from the room. I do not know who informed him of what I said, but that information was not correct. What I said was that neither the delegate of Congo nor any other delegate could give me an example from his own country of a case where some sorts of projects are being implemented by, for instance, UNDP, and being implemented badly. That is what I said - perhaps not in those precise words, but I did say "in their own countries".

CHAIRMAN: That brings us to the close of the discussion on item 12.

G. VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE): D'abord je désire féliciter vous-même, les trois Vice-Présidents et le Secrétariat pour l'excellente manière de conduire les travaux de cette session de conseil.

Je félicite et remercie Monsieur Régnier pour l'excellente présentation de cet important document, qui donne un aperçu très clair des faits nouveaux intéressant la FAO survenus dans le Système des Nations Unies. L'OCDE a toujours suivi et traité différentes activités dans les divers secteurs passés en revue par le document C 85/9.

En ce qui concerne en particulier les sources d'énergie nouvelles et renouvelables tout le monde désormais connaît les études conduites par l'OCDE sur l'intéressante question de la biomasse.

Mais ce qui m'a particulièrement touché est le plan décennal détaillé de lutte contre l'avitaminose A, l'eméralopie, la xérophtalmie et la cécité nutritionnelle, plan qui repose sur des stratégies appropriées d'action concertée des organisations concernées du Système des Nations Unies.

Depuis longtemps on parle au sein de ces organisations de ce triste et grave problème qui afflige bonne partie de l'humanité et pas seulement dans les pays en développement, mais sous une forme cachée et dangereuse même dans les pays développés. Le fait que la Vitamine A ne se trouve pas comme telle dans beaucoup d'aliments détermine facilement une carence, cause de différents troubles au niveau de plusieurs organes et tissus.

Malheureusement, pas tout le monde connaît le système très simple pour éviter cette carence et qui consiste dans la consommation de produits végétaux qui contiennent du bêta-carotène que l'organisme transforme en Vitamine A.

Il s'agit hélas d'un manque d'éducation alimentaire et nutritionnelle qui continue même aux portes de l'an 2000 à causer des maladies graves avec des dégâts irréversibles et souvent même la mort.

Tout cela me pousse à relancer un appel à tous les pays afin qu'ils puissent à travers les institutions et les organismes compétents organiser des campagnes, par le truchement des Conférences,

de la radio et de la télévision, pour éduquer les consommateurs à savoir chercher et trouver les différentes vitamines par les moyens les plus simples et les moins chers.

Pour détecter la carence de la Vitamine A par exemple, il suffit, comme nous le savons tous, de faire recours à des petits expédients comme celui d'essayer sous quel laps de temps notre vue s'accommode quand nous passons d'une ambiance très illuminée à une ambiance sombre et privée d'une lumière suffisante. Quand cette accommodation tarde à arriver, presque toujours il s'agit d'une carence de Vitamine A.

Il ne s'agit ici que d'un petit exemple qui concerne la Vitamine A mais on pourrait en dire autant pour tant d'autres vitamines ou sels minéraux.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait eu des questions spécifiques déposées. Nous pouvons donc être très brefs.

Je voudrais simplement remercier les délégations qui ont bien voulu prendre la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour et je pense que leurs commentaires ont certainement été notés avec grande attention. Je voudrais surtout les remercier pour l'intérêt qu'elles ont manifesté pour ce type d'informations décrites dans le document qui nous est soumis et qui brosse rapidement un panorama des activités les plus récentes ayant eu une incidence sur la FAO.

Je voudrais les remercier pour l'accueil qu'elles ont donné aux efforts de concertation que la FAO essaie de mener avec les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies pour assimiler au mieux les ressources disponibles.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je n'ai pas de polémique à engager sur cette affaire. Je crois que lorsqu'on nous avait demandé de nous rapprocher des représentants du PNUD, c'était pour que le PNUD puisse nous donner des informations susceptibles de nous apaiser, c'est-à-dire pour que le PNUD puisse confirmer qu'il avait déjà commencé à mettre en oeuvre ce qui est contenu dans le rapport d'activités du Corps commun d'inspection des Nations Unies.

Je ne pense pas qu'un organisme comme le PNUD puisse demander à un pays comme l'Inde ou le Congo de donner un exemple dans lequel le PNUD n'a pas appliqué telle ou telle norme. Le Corps d'inspection, qui est un corps des Nations Unies, examine les situations et s'informe suffisamment bien de toutes les situations. Nous avons déjà travaillé sur des rapports du PNUD, des rapports du Corps commun d'inspection au sein de la FAO et même au niveau du PAM. Je ne pense pas que l'on puisse nous dire ici que c'est inexact, que cela n'existe nulle part. Je voudrais dispenser le Conseil de la lecture de tous ces paragraphes. Dans mon intervention d'hier, j'ai dit que j'étais membre du Comité du Programme et qu'au niveau du Comité du Programme il nous a été présenté un rapport clair que nous avons examiné. Il y a dans cette salle beaucoup de membres du Comité du programme, ils ne pourront pas me démentir. Il n'y a pas que la FAO qui est concernée dans ce rapport; les autres agences des Nations Unies le sont aussi, qui font appel aux ressources du PNUD. Elles sont également concernées et se plaignent que le PNUD n'ait pas toujours recours à leurs services, comme cela est recommandé, pour qu'elles puissent collaborer encore plus étroitement. Nous n'avons pas dit que le PNUD ne collabore pas avec la FAO; mais pour certains points il est reconnu qu'il fait beaucoup plus appel aux privés. Nous voudrions dire ici qu'au sein du Comité du Programme, unanimement, nous avons dit qu'il faut éviter cette pratique et donner à la FAO ou à d'autres organisations ce qui leur revient, étant entendu que nous connaissons les objectifs du Bureau d'exécution des projets: il a été créé pour exécuter un certain nombre de projets qui ont beaucoup d'implications autres que celles d'un organisme des Nations Unies.

Voilà les précisions que je voulais donner. J'ai devant moi le document de l'inspection que chacun peut consulter; il porte la cote CL 87/INF/11.

L. Ariza Hidalgo, Vice-Chairman of the Council, took the Chair  
L. Ariza Hidalgo, Vice-Président du Conseil, assume la présidence  
Ocupa la presidencia L. Ariza Hidalgo, 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)

18. Relations with the Host Government

18. Relations avec le gouvernement du pays hôte

18. Relaciones con el Gobierno del país huésped

18.1 Headquarters Accommodation

18.1 Locaux du Siège

18.1 Locales de oficina en la Sede

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): On item 18.1 the Council will recall that the Committee reported on developments in regards to Headquarters Accommodation during the Eighty-sixth session of the Council where it expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in solving the accommodation problem. The Committee did not discuss this item at its last session in view of the important developments which were taking place during that time. I would therefore suggest that the Secretariat be requested to report on any new and positive developments in this regard.

A.G. GEORGIADIS (Director, Administrative Services Division): As the Chairman of the Finance Committee has just mentioned the Council would normally have been informed of the latest developments on this important item through the report of the latest session of the Finance Committee. However, this matter was not discussed at that session of the Finance Committee because of important developments which were taking place at the time and which I shall now briefly outline.

First on the easier part of the problem, namely the construction of 70 rooms on the eighth floor of building D, masonry work has been proceeding rather slowly but they have started. However, the steel frames for the rooms have all been delivered on site and their assembly is expected to be completed by the end of this month. Tenders for two special contracts, one for electrical installations and telephone wiring and the other for plumbing, heating and air conditioning all put in one, have recently been issued by Ministry of the Public Works and the closing date is 30 June, again the end of this month. Those two contracts are then expected to be awarded soon after the closing date. Altogether it is still hoped that these 70 rooms will be ready for occupancy by the end of September 1986.

On the more difficult problem of the new structures to be built within the main compound and the reconstruction of building E, the Council will recall having seen an audio-visual display of models as proposed by the Director-General to the Host Government and it will recall that he had expressed FAO's serious concern at its previous session in 1984 over the lack of progress and had unanimously adopted the resolution urging the Host Government to take all necessary measures for the enlargement of the buildings in the Caracalla complex. The Resolution also urged the Government to take all necessary measures to implement it as quickly as possible so as to minimize cost increases through inflation.

Since then there have been favourable developments thanks to positive action taken by the President of the Council of Ministers himself. After several meetings held at the Presidency with the participation of representatives of the various Ministries concerned as well as those of the Regional and Communal Authorities, the project was finally approved in principle at the meeting held on 3rd May, subject to alternative arrangements being made for providing additional parking facilities. Alternative proposals for parking were quickly prepared by the Organization and at a subsequent meeting called again at the Presidency they were approved in principle, together with a variation of the new proposed building E.

The latest inter-Ministerial meeting was held on 25 June, just the day before yesterday. FAO was represented. Serious efforts are being made by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers which is continuing to coordinate and monitor all the activities of the various Ministries and Regional and Communal Authorities involved. Unfortunately, however, there are still some legal, administrative and financial issues still to be resolved.

The Host Government believes that it may be necessary to pass a new law for the financing of the construction project as well as to cover the cost of detailed drawing at scale 1 to 100 which have to be prepared in order to obtain the official building permits.

In conclusion, while some favourable decisions and concrete steps have been taken by the Host Government in connection with the proposed construction project, as displayed in this room to the Council at its previous session in November 1984, there is still a long way to go before construction work can be initiated.

However, as the Director-General himself announced in his opening address to the Council last week, it is expected that during the 16 October celebrations for World Food Day this year, commemorating the fortieth anniversary of FAO, the foundation stone will be laid by the highest authorities of the Host country.

18.2 Negotiations regarding the interpretation and application of the Headquarters Agreement

18.2 Négociations relatives à l'interprétation et à l'application de l'Accord de Siège

18.2 Negociaciones sobre la interpretación y aplicación del Acuerdo sobre la Sede

18.3 Other matters

18.3 Questions diverses

18.3 Otros asuntos

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Chairman, Finance Committee): On the next item, 18.2, I would draw the attention of the members to paragraphs 3.110 to 3.112. These relate to negotiations on the interpretation of the Headquarters Agreement. The Committee was informed of the discussions which had taken place with the Host Government in an attempt to reach an early conclusion to negotiations which, as you are aware, have taken place over almost ten years.

The Committee expressed concern that no agreement had been reached regarding the two major issues: (a) duty-free privileges to staff of Italian nationality, and (b) the number of staff in the first category who would enjoy full diplomatic privileges and immunities.

The Committee repeated its support for the stand taken by the Director-General on this matter, and your attention is drawn to paragraph 3.111.

Regarding paragraphs 3.113 to 3.117, these refer to our deliberations on import licences in respect of equipment and materials for official use and import licences for the Commissary. We were informed that the position relating to them still remains unchanged, and the Committee once more expressed serious concern about the delay in the issue of licences and urged the Director-General to continue his efforts to find a solution. I am sure the Secretariat will be able to give more information on the most recent developments which, I am personally aware, have been of a very positive nature.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): With regard to the negotiations on the interpretation and application of the Headquarters Agreement, the Chairman of the Finance Committee has made reference to paragraphs 3.110 through 3.112 in the Finance Committee's report. In addition to the items discussed there, there have been a number of additional meetings held with the Host Government to attempt to resolve the issue on the import licences for the Commissary, and although there have been some positive steps taken and there is some room for optimism, at this moment we do not have an agreement with the Host Government on the Commissary import licences. However, action is being taken to reach an agreement, and additional meetings are even being held this week to attempt to resolve the issue. On the other hand, it is a long-standing issue that involves a number of principles, and until some of those can be resolved it will be difficult for us to conclude the discussions on the import licences for the Commissary.

With regard to the import licences for importing official goods, we are pleased to say that as reported in paragraph 3.115, at the time of the Finance Committee meeting there were ten requests that had been submitted that were still outstanding, some of which were rather old. But the Host Government has resolved almost all of those. In fact, I think only one is outstanding of any consequence at this moment. We have been heartened by the changes that have been made in personnel by the Host Government that have released the bottle-necks which have heretofore prevented the import licences being approved for official goods. So there is encouragement there. Every effort is being made by the Permanent Representative to assist in this regard and they have helped us to obtain the official licences. If we can finally resolve the licencing problem on the Commissary now, we can bring the matter to a conclusion.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je voudrais remercier le Président du Comité financier, M. Crowther et M. Georgiadis pour les toutes dernières nouvelles qu'ils nous ont données sur ce problème des relations de la FAO avec le gouvernement du pays hôte.

Je pense personnellement, et d'ailleurs cette pensée est confirmée par ce que nous venons d'écouter, que malgré le poids de la documentation et malgré le nombre de points et de sous-points qui sont détaillés dans l'ordre du jour, les relations entre la FAO et le pays hôte n'ont jamais été meilleures qu'aujourd'hui. Cela ressort de ce qui vient d'être dit.

Le problème des licences pour les équipements à l'usage officiel de l'Organisation est un problème tout à fait normalisé et on a toutes les raisons d'espérer que cette normalisation sera durable dans le temps. Donc il ne faut pas s'alarmer. Je vois que dans le rapport on dit que le Directeur général des douanes a dû intervenir. C'est tout à fait normal. Ce n'est pas le Président de la République qui doit intervenir; c'est le Directeur des douanes. D'autre part, il s'agit de licences pour des milliards de liras. Donc je pense qu'on ne devrait pas souligner le caractère exceptionnel. La situation est normalisée, et pour toujours.

Quant aux négociations relatives à l'interprétation de l'Accord de Siège, si ces négociations traînent c'est parce qu'il y a toujours deux parties dans une négociation. Il y a des problèmes difficiles à résoudre. Il y a la position du Gouvernement italien sur l'abolition des privilèges douaniers au personnel de la FAO de nationalité italienne. C'est une décision qui a été prise par le Gouvernement italien. Il s'agit d'une pratique tout à fait normale qui est consentie par la Convention de Vienne sur les privilèges et immunités des agents diplomatiques. C'est une pratique qui est suivie par d'autres pays. Il est regrettable qu'on doive retirer des avantages, ce qui crée des difficultés pour l'administration parce qu'il faudra certainement compenser les employés de nationalité italienne pour la perte de ces privilèges, mais si les négociations traînent c'est parce qu'on est en train de formuler des critères qui puissent compenser au maximum cette perte de privilèges, dans le but de rendre la situation plus facile pour l'Organisation.

Le troisième point concerne les locaux du siège. Je vous dis que le problème a trouvé une solution définitive dans ces jours derniers. Le projet avait deux variations qui étaient essentiellement le projet originaire qui a été approuvé formellement. Il s'agit maintenant, et ce n'est pas une petite affaire, de trouver 25 milliards de liras. Il n'y a pas de difficultés administratives, il y a nécessité, comme dans n'importe quel gouvernement qui se respecte, de suivre la procédure qui donne au Ministère du Trésor la possibilité de mettre à la disposition du gouvernement cette somme qui est destinée à la rationalisation et à l'aménagement des bâtiments du siège. Je n'y vois pas de difficultés sauf les procédures normales qui sont utilisées dans des cas pareils. J'insiste sur le fait que malgré le poids de cette documentation, malgré le ton dramatique utilisé souvent récrimina-toire même si on a trouvé des solutions, qu'au prochain Conseil, cette documentation sera un peu moins lourde.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): It is good to see you in the Chair this morning.

First I want to thank the Secretariat and the Chairman of the Finance Committee for their explanations. We indeed welcome the progress in FAO relations with the host country, as reflected in the report of the Finance Committee.

In particular we are very pleased to note the introduction of legislation by the Italian Government, which reaffirms FAO's immunity from execution of legal judgements.

I think the spirit of cooperation which we have witnessed in the statements by the Secretariat and the Ambassador of Italy this morning will certainly allow FAO and the Host Government to resolve the outstanding questions of the immunities of FAO staff and import licences. Certainly as host of several international organizations my Government is aware that relationships between such organizations and the Host Governments are never entirely without problems. But when both sides are determined, as both sides are in this case, to make the relationship work, then those questions can be taken care of to the satisfaction of both.

With all this in mind, I expect that these questions will be taken care of, because both FAO and the Government of Italy are determined to make it work.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I would like to make two brief points related to agenda item 18. The first is that my delegation also welcomes the progress which is being made in the area of Headquarters Accommodation and immunities. I would like to express particularly my delegation's appreciation of the work which is being done by our distinguished colleagues in the delegation of Italy in relation to these issues, including those of headquarters accommodation for the World Food Programme. We recognize that this is a time-consuming and difficult task.



Second, I would like to make an observation, or perhaps a proposal. The views of my delegation have already been expressed on many items contained in document CL 87/4. In reviewing it, however, I was struck by one element contained in the section dealing with organizational matters, particularly paragraph 3.105 on page 45. This paragraph deals with the allocation of rent for building F between the FAO and the World Food Programme. The Director-General and a number of members of the Council on several occasions have raised the issue of the situation of WFP in this and other meetings. WFP, however, must be the only organization in the UN System that pays a full commercial or near to commercial rent. This occurs because although the FAO receives a significant subsidy from the Government of Italy for most of its office space it has assigned WFP to building F, which is commercially rented. Rather than pro rata-ing the costs associated with occupying this building on the basis of overall floor space in buildings E and F, the assignment of charges is based on the basis of the floor space occupied in building F alone- that is, 32.2 percent of the cost, according to this document.

I would suggest that a more fair and equitable sharing of these costs would be on the basis of overall floor space occupied. I would therefore welcome an explanation of the basis of allocating and costing headquarters accommodation by a member of the Secretariat.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: We seem to be discussing immunities as well, because the subject of rent has just been raised. I think the delegate of the United States of America mentioned immunities. If Council agrees, and unless there are any further speakers I would like to make a few comments, and then Mr Crowther will reply.

I say to the distinguished representative of the Host Government that I do not think he should take the volume of documentation itself as a sign of bad spirit. We may have lots of documentation, but it might all be positive, which I am sure he would welcome. With him, I hope there will be fewer items to discuss, but on one of them - the question of the staff of the host country - I must say that this is a very difficult problem because from our point of view, two issues are involved.

The first is the financial consequences for all Member States of such a move, and the second is the concern of the Director-General for equality in treatment of all staff of whatever nationality. However, progress is being made in discussions, and on that I would like to express a particular word of appreciation to Ambassador Francisci di Baschi who, on the import licence question and on this subject also has indeed been very helpful, energetic and constructively successful in moving things along from his side. I would like to thank him especially for that.

Mr Crowther will now reply on the question of rent, which I must say I regret has been brought up because it formed part of the UN/FAO Task Force. The WFP made its views known on that; it is part of the whole question of the reimbursement and implementation. I would suggest that Mr Crowther simply answers factually, and that we do not get into a discussion of what is fair and equitable because I think that will be a rather controversial issue which no one wants to get into at this stage, except perhaps Canada. I will ask Mr Crowther to be purely factual.

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): Since the time when FAO and WFP have occupied the space in building F, the charges to WFP for the specific units occupying it there have been allocated both for rent and for all other services performed in the same manner, whether for cleaning, the amount of messenger or telex services, or whatever services are provided. They are allocated on the basis of use. In the case of rent, it is square feet or square meters occupied by the specific occupant. That is the way the charge has been since the time they first occupied that space.

At the same time, we recognize the need that WFP has had for additional space. Efforts have been made during discussions on Headquarters accommodation to attempt to find other ways of accommodating WFP as well as all the other units in building F to avoid the rent problem entirely. We have had a number of discussions with the Host Government along the same line, and I am happy to say there are possibilities of resolving this issue, depending on how the entire building accommodation is resolved. As Council has just heard reported, that seems to be rather positive.

Rather than dealing with the specific allocation of rent we have agreed to leave that on the same basis as it has been since the days when WFP first occupied that space. We think a more important solution is to resolve the entire accommodation problem both for WFP and all the FAO units. That is what we are attempting to do at this point.

J. POSIER (France) : Je voudrais dire simplement que ma délégation se réjouit vivement et se félicite des progrès réalisés dans le domaine que nous étudions en ce moment. Elle voudrait rendre hommage en particulier aux efforts et à la compréhension déployés du côté italien au niveau politique et à partir du moment où il y a une volonté politique, les progrès doivent être très sensibles.

Je voudrais aussi rendre hommage à l'action constante, patiente et efficace menée par l'Ambassadeur Francisci di Baschi et ses collaborateurs.

EL PRESIDENTE: Debemos pensar que el Consejo ha acogido con beneplácito la información en todas sus partes comprendiendo que no están totalmente resueltos los problemas planteados; están en línea de solución, hay optimismo, hay esfuerzo tanto por parte de Italia como de FAO en la solución de los problemas y tenemos que esperar todavía la solución definitiva.

V. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)

V. QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)

V. ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURIDICOS (continuación)

19. Report of the Forty-sixth Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (Rome, 29 April - 3 May 1985)

19. Rapport de la quarante-sixième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (Rome, 29 avril - 3 mai 1985)

19. Informe del 46 período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (Roma, 29 de abril - 3 de mayo de 1985)

20. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, including: (continued)

20. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques, notamment: (suite)

20. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular: (continuación)

20.4 FAO's Immunity from Legal Process and Measures of Execution in Italy

20.4 Immunité de juridiction de la FAO en Italie et immunité contre les mesures d'exécution

20.4 Inmunidad de la FAO en materia de procedimiento judicial y de medidas ejecutivas en Italia

I. ALVARENGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos): Es particular satisfacción para mí presentar este Informe bajo su dirección de debate. Le ruego que me disculpe, pero es que hace mucho tiempo que había oído yo que la gente importante se hace esperar, y entonces pensé salir en este momentito para darme más importancia.

Hago en este momento informe del 46 período de sesiones del comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, tal como ha sido expresado, se encuentra en el documento CL 87/5. Como ahí se dice, estuvieron presentes los miembros del Comité; Argelia, Estados Unidos de América, Filipinas, Italia, República Árabe del Yemen, y contamos con la ausencia de la representación de Polonia. Antes de iniciar su sesión, el Comité rindió homenaje al señor Josef Majeher, representante de Polonia en el Comité, el cual, como en esta sala tuvo oportunidad de hacerse, desapareció lamentablemente.

En lo que se refiere al punto número 1 el Comité examinó e informó sobre las cuestiones relativas a la inmunidad de la FAO en materia de procedimiento judicial y medidas ejecutivas en Italia. Quizá convenga, si usted me lo permite, señor Presidente, hacer un brevísimo recordatorio para aquellos miembros de las delegaciones que sean nuevas en el Consejo, o que no hayan seguido en los últimos tiempos el desarrollo de este problema. Como se sabe, la FAO tenía la idea de que un aumento establecido en el contrato con los propietarios del edificio F no procedía pagarlo, conforme la nueva Ley sobre alquileres que había entrado en vigencia en Italia. Los propietarios de ese edificio demandaron entonces a la FAO para que desalojara las instalaciones y para que pagara los alquileres atrasados. La FAO alegó que no podía ser llevada ante los Tribunales en virtud de la inmunidad de que goza, pero los tribunales no le dieron razón en ese sentido. De ahí que la Organización recurrió a la Corte de Casación a fin de aclarar la situación, y este Alto Tribunal determinó que, en ese caso, la FAO actuaba como un individuo de derecho privado y no procedía la inmunidad. Con base en ese fallo de la Corte de Casación, la Organización ha sido demandada en otros Tribunales y en el juicio más grave ha sido condenada al pago casi de mil millones de liras. La Organización se ha encontrado con el temor de ser embargada en sus bienes, y de ahí que el pago ha sido discutido ampliamente en este y otros Organismos de Gobierno. La última vez que el Consejo tuvo conocimiento de este tema fue en su 86° período de sesiones, y en lo que a este informe concierne directamente, se pidió al Gobierno del país sede que se emitiera una nueva consideración que garantizara en forma inequívoca la inmunidad de la FAO a todo procedimiento judicial.

En el período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, al cual me estoy refiriendo, el Comité fue informado, como ya lo fue el Consejo en esta ocasión, de que el principal conflicto, o sea, el planteado con los propietarios del edificio F, está en vías de ser solucionado a través de una negociación mediante una transacción realizada con los interesados.

En cuanto a los demás procesos, en definitiva se puede afirmar, en términos generales, que no hay novedades importantes con relación a ello y que se han resuelto o que están por resolver. En vista de ello, el Comité celebró esta situación y en particular elogió los buenos oficios de la representación italiana ante la Organización, y en particular la actuación del Embajador Francisci di Baschi.

El Comité también fue informado de que en febrero de 1985 fue presentado al Parlamento italiano un proyecto de reformas legislativas a una Ley que regula los procedimientos contra los estados extranjeros, a fin de que las Organizaciones internacionales sean asimiladas a los mismos, lo que implicaría que no se pueden llevar adelante medidas de ejecución contra la Organización si no es con la autorización previa del Ministerio de Justicia. Se le ha asegurado al Comité que el gobierno no daría en ese caso nunca la autorización para proceder contra los bienes de la FAO.

Esto con relación al primer punto. Con relación al segundo tema que el Comité examinó, o sea preparativos para la posible solicitud de una opinión consultiva a la Corte Internacional de Justicia acerca de la interpretación de las Secciones 16 y 17 del acuerdo sobre la sede, también se tuvo en cuenta que la Conferencia en su 22º período de sesiones, en noviembre de 1983, pidió que si no había solución al problema planteado se recurriese al arbitraje que señala el Convenio de Sede, o si no, a un dictamen consultivo ante la Corte Internacional de Justicia. En su 44 período de sesiones el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos recomendó al Consejo que considerara la conveniencia de solicitar ese dictamen, y el Consejo, en su 86 período, pidió que se hicieran preparativos para el caso de que la Conferencia decidiera solicitar el dictamen consultivo a la Corte Internacional de Justicia. El Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, en el período de sesiones al cual nos estamos refiriendo, tomó ante todo en cuenta que hay suficientes bases legales para pedir el dictamen referido a la Corte Internacional de Justicia y estimó que para cumplir con el mandato expresado por el Consejo debía, en primer lugar, preparar las posibles preguntas que podrían someterse a la Corte si la Conferencia decidiese solicitar el dictamen. Además, el Comité estimó oportuno, aunque no se le había solicitado expresamente, dar su opinión sobre la conveniencia de recurrir a la Corte.

Es necesario dejar constancia, como está expresamente señalado en el documento que ustedes tienen a consideración, que el señor representante de Italia manifestó ampliamente su oposición a que se recurra a la Corte Internacional de Justicia. En síntesis, su opinión se base en que en estos momentos, la FAO tiene una controversia de hecho contra el Gobierno italiano y que someter el asunto a la Corte no es simplemente pedir un dictamen consultivo, sino, en los hechos pedir la resolución de una controversia. No puede, dice la representación de Italia, pedirse la resolución de una controversia en cuanto sólo los Estados pueden ser parte en un litigio ante la Corte. Por otra parte, no ve la necesidad práctica de ello, en vista de que los conflictos se han solucionado o están por solucionarse. Y finalmente, alega, que hay un artículo en el Convenio de Sede que establece un procedimiento para dirimir los conflictos que puedan presentarse. Sin embargo, los otros miembros del Comité consideraron que, aún cuando se están dando pasos positivos para la resolución del problema, el fondo del mismo no está, y no parece que lo será en el futuro inmediato, resuelto en forma definitiva; o sea, el Comité es de opinión que se debe insistir ante el Gobierno del País Sede, a fin de que se emita una Ley, como decíamos hace unos momentos, que sin lugar a dudas establezca la inmunidad de la FAO.

En cuanto a los preparativos para una posible comparecencia ante la Corte, se elaboraron los programas que el Consejo tienen ante sí en el párrafo 26. Las preguntas están bastante claras y sólo habría que señalar lo explicado en el artículo 27, en el sentido de que el Comité fue de opinión que no se plantee ante la Corte, si se decide recurrir a ella, en lo relativo a las medidas de ejecución, en cuanto que si la respuesta a la pregunta primera se planteara es afirmativa, o sea que la FAO goza de cualquier inmunidad, de cualquier procedimiento, entonces es inútil preguntar si se pueden tomar medidas ejecutivas contra la FAO, ya que esa sería una forma de procedimiento judicial.

Esto en lo que se refiere al segundo tema planteado ante el Comité. En lo que concierne al tercero, o sea la conveniencia de aceptar los servicios del Gobierno del país huésped para defender la inmunidad de la Organización ante los Tribunales italianos, debemos recordar que el Gobierno italiano ofreció los servicios de la llamada *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato*. (Es difícil dar una traducción a otros idiomas, porque, según los sistemas judiciales este funcionario tiene nombres que cambian). En síntesis, es el abogado del Estado el que representa al Estado italiano en los conflictos jurídicos, naturalmente, que éste tenga con otras instituciones nacionales o internacionales.

El Consejo examinó, en su 86 período de sesiones, este tema y pidió un dictamen al Comité, el cual, en su 45 período, recomendó que el Director General no compareciese ante ningún tribunal italiano, ni directa ni indirectamente. En el período sobre el cual estamos informando el Comité consideró que la FAO podría comparecer ante los tribunales italianos, en una de las siguientes hipótesis: 1) Para alegar sobre el fondo de los posibles conflictos que se puedan presentar. 2º) Para negar la jurisdicción, o como sería quizá más técnico en español, la competencia de los Tribunales italianos, alegando otras razones que no sea la inmunidad de la Organización, o tercera hipótesis para presentarse negando la jurisdicción en virtud de la inmunidad de que disfruta la FAO.

Hubo una discusión, como ustedes pueden leer en el documento, en cuanto a que la mayoría de los miembros del Comité consideraban que sólo la tercera hipótesis estaba en discusión, y la delegación de Italia, que estimaba que debía hacerse un análisis amplio de las otras posibilidades.

En conclusión, el Comité llegó a la idea de que, si bien hacerse representar por la *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato* implica, por parte de la FAO, hacerse representar en los Tribunales, eso no implica, por una parte, renunciar a la inmunidad de que se considera titular, ni tampoco implica renunciar a otros posibles procedimientos, como sería el recurrir a la Corte Internacional de Justicia.

Teniendo en cuenta esas consideraciones, y sobre todo pensando en que en ciertos casos podría ser conveniente que la FAO se presentase ante los Tribunales italianos para el sólo efecto de alegar la inmunidad, el Comité sugiere al Consejo que considere la posibilidad de dejar al Director General en libertad de decidir, caso por caso, según las circunstancias específicas del momento, si comparecer ante los Tribunales italianos, y si así lo hiciera, dejarle igualmente en libertad de recurrir para ello a la *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato*.

Quisiera dejar constancia de que algunas delegaciones en el seno del Comité manifestaron una posición totalmente contraria a que la FAO se presente ante los Tribunales italianos, ya sea directamente o representada por el Abogado del Estado.

Eso es, me parece, en síntesis, todo lo que puedo decir sobre el Informe del Comité, y, desde luego, será el Consejo el que decidirá con mejor criterio.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As the Chairman of the CCLM just explained, that Committee's session was entirely devoted to various aspects of the Organization's problems regarding its immunity from legal process in Italy. I should just like to add a few words to the Chairman's introduction.

Firstly, as regards current developments, I believe you know the long-standing dispute with the landlords of Building F has been settled, and as the Chairman of the CCLM noted, a draft law which would cover the immunity from measures of execution - I mean measures of execution of international organizations - has been forwarded to the Italian Parliament. As things now stand there seems to be a sort of lull, but I feel that it is my duty to warn the Council that the lull does not mean that the question of safeguarding FAO's immunity from legal process in Italy is no longer important, nor has it just disappeared into thin air or become theoretical or academic. I think that is very far from being the case. In fact, so long as no legislative measures are taken to cancel the effects of the Corte di Cassazione's judgement in the case which we had with the landlord of Building F, in Italy, FAO, and I should add all the organizations of the UN system, are in a uniquely unfavourable and vulnerable situation.

I should also stress that, as the Chairman of the CCLM noted in paragraphs 10 and 20 of its report, the proposed new legislation on measures of execution leave the fundamental problem, and the problem which this Council has been examining in great depth since 1982, of FAO's immunity from legal process entirely unresolved. Quite clearly, measures of execution normally arise only after immunity from legal process has been disregarded or denied. In addition, it seems to be almost superfluous in the sense that, as the representatives of the Host Government have said on a number of occasions, section 17 of the Headquarters Agreement already affords FAO full immunity from measures of execution.

Therefore, even if at the present stage FAO is not obligated by specific legal actions which are being brought against it and are pending, it should be borne in mind that there is no legislation which gives general protection to FAO means that the situation has not changed one iota since 1982, and therefore I feel that the Council should beware of - shall we call it - a false sense of security.

This brings me to the second subject which was discussed by the CCLM, and that is the possible request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice.

The Council will recall that at its last session it requested the Director-General to make the preparations that would enable the Conference to seek an advisory opinion if it decided that this was the best course of action to take. The CCLM at its last session has now provided the Director-

General with its assistance regarding what is probably the most important preparatory step for any action by the Conference - that states, formulates the questions that would be submitted to the International Court of Justice if the Conference decided to seek an advisory opinion. In that connection I would draw the Council's attention in particular to paragraphs 26 and 27 of the CCLM Report.

As I think you are probably aware, a decision on whether or not to ask for an advisory opinion will be one which belongs exclusively to the Conference, although the conference may formulate the questions and then instruct the Council, subject to any conditions it cares to impose, to forward those questions to the International Court of Justice. As the Chairman has already mentioned, in the process of considering the preparatory measures to be taken, the CCLM also considered the actual desirability of seeking an advisory opinion and, as you will note from paragraph 21 of its Report, the CCLM felt that on the whole an advisory opinion should be sought only as a last resort. I believe all Member Nations would entirely agree. I think the Host Government would also; that going to the International Court of Justice should in fact be a last resort, and we would all hope that the matter could be determined satisfactorily without, taking that measure. However, it is also true that three years have elapsed and we are, as I said before, in substantially the same position as we were at the outset.

I should also like to express a slight surprise at the Host Government's position as reflected in paragraph 19 of the CCLM Report, and I think I expressed some of that surprise in the Committee, so to Ambassador Francisci that would not be anything new. It is quite clear that Italy has certain obligations under the Headquarters Agreement, and one of these fundamental obligations had been interpreted in a particular way by the Italian judiciary. It does not go without saying that this interpretation is consistent with the Host Government's obligations, or even its intentions, when it concluded the Headquarters Agreement in 1950, when it had actually concluded a formal treaty with FAO, therefore I would have thought - although it is clearly not a thought which is shared by the Italian delegation - that it would be equally enlightening for both the Host Government and for the remainder of the members of the Organization who have in effect espoused a different interpretation from that of the Corte di Cassazione, to be given advice from such an authoritative and august judicial authority as the International Court of Justice regarding what exactly the Treaty obligations are and, in the light of the questions which have been formulated by the CCLM and transmitted to you, the Court would give its advice on the contents of the Treaty obligation flowing from Section 16 and we would find out really what is meant by the words in Section 16, that FAO is "immune from every form of legal process in all cases in which it has not expressly waived its immunity". I must say that I fear that unless legislative measures are taken by the Host Government, or persuasive advice is received, for instance from the International Court of Justice, indicating that no such legislation is required to give effect to Section 16, then this item will recur on the Council's agenda in the years to come.

Finally - and I am afraid we are going rather over the time limit - I would like to say just a few words on the third aspect of the immunity problem which the CCLM considered; that is the question of the desirability of accepting the Host Government's services to defend the Organization's immunity in the Italian courts.

Clearly, the question of using the services of the Avvocatura Generale dello Stato would only arise to the extent that the Council decided to depart from its present policy of non-appearance in Court, even for the purpose of pleading immunity from legal process. In the light of the Corte di Cassazione's judgement and the fact that the relevant provisions of the Headquarters Agreement can be brought - and I think normally are brought - to the attention of the judicial authorities by the Permanent Representation, I am not sure that appearance in court would serve any very useful purpose. However, if the Council considers that under exceptional circumstances an appearance should be made in Court to plead FAO's immunity, the Host Government's generous offer could certainly be considered on a case-by-case basis as suggested by the CCLM.

A.Y. BUKHARI. (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of:) (original language Arabic): Sir, we are delighted to see you in the Chair to guide us through this session of the Council. I should also like to convey our commendation to the Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for the fine presentation that he has made of the CCLM Report, and also to commend the CCLM for all the work it has accomplished.

I have asked for the floor because we also have another document which was circulated to us, CL 87/ 5-Sup.1, which contains the reservations expressed by one representative, a member of the CCLM, concerning paragraph 37 of the report of the Committee. I assume that the Chairman of the CCLM was aware of the existence of this Supplement, and it might have been a good idea to mention it straight away so as to draw the attention of other members of the Council to the need to consider this Supplement, which is indeed a very important addition to the overall brief.

Allow me to say first of all that my delegation endorses the contents of CL 87/5-Sup.1 - that is to say, the reservations regarding paragraph 37, and we fully concur with these expressed reservations for the following reasons.

If we carefully read paragraph 37, we will see that in fact this paragraph is not a faithful reflection of reality, because it proves to be a blend, or mixture, of views expressed by the various members of the Committee, and these opinions would appear to be contradictory. Therefore, the paragraph itself is equivocal: it states that the Committee felt that the Organization might avail itself of the services of *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato*.

Point of order Point d'ordre Punto de orden

El PRESIDENTE: El delegado de Italia tiene la palabra en una moción de orden.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Le point d'ordre est le suivant: je ne comprends pas pourquoi on devrait remettre en cause la rédaction du rapport. Le délégué algérien a participé aux réunions. Elles ont été assez longues, compliquées. On s'est mis d'accord sur un texte, et maintenant on le remet en cause. Je ne vois pas comment on pourrait suivre cette pratique. Il y a un document qui a été présenté officiellement, c'est le document qui nous occupe. Je ne vois pas pourquoi maintenant il faudrait, à l'occasion de l'examen de ce document par le Conseil, changer le texte. Je ne comprends pas. Je ne voulais pas interrompre sur le fond mon ami l'Ambassadeur d'Arabie Saoudite; je voulais simplement faire ce point d'ordre très formel.

El PRESIDENTE: Señor Embajador, la moción de orden obliga a definir una situación. Podríamos dejar terminar al Sr. Bukhari y dar la palabra al Presidente del Comité para que nos explique la situación planteada.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): In fact I would like to ask for a clarification before I go on with my presentation. Can this document submitted to us be considered as an official document and can we take note of it, adopt it or reject it, or what? I am referring to document CL 87/5-Sup.1 which I consider to be a supplement to the document CL 87/5 that is under consideration. So I would like to know what is the status of paragraph 37 which I have already referred to, and I would also like to know whether this CL 87/5-Sup.1 is an official document that we are entitled to discuss or what?

I. ALVARENGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos): El Sr. Embajador de Arabia Saudita tiene toda la razón. Yo pido disculpas a él y a la delegación de Argelia y al Consejo, por no haber hecho referencia específica a este Documento. Explico a qué se debió la omisión. La diferencia de fondo que existe entre la delegación de Argelia y el párrafo 37 es la siguiente. Según la he discutido con el Sr. Representante de Argelia en el Comité, en la redacción del párrafo 37 se dice que la FAO podría participar, presentarse, según lo determine el Director General ante los Tribunales italianos. Como decía en mi informe lo podría hacer directamente o a través del Abogado del Estado. La posición de Argelia es que no se debe presentar en ningún caso ante los Tribunales Italianos y que si se recurre al Abogado del Estado sea solamente para consultarle, para pedirle su opinión en todo lo que concierna, pero no para que represente a la FAO en los tribunales.

Entonces, en la redacción propuesta en el Suplemento 1, realmente esa idea no queda recogida, no queda tal como Argelia quería expresar su opinión. De ahí que insista en que debía haber aclarado en el informe que hubo delegaciones que se opusieron a que la FAO se presente en cualquier forma ante los tribunales italianos. Realmente, ese es el fondo de la observación de Argelia y por eso había discutido con su representante de que en el seno del Consejo salvara su posición en ese sentido porque, realmente, a mi juicio la propuesta del Suplemento 1 no refleja la verdadera posición de la representación de Argelia. No sé, señor Presidente, pero si fuera posible me gustaría que usted permitiera el uso de la palabra a la representación de Argelia para que nos aclarara su posición, dado que se trata de una reserva de la delegación de Argelia y quisiera saber si está de acuerdo con esta interpretación que he dado.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si el Consejo lo acepta, podríamos dar la palabra a la distinguida representación de Argelia para que explique la situación.

H. BENATTALLAH (Observateur de l'Algérie) : J'approuve entièrement la présentation du rapport faite par l'Ambassadeur du Salvador concernant les travaux du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques.

Je dois dire qu'il a également mis le doigt sur le paragraphe le plus pertinent de ce rapport, et cela a été fort bien relevé par l'Ambassadeur d'Arabie Saoudite. Il est vrai que la rédaction de ce rapport est quelque peu contradictoire, et sans doute assez confuse.

Nous avons estimé que cette rédaction, au-delà de la forme rédactionnelle de ce paragraphe, ne reflète pas entièrement ce que nous avons estimé être notre position au sein des travaux de ce Comité. Notre position, sur cette question précise, a une double signification, et dans les deux sens elle s'appuie sur les décisions antérieures du Conseil et de la Conférence qui ont estimé qu'il y a trois éléments de décision. Ils ont estimé que le Directeur général devrait éviter toute comparution devant les tribunaux italiens, car une telle comparution serait incompatible avec le statut de l'Organisation. Ils ont estimé et insisté pour qu'il prenne les mesures qu'il jugera appropriées pour protéger les intérêts de l'Organisation sans comparaître devant les tribunaux, conformément aux instructions du Conseil et de la Conférence. Ils ont aussi estimé, partant de la conviction que le Directeur général doit avoir quand même la liberté d'action nécessaire pour apprécier les situations et pour faire face à ces problèmes, qu'il devrait prendre les mesures propres à les résoudre ou à les atténuer et là je cite le paragraphe 8 de la résolution 86/4.

Il y a donc là une position de respect des institutions du Conseil et de la Conférence qui vont dans le sens de la fermeté de l'attitude de principe car nous considérons que jusque là cette attitude a favorisé l'évolution du pays hôte. Nous ne recommandons pas par conséquent une modification des instructions adressées par les organes de la FAO au Directeur général. Cette position de principe cependant autorise aussi une marge de manoeuvre indispensable pour le Directeur général pour l'appréciation des situations et la recherche des voies adéquates de dialogue avec le pays hôte car le dialogue doit se poursuivre sans qu'il y ait comparution devant les tribunaux. Considérant que le recours à 1 'Avvocatura Generale dello Stato, selon les explications et les arguments juridiques qui nous ont été présentés par le Service juridique; considérant que ce recours n'impliquait pas une renonciation à l'immunité ni que cela ne pouvait constituer en aucune façon une dérogation à la position du Conseil concernant l'interprétation des sections 16 et 17 de l'accord de siège, ce recours pourrait être utile pour aider à résoudre ou à atténuer les problèmes qui se poseraient si ce recours pouvait toujours être exercé hors des enceintes juridictionnelles et sur ce point, l'Ambassadeur du Salvador a parfaitement résumé notre position.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que después de oír esto ¿el delegado de Italia insiste en hablar ahora?. Le propondría ya que tenemos solamente cuatro o cinco miembros del Consejo que han pedido la palabra que usted podría esperar y después dar un criterio general o ¿quiere hablar en este momento?.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie) : J'ai une question à poser. Je voudrais savoir si la position qui vient d'être manifestée par le délégué de l'Algérie est la position du Comité juridique? Moi, je n'y comprends rien. Qu'examine-t-on ici? La position de l'Algérie ou bien le rapport du Comité juridique?

EL PRESIDENTE: Nosotros consideramos que aquí se está tratando lo que se discutió dentro de esa discusión una posición de Argelia que la ha expresado aquí; por eso le pedía al Embajador Francisci di Baschi que nos permitiera que hablaran los otros delegados, usted está en tercera posición para hablar y podríamos oír a los delegados que han pedido la palabra y usted tendría la posibilidad para explicar la posición o rechazarla, como usted desee.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): There are two points really. First of all we would like to endorse the CCLM judgement that it is premature to request an advisory judgement from the International Court of Justice. Secondly, we agree that the Council should grant to the Director-General discretionary authority to decide on a case-by-case basis whether FAO should appear in court to plead its immunity, and whether FAO should avail itself of the services of the Avvocatura Generale dello Stato. The Council should neither mandate nor require, that the Director-General take such action, but should only authorize him to take such action when he deems it necessary.

R. MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): Sobre las cuestiones relativas a la inmunidad de la FAO en materia de procedimiento judicial y medidas ejecutivas en Italia la delegación de Colombia quiere precisar las siguientes observaciones:

La Sección 16 del Acuerdo sobre la Sede estatuye que la FAO y sus bienes disfrutarán de inmunidad de todo procedimiento judicial, salvo que la Organización en algún caso particular haya renunciado expresamente a dicha inmunidad. La renuncia no puede extenderse a ninguna medida ejecutoria.

En cuanto a la intervención judicial en los bienes de la FAO, la Sección 17 reafirma la inmunidad señalada en la norma anterior. La FAO goza de inmunidad de toda forma de procedimiento judicial, comprendidas las medidas ejecutivas y el problema fundamental, como lo ha sostenido la Organización, consiste que no puede ser sometida a los Tribunales Nacionales sin su consentimiento.

Después de la sentencia de la Corte de Casación en la demanda presentada por el Instituto Nacional de Previsión para los dirigentes de Haciendas Industriales contra la FAO que interpreta de manera restrictiva la inmunidad de la Organización prevista en la Sección 16 del Acuerdo en la que se hace la distinción de actos realizados juri in peri y juri gestions limitando la inmunidad a los primeros que cumplen finalidades institucionales y después conociéndola para los segundos con respecto a los actos de derecho privado, se puede concluir que no se halla garantizada la salvaguardia de la inmunidad de toda forma de procedimiento de acuerdo a los textos del Acuerdo.

Considera la delegación de mi país que la aceptación de los servicios que gratuitamente le pueda prestar la Avvocatura Generale dello Stato, acuerdo de letrados que representan y defienden al Estado italiano en las causas ante los Tribunales crea cierta dependencia de la Organización.

La delegación de Colombia considera que en el deferendo entre el Gobierno de Italia y la FAO en primera instancia se debe agotar toda forma de arreglo o advenimiento para dirimir los conflictos actualmente existentes, reiterando al Gobierno del cual es huésped la FAO la adopción de medidas legislativas que garanticen en el futuro la inmunidad de la FAO de toda forma de procedimiento de justicia, comprendidas las medidas ejecutivas a que den vigencia los principios esenciales de la inmunidad consagrados en el Acuerdo sobre la Sede.

La delegación de Colombia quiere agradecer los buenos oficios de la representación permanente de Italia ante la FAO presidida por su distinguido Embajador Francisci con respecto a la controversia surgida en el caso de arrendamiento entre la Organización y los propietarios del edificio F, mediante lo cual el refrendo ha sido objeto de ulterior negociación en búsqueda de su próxima solución.

Por último, la delegación de Colombia considera que el Consejo examine la conveniencia de que la Conferencia de la FAO solicite de la Corte Internacional de Justicia su dictamen acerca de la interpretación de la Sección 16 y 17 del Acuerdo sobre la Sede, de Acuerdo a la norma de Derecho Internacional, una vez agotado el diálogo directo entre las partes.

En la Sección 35 del Acuerdo sobre la Sede ya se prevé la mediación del Presidente de la Corte Internacional de Justicia cuando los dos primeros árbitros no logren un acuerdo sobre la escogencia del tercer arbitro en la integración del Tribunal de Arbitramento.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie) : J'insiste car, pour moi, on est en train d'examiner ici le rapport du Comité juridique. Même si ce rapport, paraît-il, est imparfait et équivoque, on l'a dit, c'est le seul document officiel que nous sommes appelés à examiner et nous devons nous décider sur ce qui est écrit dans ce document. Il y a trois questions :

La première est l'immunité de juridiction. Le Président du Comité juridique nous a dit que mon gouvernement a présenté au Parlement avec une procédure d'urgence une loi qui une fois adoptée - et on a toutes les raisons de croire qu'elle le sera dans quelques mois parce que l'on a eu recours à la procédure d'urgence - cette loi place les organisations internationales, donc la FAO, exactement dans la même position que les états étrangers et nous pensons qu'elle assure dans la pratique l'immunité à la FAO parce que le point essentiel c'est l'immunité des mesures d'exécution.



Le gouvernement italien n'est pas à même d'influer sur la Cour suprême de cassation pour lui faire changer sa doctrine sur le point de l'immunité. L'immunité totale dans la doctrine italienne n'existe pas. Je n'insiste pas parce que tout le monde a bien compris, je le pense, les fondements de cette doctrine italienne qui fait une distinction entre droit privé et droit souverain. Nous pensons qu'avec la présentation et l'adoption de cette loi le gouvernement italien respecte l'Accord de Siège.

D'autre part, je voudrais dire qu'il n'y a maintenant aucun litige ni aucun différend en cours ni sur le plan bilatéral direct ni devant les tribunaux italiens. On a réussi à débarrasser le terrain de tous ces litiges y compris le plus important qui a créé cette situation pénible. Il y a donc là une situation de fait très rassurante.

Le deuxième point c'est la préparation d'une requête de la Cour internationale de justice sur l'interprétation des sections 16 et 17. Le Président du Comité juridique nous a expliqué que le Comité, au moins je l'espère, a décidé qu'il serait suffisant de poser la question seulement sur la section 16. Le gouvernement italien ne s'est pas opposé au recours à la Cour de justice et il a simplement dit que ce recours ne se pose pas parce qu'il n'est pas bien fondé. Cette position, je crois, est très clairement expliquée puisque je n'ai aucune remarque à faire sur le compte rendu du Comité au par. 19.

Nous avons dit que nous sommes en présence d'un différend, d'un contentieux sur l'interprétation de l'Article 16, donc il y a un différend dans lequel un état souverain est partie et, dans ces conditions, on ne voit pas comment à travers les recours à une requête d'avis on pourrait obliger un gouvernement souverain à comparaître devant la Cour de justice. C'est aussi simple que cela. Mais, sur ce point, je voudrais me limiter à lire le par. 21 espérant qu'il n'y a pas d'observations sur ce paragraphe ou qu'il faille le réécrire une nouvelle fois. Ce paragraphe dit :

"En examinant l'opportunité de rechercher un avis consultatif de la Cour internationale de justice, le CQCJ a tenu compte des mesures positives prises récemment par le gouvernement du pays hôte. Ainsi, le CQCJ a estimé qu'il serait encore prématuré de s'adresser à la Cour internationale de justice, et il a suggéré d'épuiser tous les recours en vue de parvenir à une solution "à l'amiable", y compris l'application de la clause d'arbitrage de l'Accord de siège, conformément à la recommandation qu'il avait formulée lors de sa quarante-quatrième session. En tout état de cause, il faudrait chercher à développer le dialogue avec le gouvernement du pays hôte, de façon approfondie, avant de recourir à un avis consultatif de la Cour internationale de justice".

J'espère que le Conseil voudra bien en tenir compte.

La troisième question concerne le recours aux services de l'Avvocatura Generale dello Stato. Il s'agit plutôt de donner ou de redonner au Directeur général la discrétionalité s'agissant de décider si dans certains cas particulièrement favorables l'Organisation pourrait se présenter ou se faire représenter par l'Avvocato Generale dello Stato ou par n'importe quel avocat dans le cadre de l'Avvocatura Generale dello Stato. C'est un geste du gouvernement italien qu'il met au service de la FAO pour faciliter les choses mais le point central est que le Directeur général dans certains cas peut se présenter devant les tribunaux italiens. Il ne s'agit pas de changer le statut du Directeur général. Dans l'Accord de siège il est bien écrit que le Directeur général peut se présenter devant les tribunaux italiens.

J'en ai terminé parce que, contrairement à ce que pense M. Roche, peut-être que le Conseil finira-t-il par résoudre la question.

O.R. da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): It is a great pleasure to see you in the Chair. First express my appreciation for the excellent work done by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters in preparing the report under consideration. I thank the Legal Counsel as well for his useful comments.

The Brazilian delegation has studied very carefully document CL 87/5, since we consider that the uncertainties described in the report from both sides cannot and should not remain so indefinite.

My delegation was pleased to verify that an impending dispute between FAO and a private company had been settled out of court and that two other legal actions brought against the Organization had apparently not been moved on. But if the practical disputes are on the way to being resolved by means of negotiations, other doubts remain on the fundamental problem of safeguarding FAO immunity from every form of legal process.

Before coming to the merits of the question, my delegation wishes to express its gratitude to Ambassador Francisci di Baschi for his personal efforts to find solutions to the subject in front of us. We firmly believe that an understanding can be reached in this case from the close collaboration among the parties involved.

Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement seems to us very clear and gives the Brazilian delegation no particular difficulty of interpretation. It gives a good and right definition of the Organization's status in the host country which is essential for the good performance of achieving its high goals. No doubt whatsoever should remain on the interpretation of Section 16.

The Eighty-sixth session of the FAO Council clearly admits the possibility of seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the interpretation of Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement. It also requested the Director-General to make the necessary preparation to enable the Conference to do so. The Council was also wise enough to accept that the procedure would not be necessary if legislative action had been taken by the host country to safeguard FAO's immunity from legal process.

The report of the Committee informs us of the presentation of a draft law in the Italian Parliament to strengthen FAO's immunity from measures of execution. Clearly, although those measures will give additional protection to the Organization, they will not solve the main problem, which is the different interpretation of FAO's immunity from "every form of legal process" as it stands in Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement. So while favouring the exhaustion of all possible steps towards an amicable solution, my delegation believes that seeking an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice is useful and desirable to fade away the present doubts and difficulties. We do not believe that for the moment this situation requires recourse to arbitration, which of course would have to be in accordance with Section 35 of the Headquarters Agreement. It may, however, be sufficient for us to have recourse to the Court at The Hague for an advisory opinion which has no binding force.

In the light of what has just been expressed, my delegation will expect new and positive developments on these matters during the next FAO Conference, when we will be able to present a more comprehensive opinion on the subject.

Finally, as regards the desirability of accepting the Host Government's services to defend the Organization's immunity in the Italian Courts, the Brazilian delegation believes that this point should be decided upon only after a clear and final definition of the discussion on the interpretation of Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement. Until then my delegation is of the opinion that FAO should continue to follow, as it has been doing until now, the instructions of the Eighty-second session of the Council to avoid any participation in proceedings before the Italian Courts, as being inconsistent with its status.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voulais vous dire que nous sommes très heureux de vous voir présider cette séance. Comme vous le savez je ne suis pas juriste et par conséquent je n'entrerai pas dans le détail. Je voudrais simplement dire, au nom de ma délégation, que nous pensons que la question de l'immunité juridique ainsi que des mesures d'exécution constituent pour nous un problème important.

Je me réjouis, pour ma part, des mesures déjà prises par le Gouvernement italien pour introduire un projet de texte qui puisse garantir notre Organisation contre les mesures d'exécution, mais je crois, Monsieur le Président, qu'un problème demeure, celui de l'interprétation de cette immunité et je crois, pour ma part, comme vient de le dire le délégué du Brésil, qu'il convient d'obtenir cet avis consultatif comme nous l'avons demandé à la 86ème session de notre Conseil. Je crois que cela est important même si cet avis n'est pas respecté, en raison des lois du pays hôte, mais je crois qu'il faut que nous puissions être fixés sur cela et il convient de laisser la préparation de cette requête se poursuivre en vue d'obtenir cet avis consultatif.

Sur le troisième point, celui de l'opportunité d'accepter des services du Gouvernement du pays hôte, je crois qu'il convient d'attendre cet avis consultatif de la Cour internationale avant de pouvoir se prononcer sur cette question.

D. HUTTON (Canada): As I am not conversant with the views raised in this report I will not speak on the substance of the matter. However, I would like to speak on the Point of Order raised by the Ambassador of Italy on paragraph 37.

The problem seems quite straight-forward and could be solved by the Chairman of the CCLM. It is a question of whether the views of the Government of Algeria as expressed in CL 87/5 Sup.1 are a minority as the Chairman of the CCLM implied in his introduction, or the views of the CCLM as a whole. If they are a minority view, I suggest the Chairman of the Committee, with the agreement of the members of that Committee, submit a reformulated phrasing of the proposal which would make that point clear. This would then comprise part of the documentation before us.

However, if the Algerian amendment is the view of the CCLM as a whole, then these amendments are acceptable to my delegation. I believe that the right to have minority views expressed in the reports of the Committees of FAO is a well established principle.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): If I made comments on paragraph 37 it was not because I wanted to intervene in the on-going work of the Committee. However, we do have a report and we are asked to give an opinion on the contents of that report. Paragraph 37 seems to me at least contradictory and ambiguous. I think that is what I said previously.

Furthermore, the amendment offered by the representative of Algeria, a member of that Committee, seems to this delegation to be a logical amendment, one which should be acceptable. Let it not be forgotten that Council and other bodies of this Organization have asked the Director-General in fact to see to it that the Organization should not appear in Italian Courts. If we ask the Director-General to see to it that this is done, it is because we wish to defend the immunity of the Organization from legal process because if the Organization were taken to local courts, it would be an abandonment of that immunity, which would be in contradiction to the decisions taken by the bodies of this Organization.

I listened with great interest to what the Ambassador of Italy had to say to the effect that the ultimate objective of making available to this Organization the services of the *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato* was to facilitate the work of the Organization even though that may seem not all that clear to us. However, in spite of that, the Algerian proposal seems to us more logical, more objective than what I have read in paragraph 37 as being presented. So the amendment tabled by the representative of Algeria to my mind reflects what the Ambassador of Italy said, while paragraph 37 in its present version does not reflect anything except that it seems to ask the Organization to go to the Courts, which seems to me to be completely illogical and should be refused. This is why I would like to accept the amendment offered by one of the members of the CCLM, that is the representative of Algeria.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je continue à ne pas comprendre. On parle d'un amendement d'un texte qui n'est pas en séance. Peut-être puis-je considérer cette proposition d'amendement comme étant la position de la délégation algérienne dans ce Conseil, mais pour présenter un amendement à un document qui n'est pas en séance et qui a été approuvé par le Comité, il faut faire rouvrir la séance du Comité et présenter un autre rapport!

En tous cas je pense que cette façon d'agir constitue un précédent dangereux. En effet, aujourd'hui c'est le cas du Comité juridique et demain, ce sera le cas d'un autre Comité! Je pense que c'est une façon d'agir très dangereuse et totalement inacceptable.'

Je voulais confirmer l'avis de la délégation italienne sur le fait que cette requête d'avis à la Cour internationale de Justice n'est pas fondée, parce que dans l'accord de Siège on prévoit les procédures qu'il faut suivre s'il y a un différend sur l'interprétation sur une clause quelconque de cet article. L'accord de Siège dit qu'il faut d'abord chercher à résoudre le différend par des conversations à l'amiable; ensuite il y a une procédure très précise sur la nomination d'un collège d'arbitres et il y a aussi, dans l'accord de Siège, une référence très précise à la Cour de Justice de La Haye pour la désignation du troisième arbitre. Donc je pense que devant la requête d'un avis consultatif à la Cour de Justice de La Haye, celle-ci pourrait dire : "Voilà il y a l'accord de Siège, et, fs'il y a des différends, vous devez en chercher la solution à l'intérieur de cet accord de Siège". J'émetts cet avis devant le Conseil.

J. POSIER (France): J'avoue que j'ai hésité un moment avant de prendre la parole, parce que vraiment, moi-même je ne comprends plus ce qui se passe. Est-ce que nous sommes ici en train de faire les travaux dur-Comité juridique... Si oui, il faudrait le dire, mais je ne pense pas que cela soit une bonne formule. Nous sommes là peut-être pour discuter du rapport, mais pas pour le modifier. Il a été accepté, ou il n'a pas été accepté ? Je pense que la discussion commence à s'éterniser et est en train d'aborder un terrain qui n'est pas justifié. Nous ne pouvons pas modifier le rapport s'il a été adopté. Alors que l'on ne cherche pas à le modifier!

J. TCHICAYA (Congo) : Moi aussi je ne comprends plus très bien ce qui se passe, je pensais que ce rapport nous était soumis justement pour discussion. Alors si c'est pour discussion, je pense que c'est pour que nous puissions apporter notre contribution en tant que Conseil, parce que je crois savoir que c'est déjà une question qui a préoccupé la dernière session de notre Conseil. Nous avons pris un certain nombre de décisions que le Comité a parfois remis en cause. Alors je crois qu'il faut savoir s'il nous faut revenir sur les décisions que nous avons prises lors de notre dernière session ou si nous devons continuer à les faire appliquer ? Nous ne nous sommes pas prononcés pour tel ou tel amendement mais nous sommes restés fidèles aux décisions que nous avons prises lors de la dernière session.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): In the interests of saving time, I will restrict my comments to those which arise directly from our specifically seeking legal advice on the issue raised in the report. We agree with the recommendation of the CCIM in paragraph 12 that the Council should once more invite the Host Government to promulgate legislation which ensures that FAO will indeed be immune from every form of legal process, as provided in Section 16 of the Headquarters Agreement.

We share the view of the Committee expressed in paragraph 21 of the report that it would be premature to refer the question to the International Court of Justice. Section 35 provides that arbitration in the case of any dispute between FAO and the Host Government should be used as the more appropriate course of action. Insofar as it were necessary to prepare questions for submission to the International Court of Justice outlined in paragraph 26 of the report, we have preference for the question to be formulated as set out in sub-paragraph (i) alone and to delete sub-paragraph (ii). We have no objection in principle to sub-paragraph (ii) but in the unlikely event that the Court should reply to question (i) in the negative, it would deal with the question raised in paragraph (ii). The Chairman of the Committee has already made this point.

With regard to Part IV of the Report, Supplement 1, we are hesitant about the Organization appearing before Italian Courts. In the interest of efficiency we could agree to the Director-General having discretion to decide whether or not to put in an appearance in Court or to use the services of the Avvocatura Generale dello Stato providing that the basis of such appearances was only to contest the Court's jurisdiction on the basis of the Organization's immunity under Sections 16 and 17 of the Headquarters Agreement, and provided this did not prejudice the immunity to which the Organization was entitled under Section 16.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos un observador, antes de dar la palabra al Asesor Legal y al Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

C. DI MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Observador de Costa Rica): Quiero ante todo decir, señor Presidente, que nos alegramos de que esté usted presidiendo en este momento el Consejo y nos alegramos también de que el Embajador Alvarenga, Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, por el informe que nos ha presentado. También agradecemos al Asesor Jurídico sus comentarios.

En mi calidad de observador, entiendo que este tema es de una grandísima trascendencia porque involucra el porvenir tranquilo de la FAO siguiendo en sus actividades sin exponerla a problemas inútiles, problemas que deben pasar a la Conferencia. Los esfuerzos pueden ser hechos en estos meses para que la Conferencia se pueda encontrar frente a un problema ya solucionado que seguramente será bienvenido; pero yo creo que ningún acuerdo definitivo sobre las propuestas del Informe del Comité Jurídico deberá ser tomado ahora.

Las relaciones con Italia son extremadamente buenas gracias a las actividades del Embajador Francisci di Baschi que ha logrado ayudar a dar una solución y un entendimiento sobre un asunto difícil y complejo, como era la controversia con el INPDAI. Esto me parece que lleva al hecho de que este momento es el momento más fácil para aclarar algo que estimamos un asunto que aquí se ha ido dejando por esta controversia, por existir dos opiniones, una tomada por la Magistratura Italiana y la mantenida por la FAO respecto al artículo 16. Yo creo que aquí se habla de interpretación, pero la interpretación de la Sección 16 como han puesto bien de relieve los delegados que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, creo que Colombia y Brasil, no deja lugar a dudas, está extremadamente clara. Ahora en Derecho Internacional cuando una norma es clara no hay que interpretarla, simplemente hay que aplicarla. Esto no es cierto solo en el Derecho Internacional, es cierto en el Derecho Italiano, o sea pre-leyes la llaman en las normas italianas tituladas: Disposiciones sulla legge in generale y en la mayoría de las universidades italianas y en los despachos de los abogados italianos dicen exactamente en italiano lo que sigue: "Nell'applicare la legge, non si può ad essa attribuire altro senso che quello fatto palese dal significato proprio delle parole, secondo la con-nessione di esse e dalla intenzione del legislatore". Trato de traducirlo en español: "En la aplicación de la ley no se puede atribuir a ella otro sentido que el expresado por las palabras, de acuerdo con la conexión de ellas y con la intención del legislador".

Ahora, en el texto inglés, ya que hay una diferencia seria entre el texto inglés y el texto italiano, la intención del legislador y la significación de las palabras no se presta a interpretaciones, es una formulación demasiado clara. Dice que la FAO está exempted from every form," de toda forma de línea, "jurisdiction" en la palabra formulación italiana no hay las palabras "toda forma", no hay "every form", no hay todo procedimiento. Eso puede haber determinado la actitud de la cassazione; pero aquí me permito recordar que la formulación inglesa junto a la formulación italiana es texto auténtico, porque ha sido traducido en una ley del Estado Italiano, por lo tanto siendo más exacta, siendo más precisa, yo creo que es a ella a la que se deberá recurrir.

Yo tengo a la vista también aquí una copia del fallo de la Cassazione, que dice: que siendo éste un tratado sobre la Sede se refiere sólo a Sede y personas. También esto me parece un punto de vista en contraste con el artículo 16 que está tan claro y me parece también en contraste con lo que entendemos los diplomáticos que practicamos las Organizaciones de la familia de las Naciones Unidas porque Tratado de Sede no significa tanto Tratado sobre la inmunidad de las personas que trabajan en las Organizaciones Internacionales, cuanto las específicas inmunidades de las Organizaciones mismas.

Yo creo que a estas alturas sería muy interesante para todos, y especialmente para nuestros amigos italianos, que hubiese una opinión consultiva de la Corte de la Haya porque esto ayudaría al Gobierno Italiano a cumplir con lo que está especificado y claramente expresado en el Tratado de Sede. Es cierto que no podemos obligar a esto al Gobierno Italiano, si no cree por el momento, o no cree nunca, necesario ir a la Cassazione, esto se tiene que hacer para mantener buenas relaciones, porque jurídicamente es dudable que se tenga el derecho de hacerlo. Pero un derecho sí lo tenemos, y es el de repetir aquí, y especialmente en la Conferencia posiblemente con una resolución especial, que el Consejo y la Conferencia de la FAO interpretan el artículo en su exposición literal; o sea, no aceptan interpretaciones que se alejen de las palabras con las cuales la intención del legislador ha sido formulada, porque aquí se habla de leyes. La ley existe porque cuando hay artículo de un tratado extremadamente claro que ha sido transformado en ley italiana, sería absurdo hacer otra ley.

Esto que acabo de decir lleva consigo como consecuencia el no aceptar presentarse frente a los Tribunales italianos ; por lo tanto no aceptar el amable ofrecimiento del Gobierno Italiano de servirse del Abogado del Estado.

Creo que presentarse frente a los Tribunales italianos podría crear únicamente equivocasiones. El hecho de presentarse para hacer presente la inmunidad, significa aceptar que ello acuerde si uno acepta o no. Lo mejor sería simplemente no presentarse y hacer conocer nuestros puntos de vista al Poder Ejecutivo Italiano, así se evitarían equivocasiones.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Lamento señor Presidente, que no me haya visto, y me complace mucho tenerle a usted presidiendo nuestros trabajos.

Apreciamos las presentaciones que hiciera el Embajador Alvarenga y el Sr. Roche. México quiere dejar constancia de su satisfacción por la buena voluntad expresada por el Gobierno de Italia para lograr la solución de estas difíciles cuestiones y su agradecimiento también a la muy positiva actuación de la delegación de Italia ante la FAO.

Pasando al Informe del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos, la delegación de México apoya la recomendación propuesta en el párrafo 12 del Documento CL 87/5 en el sentido de que el Consejo invite una vez más al gobierno del país anfitrión a que promulgue una legislación que garantice el disfrute efectivo por la FAO de inmunidad de toda forma de procedimiento judicial, como se prevé en la Sección 16 del Acuerdo sobre la Sede.

Con respecto a los preparativos para la posible solicitud de una opinión a la Corte Internacional de Justicia acerca de las interpretaciones de las Secciones 16 y 17, el Gobierno de México coincide con las conclusiones del Comité contenidas en los párrafos 21, 23 y 27 del Documento en cuestión.

Finalmente, sobre el párrafo 37, prefiero no pronunciarme antes de tener clara cuál es la situación.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italia): Je voudrais simplement éclaircir la position italienne. Nous sommes contre le recours à la Cour de la Haye. Nous pensons qu'il serait très sage de redonner au Directeur général le pouvoir discrétionnaire de se présenter ou pas devant les tribunaux italiens. A mon avis, se présenter devant un tribunal pour plaider l'immunité, ne veut pas dire renoncer à cette immunité. Le Directeur général s'est déjà présenté dans le passé pour plaider l'immunité. A cette époque, on pensait de façon différente évidemment.

LE CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE: Je voudrais évoquer brièvement deux questions. En ce qui concerne la question du document CL 87/5~Sup.1, je voudrais expliquer qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une proposition d'amendement qui doit être discutée par le Conseil. Le délégué de l'Algérie a estimé qu'à son avis le rapport ne reflétait pas la manière selon laquelle s'est poursuivie la discussion. Il a donc soumis son avis sur ce point. Mais de toute façon, qu'il s'agisse d'un amendement ou pas, la question essentielle est que le Conseil se prononce - et d'ailleurs certaines délégations y ont déjà exprimé des avis divergents - sur la question de savoir si l'Organisation doit se présenter devant les tribunaux italiens, et dans le cas affirmatif, si elle doit avoir recours aux services de l'Avvocatura Generale dello Stato. Voilà la première question, et il me semble qu'il y a eu peut-être un malentendu à ce sujet au début de vos discussions.

Quant à la deuxième question, elle est sans doute importante et fondamentale. Il a été dit - et d'ailleurs le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques l'a pensé aussi - qu'il serait peut-être prématuré d'avoir recours à un avis consultatif. Le Gouvernement italien pour sa part a dit qu'il est contraire à tout avis consultatif. Mais la question est de savoir si ce sera prématuré dans six mois, dans un an, ou à l'avenir. Il me semble que l'avis général, tel qu'il a été exprimé par le Conseil aujourd'hui est que les questions doivent être transmises à la Conférence qui, au mois de novembre, décidera d'abord s'il est opportun de demander un avis consultatif ou s'il serait opportun de le faire à une date ultérieure, ce qui peut très bien se faire pendant le prochain biennium, car la Conférence peut demander au Conseil, si certaines conditions se manifestent, d'agir et de soumettre à la Cour Internationale de Justice les questions qu'elles a formulées. Mais je crois, si j'interprète bien les avis qui ont été exprimés aujourd'hui, que les questions soumises au Conseil seront transmises à la Conférence qui, elle, décidera quant à l'action à entreprendre.

I. ALVARENGA (Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos): Realmente, señor Presidente, lo que yo podría formular son algunas ideas sobre como yo veo que se ha seguido la discusión. No quisiera arrogarme la facultad que no me corresponde, ya que le toca a usted, señor Presidente, hacer el resumen; pero quizá podría ayudar al Informe del Consejo si expreso algunas ideas al respecto. Yo creo que lo que está claro es la satisfacción presente por los progresos realizados; pero, sin embargo, es obvio, y así lo han expresado las delegaciones, que se solicite una resolución más clara del tema, o sea, la admisión de una ley donde quede indiscutiblemente establecida la inmunidad de la FAO.

En cuanto a los recursos ante la Corte, ha prevalecido la opinión, tal como se expresa en el Informe del Comité, de que en este momento no es conveniente recurrir a la Corte, pero podría hacerse cuando se acuerde toda posible negociación directa con el Gobierno italiano, incluso cuando se haya recurrido al arbitraje que señala el Convenio de Sede; en caso de que se decida ir por parte de la Conferencia, quedarían aprobadas obviamente las propuestas de preguntas formuladas por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. El tema más delicado, indudablemente, es el relativo a la flexibilidad que el Comité ha propuesto de que se deje al parecer del Director General presentarse a los tribunales italianos.

Yo pienso que sería oportuno dejarlo así establecido, dejar esa opción al Director General, aclarando que no es para siempre, y esto es muy importante, que es sólo a efectos de la inmunidad de la FAO, no para entrar en otro tipo de discusión. Si juzgáramos por el número de delegados que han intervenido, parece que la opinión es que no se participe de ninguna manera ante los tribunales pero, repito, yo sugeriría al Consejo que se deje la flexibilidad al Director General señalando que es sólo para ese efecto y que en el Informe del Consejo se diga que un buen número de delegados manifestaron su opinión de que no debería presentarse en ningún caso ante los tribunales. Eso haría que el Director General tenga particulares cautelas al decidir si se va o no a los tribunales y si se recurre o no a la Avvocatura Generale dello Stato.

Le ruego señor Presidente que me disculpe, repito, si me he arrogado atribuciones que no me corresponden, pero así era como yo podría resolver el tema tratado por el Consejo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Consideramos, queridos colegas que la discusión ha sido no como esperábamos, porque se había anunciado que estaba todo bastante coordinado y creemos que no; creemos que hay algunas cuestiones que no están definidas todavía.

Se ha dicho que han pasado diez años; aquí ha habido, a nuestro juicio, un sentimiento de decisión de resolver, de que llegue el tiempo en que la FAO tenga su inmunidad totalmente resuelta. Creo que ha prevalecido el ambiente de reconocimiento al esfuerzo que la representación de Italia ha hecho en los últimos períodos. Por la información que nos ha vertido creemos que ha logrado que se haya podi-

do resolver fuera de los tribunales sin costo alguno para la FAO. En relación con los aumentos y actividades en la solución también está dentro de lo posible. Sin embargo, creemos que a pesar de los esfuerzos y de las situaciones optimistas que se han reflejado, el Consejo mantiene su preocupación porque la situación más importante, que es la inmunidad del Organismo de toda forma de procedimiento judicial que está previsto en la Sección 16 no está totalmente resuelta, hay una situación propuesta, es decir un proyecto de ley, que ha dicho el representante de Italia, pero el proyecto no es Ley todavía. Hay criterios de que esta legislación propuesta no abarca todo lo previsto. Se mantiene la preocupación, por tanto del status jurídico de la FAO en Italia; creo que esto no tiene otra alternativa que mantener las observaciones que se han hecho al Director General para que él pueda, como opción, sin que esto conlleve otra alternativa que la de solicitar la inmunidad, pero que él decida. Y segundo, considero que no tenemos ninguna otra alternativa porque no creemos que lo que en diez años no hemos resuelto en un tema tan técnicamente jurídico como éste podamos resolverlo aquí. Hay que dar tiempo para que la situación, casi contravertida continúe hasta la Conferencia que es el magno organismo de la FAO que podrá tratar de resolver, si en este tiempo los esfuerzos los incrementamos.

Creemos que estamos por una parte convencidos y satisfechos al ver que desde la anterior sesión a ésta ha habido ya algunos esfuerzos logrados y creemos que la distinguida representación de Italia, conjuntamente con los esfuerzos de la FAO y el Director General, hará que nos puedan presentar a la futura Conferencia la situación si no totalmente resuelta, sí más clara.

20.2 Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions

20.2 Invitations à participer à des réunions de la FAO adressées à des Etats non membres

20.2 Invitaciones a Estados no miembros para que asistan a reuniones de la FAO

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Cette question est soumise au Conseil à la fois pour information et pour décision.

Pour information, car le Directeur général rend compte au Conseil des invitations à assister, en qualité d'observateur, qu'il a adressées à l'URSS pour trois réunions: le Comité de l'agriculture, le Comité des pêches, et la Commission européenne de lutte contre la fièvre aphteuse.

Pour décision, parce que le Directeur général demande au Conseil de l'autoriser à inviter des Etats non membres, à savoir: Brunei, Kiribati, Nauru, Singapour, Tuvalu, à assister à la Conférence de plénipotentiaires qui doit se tenir au mois de décembre pour adopter l'accord INFOFISH.

Sauf objection de la part d'un membre du Conseil, je crois, Monsieur le Président, que vous pourrez considérer que le Conseil accorde cette autorisation au Directeur général.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Creo que el Consejo ha quedado informado de estos dos puntos.

20.3 Changes in Representation of Member Nations on the Programme and Finance Committees

20.3 Modifications de la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du Programme et au Comité financier

20.3 Cambios en la representación de los Estados Miembros en los Comités del Programa y Finanzas

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Si tel est le cas nous pourrions passer au point 20.3 qui est simplement pour information et fait l'objet du document CL 87/9 et de son sup. 1. Je ne crois pas nécessaire d'en répéter le contenu. C'est simplement un document par lequel le Conseil est informé des modifications intervenues dans la représentation des Etats Membres au Comité du programme et au Comité financier.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

VI. QUESTIONS DIVERSES

VI. OTROS ASUNTOS

21. Date and Place of the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council

21. Date et lieu de la quatre-vingt-huitième session du Conseil

21. Fecha y lugar del 88 período de sesiones del Consejo

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL: Il s'agit de fixer la date et le lieu de la 88ème session du Conseil. En se prononçant à cet égard, le Conseil voudra sans doute tenir compte du fait que, deux nouveaux points ayant été ajoutés à l'Ordre du jour., il est nécessaire de prolonger légèrement la durée de cette session; en fait, elle doit être prolongée d'une journée. Vous trouverez de plus amples précisions à cet égard dans le dernier paragraphe du document CL 87/11 Rev. des annexes A et B. Il est proposé au Conseil que sa 88ème session ait lieu à Rome du lundi 4 au jeudi 7 novembre 1985 alors que d'habitude la session dure du mardi au jeudi. Autrement dit, sa session devra durer quatre jours au lieu de trois.

Là encore, Monsieur le Président, s'il n'y a pas d'objection, je crois que vous pourrez considérer l'accord du Conseil comme acquis.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna opinion al respecto?. Podemos dar por aceptada la fecha que se nos propone.

Señores delegados: Hemos llegado al final de la sesión. Queremos dar las gracias a todos ustedes por su comprensión ante mis condiciones como Presidente totalmente novicio. Queremos también dar las gracias al distinguido representante de Italia por la actitud asumida durante la sesión; al señor Roche, al señor Alvarenga, al señor Savary por su asistencia puntual y rápida; y al señor West por su compañía que siempre nos da seguridad a todos.

The meeting rose at 14.00 hours

La séance est levée à 14 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 14.00 horas



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/16

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Eighty-seventh Session  
**PLENARY**

Quatre-vingt-septième session  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

87° período de sesiones  
**PLENARIA**

EIGHTEENTH PLENARY MEETING  
DIX-HUITIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE  
18ª SESION PLENARIA  
(28 June 1985)

The Eighteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours  
M.S. Swaminathan, Independent Chairman of the Council, presiding

La dix-huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 heures, sous la présidence de M.S. Swaminathan, Président  
indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la 18ª Sesión Plenaria a las 10.00 horas, bajo la presidencia de  
M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

CHAIRMAN: May I call the Eighteenth Plenary Meeting of the Council to order. As always we are fortunate to have the Chairman of the Drafting Committee Ambassador Joseph Tchicaya along with distinguished representatives from Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Congo, Egypt, India, Italy, Lebanon, Malawi, Philippines, Spain and the United States of America who have served on the Drafting Committee.

J. TCHICAYA (President, Comité de rédaction): Le rapport qui est devant vous, et qui comprend, comme on vient de nous l'indiquer, huit fascicules, a été mis au point par les représentants des douze pays membres que le Conseil a bien voulu désigner à cette fin. En leur nom à tous, je souhaite vous remercier pour cette marque de confiance que vous avez placée en nous.

Le Comité de rédaction a eu, pour aboutir à ce résultat, six séances dont la dernière a duré neuf heures. C'est dire que le rapport qui vous est soumis est le fruit d'un travail laborieux, sérieux, équilibré, qui a fait l'objet d'intenses discussions.

Je dois ici rendre hommage à tous les membres de notre Comité pour l'esprit de dialogue dont ils ont fait montre et l'atmosphère détendue qui a régné tout au long de nos délibérations. C'est grâce à cela que nous avons pu aboutir à des compromis équilibrés et acceptables par tous. Autant dire aux membres du Conseil que l'édifice que constitue ce rapport reste fragile, et qu'il convient dans la plupart des cas de ne pas trop y toucher, au risque de le voir s'écrouler.

Je ne peux cependant manquer de signaler que le Comité, à deux ou trois reprises que j'évoquerai certainement au fur et à mesure, n'a pas pu se mettre d'accord et a autorisé telle ou telle délégation à intervenir en séance plénière. Ce sont les points sur lesquels nous n'avons pu nous mettre d'accord, et étant donné la difficulté, nous avons accepté le texte de la majorité et autorisé la minorité à faire prévaloir son point de vue ici en plénière. Il en sera ainsi du paragraphe 15 du REP/2, du paragraphe 41 du REP/4, pour ne parler que des documents qui sont en ce moment à notre disposition. Le Conseil pourra donc librement se prononcer sur d'éventuels amendements apportés par ces délégations.

A cet égard il convient de dire que le Comité ne s'est pas mis d'accord également sur le paragraphe relatif à l'immunité juridique de la FAO en Italie, et à l'immunité contre l'exécution des mesures telles qu'elles figurent dans le document que nous avons examiné, et notamment ses conclusions, et le Conseil lui-même aura donc à se prononcer à ce sujet dans cette salle.

Je tiens, pour terminer, à remercier le Secrétariat, et notamment Mme Le Clainche, qui m'a énormément aidé dans ma tâche.

Encore une fois, je remercie les membres du Comité de rédaction, qui ont tous fait preuve d'une assiduité et d'une ponctualité exemplaires, grâce auxquelles il a été possible de terminer nos délibérations avant le moment que les plus optimistes d'entre nous avaient prévu.

Il vous appartient désormais de pouvoir analyser le rapport qui vous est soumis et nous serons là pour répondre aux questions éventuelles que vous aurez à nous poser.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Ambassador Tchicaya, for that very clear introduction to the work of the Drafting Committee and also for indicating areas where there might be need for some discussion.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Discúlpeme que haga una intervención en este momento antes de empezar la discusión, señor Presidente, pero no sé si oí bien la parte en que el distinguido Embajador del Congo, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, dijo que en el Comité se habían expresado discrepancias y se les dió libertad a las minorías para hacer prevalecer su criterio. ¿Cómo se explica que las minorías tienen derecho a hacer prevalecer su criterio?

No entendí bien esa parte y quisiera que hicieran el favor de explicármela.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Nous pouvons le faire. Nous avons eu, au cours de délibérations, des opinions divergentes. Une ou parfois deux délégations se sont opposées à un point relevé dans le rapport.

Je crois que, comme à l'accoutumée, nous avons appliqué les règles en vigueur au sein de notre Organisation. On a donc accepté le texte qui est le fruit du vœu de la majorité, mais à la demande de la minorité nous avons autorisé cette minorité à s'exprimer en séance plénière. Il appartient à la plénière de pouvoir juger de ses amendements éventuels qui pourraient être apportés à tel ou tel point. C'est cela que je voulais dire. Il appartiendra de toute façon ici, à la plénière de pouvoir juger du bien-fondé de tel ou tel amendement.

CHAIRMAN: We will now proceed with the consideration of the report.

DRAFT REPORT-PART I

PROJET DE RAPPORT-PARTIE I

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I

Paragraph 1 approved

Le paragraphe 1 est approuvé

El párrafo 1 es aprobado

Paragraph 2 approved

Le paragraphe 2 est approuvé

El párrafo 2 es aprobado

Paragraphs 3 and 4 approved

Les paragraphes 3 et 4 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 3 y 4 son aprobados

Paragraphs 5 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 5 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 5 a 12 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 13 to 28

PARAGRAPHES 13 à 28

PARRAFOS 13 a 28

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): A question for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on this point. It is somewhat unclear since paragraph 16 begins "The Council noted", and paragraph 17 begins "There was a belief". Are we saying that the Council believed, or that some delegations believed?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): Only a small addition I would like to propose. Instead of just saying "there was a belief", can you say "there was a strong belief"?

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Drafting Committee has explained that after a good deal of discussion, they arrived at this formulation. Do you want to add anything, Ambassador Tchicaya?

J. TCHICAYA (Président Comité de rédaction): Je crois que nous avons un style habituel dans la rédaction de nos rapports lorsqu'il y a une grande majorité qui s'est exprimée favorablement sur un point de vue et qu'il y a une minorité très faible. Alors nous avons préféré mettre cela au passif. Je crois que c'est la formule que nous adoptons habituellement. On le fait pour ne pas faire croire que c'est tout le Conseil unanimement qui a adopté ce point de vue. Voilà l'explication que je voulais donner à ce sujet.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, in our view the draft of paragraph 20 does not reflect observation made by many countries referring to inappropriate policies in the agricultural field and the pricing field, and we would like to see added in the fourth line in the English text after "feature," the words "inappropriate policies,".

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je crois que lorsque l'on donne une formule au passif c'est qu'il y a une discussion autour de la question et je propose à mon ami de l'Inde de pouvoir laisser les choses en l'état. Je crois qu'à la lumière des discussions que nous avons eues précédemment au Comité de rédaction dans les facteurs internes nous notons qu'il y a aussi les aspects politiques. Je ne sais pas vraiment si c'est le Royaume-Uni qui tient à cet amendement. Nous n'avons pas discuté d'un tel amendement mais si le Conseil veut le considérer nous sommes prêts à examiner cela avec tout le Conseil, mais nous pensons que dans "les facteurs internes" il y avait les aspects politiques. Ils ne sont peut être pas toujours appropriés.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous pensons effectivement que certainement ce que dit le délégué du Royaume-Uni est peut être fondé mais nous pensons également que nous ici nous sommes en train d'examiner un document de notre Conseil qui a une grande portée qui va être lu par beaucoup de gens et tout au long de nos travaux nous avons fait en sorte que nous ne choquions pas outre mesure les parties en présence. C'est ainsi que, concernant ce point précis, nous avons pensé qu'en mettant "en reconnaissant que les facteurs internes des effets négatifs sur la situation qui prévaut en Afrique" nous avons cru comprendre dans cette formule la responsabilité des politiques internes des états concernés, notamment des états africains qui n'ont pas été, semble-t-il, sans défaillance et nous pensons que la formule utilisée à savoir "reconnaître que les facteurs internes imputables aux politiques de ces pays" reconnaît la préoccupation du Royaume Uni et nous souhaitons que le Royaume-Uni nous comprenne dans ce sens et que nous n'ayons pas à ouvrir un débat là dessus.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Ya el Embajador Tchicaya, distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción, quien cumplió una excelente tarea, ha explicado muy bien que en ese Comité de Redacción, donde participamos, al adoptar estos términos consideramos que esa expresión "amplias" ya incluía las referencias que se habían hecho respecto al punto que ha suscitado el distinguido colega del Reino Unido.

Pensamos, además, que agregar la expresión, bastante desapacible, de "políticas inadecuadas" podría contrarrestar con el concepto unánime de la responsabilidad de la seria preocupación con que los gobiernos africanos están afrontando la crisis.

Por todo ello apoyamos al Congo y pedimos al Reino Unido que no insista y proponemos que el párrafo quede tal como está.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): I am reluctant to intervene, since I understand that this matter was discussed to some extent in the Drafting Committee. Whether all these points were raised I am not sure. It does strike me that the delegate of the United Kingdom has an important and substantive point. The danger as I see it is that if we use words like "internal factors" there is a possibility that far from shocking anyone the point will simply go unrecognized. Governments familiar with policies are familiar with appropriate policies and inappropriate policies, and it seems to me that if we believe, as I think we do as a Council, that in some cases there are inappropriate policies and that these are the cause of some of the problems that we face in a global sense, then it is important for us to put in words along those lines.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros realmente tenemos que agradecer a la representación del Reino Unido el habernos llamado la atención sobre este párrafo porque independientemente de que consideramos que tiene razón la Presidencia del Comité de Redacción de que debe quedar el párrafo como está, sin embargo nos ha llamado la atención una palabra, en la cual no vamos a hacer problema pero sí vamos a expresar nuestro criterio. No vamos a hacer problema porque estamos de acuerdo con nuestro amigo el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, pero en el quinto renglón de la versión española cuando dice después de "adoptar técnicas mejores y la escasa utilización", nos parece que la palabra justa aquí no es "utilización", porque la escasa utilización de insumos no es el problema fundamental; es la escasa disponibilidad de insumos lo que hace que ellos no puedan usarlos. Si hubiéramos constatado los informes que hay durante el año de la situación del comercio y la imposibilidad de adquirir los productos, los problemas fundamentales han sido la "disponibilidad" no la "utilización" porque si hubieran llegado se hubieran utilizado.

Ese es nuestro criterio aunque no vamos a hacer problema para que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción pueda seguir adelante con su avance.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): This delegation feels that the suggestion put forward by the United Kingdom is very pertinent, because under the term "internal factors" one can understand many things. However, if serious problems did arise to change the text here in paragraph 20, my delegation would suggest that this wording be included under paragraph 40, which we have still to come to, and where the different elements of difficulties which African countries had been facing are spelt out.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Quite clearly, the best arrangement would be if the text could be left as it is and we move on. But as we see it there are concerns of varying kinds and we want to make a possible suggestion for consideration. Apparently there is not total disagreement that in some situations policies may be inappropriate, but obviously that wording would create some difficulty. I wonder therefore if in the English text - and we are down to somewhere between the 4th. and the 5th lines - we could not use "inappropriate" but say "pricing and marketing policies in some instances", listing the amount of these under consideration. That is simply for the consideration of the Drafting Committee.

REAZ RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Just to support that we leave the text as it is. In paragraphs 22, 24, 25 and 28 we spell out the type of remedial actions that are needed and that is implicit in the nature of the policies.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I have a feeling, with great respect to the delegate of the United Kingdom and others, that what the delegate of the United Kingdom is trying to say by the addition of "inappropriate policies" is that the slowness of adopting improved techniques and the low use of inputs are the symptoms of inappropriate policies, even if you do not say that these are the results of inappropriate policies. So perhaps he can happily go along with the text as it is.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): We have now been told that my suggestion is already there in two different parts. I regret I had not noted the reference to "internal factors" as a coded reference to this and I would not wish to introduce contentious language into this if our views are so similar. So I withdraw my proposal, on the understanding that I may revert to this idea at later stages, where I see some possible commission of this, and I would wish to reintroduce the concept of "appropriate policies" rather than "inappropriate policies" at a particular time. I have in mind paragraph 22.

CHAIRMAN: So shall we leave paragraph 20 as it is? As the delegate of Bangladesh pointed out, reference to pricing and marketing comes in paragraph 22.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): This follows from my last remark. In the fifth line of paragraph 22 the sentence beginning "Remunerative prices" I think one could put in before then "Appropriate policies". That would meet my previous point.

R. D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): That has the advantage of putting it in a positive way dealing with the problem that Congo raised, not being a shocking concept but very much a positive concept. I think that is a very nice formulation.

CHAIRMAN: Would the Chairman of the Drafting Committee respond to the suggestion that this fourth sentence reads "Appropriate policies, remunerative prices and the wide availability of basic consumer goods in rural areas were important parts of the overall incentive structure"?

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je ne pense pas que cela puisse poser de problèmes majeurs au Comité de rédaction. "Des politiques de prix rémunérateurs" ou "des politiques adéquates". On cite des choses ou on parle plutôt des politiques des prix, des politiques adéquates? Des prix rémunérateurs?...

Compte tenu de nos discussions je suis en faveur qu'on dise "des politiques adéquates et des politiques de prix", ou si on veut ajouter "adéquates" on peut l'ajouter, mais je ne suis pas tellement en faveur de la citation "politiques adéquates" parce que les prix rémunérateurs c'est une politique. C'est pour cette raison que l'on pourrait mettre "des politiques de prix adéquates ...". Je ne sais pas ce qu'en pensent les autres membres du Conseil.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Of course, agricultural policies are composed of various elements to give incentives to production. One is the question of giving remunerative prices or not. Another possibility is to include in such a policy to subsidize inputs or to give special credit to marketing, which is a very important issue. So I think the situation as it is now, at least in our view, does make sense and I hope it will not cause many difficulties. The distinguished Chairman of the Drafting Committee has already said he felt also this should not create difficulties.

CHAIRMAN: If you all agree. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee mentioned that "appropriate policies" involved so many things - rural infrastructure, rural roads, there are many items apart from remunerative prices which are important for helping farmers. Have you any objection to "as appropriate policies, remunerative prices... > to the end of the sentence?

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): I thought perhaps the sentence could read "appropriate policies including". That would take care of the two positions.

CHAIRMAN: Is that all right, Mr Tchicaya?

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): J'estime que "les prix rémunérateurs" font partie de la politique agricole. En effet, je crois que c'est mieux présenté comme cela.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the United Kingdom suggested "appropriate policies including remunerative prices ..." etc. Is that agreed? Paragraph 22 as amended is therefore approved.

M.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): In the first line of paragraph 23 we read, "The Council emphasized the importance of the availability and prices of inputs". We should make it a little more positive by saying, "The Council emphasized the importance of the sufficient availability and fair prices of inputs". That requires to be qualified to make it quite certain that the positive aspect is emphasized. Merely to say, "... the importance of the availability and prices ..." is not sufficient. This would make it more effective.

Then, in the fifth line at the end where it reads, "... to achieve self-reliance in food and food security", the Chairman of the Fertilizer Commission, I recall, had distinctly added that in addition to expressing concern a call should be made for greater efforts in this direction. So something to that effect will require to be added as a sentence after the words "food security" and before "It endorsed".

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Pouvez-vous répéter votre deuxième amendement Monsieur Taleyarkhan?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I will repeat the second amendment. I am proposing at the end of the sentence ending with the word "security" in the fifth line we should add, "A call for additional efforts therefore was made for increasing the growth rate of fertilizer use." As I pointed out earlier, merely the expression of concern would not be sufficient to make sure of what available steps are to be taken.

CHAIRMAN: The next sentence reads, "It endorsed the Commission's call ..." and so on.

J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): This relates only to greater fertilizer aid. In the second sentence it says, "... present growth rate of fertilizer use ..." I would like to emphasize it to a greater extent. It can be worded as is thought fit.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): M. Le Président, nous n'avons pas discuté de cela, mais je pense qu'il n'y aurait pas de problème si l'on adoptait cet amendement.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): In this paragraph I would like to see reference to the idea of the importance of optional use of inputs and fertilizers. I have no exact formulation, but it could be at the end of the first sentence after "fertilizers" - "as well as their optimal use". Perhaps a farmer might have a better wording.

CHAIRMAN: The first sentence therefore will read, "The Council emphasized the importance of the optimal availability and use and fair prices of inputs, particularly fertilizers". The word "optimal" will take care of both use and availability. Then it goes on as in the draft report. Is that acceptable?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): After "security" I suggested, "A call for additional efforts therefore was made to increase the growth rate in the use of fertilizers", in addition to the mere expression of concern. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee has accepted that.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal of the delegate of India goes before the sentence beginning "It endorsed".

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I think that what the delegate of India is saying perhaps is implied in the first sentence, because that says, "The Council emphasized the importance of the optimal availability and fair prices of inputs", and so on. When he says "emphasized the importance of optimal availability", what he is trying to say is implied. However, I have no objection if another section is put in. I believe we can leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN: With the addition of the words "optimal availability" would you like another sentence? The delegate of Pakistan has raised this question.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): He has no objection to this sentence.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 23 as amended, is approved.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente: Creo que el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y la Secretaría nos darán razón en el sentido de que en el Comité de Redacción cambiamos el término que aparece en la primera frase del párrafo 27, que dice "embarazosos excedentes". No sé si en los otros idiomas se ha conservado (no he tenido tiempo de controlarlo), pero en español se ha mantenido ese término, que ya habíamos cambiado en el Comité.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): C'est exact, je crois que le thème a été modifié dans la version espagnole. Je pense donc qu'il faudrait adapter la version espagnole à la version française ou anglaise.

CHAIRMAN: We will amend the Spanish version, paragraph 27 is therefore approved.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes to propose a small amendment in the fourth line of paragraph 28 at the end where we would like to change the words "were needed" into "should continue". The reason is that I cannot think of any developed countries where no policy changes already take place. So the whole sentence should read, "There was a widespread consensus among developed countries that policy changes should continue".

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India) : If the delegate of Germany agrees, we could say, "were needed and should continue". It will fit in.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I would not like to disagree with my neighbour on my right, with whom I have so much in common. But I wonder if it is really necessary to add that. Perhaps some other members of the Council also have feelings about that.

J. POSIER (France): Simplement quelques mots pour dire que la délégation française estime qu'effectivement on pourrait très bien s'en tenir à la proposition de la République fédérale d'Allemagne.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente: Con todo respeto por nuestros colegas de los países desarrollados, yo creo que, tal como lo dijo el distinguido Embajador de la India, en la forma en que él lo propuso, esa frase contendría los dos aspectos fundamentales y pienso por ello que debe dar satisfacción a los países desarrollados; es decir, estamos pidiendo que cambien sus políticas y a la vez, en la versión de la India, reconoceríamos que ya esos cambios están en marcha y pedimos que se aceleren. Yo creo que eso, pues, puede ser aceptable para todos, como ha propuesto el Embajador de la India.

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is that the sentence should read, "There was a widespread consensus among developed countries that policy changes were needed and should continue".

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I certainly prefer the formulation which does not involve the words "were needed". It is implicit. Any other wording, I think, is liable to cause offence gratuitously. Personally I did jump a little when I saw the first sentence about the serious difficulty being the disproportionate amount of agriculture and so on, when I thought of my own country. But I have been persuaded not to object to this sentence. The third one I think certainly should refer only to policy changes continuing.

R. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): We have no problem with the change that the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany has suggested.

CHAIRMAN: Should we then retain "There was a widespread consensus among developed countries that policy changes should continue"?

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): I have suggested a very plausible compromise, which is supported by the delegate of Colombia. I would appeal to my good friend, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, to consider that it improves his proposal. I do not see what objection there could be when the principle of "should continue" is accepted. It also necessarily includes the word "needed". Therefore, what is the objection on the part of our good friends from the developed countries to allow "and should continue" to stand. I am not suggesting that "should continue" should not be there; it may remain. I am suggesting that the word "needed" in the original draft remain and "should continue" be added. I appeal to them to be good enough to accept it.



W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): As others also feel that our suggestion was not inappropriate, I would like to ask my distinguished neighbour to the right perhaps to consider that this paragraph already is quite strongly expressed. When I read the first sentence in this paragraph I wondered what people might feel when they read it. Taking the whole context of that paragraph, I would very much hope that the proposal which we have put forward should not create further difficulties, and it is hoped that it will be accepted.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Hemos estado analizando la discusión y consideramos que la distinguida representación de la India al hacer su proposición incluye la intención que ha planteado la representación de Alemania. Por tanto aprobamos la proposición que ha hecho el representante de la India.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): As regards the proposal by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and the proposal of the Ambassador of India, we agree with both of them. However, we find that the Indian proposal is more appropriate. The proposal submitted by the Ambassador of India is reasonable for one reason: in the previous paragraphs we criticized the weakness of the agricultural policies in developing countries, or in some developing countries. Therefore, this criticism would mean that there are agricultural policies which are not followed, and these policies are imperative as a matter of fact. Therefore, it would be appropriate if this paragraph said that these policies are needed and should be continued, as the Ambassador of India has said. As I said, we do not have any difficulty with either of the proposals. However, we do find that the Indian proposal is much more appropriate and that it would be in line with previous paragraphs.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have listened very carefully to all of the arguments put forward. Perhaps it is because English is not my mother tongue that the word "needed" seems to be a rather strong wording from my point of view. Mr Chairman, why do I say that? As far as my country is concerned agricultural adjustment has been taking place strongly since the 1950s. At that time we had about one million more agricultural producers than we now have. There are, of course, certain economic and social reasons why this policy needs very carefully to be pursued. I very much hope that many difficulties would not be created if the sentence were left as I suggested.

CHAIRMAN: The sentence reads "widespread consensus among developed countries". It depends upon what consensus was reached among developed countries about this matter.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We have great respect for all of the viewpoints expressed. I, like the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, would agree with both points of view. As a compromise I would

suggest putting it this way so that the viewpoints may be married: "There was a widespread consensus among developed countries that needed policy changes should continue". I think that would make it more positive. When we say "that policy changes were needed and should continue", that perhaps means that the policy changes needed were not taking place. If we say "the needed policy changes should continue", that perhaps would be more appropriate. It depends on the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany.

R.C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): No habíamos querido intervenir, señor Presidente, porque habíamos aprobado este texto en el Grupo de Redacción. Entendemos que los argumentos de la representación de Alemania no dan idea de lo que sugiere el Embajador de la India, ya que para continuar sus políticas es necesario estar convencidos. De ahí que la palabra "necesario" pensamos que podría existir al principio de la frase: "el amplio consenso entre los países desarrollados en cuanto a la necesidad de cambiar las políticas". Eso podría incluirse en un sentido amplio por la cuestión de la necesidad con el fin de no continuar. Ya está el concepto: todos los países industrializados deben revertir esta cuestión y, repito, creo que con este concepto es suficiente.

Como transacción aceptaríamos lo que sugiere el distinguido representante de Alemania.

P. ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): I speak only to attempt to put some levelling influence into the situation.

There is no doubt that there is a certain amount of agreement among the developing countries, but I think that we should take a cue from your own words in settling this matter, at least from one point of view. The sentence states "widespread consensus among developed countries". Put that in the report and the other aspect could be dealt with otherwise.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): To help with the consensus among developed countries, we have no difficulty with the proposal of the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Pour notre part, nous aurions été satisfaits de voir retenue la proposition de l'Inde qui combine les préoccupations des uns et des autres. Mais, devant les propositions des pays développés, nous pensons qu'il faut trouver un moyen de nous tirer d'affaire, et la proposition faite par le Pakistan est un peu plus souple que celle de l'Inde, qui reste quand même à peu près au juste milieu.

Pour résoudre la question, nous suggérons que les uns et les autres nous nous rapprochions de la proposition du Pakistan, qui serait un bon consensus.

D. HUTTON (Canada): My delegation could go along with the proposal from the Federal Republic of Germany, but perhaps in order to come to some conclusion I would suggest that in the first sentence we add the word "some" before the word "developed", so that it would read "by some developed countries". Then perhaps accept the proposal from Pakistan of "some needed policy changes", or something along that line. It is then restricted to whatever country it is appropriate to.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): Japan as one of the developed countries would support the proposal made by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): If my friend finds the word "needed" too strong, though I do not share his view, we can compromise by using the word "necessary" instead of "needed", with the added words "should continue". That will end the blockade in this situation. It would then read "that policy changes were necessary and should continue".

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I regret that the suggestion which I put forward, which concerns developed countries, has encountered so many difficulties. I do not like to disappoint those who feel that my first wording was quite appropriate, but I will make another suggestion. Perhaps we could say "There was a widespread consensus among developed countries that further policy changes should be pursued". I hope that this might be helpful, but I would not like to have any of the other suggestions.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany is: "There was a widespread consensus among developed countries that further policy changes should be pursued". Since it is a matter of consensus among developed countries, I suggest that they will have to express in what way their consensus exists, and if this is acceptable to other developed countries.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): That makes it even weaker than it was, that is, "the policies to be pursued".

CHAIRMAN: It is a consensus among developed countries; it is not binding on developing countries. If the developed countries agree, that is the way in which it has to be. It is a consensus among developed countries and it is up to them to formulate a sentence which represents their consensus.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): Quite frankly, I am very surprised that words which have a very thin line between them are causing unnecessary problems. If we are talking of policies that were needed, if they were needed, surely they should continue. I do not see the problem with the proposal by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany; I think there is no difficulty with that. I think the developed countries should agree, as you have said. We are just talking about semantics here.

Paragraphs 13 to 28, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 28, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 28, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 29 TO 45, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHES 29 A 45, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 29 A 45, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I would like to raise a query on paragraph 29, if I may. I think there is a mistake in the Arabic text. Has the FAO sounded the alert on the deteriorating food situation since 1973, or since 1976? Which is the right date?

CHAIRMAN: The English text says that it is 1976.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je crois qu'il s'agit bien de 1976. C'est ce qui était marqué dans le rapport de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: Is that acceptable? - Thank you.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I said I would come back from time to time with reference to agricultural policy. I would like to see inserted in the second sentence of paragraph 40 after the semi-colon which follows "sector", "agricultural policy factors;", or some other polite language.

CHAIRMAN: The United Kingdom delegate has proposed that we add "agricultural policy factors;" - "The Council felt that the major causes of Africa's food crisis could be identified in lagging agricultural sector; inadequate resources, including external resources; low levels of technology, including the very limited use made of improved seeds and fertilizers; weak and ineffective research and extension; inadequate supplies of essential inputs; lack of facilities for the provision of credit to farmers and marketing of agricultural produce; rapid population growth; high rates of urbanization; changes in urban food habits and transport constraints and other policy factors." - The addition at the end of "and other policy factors".

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Nous n'avons pas eu de problème pour ce paragraphe au niveau du Comité de rédaction, mais si l'on veut ajouter quelque chose il faudrait mettre: "et autres facteurs de politiques agricoles". Il est difficile de citer tous les facteurs de . politique agricole. Il faut donc mettre "et autres facteurs de politiques agricoles", parce que ce qui est dit dans le paragraphe fait déjà partie des politiques agricoles.

CHAIRMAN: Is that acceptable to the United Kingdom delegate, that we add at the end "and other agricultural policy factors"? The United Kingdom delegate agrees - thank you. Paragraph 40 is adopted as amended.

D. HUTTON (Canada): My intervention relates to both paragraphs 42 and 44, but before I begin let me reassure the Council that it is not going to change the substantive element of those two paragraphs. I believe that in reading those two paragraphs the uninformed reader may have some confusion, since they duplicate the same message in a slightly different way. For example, in paragraph 42, it is the proposal from the Programme Committee which is referred to concerning the US\$15 million, whereas it is the proposal from the Director-General in paragraph 44, so it could be interpreted as two separate proposals when in fact it is only one.

In order to correct that, I suggest the following re-ordering of paragraph 44: In the first sentence after the words "in dealing with", I would add "the need for emergency and rehabilitation actions", and I would put a fullstop there and delete the rest of that sentence. So to repeat, paragraph 44 would read: "The Council commended the repeated efforts of the Director-General in drawing attention to the Africa food crisis and in dealing with the need for emergency and rehabilitation actions. It also welcomed the cooperation of FAO....".

CHAIRMAN: Has the Chairman of the Drafting Committee any comments?

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de redaction): Il faudra peut-être poser la question aux autres membres du Comité de rédaction.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En realidad no hemos entendido bien porqué dice el representante de Canadá que esto no cambia mucho. Parecería que el Consejo solicita que se transfieran los 15 millones de dolares, ese sería el pequeño cambio. Creemos que no; que esta supresión de que el Consejo incluye su propuesta de transferir los 15 millones de dolares, debe quedar tal como está, porque si lo dejamos en el párrafo 42, es que muchos Miembros apoyan la Recomendación, y como tenemos una Resolución que vamos a discutir, no seríamos coherentes con la transferencia. En todo caso podríamos pasar el párrafo 42 al 43, el 43 al 42, invirtiendo los términos. Así quedaría con un orden más lógico y sería más fácil la confección de esta Resolución.

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal): La délégation de l'Argentine a essentiellement exprimé la position que j'avais à l'esprit.

Je voudrais peut-être demander une précision., Est-ce-que c'est la dernière phrase que l'on veut supprimer ou un autre membre de phrase, parce que c'est à la dernière phrase seulement qu'on a parlé d'une "satisfaction de la coopération entre la FAO ... et les autres organisations du système".

Si c'est le membre de phrase qui concerne le transfert de 15 millions, je crois que la refonte entre les paragraphes 42 et 44 devrait être expliquée, parce qu'il s'agit d'un avis général au paragraphe 42, alors qu'au paragraphe 44 il s'agit d'une décision. Il faut que le Comité décide, parce qu'il s'agirait d'un changement de fond très important que nous ne pourrions pas accepter.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Los colegas Sersale, de Argentina y Baila Sy, de Senegal explicaron muy bien la situación. Creemos que estos párrafos deben mantenerse tal como fueron adoptados por el Comité de Redacción.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I regret there has been a misunderstanding about my proposal. I did not change any of the wording in paragraph 42, which says that the budget committee decided and then, as was pointed out, we will decide as well later on in the resolution. But I did change paragraph 44 -the verb in that paragraphs is that the Council "commended" his proposal to transfer. It does not affect the decision in any way - it is just that there could be confusion for some readers, who might assume that there were two proposals.

CHAIRMAN: There is now the suggestion from Argentina that we should consider that paragraph 43 becomes 42 and the present 42 becomes 43 - as has been pointed out, there is a difference. If you agree to this change, the present paragraph 43 will begin "Support was also given by many members...". But paragraph 44 says "The Council" - that is the difference between the two.

On the other hand the Canadian delegate has pointed out that in one case it is the decision made by the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee; in the next paragraph it says "including his proposal". One way may be "including the proposal" - that means that it is the Director-General, the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee and so on, if this is going to create confusion.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: If there is a confusion, I think it could be cured in paragraph 44 by saying "including his initiative as approved by the Programme and Finance Committees to ... ". That would make it quite clear that you are endorsing a decision by the Programme and Finance Committees, as the same proposal is in paragraph 43 - and if anybody has any doubt as to whether we are trying to transfer yet a further fifteen million, making thirty in all - I can assure you that that is not the case! Then one could say, in brackets, "(as proposed in paragraph 43 above)", or "(as described in paragraph 43 above)" - the new 43. So you would be quite clear that it is a decision on an initiative taken by the Director-General, which he is being commended for - and it is the same one as is referred to by many members in the previous paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: May I now summarize the proposal. Paragraph 43 becomes 42; paragraph 42 becomes 43; and the present paragraph 44 will read as follows, as suggested by Mr West: "The Council commended the repeated efforts of the Director-General in drawing attention to the Africa food crisis and in dealing with emergency and rehabilitation, including his initiative to transfer US\$15 million of savings approved by the Programme and Finance Committees and to refocus ...".

MAME BALLA SY (Senegal): Le délégué du Canada a fait une intervention positive. Je pense que l'on pourrait dire "a notamment appuyé la décision du Comité financier l'autorisant à transférer 15 millions de dollars et à en réorienter 5, etc.". Je pense qu'il n'y aurait plus de confusion et la décision serait tout à fait claire.

R. KAUZLARICH (United States of America) : I recognize what the delegate of Senegal is saying. However, isn't there further on in the report a discussion of the Council's action concerning the Finance and Programme Committees' Report. I wonder how many times one needs to repeat that. I think a reference back to paragraph 43 would avoid the confusion that I too agree is apparent by having the thing mentioned twice but I think if we start by repeating language that will appear later it will make it even more difficult.

D. BUTTON (Canada): Mr Chairman-, I think the best solution was the one that you proposed, just change the word to "the" instead of "his".

CHAIRMAN: To avoid this confusion, one possibility is "including the proposal to transfer US\$15 million".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que hay que tener un poco de cuidado porque al principio del párrafo 44 se habla de los esfuerzos del Director General y esa propuesta es del Director General.

CHAIRMAN: So I think what we are aiming at is clear. The one way is Mr West's formulation, "including his initiative as approved by the Programme and Finance Committees to transfer", so it is clear that the initiative has come from the Director-General.

R.C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): Creo que la solución dada por el señor West es la más clara porque se habla de una iniciativa que si bien fue propuesta por el Director General es aprobada por el Comité de Finanzas, y en esta primera frase del párrafo 44 queda clarísimo tal cual sugirió el Doctor West.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): We would go along with the suggestion made by Mr West, and that would be the best solution. It is very sound, and clarifies the points and removes the confusion.

CHAIRMAN: If Canada has no objection we will keep it as such.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estaba esperando, señor Presidente, que usted, sabiamente, como lo hace siempre, resolviera esta cuestión para plantear algo que sólo se refiera al texto castellano, pero que es importante y por eso lo hacemos.

Se trata de la primera frase del párrafo 42 en el texto español que dice: "Muchos Miembros apoyaron también la recomendación". Como el Presidente Tchikaya puede confirmarlo, esto lo cambiamos en el Comité de Redacción y noto que el texto francés dice "decisión".

CHAIRMAN: I hope the Spanish text will reflect what is in the French and English versions. The paragraphs 42 and 44 are therefore adopted as amended. The Resolution itself on paragraph 45 is in CL 87/REP/1-Sup.1, The Food Situation in Africa Resolution, the Resolution was submitted by the Delegations of Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Lebanon, Senegal and Sao Tome and Principe. Are there comments on this Resolution?

D. HUTTON (Canada): I would like to discuss paragraph 6 of the Resolution if possible, and I do accept that we are approving the transfer of the US\$15 million. I do accept that, Mr Chairman. But the wording of that transfer does cause my delegation some difficulties and I would like to explain why, although I will not propose additional wording except that I would suggest we change the word "endorse" to "approve" in this instance, since I believe that is what the Council is required to do.

The problem I think relates to the issue of the transfer of savings and the explanations which were given to us by the Secretariat on this issue when it was under discussion, and I have had the chance since that presentation to review the Resolution, it is Resolution 27/77 on the establishment of the Special Reserve Account. It is the view of my delegation, Mr Chairman, as it says in that Resolution that the savings on staff costs should be deposited in the Special Reserve Account, and the issue here is one of definition for the Secretariat -- their interpretation -- and I am sure this is the correct one from their point of view, but it is an auditing question. Staff costs, post adjustments, those kind of things are not taken as staff costs. It would have been the strong preference of my delegation, Mr Chairman, if this decision had been taken, the funds would have been deposited in the Special Reserve Account and then drawn out of that.

I will add in closing that this is a very two-edged sword; that although it is working to the advantage of the Council now because of the exchange movements, the situation could easily occur within the next two years that the reverse would happen, and I say that we will recall and we will remember the decision that this Council takes when that anticipated situation does arise.

W. A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have another point, and this concerns the first operative paragraph. I wonder if this should not read "To request... something like ... the whole Organization" instead of "To request the Director-General". I have no strong feelings about it; it is just what I would like to flag.

My second point is in the same first line. We would prefer if it were to be spelt out something like: "to continue assisting the concerned African countries", because African countries are already assisted by the Organization, and this is also of course under the principles of the Harare Declaration.

The third operative paragraph we would perhaps like to see in the first line after the words "in particular", some sort of "potential donor countries" should be included.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, hubiera sido muy deseable para conservar el ritmo constructivo de nuestras discusiones que se hubiera esperado la solución de la primera propuesta de Canadá. Sin embargo, ya que se han hecho otras dos propuestas, nuestra Delegación va a referirse a las tres en el orden en que aparecen en el texto del Proyecto de Resolución.

Sobre el punto 1 en la parte dispositiva, quisiéramos decirle al colega Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, que no haga esas demostraciones de cierta excesiva sensibilidad, porque todos sabemos que esta Organización tiene un Jefe ejecutivo que es el guía, el responsable de los programas y de la política, y por eso nos dirigimos a él; y esto lo hacemos con muchísima frecuencia, y no es un caso excepcional; pero sí estamos de acuerdo con nuestro colega Grabisch para complacerlo en parte,

de que se puede decir: "Decide: primero, pedir al Director General que siga intensificando su ayuda a los países africanos", porque como el señor Grabisch lo dijo ya el Director General lo viene haciendo.

Sobre la otra propuesta del colega Grabisch acerca del párrafo 3, creemos que en realidad no agrega nada al término "potenciales" que él propone agregar porque aquellos países donantes que no sean potenciales, que no estén en condiciones de hacerlo, pues no atenderán ese llamado, pero si eso facilita el consenso no tendríamos objeción en que se aceptara.

En relación con el párrafo 6, notamos que algunos colegas siguen alérgicos a la cifra de 15 millones. Un miembro del Consejo, que por cierto es miembro del Comité de Finanzas, reiteró aquí - un poco fuera de orden, diría yo, porque ya no estamos tratando el fondo de la cuestión - algunas opiniones financieras que debió expresar en el Comité de Finanzas.

No entendí la conclusión de ese distinguido colega; creo que propuso simplemente cambiar, al principio del párrafo 6, la palabra "suscribir" por "aprobar"; no sé si eso fue lo que propuso; en caso de que eso fuera, habría que notar que, en cuanto a los 5 millones de dólares de la reorientación, ya fue aprobado por el Consejo en su período anterior mediante la Resolución 1/86.

Y en cuanto a la transferencia de 15 millones de dólares, convendría también recordar, y él debe saberlo como miembro del Comité de Finanzas, que según el Reglamento Financiero el Comité de Finanzas puede tomar esa decisión; la ha tomado y no necesita aprobación del Consejo, pero, siempre inclinado al consenso, si ésta es la única propuesta de Canadá que él cree que tiene excesiva importancia, tampoco nos opondríamos.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous ne voulons pas blâmer qui que ce soit, mais nous pensons que pour des questions de méthodes mieux vaudrait que nous continuions sur la même procédure que celle que nous avons déjà entamée, notamment que nous allions paragraphe par paragraphe ou par série de paragraphes, parce que nous avons écouté quelques délégations seulement qui se sont exprimées, mais sur l'ensemble des différents points, et nous risquons d'avoir à intervenir dans le désordre. Je souhaite donc qu'on revienne au paragraphe par paragraphe ou qu'on regarde les considérants et qu'on voie le dispositif après. Si nous devons intervenir d'une façon éparpillée, on ne pourra plus s'entendre.

CHAIRMAN: May I say that the suggestions received so far are: paragraph 1 "to request the Director-General to continue to assist" or "to continue to intensify assisting", I think Germany proposed "to continue to assist"; paragraph 3 "in particular potential donor countries"; and paragraph 6 to "approve" instead of "endorse".

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal): Concernant la première proposition dans l'ordre chronologique de notre document je dois dire qu'elle ne pose aucune difficulté pour la délégation de la RFA puisqu'en réalité c'est la même chose que de demander au Directeur général et à l'Organisation puisque quand on demande on va concrètement s'adresser à quelqu'un donc au responsable moral. Donc aucun problème et je pense également qu'on devrait préciser qu'il doit continuer parce qu'il le fait déjà. Donc aucun problème, à part le verbe "continuer", je crois que le reste peut rester sans changement.

Je suis un peu gêné par le verbe chapeau, parce que là nous lisons que le Conseil "décide de demander..." moi, cela me gêne. Ce n'est pas très concret. On peut décider de demander sans jamais le faire. Ce verbe chapeau est vraiment uniquement pratique pour la rédaction; on demande, on exhorte, on invite, mais décider de demander, décider d'exhorter, c'est bien beau, mais on n'est pas tenu de le faire.

Sur le troisième point soulevé par la République fédérale d'Allemagne, je pense que cela ne fait pas de mal de préciser qu'il s'agit des pays donateurs. Puisque l'on réservera une autre précision pour les pays donateurs exceptionnels ou par circonstance.

Pour le paragraphe 6, je crois que l'amendement de la délégation colombienne est acceptable; cela ne gêne pas en effet que l'on dise "approuver". Cela fait que nous devons entériner, en réalité, compte tenu des dispositions du règlement financier, parce que nous ne pouvons pas normalement réformer une décision, en tous cas pas pour maintenant; pour l'avenir peut-être.

Voilà M. le Président ce que je tenais à dire sur ces différentes propositions. Mais je suis toujours gêné par le verbe "décide". J'insiste, cela me gêne particulièrement.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: On that last point, you could say "decides", and that would resolve the question. I would like to make a couple of comments and then ask you, Mr Chairman, to allow Mr Shah to speak. The word "potential" bothered me, because it could be interpreted as meaning not the whole international community but only those who have not so far been donors, and I do not think that is what the paragraph says at the moment. It appeals to the whole community, in particular donors, whoever they are. But "in particular potential donors" would mean those who have not donated anything. I know there is a story behind that, but there is a difference. I would like Mr Shah to clear up one question which has thrown doubt on the legality of the Finance Committee's decision, if you will permit him, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: Not at this stage. I will take it up later.

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): With regard to paragraph 6 of the draft Resolution my delegation would like to support the amendment proposed by our colleague of Canada. When the discussion took place at the Plenary on agenda item 15.2 my delegation expressed its concern about the transfer of this amount, up to US\$15 million, because of the lack of sufficient information, even by the Secretariat. The discussion was suspended by a point of order, which my delegation was not quite happy about. So with these circumstances in mind my delegation prefers the wording by our Canadian colleague. As to the proposal made by the Federal Republic of Germany, my delegation is more than happy to support that.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I have two points to make. Although I appreciate what has just been said by Japan, I did benefit by the intervention from Colombia, and I am persuaded now, and as the procedure should be I would certainly go along with that. As to any confusion which may have arisen from the other part of my statement, I apologise for that. I certainly was not questioning the legality of anything. What I said was that these are questions of definitions and those definitions are correct, but people have different definitions.

CHAIRMAN: For the sake of the subsequent discussion may I summarize where we have reached. Paragraph 1 of the operative part: "To request the Director-General to continue to assist". Paragraph: 3 we retain as it is, because it is the whole international community. Paragraph 6 to retain "endorse" in view of the clarification given that the decision has been made by the Finance Committee, which is a competent Committee, so we do not have to approve, but only endorse. So paragraph 6 remains as it is.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAN (India): We agree with paragraph 1 of the Resolution, "To request the Director-General to continue to assist".

In paragraph 3 I would suggest to overcome the impasse, "To appeal to the international community, in particular donor countries, and to potential donors". That would meet a very valid point made by Mr West. I go along with the suggestion that paragraph 6 should be retained as it is; having already been approved it should be endorsed.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): I am speaking in support of the suggestion made by the Federal Republic of Germany as regards paragraph 1 of the effective part of the Resolution. The suggestion he made about the words "Director-General" raised some interesting problems to me, and some other issues raised by some other delegations, including the words "resolve" and "request" also raises interesting questions about the relationship between the Council and the Director-General etc.

It strikes me as curious for the Council to request the Director-General. It raises the possibility of the Director-General not agreeing, although that is unlikely, and I suppose the possibility is that "request" is the practice and the folklore of the Organization. It seems to me that the whole first paragraph would be stronger if we picked up Mr West's suggestion and the suggestion of the Federal Republic of Germany and simply said that the Council decided that the Organization should continue to assist concerned African countries. I agree that this is a case where the Organization as a whole is involved and where the Council really is deciding what the Organization should do.



M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je pense que sur toutes ces questions, notre Président du Comité de rédaction est sûrement en mesure d'expliquer la situation, mais s'il s'abstient pour le moment c'est parce qu'il souhaitait que les délégations puissent avoir la possibilité de discuter entre elles. Cependant, en tant que membre du Comité de rédaction, nous pouvons également apporter quelques explications.

En ce qui concerne le verbe chapeau. Nous en avons discuté au Comité de rédaction, et celui-ci était pour que le verbe "décider" soit supprimé et laisse place à un dispositif qui commencerait par les verbes conjugués au présent. Donc, "décide" serait supprimé et l'on mettrait: "1. demande; 2. exhorte;" et ainsi de suite.

Au niveau du Comité de rédaction, nous avons dû nous départir en demandant au Secrétariat de nous dire ce que nous avons mis dans la résolution de la dernière session du Conseil, c'est-à-dire la Résolution 1/86, et le Secrétariat a constaté que le verbe chapeau était bien: "décide". Donc, devant ce rappel, nous avons été obligés d'accepter que le verbe "décide" reste.

Voilà en ce qui concerne le premier verbe chapeau.

En ce qui concerne le choix entre "demander au Directeur général" ou "demander à l'organisation", voilà notre position: nous pensons, pour notre part, que lorsque nous confions des missions, nous envisageons la possibilité d'en contrôler l'exécution et comme nous savons que dans toute organisation il y a un premier responsable qui doit rendre compte, on doit bien dire: "de demander au Directeur général de continuer..." parce que le jour où nous aurons à demander des comptes, nous saurons à qui nous aurons à les demander; c'est au Directeur général, ce n'est pas à tous les membres que nous demanderons des conseils. Nous pensons donc que les mots "Directeur général" doivent rester.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 3, au Comité de rédaction, nous avons discuté de ce problème. D'aucuns ont pensé qu'il fallait garder les mots "communauté internationale", d'autres ont pensé qu'il fallait mettre "les donateurs habituels plus d'autres donateurs éventuels y compris les pays en développement", mais après débats, nous avons dû nous mettre d'accord en acceptant que les mots "communauté internationale" soient retenus pour couvrir l'ensemble des préoccupations de toutes les tendances.

Le Comité de rédaction a donc discuté de la question et c'est là un compromis qui est le résultat de débats qui ont duré pas moins de trois heures.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 6, la question qui se posait était de savoir s'il fallait mettre "entériner" ou "approuver".

Nous pensons pour notre part, qu'il doit y avoir une suite dans nos façons d'agir. Quelles sont ces façons d'agir? Jusqu'à présent, nous avons autorisé le Directeur général à opérer des transferts jusqu'à un certain niveau. C'est ce qu'il a fait. Il a demandé que 5 millions de dollars du Programme ordinaire soient affectés en faveur de l'Afrique. Il a également demandé que les 15 millions de dollars économisés sur le budget 1984-85 soient transférés aussi en faveur de l'Afrique. Nous pensons qu'il a agi là dans le cadre de la délégation de pouvoir que nous lui avons faite et nous ne pouvons qu'entériner, puisque ce n'est pas une action extraordinaire. C'est dans le cadre de ses prérogatives habituelles et nous ne pouvons ainsi qu'entériner.

Nous pensons que l'on devrait laisser le mot "entériner" plutôt que "approuver".

CHAIRMAN: Canada has already agreed to the retention of "endorse"; so I would be grateful if you did not take up that paragraph again unless somebody has a new suggestion.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): As to the issue of "decides" versus "resolves"

unless I do not understand French all that well the French word for "decides" and the English

ought to be the same and would get over the difficulty that was pointed out by the delegate of Senegal, so Mr West's suggestion would be a good one.

On paragraph 1, I am in one of those in-between moods. We might want to fall back on what is the practice in other United Nations Organizations, for example in UNDP where the Governing Body usually requests the administrator. I am not sure what is the practice in other organizations, ... but I can go either way on that.

I think the point that we need to deal with paragraph 3 in some way is a good one. Again, we might want to look at the possibility of what is standard UN practice in such situations. Quite often there is reference to "all countries in a position to do so" which might help overcome that, although the suggestion made by the delegate of India would be acceptable too.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je me suis abstenu de parler jusqu'à présent de ce sujet, parce que j'estime que nous avons mis suffisamment de temps pour mettre au point cette résolution et je pensais pour ma part qu'elle ne poserait aucun problème en séance plénière.

Je crois que l'on s'accroche sur des petits mots. Prenons l'exemple du paragraphe 8: "de demander au Directeur général de continuer..." En ce qui concerne le Directeur général, à d'autres occasions, nous avons discuté au sein du Comité de cette question et je sais que le représentant de l'Allemagne fédérale avait déjà souscrit à ce mot "Directeur général". Je suis quelque peu surpris pour l'Australie, parce que sur un autre point, lorsqu'on parlait de demander à la FAO, l'Australie au sein du Comité a dit: on ne peut pas demander à la FAO, car la FAO c'est nous, les pays membres, et nous ne pouvons pas demander à nous-mêmes; il s'agit donc de demander plutôt au Directeur général ou au Secrétariat.

Sur ce point, il n'y a pas de doute, il faut bien que l'on demande à celui qui peut nous rendre compte de la situation. C'est pour cette raison que nous pensons que le mot "Directeur général" est le mot approprié.

Pour "donateurs potentiels" nous n'y voyons aucun inconvénient. Nous n'en avons pas discuté, mais je trouve qu'il n'y a aucun inconvénient.

Au paragraphe 6, on a répondu qu'il s'agit bien d'entériner, parce que la décision a déjà été prise et nous, en tant que Conseil, nous ne faisons qu'entériner.

CHAIRMAN: I have Colombia, Sao Tome and Principe and various other names on my list, but the Chairman of the Drafting Committee has appealed and if you agree to it there should not be so many interventions on whether we retain paragraph 1 accepting the request of the Director-General to continue to assist, and we have added the word "continue". Then paragraph 6 remains as it is. In paragraph 3 one possibility was suggested by the Ambassador of India.

#### POINT OF ORDER POINT D'ORDRE PUNTO DE ORDEN

A. Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I am sorry to interrupt, especially as the Ambassador of Colombia wants to speak. I apologise to him, with great respect. However, I think we are wasting a lot of time, we are wasting our energy, our brains, our money, discussing this kind of thing. We are here for what? - to assist in two complicated things. I would like to put forward this motion: I am going to endorse your suggestion, let us stop this discussion. Let us take up your suggestion as it is and with great respect to you, Mr Chairman. I appeal to all my friends here not to discuss this matter extensively. I put forward this motion.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Oui, je suis d'accord avec la motion d'ordre.

CHAIRMAN: It means, I hope, that everybody has understood that we retain this as it is with only the two changes, to request the Director-General to continue to assist, and in paragraph 3 to appeal to the international community, in particular donor countries including potential donors to continue to give high priority - and the rest remains as it is.

Paragraphs 29 to 45, including draft resolution, as amended, approved  
Les paragraphes 29 à 45, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendés sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 29 a 45, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 46 to 51

PARAGRAPHEs 46 à 51

PARRAFOS 46 a 51

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos expresar, señor Presidente, que nos pareció que la solución anterior, expresada por el representante de Arabia Saudita fue muy justa. El parlamentarismo estrecho nos lleva a temas que nos hacen retrasar nuestros trabajos.

En este específico punto se presenta una situación real. Aquí aparece en el Informe las reservas de las delegaciones de Australia, el Canadá y los Estados Unidos de América al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Sin embargo, creemos que en el proyecto de Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que este Consejo ha aprobado enviar para su discusión a la Conferencia, no debe incluirse otra vez esas reservas, porque entendemos que los que se han disociado y que hemos entendido que es su soberana decisión, no deben seguir con su reiteración a este Pacto, después de las discusiones tan profundas en este tema. Queremos expresar esto, porque nosotros seguimos lamentando mucho la actitud que consideramos que va contra la cooperación internacional, y así la calificamos cuando hicimos una reserva a las reservas que ellos hicieron a las once y media de la noche en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial después de participar en el Comité de Redacción y haber flexibilizado durante todo el día en la discusión que hicimos aquí.

Nosotros respetamos y no movimos otra vez el punto de las reservas que era nuestra valorización de esta actitud. Respetamos una decisión, pero sí consideramos que se definió aquí que estas reservas iban al Informe y debía seguir al proyecto.

Solicitamos se elimine del proyecto que se va a discutir y se mantengan las reservas en la forma que está puesto a pie de página, después del párrafo 51.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Queremos asociarnos plenamente a la declaración que acaba de hacer nuestro distinguido colega y amigo el Embajador Ariza, de Cuba, quien dirigió la única reacción en que estuvimos en condiciones de manifestarnos cuando se nos presentaron unas reservas que nosotros consideramos improcedentes. Luego, siguiendo el buen ejemplo de la democracia suiza, aceptamos retirar nuestras reservas. Más tarde en el Comité de Redacción hubo acuerdo en que esas reservas aparecerían en el texto del Informe, pero no en el texto del Pacto. Esta fue una decisión que tomamos en el Comité de Redacción; en cambio vemos ahora que en el párrafo 50 se dice: "Tres miembros expresaron las reservas". Luego al final de esa página aparecen tres nombres de países, y al final de la primera página del texto del Pacto aparecen las mismas reservas y los tres mismos países.

Pensamos que esto es demasiado. El Consejo tiene 49 miembros y creemos que lo más indicado es que al final del párrafo 50, donde se hace referencia a los tres miembros, y no en el párrafo 51 como aparece, se haga el llamado 1/ que corresponde a la nota a pie de página; pero a partir del párrafo 51 es donde vamos a tomar la decidida voluntad de la gran mayoría de los miembros del Consejo.

Por favor que no vuelvan a aparecer de nuevo esas reservas; es decir, que se supriman las reservas que aparecen en la primera página del texto del Pacto, ya que fue la decisión del Comité de Redacción y es la voluntad de la gran mayoría de los miembros de este Consejo.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Comme vous le savez, cette question a été controversée aussi bien au niveau de la plénière qu'au niveau du Comité de rédaction. Mais je suis quelque peu surpris de constater que ces réserves figurent également sur le projet de Pacte. Effectivement il était entendu que ces réserves devaient plutôt figurer, comme l'a dit l'Ambassadeur de Colombie, dans le texte du rapport mais non dans le texte du Pacte lui-même. Je crois que c'est cela qui devrait être retenu. Tout au moins c'est ce que nous, Comité de rédaction, proposons.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): While I personally did not participate in the Drafting Committee, it was my understanding that this report and the context of the Compact were adopted en bloc. That is the way the document appeared. I believe all members of the Council will recall that the United States specifically requested - specifically requested - that the name of the United States of America appear in the text that would be published on the World Food Security Compact, as disassociating itself from the draft text of the World Food Security Compact. I did not see what is surprising about that, unless the Council is saying we have not right to make that request.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): As one of the countries involved, although in the discussion on this item we did not make the specific request made by the United States, we now do so. We wish to see our name associated with Canada and the United States, and we wish it to be included in the footnote in the text.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I had not realized that this had become an issue, but I certainly would agree with my colleagues from Australia and the United States. I believe that the reasons for this are twofold. The most important one is that it has been requested; secondly, I think that when this document goes before the Conference in November it will be discussed in different ways and the Compact will be a separate document. For the benefit of those at the Conference I think the information contained in it is important. I do not have particularly strong feelings about the continuation of the footnote on page 11, which is the one associated with paragraph 51. If it is in the text, I think once is perfectly adequate, but would insist that it be associated with the Compact itself.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous ne sommes pas surpris de la position des pays qui viennent de parler. Ce dont nous sommes surpris, c'est de la ventilation qui a été faite de leurs réserves. On met ces réserves au paragraphe 50, on les met au paragraphe 51 et on les met dans le Pacte. D'après les procès-verbaux de nos débats, ces pays, dans leur première intervention, avaient demandé que leurs réserves soient ventilées partout où l'on pouvait, mais après débat, nous avons dit que nous n'acceptons pas que ces réserves figurent dans le texte du Pacte. Nous avons accepté que ces réserves figurent au paragraphe 50.

Au Comité de rédaction nous avons dû encore discuter de cette question pour rappeler, alors qu'ils continuaient à demander que l'on mette ces réserves partout où cela est possible, qu'en séance plénière, après les premières interventions des pays concernés, le Conseil avait accepté d'enregistrer leurs réserves mais dans le corps du rapport et non dans le Pacte.

Pour cette raison nous sommes surpris, non pas de leur position de fond, mais de la façon dont ces réserves ont été ventilées. Pour notre part, nous pensions que nous étions d'accord, aussi bien en plénière qu'au Comité de rédaction, pour que ces réserves soient enregistrées au titre du paragraphe 50 et pas ailleurs. De toute façon, quand ces documents seront lus, lorsqu'on arrivera au paragraphe 50, on verra que pour le Pacte il y a eu les réserves de ces trois pays. Donc ce n'est pas la peine de les afficher partout.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): As a member of the Drafting Committee I would like to endorse what the last speaker has said, including what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said. Quite frankly, I am surprised that paragraph 51 is included in the body of the document. We discussed this fully, and Australia and the United States, who were representing the views of the minority in this matter, did undertake that we would not include this in the body of the document itself. In any case, paragraphs 48 to 50 indicate that this document is voluntary. Therefore, I really do not see the need for naming these countries as we have done here. I think we should reconsider the whole idea. This is not the intention surely.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Perhaps in order to diffuse at least part of this issue I will state that we do not need to see it scattered throughout the document. If it is desired to discard the footnote on page 11, that is no problem.

Again, I must recall that we did make a very specific request in Plenary, which is point one. Point 2 is that unless someone can contradict me, the Drafting Committee did indeed adopt this section and the Compact en bloc.

1. DIAZ YUBERO (España): Yo creo que toda esta discusión es inútil y me parece que sería mucho más fácil preguntar a estos países dónde quieren que figure su nombre, y asunto concluido. Si quieren que figure en el Informe, o si quieren que figure en el Pacto, y si no en los dos sitios. Pienso que no tiene ningún sentido esta discusión.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I think no-one is suggesting that the footnote is part of the text of the Compact which emerges finally from the Conference. It is a matter of the Conference where reservations, if any, are shown. The proposal, which seems to be an eminently reasonable one, is that the draft sent forward by us in the form of an approval, does have this footnote there. The request was made and it was not contradicted, and I would support the American proposal.

H.J.H. TALEYARKHAK (India) : I recall very well as a member of the Drafting Committee of the last CFA that the same good friends of some of the countries which have spoken were vehemently opposed to the mentioning of the name of any country in the report. I recall that there was quite an argument on that issue. Now the position seems to have been slightly reversed, but even so there can be a compromise by allowing the names to be retained as they desire in the report but not in the Compact. That would solve the problem, I am not suggesting that they should adhere to the same position taken in the CFA when they did not want the name of any country to be mentioned. In any case, they have a right to express their reservation but mentioning their reservation in one place would be enough. I would like to appeal to them to consider that in view of the fact that it is not obligatory and not binding, it is more or less a guideline. We have discussed this previously in the Council and we are again discussing it. Therefore, I would suggest that some way could be found by our good friends to agree. If they insist on the inclusion, it should be mentioned one time in the report itself and certainly not where it is now indicated in paragraph 51.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): Although I was not at the Drafting Committee, my understanding was that the text of the Compact as presented to the Drafting Committee did contain the footnote on the first page, and the text of the compact and, as I understand it, some other parts of the report too, which was accepted en bloc. However, we have no difficulty with the deletion of the footnote on page 11.

M.FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je pense que le problème essentiel est de citer ces réserves seulement une fois.

D'autre part, je dois noter que le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire est à l'état de projet. C'est la Conférence qui doit l'approuver. Donc je ne vois pas pourquoi on fait des difficultés sur un document qui n'a encore que le caractère de projet. Je suis totalement indifférent au fait que l'Australie, le Canada et les Etats-Unis préfèrent avoir cette note dans le projet de Pacte ou dans le rapport.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous sommes désolés d'avoir à reprendre la parole après nos travaux au Comité de rédaction. Nous aurions bien voulu écouter ceux qui n'ont pas été avec nous mais, malheureusement après audition de certaines délégations, nous nous voyons dans l'obligation de le faire pour essayer de remettre les choses en ordre. Nous sommes un peu surpris de l'argument que certaines délégations emploient en disant "Moi, je n'étais pas au Comité de rédaction, c'était mon ami". Mais ils disent quand même "Nous sommes au courant qu'au Comité de rédaction le texte a été adopté en bloc". Cela ne va pas, il faut être un peu sérieux. Si nous sommes cinq dans la délégation d'un pays, lorsque nous sommes représentés au Comité de rédaction, cela suppose que notre pays est représenté. C'est pour cela que nous pensons que ces pays, notamment les Etats-Unis d'Amérique et l'Australie qui ont travaillé avec nous d'arrache-pied au Comité de rédaction, ne peuvent pas se permettre de dire, lorsqu'un de leurs membres parle au Comité de rédaction, je n'étais pas moi au Comité de rédaction. Il ne faudrait plus que l'on revienne sur cet argument. Ceci étant, je voudrais dire au Comité de rédaction comme ils l'ont dit effectivement "Nous avons adopté ce texte en bloc en spécifiant bien qu'en ce qui concerne la réserve émise par les trois pays nous la mettrions dans le cours du rapport et non pas dans le Pacte". Nous étions clairs. Ils sont au courant que l'on a adopté le Pacte en bloc. Ceux qui en ont rendu compte ont sûrement ajouté cette mention parce que nous l'avons faite pendant nos travaux.

J. POSIER (France): Je dois dire que je commence à éprouver quelques vives inquiétudes quant à l'issue de cette session parce qu'on se demande quand on va la terminer. En ce qui concerne le point dont nous débattons, je crois qu'une proposition, qui à la délégation française pour le moins paraît constructive, c'est celle qu'a faite le représentant du Royaume-Uni et qui a été reprise un peu dans le même sens par le représentant de l'Italie. Ne pourrait-on pas trouver un consensus sur la base de cette proposition?

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): To take up the comment of the delegate of Congo, my point in formulating my response as I did was to be quite clear that I personally was not there. That was the only point I was trying to make.

Secondly, I do not wish to take up the valuable time of this Council by reading again precisely what Ambassador Fenwick said on this point during the Plenary discussion, but I will read the last sentence of her statement : "We request that our expression of disassociation be shown in the FAO Council report and that it also appear in the published Compact itself".

CHAIRMAN: The three countries concerned have suggested that they have no objection to deletion of the footnote under item 51: "The Council approved the World Food Security Compact as set out below and recommended it to the Conference for adoption". But they insist that it should appear in the Compact.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Hemos oído la discusión sobre nuestra proposición. Queremos expresar que repetimos que tuvimos una actitud constructiva, que el Embajador Bula Hoyos lo había recordado; queremos recordarle aquí a este Consejo y a algunos miembros de las delegaciones que no asistieron al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que a las once y media de la noche del día final del Comité la delegación de Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, que no le gusta que se la mente pero tenemos que mentarla, y si quiere pedir el punto de orden yo le doy el tiempo y después continuaré, a esa hora quedo totalmente aislada porque la contrarreserva que nosotros hicimos fue en función de considerar que había sido una actitud negativa, una actitud negativa que fue la misma que se adoptó ahora en la discusión de este Consejo, y ahora nosotros hicimos la misma observación porque en este Consejo la representación de Estados Unidos desde el primer momento expresó su negativa y su deseo de desasociarse del Pacto; perfecto, tiene toda la razón, tiene toda la soberanía para hacer eso, pero en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria no; en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria participó todo el tiempo en el Comité de Redacción tratando de cambiar los términos del Pacto. Regresamos a la discusión del Informe y a las once y media de la noche había hecho seis intervenciones tratando de cambiar los términos del Pacto; todo su esfuerzo por cambiar los términos del Pacto fue por no aceptar la palabra "moral", no sé qué temor le tiene a la "moral". En estos momentos, cuando va a cerrarse el debate la representación de Estados Unidos, después de estar dos días en esas funciones, siendo miembro del Comité de Redacción inclusive, plantea que se reserva totalmente. En aquel momento consideramos que era una actitud negativa.

CHAIRMAN: We cannot have the Drafting Committee now.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Can we discuss the issue at hand, rather than the previous meeting?.

CHAIRMAN: The issue at hand is the deletion of the reference to the delegations of Australia, Canada and the United States from two different places. The suggestion is that it can be deleted in paragraph 51 but retained in the World Food Security Compact; alternatively, that it be deleted in the World Food Security Compact and retained in paragraph 51. These are the two alternatives.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, permítame continuar. Para nosotros la historia tiene valor, por lo tanto nosotros sí nos atenemos a la historia y eso fue historia, que podrán ahora con todos sus poderes eliminarlo de las Actas, pero no podrán borrarlo de la historia de que se pasaron un día entero tratando de eliminar eso, y esa eliminación la valoramos como negativa.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): That is not what we are discussing now. We are discussing the issues as you pose them. We have made very clear what happened at that meeting in our statement. We were doing so to try to speed the work of this Council. Again, I did not repeat the statement but I think we should stick with the issue on hand. We cannot go back - or I could go back to some meeting held five years ago and show that it is relevant.

M. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos terminar diciendo lo siguiente: No aceptamos que se utilice el Informe de un Embajador aquí porque entonces habría que utilizar el Informe de todos los Embajadores, que tenemos el mismo derecho. No aceptamos a nadie por encima de nadie y en ese concepto habría que poner lo que nosotros expresamos en nuestra intervención y ponerlo con nombres y apellidos. Nosotros expresamos que consideramos que su actitud es negativa ante la cooperación internacional; esa fue la reserva, si no se acepta eliminar del pacto la reserva y dejarlo solamente en el Informe, Cuba entonces solicita a motu proprio que se incluya en el Informe la valoración que Cuba da de esa actitud como una reserva, y soberanamente pide que se ponga con nombres y apellidos; Cuba no tiene miedo, lo valora como una actitud negativa ante la cooperación internacional. Esa es su última palabra. En esos términos habrá que incluir nuestro informe aquí en este foro.

CHAIRMAN: Has the Chairman of the Drafting Committee any comment?

J. TCHICAYA (President, Comité de redaction): Je n'ai pas de commentaires à faire, je suis les discussions. Je crois qu'il revient aux membres de notre Conseil de trancher cette question qui désormais en ce point du débat dépasse le Comité de rédaction.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I did not intend to intervene on this issue, but I do feel that our report needs to reflect what has taken place. It is for those countries who could not go along with the World Food Security Compact to make clear how they wish their views to be reflected. I have great sympathy with what has been said by other delegations, who of course also have a right to put any reservations on any texts, which are before us.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Queremos decir en primer lugar que el colega y amigo Embajador Ariza Hidalgo, de Cuba, estaba refiriéndose a la reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial que ha producido este Informe, que es el documento básico del debate. De manera que estaba perfectamente en su derecho.

Segundo: nosotros también compartimos con el colega de Cuba un principio que es defendido inflexiblemente por los representantes de Colombia en todos los foros: Todos los países somos iguales.

El hecho de que se nos cite en las Actas la delegación de un país que es muy importante, y muy respetable, no puede condicionar la decisión de un órgano como éste, integrado por 49 Estados Miembros todos igualmente soberanos.

El Comité de Redacción, ya lo confirmó nuestro Presidente, tomó la decisión de que la reserva de esos países apareciera en el texto del Informe pero no en el texto del Pacto, ese es un hecho, señor Presidente.

Sin embargo, como ya lo hicimos al principio cuando apoyamos a Cuba, podríamos aceptar que se incluyera solamente en la primera parte, o sea en relación con el llamado al final del párrafo 50, y aceptamos esto no obstante que, como lo ha dicho el distinguido Embajador Taleyarkhan de la India, dos de esos tres países parece que proceden con doble moral porque fueron los mismos que en el CPA se opusieron a que el nombre de mi país figurara en un párrafo que era inocente y de carácter positivo.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): I do not wish to enter into this discussion, but my delegation suggests that, as it is now almost 12.30, we move on to the next paragraph and continue this discussion later or alternatively that we adjourn the meeting now, because we feel that outside of the meeting will be the best place to reach a solution or a compromise.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I think the question before us is a very simple one. It is a procedural question: it is a question of whether, in the work of this Council, governments have the right to place reservations on any part of the document or the text within this document. There is nobody in this room who disagrees with that. It seems to me eminently logical, coming out of that, that they should have the right to put that reservation where they think it fit to do so. I think that is the issue, and that is the issue we are discussing. If any one is challenging that, I would find them on extremely weak ground. The issues raised as to names of delegates, I think took place in a totally different context, and is not relevant to this debate.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I would like to support the suggestion by the delegate of Cuba - if he does want to include his own footnote somewhere in the body of page 11, I think that is quite all right. We are not insisting, by any stretch of the imagination, that we somehow have a right that is not available to other countries - so again, to try to keep to the basic issues, let us get that clear now - I am quite prepared, if he wants that there, to go along with it.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo no contaba con su aprobación, señor Presidente, no cuento, no necesito la aprobación de la delegación de Estados Unidos para yo incluir un párrafo aquí en la FAO. Primero - por favor, señora respete, yo la respeto a usted - yo quería expresar, que iba en función de lo expresado por el delegado de Canadá, que tiene toda la razón, en el nombre de mi país pasarle a la Secretaría la valoración que doy a esa reserva y que se incluya en el Informe; yo no quiero que

vaya como tarjeta de presentación al Proyecto. El Proyecto lo discutiremos después, pero que vaya en el Informe porque, repito, al Proyecto le fortalece el que se le pongan esos términos. Nosotros vamos a hacer una contrarreserva en las mismas condiciones que lo hicimos cuando el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, que es una historia viva y que existe aunque quiera negarse la historia.

J. GLISTRUP (Denmark): I did not want to participate in this discussion, but I do believe that the longer we allow it to go on, the longer it will delay the Compact before us. So may I move a motion? It has long been clear to me that the governments who wish to have reservations did not insist on having them in paragraph 51, in the context of the World Food Security Compact; in my book this is a sovereign right. So may I propose that we approve the total text of paragraph 51 as it stands, with the only amendment that the footnote on page 11 is removed and is maintained on the next page.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): Just to say, Mr Chairman, that I agree with the delegate of the United States and the delegate of Cuba, and we seem to have found a way out of this problem. It seems to me perfectly proper for a country delegate to make a statement and to seek to have that statement inserted in a report, particularly on a matter which is so fundamental as this is.

CHAIRMAN: Since the Ambassador of Cuba has indicated he will formulate a sentence, shall we keep this pending at the moment?

Paragraphs 46-51 not concluded

Les paragraphes 46-51 sont en ""suspens

Los párrafos 46-51 quedan pendientes

Paragraphs 52 to 53

Paragraphes 52 à 53

Párrafos 52 a 53

CHAIRMAN: Shall we approve paragraphs 52 and 53, Application for Membership in the Organization? Thank you very much.

Paragraphs 52 and 53 approved

Les paragraphes 52 et 53 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 52 y 53 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I not concluded

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie I est en suspens

Proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte I queda pendiente

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas



## **council**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conseil**

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

## **consejo**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**CL**

CL 111/PV/19

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**Eighty-seventh Session**  
**PLENARY**

**Quatre-vingt-septième session**  
**PLÉNIÈRE**

**87° período de sesiones**  
**PLENARIA**

**NINETEENTH PLENARY MEETING**  
**DIX-NEUVIÈME SEANCE PLENIERE**  
**19ª SESION PLENARIA**  
(28 June 1985)

The Nineteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

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

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

Se abre la 19ª Sesión plenaria a las 14.45 horas bajo la presidencia de M.S. Swaminathan, Presidente Independiente del Consejo

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the afternoon session to order. The Ambassador of Cuba is not yet here, so we will go on to CL 87/REP/2, Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

DRAFT REPORT - PART II

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE II

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE II

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 16

PARAGRAPHEs 1 à 16

PARRAFOS 1 a 16

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): It is the feeling of my delegation that the conclusion in paragraph 1 is not in line with some of the wording which we find later on in paragraphs 9 and 14 and in some of the other paragraphs. Therefore, taking this into account, in this section views of members should be expressed which have been dealt with in the CFS report and repeated here.

It is the view of my delegation that this part could read, "The Council expressed" and so on, "and generally endorsed its conclusions and recommendations". If this view is not supported by other delegations, an alternative could be, "and endorsed its conclusions and recommendations as approved in the report". This would then take account of the views which are in that report. I think the report of the CFS contains some views, for example, about the eventual increase of the IEF target or the paragraph 14 de-linking between the International Wheat Agreement, and the Food Aid Convention. We have to bring these two things in line, our report with that of CFS.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the suggestion of the Federal Republic of Germany - "The Council expressed its appreciation for the Report of the Tenth Session of the Committee on World Food Security ... and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations as contained in that report".

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I find paragraph 1 factual because the matters referred to in the paragraph mentioned by the previous delegation are not conclusions or recommendations. One can well say that this was one of the things discussed but this was not a conclusion or a firm recommendation of the Committee. We are talking about this in respect of the IEF and there is no firm recommendation in this regard, neither was there any firm conclusion in this regard. We say here we endorse the conclusions, but this was not a conclusion. I hope that meets the requirement of the Federal Republic of Germany.

CHAIRMAN: May I recommend to Mr Grabisch that the paragraph only says what it says. By adding the words "once again as contained in the report" is really saying it all once again. The paragraph says, "endorsed its conclusions and recommendations" which really means only the once in the report. So if you do not insist we will go ahead.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Having heard the explanation of the delegate of the Philippines, and having made my point - and the others also feel it would be covered and no misunderstanding could stem therefrom - I have no problem in going along with the text as it stands.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We think it is rather important that the Council document presents a balanced view of the considerations that the Committee went through and therefore we suggest that in picking up only the comments in paragraph 30 of the CFS report, CL 87/10, the Council's Draft Report omits an important qualification in paragraph 32 of the CFS report to which my delegation, amongst others, attaches particular importance. This is the potential danger of structural food aid. I would like to see this covered in the Council report. We have all listened to many delegates from countries with food deficit problems who welcome food aid, but who also stress the need to see it in the context of increasing production, and not producing the wrong sort of dependency.

Therefore, I suggest the addition of a new sentence in paragraph 6 as follows:

"It noted that some members had drawn the Committee's attention to the potential dangers of structural food aid, and that the Committee had stressed the need for higher priority to rural development."

Council will recognize that this is very much the wording used in paragraph 32 of CL 87/10.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I would like to support the addition proposed by the delegate of the United Kingdom.

J. TCHICAYA (President, Comité de rédaction): Je n'ai pas bien compris ce que vous proposez, mais ce dont je suis certain c'est que ce qui figure à ce paragraphe 6 est ce que nous avons discuté et par conséquent nous, Comité de rédaction, retenons que l'on doit accepter ce qui figure à ce paragraphe 6.

L'ajout fait par le Royaume-Uni est un ajout sur lequel nous n'avons pas décidé quoi que ce soit. Il appartient donc au Conseil d'examiner cet amendement et de voir si on peut l'ajouter à la fin de ce paragraphe.

Je voudrais avoir l'avis des membres du Conseil, dans la mesure où cela n'a pas été décidé au niveau de notre Comité, et je n'ose donc pas me prononcer à la place des membres du Conseil.

H. CARADANG (Philippines): I know the words being proposed by the delegation of the United Kingdom are verbatim in the report of the Committee on World Food Security. the only thing I do not remember is whether attention was called to this in the debate on this matter. If it was, it could be added to the report.

R.C. SERSALE' DI CERISANO (Argentina): No tenemos nada en particular contra este agregado, pero por lo menos parece que cuando se dijo esa cuestión en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial se dijo en un contexto que no era exactamente el mismo al del párrafo 6 que estamos analizando., En todo caso podríamos poner todo el párrafo 32 como nuevo, pero preferiríamos que el párrafo 6 quede como está porque es un llamado a los aportes en ayuda alimentaria.

Hay una cuestión que nos damos cuenta ahora. Se dice: una ayuda alimentaria estructural, al menos en español. Preferiríamos la palabra "institucional"; pero no tenemos ningún problema en que se acepte. El párrafo 6 desearíamos dejarlo como está.

CHAIRMAN: I tend to agree with the delegate of Argentina. Some of the sentence does not fit in exactly with what is immediately following so it could be a separate enclave as the delegate of Argentina suggests.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): This is an example of the danger of lifting words out of context in a document, as was done with the paragraph as it stands. Obviously this was quite important for some delegations, but we now have a selective rendition put into this context and changed a little and it comes out a bit differently as a result. The point that the delegate of the United Kingdom was making was that if we are to have essentially an observation word-for-word out of one document we should put the whole thing in, otherwise we should come up with a different formulation.

CHAIRMAN: Let us not spend too much time on drafting since the emphasis on rural development, the need for higher priority on rural development, seems to be something on which everybody is in agreement, so let us leave it there as it was in the original report. So paragraph 6 as amended is approved.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): In the English version I have found one of those rare occasions when there is a typographical error in a Secretariat document. If you look at the last word on page 3 it ought to be corrected.

CHAIRMAN: "Achene" is a botanical word, it is the fruit of a plant. Paragraph 9, with the correction is approved.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Paragraph 12 is a more substantial question. I tried to review my notes and the excellent note that the Secretariat made available, and I have not been able to identify where in the discussion the issue of the Cereal Financing Facility came up. Perhaps it was there, but if the need for liberalization was stressed, I think that would be something that would have to be stressed by several delegations rather than being just a blanket endorsement by the Council.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Nous n'avons pas eu de problème à adopter ce paragraphe 12. Par conséquent, je propose qu'il soit adopté en l'état.

CHAIRMAN: Since the United States is also a member of the Drafting Committee, would you leave it as it is?

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): The United States will have to take a reservation on this paragraph for the reasons that we cited when this issue was discussed. We believe that this subject is inappropriate for the FAO Council to consider and, therefore, we must reserve on paragraph 15.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Lorsque j'ai présenté cette question ce matin, j'ai clairement indiqué que tout le Comité de rédaction n'était pas d'accord sur cet aspect de la question, mais que nous avions également autorisé les Etats-Unis à intervenir au cours de la plénière pour faire prévaloir leur point de vue. C'est ce que j'ai dit ce matin et cela reste.

Maintenant, il vous appartient à vous de décider si oui ou non on doit faire ce que les Etats-Unis proposent.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Otra reserva, señor Presidente, nosotros queremos preguntar cuáles son las razones de este tema. Aquí no se trata de ningún tema específico, se está recogiendo en un informe del Consejo lo expresado por más de nueve países que consideraron que el embargo comercial contra Nicaragua era una limitación a la seguridad alimentaria. En función de eso, soberanamente nueve países han expresado eso y se recoge en el párrafo. Esto no es un tema político, es un tema económico ya que lo que llevan los barcos no son problemas políticos, superficiales, lo que llevan los barcos es comida. Es un problema económico utilizado como arma política, y eso es distinto y creemos que este párrafo está más suavizado que lo que se expresó en esta Sala referente a la cuestión número 2 del SELA. Creo que es un párrafo bastante de compromiso. Aquí se dice: "Que algunos Miembros manifestaron su preocupación". Ese embargo está impuesto por razones políticas y creo que la forma en que se expresó la representante de Estados Unidos garantiza que es un problema político, ya que no hay otra razón para impedir que lleguen estos productos.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous sommes en train de nous poser la question de savoir où se situe la difficulté.

La première phrase commence par: "Certains membres ...".

La deuxième phrase commence par: "Certains autres ...".

Je ne sais pas exactement ce qu'on veut que nous fassions. Nous nous souvenons qu'en séance plénière la question avait été évoquée et effectivement il n'y avait pas eu consensus. Les appréciations de la question ont été divergentes. Il me semble que le paragraphe 15 reprend bien cette divergence dans la mesure où il est dit: un groupe de pays a dit ceci, un autre groupe a dit autre chose. Je ne vois pas ce qu'on peut faire de mieux - je crois comprendre que la délégation qui demande que l'on fasse la réserve est comprise dans les "certains autres" - à moins que l'on ne veuille remplacer "certains autres" par le nombre exact des pays qui font cette réserve, mais il faudrait faire alors également une liste des pays qui se sont déclarés préoccupés. Est-ce que nous sommes prêts à faire deux listes pour ce paragraphe dont l'une comprendrait trente délégations? Il faut que l'on se comprenne.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind the Council members that this report to the Council derives its authority from the verbatim proceedings of the Council. It has to be a faithful record of what happened in the Council.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): El máximo órgano de la FAO ha consagrado un principio: el de no usar los alimentos como instrumento de presión política. A ese principio nueve países hemos hecho referencia y subrayado una situación que agrava, de manera quizás incontrolada, la circunstancia de la inseguridad alimentaria en la region Centroamericana, particularmente contra Nicaragua.

Esas delegaciones hicimos expresión de ese principio y México, entre otras, de la necesidad de resolver esos problemas en el diálogo, en el respeto y con el proposito de la paz. Ahora una delegación se opone a un párrafo negociado sin ver quizás que al oponerse mediante reserva entra en contradicción consigo misma y con el contenido de su reserva porque este párrafo dice en su última oración: "Otros Miembros lamentaron la introducción de factores políticos en los debates técnicos del Consejo". Si la razón de la reserva es precisamente subrayar lo que ya se dice en el párrafo, lo contradice y tenemos dos posibilidades: una, eliminar la última oración de este párrafo y aceptar la reserva de esa delegación; o, dos, que se conforme de acuerdo a lo pactado en el Comité de Redacción al texto que este párrafo describe y que debemos entender a todos debe satisfacer, porque lo único que hace es reproducir el debate.

Por tanto, señor Presidente, la delegación de México insiste en que este párrafo, negociado con todo cuidado, y que es una respuesta a un principio, sea respetado por todas las delegaciones.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): It was precisely to avoid this sort of debate that I proposed that we place a reservation on this paragraph. It is the subject matter, Mr Chairman, the issue. It is not a word, it is not a phrase, it is the issue. We simply do not believe that this issue belongs in this hall. That is why I have taken the step that I have taken in an attempt to avoid this debate.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr Chairman, I take the floor on this matter reluctantly. We had hoped that there would not be too many difficulties for delegations with the wish of one delegation to put its reserve on paragraph 15. We had hoped that we would not go into this subject, particularly with regard to the latter part of the first sentence where a Resolution is being quoted. Unfortunately, in that case my delegation would also have to put a reserve because 19 members did put a reserve on that Resolution when it was adopted by the General Assembly. We very much hope that the wish of one delegation will be taken into consideration and that we can continue with the adoption of the report.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I now hesitate to put forward my opinion after hearing the comments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States. In fact, 19 members out of 156 is not enough. I was going to suggest the deletion from this paragraph of "for political reasons" in the first sentence. I would hope that this would please everybody, including the United States and that they would remove their reservation.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En primer lugar, queremos confirmar la adhesión del Gobierno de Colombia a los principios que fueron enunciados por nuestro colega de México en el sentido de que no aceptamos que los alimentos se usen como arma de presión política.

Seguramente fue ese principio el que llevo a la gran mayoría de los países de América Latina y el Caribe a adoptar la decisión del Sistema Económico Latino Americano, cuyos términos esenciales presentamos a este Consejo. Lo hicimos con alto sentido de responsabilidad y seguimos empeñados en no prolongar este debate ni intensificar sus características.

La reciente propuesta de nuestro colega y amigo el Embajador Bukhari, de Arabia Saudita, nos ha estimulado a presentar un texto que ojalá pueda lograr el acuerdo del Consejo, texto que presentaremos bajo la sola responsabilidad de la Delegación de Colombia, un poco en contra de mi propia voluntad y tampoco muy seguro de que interprete el sentimiento de los otros compañeros de la región. Sin embargo, estamos tratando de evitar reservas y de que avancemos en nuestro trabajo.

En primer lugar podríamos adoptar la propuesta del distinguido colega el Embajador de Arabia Saudita y suprimir las cuatro palabras "impuesto por razones políticas". Luego al final de la primera fase del párrafo 15 se pondría una coma donde dice "Naciones Unidas", y se agregaría "tal como fue adoptada". Esa expresión se adoptó en el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación en la última reunión en París y significa garantía para aquellos países que no suscribieron esa Resolución.

Y luego la última frase debería modificar obviamente al eliminar las razones políticas y diría de la siguiente manera: "otros miembros lamentaron la introducción de este asunto en los debates del Consejo".

Hemos hecho, señor Presidente, sinceramente un máximo esfuerzo que en cierta medida contraría nuestra condición política que es muy definida, pero queremos contribuir a que un debate como éste no se prolongue y se logre un acuerdo.

CHAIRMAN: I hope that members are clear on what is now under discussion and what the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia has proposed. If you agree with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia and the Ambassador of Colombia, the paragraph would read as follows: "Some members expressed their concern at the fact that the trade embargo against Nicaragua affected the food security of that country, and in this connection they stressed the concepts embodied in Resolution 39/210 of the General Assembly of the United Nations", and also of the one adopted at the last meeting of the World Food Council. "Some other members regretted the introduction of this matter into the discussions of the Council." I may not however have understood the translation correctly - perhaps you would repeat what you said about the World Food Council.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, usted ha transcrito casi textualmente mi texto, pero fue mi culpa porque después de la propuesta hice una explicación que tal vez no fue oportuna en ese momento. Se trata, después de "Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas" poner una coma y agregar las palabras "tal como fue adoptada". Esto es lo único que proponemos, y dije que esa fórmula fue adoptada en París en el Consejo Mundial y tal vez eso fue lo que le confundió a usted, pero fue mío el error. Obviamente, se pondrá solamente "tal como fue adoptada".

CHAIRMAN: May I have the views of the United States on this matter please.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I appreciate the efforts which some delegations have made to try to change the language here, but, as I indicated earlier, it was not a question of language but a question of issue. I too do not want to prolong the debate - I too do not wish to heat up the debate; I must therefore return to my original proposition which was that the United States would take a reservation on this particular paragraph.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (Mexico): La delegación de México aprecia en todo lo que vale la propuesta de enmienda de la delegación de Arabia Saudita y de Colombia porque consideramos que así se resolvía un problema que tenía una delegación para aceptar este párrafo, ya de por sí equilibrado, ya de por sí sensato. Pero vemos que tampoco estos esfuerzos le permiten a esa delegación aceptar el párrafo, aunque sigue incurriendo en una contradicción de principio. Pero, en fin, si la delegación correspondiente desea insistir en la reserva tendremos que eliminar la última oración porque de otra manera lo que dije es contradictorio con la oración última y en nuestro entender termina el texto "tal como fue acordado" o sin "tal como fue acordado" y poner la reserva de la delegación de Estados Unidos.

Entonces, suplicamos, señor Presidente, someta usted a consideración del Consejo el que se deje este párrafo pero sin la última oración porque ya se está haciendo una reserva sobre lo que dice la última oración.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the counter proposal of Mexico, that the paragraph ends with "the United Nations has adopted", and the reservation of the United States in the last sentence is then deleted.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Lamentamos tener que intervenir en este tema ya que lo hicimos repetidas veces y en la reunión del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación de París se produjo un desgaste muy grande.

Nosotros, ya lo hemos dicho al tratar ese tema durante el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, deplorábamos este tipo de hechos y dábamos apoyo a este párrafo de Nicaragua o a cualquier otro donde se destacaba esta cuestión. En relación a la propuesta de México consideramos que es la mejor manera de salir de esta situación en que nos encontramos y entonces diríamos que la frase terminará en "tal como fue adoptada", de manera que, entonces, así se salvaría a los países que votaron en contra de la Resolución 39/210 en la Asamblea General.

Para no repetir aquí discusiones que ya tuvimos en el Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación queremos recordar que aunque hayan votado en contra de la Resolución, ésta es válida, esa Resolución fue aprobada por más de dos tercios de los Países Miembros en la Asamblea General durante el último período de sesiones. Por tanto, consideramos el argumento por qué votaron en contra, se oponen, eso no es ni siquiera jurídicamente válido desde el punto de vista del Derecho Público Internacional.

Además del significado en sí de la Resolución es por lo que nosotros creemos que la mejor manera de salir adelante es terminar la frase "tal como fue adoptada", sacar la frase que dice "Otros miembros" y quienes quieran puedan hacer la reserva que así lo entiendan, eso corre por cuenta de ellos.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italia): Mon pays est un de ceux qui n'ont pas approuvé la résolution 39/210. C'est pour cette raison que nous nous sommes réservés à l'occasion de la session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation à Paris. Toutefois, je pense que l'Italie pourrait accepter les amendements présentés ensemble finalement par le délégué de la Colombie. Mais naturellement nous ne sommes pas prêts du tout à accepter qu'on biffe la dernière phrase parce que pour nous elle va essentiellement dans le sens où moi-même, lorsque je dirigeais les discussions du Conseil sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour, j'ai insisté pour que ce thème soit ignoré, traité de la façon la plus douce, la plus suave possible.

La position de certains pays, dont l'Italie, est reflétée dans le rapport et cette réflexion est contenue dans la phrase finale du par. 15. Certains autres pays ont regretté l'introduction de ce thème dans les discussions techniques du Conseil. Finalement, je remercie même la délégation colombienne pour sa proposition que je suis prêt à accepter à la condition que la dernière phrase ne soit pas biffée.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: J'hésite à intervenir dans cette affaire qui est très délicate. Je crois que chaque pays ici présent a le droit de faire des réserves. On ne peut pas empêcher un pays de faire des réserves, mais dans le cas actuel la réserve est contradictoire, comme l'a dit l'Ambassadeur du Mexique, parce qu'elle porte sur les deux parties du paragraphe. Je crois que la réserve concerne essentiellement la première partie du paragraphe. Je crois que la réserve concerne aussi la seconde partie.

Je demande aux délégués, parce que je dois partir et dire quelques mots, c'est dans mon intérêt, qu'on en termine avec ce texte. La réserve des Etats-Unis, pour certains et pour moi aussi, comporte une ambiguïté. Pour les Etats-Unis, s'ils sont satisfaits ainsi, qu'ils le fassent.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): En introduisant cette question, nous avons perdu beaucoup de temps pour aboutir au fait qu'il fallait laisser les Etats-Unis agir en plénière comme ils l'entendaient. Par conséquent, nous pensons pouvoir accepter leurs réserves mais je dois avouer que ces réserves sont quelque peu entachées par le fait qu'on garde la dernière phrase du paragraphe, parce que je pense que les réserves des Etats-Unis portent essentiellement sur la première phrase et je ne pense pas qu'elles puissent porter sur la seconde puisque ceux-là qui ont voté en faveur de la résolution des Etats-Unis font partie de leurs amis. Je crois qu'on ne peut pas laisser la phrase

en l'état et accepter ensuite les réserves, ce serait contradictoire. La logique voudrait qu' ' on biffe la dernière phrase parce qu'elle a été rédigée dans un sens de compromis que tout le monde pourrait accepter, les Etats-Unis et ceux qui se sont opposés, à l'Assemblée générale, à cette résolution. Mais si les Etats-Unis maintiennent leurs réserves, je crois que logiquement on devrait biffer la dernière phrase et je signale qu'en fait au CMA on a adopté un paragraphe similaire, même peut-être plus fort que celui-ci.

Enfin, je crois que tous ces éléments ont été portés à l'attention des membres du Comité pour les amener à décider.

CHAIRMAN: May I just point out that the last sentence begins "Some other members...". It is more than one: if it was one member then the question arises. Some of the others have said they do not agree to it, so it is in the plural here - it is not one country. We must remember that it says that it requires the concurrence of all of them, not just one. Can we adopt the Director-General's suggestion that we just retain the paragraph as it is, with the reservation of the United States?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Por mi parte podemos aceptar el párrafo tal como está. No quiero seguir discutiendo. Creo que podíamos intervenir después de que se pongan de acuerdo ellos, que son los que están en contradicción. Nosotros no vamos a entrar en si hay reservas o no hay reservas. Para nosotros el párrafo, tal como está, es totalmente correcto.

CHAIRMAN: Would you like to maintain the reservation, United States?

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Mr Chairman, just to repeat now, for the third time, so that we can end the discussion on the state of my mind, whether logical or otherwise. My opposition, sir, is not to the words. I think I said that two times previously and I will say it again. Our opposition is not to the words, but to the concept, and whether these words were introduced in a spirit of compromise or not, the last sentence I leave to others to decide. I was under the impression that the Report was to be an accurate reflection of the discussion.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: If you could kindly give us the text of the reservation; what is the wording exactly?

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I assume we are talking about a footnote.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Yes.

CHAIRMAN: What the Director-General is asking is in what language would you like the reservation to be expressed in the report.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): "The delegation of the United States expressed its reservation on this paragraph because it represented the introduction of an inappropriate issue into the proceedings of the FAO Council".

CHAIRMAN: Well you have heard the reservation expressed by the United States. "The delegation of the United States of America takes a reservation on this paragraph - that is paragraph 15 -because it represents the introduction of an inappropriate issue in the proceedings of the FAO Council".



J. POSIER (France): Merci Monsieur le Président, je m'excuse de revenir au paragraphe 15, mais nous ne savons pas quel texte a été adopté. Est-ce le texte tel que prévu dans le projet de rapport au paragraphe 15, ou est-ce le texte, compte tenu de amendements, des modifications qui ont été proposées par M. l'Ambassadeur de l'Arabie Saoudite et par M. l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos? En effet il y a eu deux propositions auxquelles je rends hommage, qui ont été faites dans un esprit constructif et dans un esprit de compromis et il serait dommage qu'il n'en soit pas tenu compte.

C'est la question que je pose: en est-il tenu compte, ou est-ce que nous adoptons le paragraphe en l'état avec, en plus, la réserve des Etats-Unis?

CHAIRMAN: The paragraph is intact because the suggestions of the Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and Colombia were to find a method by which the United States could withdraw its reservation. Since the US delegate has clearly stated it has nothing to do with the basic issue therefore the paragraph as drafted by the Drafting Committee stands with the reservation expressed by the delegate from the United States of America. This is my understanding.

J. POSIER (France): Sur ce point, en ce qui concerne la délégation française, elle aurait souhaité ne pas intervenir dans ce débat, mais je réitère le propos que je viens de tenir. En ce qui nous concerne - je pense que nous ne devons pas être les seuls - nous souhaiterions qu'il soit tenu compte des propositions d'amendements énoncées par le représentant de l'Arabie Saoudite et par M. Bula Hoyos, à savoir: supprimer le terme "décider", pour des raisons politiques et ensuite, ajouter après: "de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies": "telle qu'elle a été adoptée". Je ne vois pas qui pourrait s'opposer à cet amendement par la Colombie, par M. Bula Hoyos.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo comprendo realmente a la distinguida representación de Francia, que inteligentemente trata de salvar una situación, pero que no se logró salvar y es lo que nosotros apuntamos. Si se ponen de acuerdo los miembros que lamentaron la introducción de la parte política, nosotros lo aceptamos, pero si no se ponen de acuerdo, hay que aceptar totalmente las reservas soberanas que Estados Unidos ha hecho sobre el párrafo completo. No podemos aceptar una cosa u otra y pararnos en si Francia lo acepta aparte de los Estados Unidos. Eso sería una variante que podría interesar.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous regrettons d'avoir à reprendre la parole sur cette question car, comme l'a dit notre Président du Comité de rédaction, nous avons dû passer beaucoup de temps là-dessus. Nous avons pensé qu'il s'agissait d'un problème rédactionnel. On nous a donné la certitude qu'en fait, c'est une position de principe sur laquelle il n'est pas possible de négocier. C'est pour cela que nous pensons qu'il ne faut pas, comme dit souvent notre ami Bula Hoyos, recourir à cette politique du "salami" que l'on veut couper et recouper, en demandant que l'on prenne soit le quart soit le tiers.

Je crois que les Etats-Unis se sont exprimés de façon claire et, par conséquent, ne cherchons pas, puisque nous ne pouvons pas arriver à un compromis, à modifier. Je crois qu'il faut accepter le texte proposé par le Secrétariat, encore qu'il soit déséquilibré, parce qu'après discussion, je pense que ce texte aurait dû être modifié ainsi: "plusieurs Membres se sont déclarés préoccupés", la seconde phrase pouvant rester en l'état: "certains autres Membres ...". Ce serait plus juste. Pour me résumer, je pense qu'il faudrait mettre: "Plusieurs Membres" au début de la phrase, garder le texte en l'état en ce qui concerne la deuxième phrase et accepter la position de principe des Etats-Unis qui se traduirait par une note en bas de page comme quoi, par principe, les Etats-Unis n'ont pas accepté le principe retenu dans ce paragraphe 15.

J. POSIER (France): Pour ne pas éterniser les débats je voudrais simplement dire que nous comprenons les différents points de vue en présence et que finalement nous n'avons pas d'objections majeures à ce que l'on maintienne le texte du paragraphe 15. Simplement, je pensais qu'il aurait été possible de retenir les deux excellentes suggestions faites par l'Arabie Saoudite et par la Colombie. Si ces suggestions ne recueillent pas un agrément, nous considérons la chose comme étant réglée.

CHAIRMAN: Would this be agreeable to everyone, that we leave the paragraph as it is, with the reservation of the United States.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I also wanted to express appreciation to the Ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and Colombia for their important and constructive suggestions for the rest of us on this issue. We were prepared to accept the Colombian proposal, in fact we had the intention ourselves of adding the two words "as adopted" because we were one of the 19 who on Resolution 39/210 had reserved.

We could not agree with the deletion of the last sentence as someone has proposed, and that said, even though we have excellent relationships with Nicaragua, our concern is with the introduction of political factors. When my good friend, Ambassador Bukhari of Saudi Arabia says 19 out of 156 is not enough, the Director-General is right, one is enough. If one country feels strongly enough then that country is entitled to put in its reservation, and I do not think we should have an abnormal concern with a consensus.

I would like to see if there are other members who would be at least willing to leave in the words that have been suggested by Colombia, and I think Ambassador Posier of France is very correct in pursuing that for the rest of us.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I too echo the welcome that we feel we can give to the formulation that was proposed by Saudi Arabia and Colombia. Like other countries we wish to see the second sentence in the paragraph retained and we welcome the adroitness in which the Saudi Arabian delegation and the Colombian delegation sought to obtain a suitable compromise.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Nous avons adopté la même position que la France et le Canada et même maintenant celle du Royaume-Uni depuis que je viens de l'écouter.

Je pense que les modifications suggérées par l'Arabie Saoudite et la Colombie sont excellentes et que l'on pourrait approuver ce texte avec ces modifications.

Je tiens surtout à la modification après les mots "Nations Unies": "telle qu'elle a été adoptée". Je tiens au moins à cette modification.

O.R. da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I share the view of the representative of France in that the suggestion made by Saudi Arabia which is supported and expanded by Colombia, made a good deal of sense, and I would support this first intervention of the French delegate. I am prepared as well to support his second intervention when he said he would be prepared not to press if that would not solve anything, but I would really think that he was quite right in his first intervention. In fact I think that the Colombian suggestion has improved the paragraph, a paragraph that, each time we discuss it, appears to have less meaning. In fact I am not even sure about the exact meaning of the last sentence in paragraph 15. If I am not mistaken and as far as I can recollect, during the discussions here it was pointed out, and the Chairman at that time, the Italian Ambassador, rightly pointed out to us that he felt that it was not desirable for the introduction of political elements into the discussions unless we would consider the matter in a very discreet manner, and I think that that was the way discussions were held at that time.

I may be mistaken, but I cannot really recollect some members regretting the introduction of these so-called political factors into the technical discussions of the Council. As far as I can recollect, that was a mention made by the Chairman at that time.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Señor Presidente: este asunto ya estaba resuelto una vez que se determinó que, a pesar de los buenos oficios de las delegaciones de Arabia Saudita y Colombia, la delegación de Estados Unidos mantenía sus reservas a pesar de las contradicciones de principio y lo que ello implicaba. En consecuencia, usted ya había puesto a consideración de ese Consejo el párrafo tal como está expresado aquí en el texto, con las reservas de los Estados Unidos.

La delegación de México, y pensamos que con nosotros otras que hablaron también respecto de esto, no estamos dispuestos ya a negociar lo que nosotros dijimos y que se expone aquí a nombre nuestro o a título nuestro. Se dice aquí que algunos miembros manifestaron por qué las delegaciones que no hablaron quieren a lo mejor un texto que fue propuesto como un término de transacción por parte de las delegaciones de Arabia Saudita y Colombia. Nosotros consideramos que el texto ya como está es suficiente y ha sido reducido a su mínima expresión. Nosotros hablamos de muchas otras cosas, señor Presidente. Solicitamos, por tanto, que vuelva a pedir a este Consejo que acepte ya este párrafo que después de largas horas de discusión se llevó al Comité de Redacción con las reservas de los Estados Unidos; que pasemos a otro punto y permitamos que el Director General nos dirija algunas palabras.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation wishes first to thank the Director-General for his intervention, because he has always shown great interest that we in our Organization concentrate on our proper and great work which we have to do. Having said that, we could go along with the paragraph as it stands, of course leaving every delegation to make its reservations. But we do feel that the proposal made by Colombia, namely to insert after "United Nations" the words "as adopted", was a good proposal and it could not meet with great opposition, because this is the normal procedure of the United Nations. But we do not like to create any problems.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je dois prendre l'avion à cinq heures. Mon intervention va peut-être aider certains pays à ne pas insister pour empêcher les Etats Membres d'exprimer leur point de vue sous forme de réserve.

Je vais intervenir maintenant auprès des autres pays. J'estime qu'il n'est pas logique qu'un groupe de pays puisse obliger d'autres pays à s'exprimer de la façon qu'ils le souhaitent.

Je me demande si L'Arabie Saoudite et la Colombie maintiennent leur proposition de changer le début du paragraphe 15. Ils avaient émis cette suggestion dans l'idée de convaincre les Etats-Unis de ne pas insister sur leur réserve. Maintenant les Etats-Unis ont émis leur réserve et il faut être juste. Il faut laisser certains pays membres exprimer ce qu'ils veulent... On a peut-être donné plus de place à cette affaire que certains auraient souhaité le faire... d'autres en sont peut-être contents mais je crois que le texte est très mesuré maintenant et qu'il a même été renforcé. Les Etats-Unis ont exprimé leur point de vue et les mots qu'ils ont employés vont être inclus. C'est le droit de chaque Etat de faire des réserves. Je présume que l'Arabie Saoudite et la Colombie voudront retirer leurs amendements qu'ils avaient proposés seulement en vue de trouver un compromis. Et maintenant, si vous le permettez, comme je pense que vous allez tomber d'accord sur ce paragraphe 15, je voudrais dire quelques mots avant de vous quitter. Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de dire quelques mots à la fin, ou presque, de ce Conseil. J'aurais aimé être avec vous jusqu'à la clôture de cette session. Malheureusement, je dois partir, dans quelques instants, pour le Mexique où je participerai, avec le Président de la République, à l'inauguration du Congrès Forestier Mondial. D'ailleurs plusieurs d'entre vous vont aussi partir et quitter Rome ce soir ou demain.

J'ai assisté à vos délibérations autant que mes autres obligations me l'ont permis, car je dois quand même continuer à diriger cette organisation, pendant que le Conseil délibère. De plus, j'ai rencontré individuellement un grand nombre d'entre vous, qui ont souhaité me voir dans mon bureau. J'ai eu le plaisir de les rencontrer, de les écouter et d'essayer de répondre à leurs désirs.

Chacun a pu librement exprimer ici son point de vue dans la tolérance et le respect mutuels comme il convient à ce type de rencontre. Pourtant, la tâche n'était pas facile. Vous aviez à traiter de sujets importants et délicats. Mais vous avez su préparer la voie d'une Conférence, je l'espère, fructueuse, que des chefs d'Etat prestigieux honoreront de leur présence à l'occasion du 40ème anniversaire de la FAO.

Permettez-moi de citer quelques-uns des principaux points que vous avez traités. Tout d'abord, le projet de Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire. La sécurité alimentaire doit être notre obsession. La Conférence alimentaire mondiale en 1974, et l'Assemblée Générale qui a suivi, ont confié la responsabilité de ce sujet à la FAO et au seul comité qui s'en occupe, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire.

Depuis quelques années, cette notion a énormément progressé dans la conscience collective. Le Manifeste des Prix Nobel s'y est référé. Plusieurs Parlements nationaux en ont débattu. Des mouvements d'opinion s'en sont saisi.

Je suis content de constater que les travaux de la FAO ont largement contribué à cette prise de conscience. Et le temps est certainement venu de donner forme à ce concept de sécurité alimentaire, de couler dans un texte simple, mais solennel, les principes de base sur lesquels toutes les bonnes volontés peuvent se rassembler.

C'est l'objet de ce Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire, déclaration de portée morale et de valeur universelle. Tranchant sur le cynisme ambiant, il est l'expression éthique d'une aspiration élémentaire: le droit de se nourrir. Pour parodier une réplique célèbre, je dirais que la FAO n'a pas de régiments, mais qu'elle a des principes. L'activité humaine, sans référence morale, a trop vite tendance à dégénérer en égoïsme.

Ne sous-estimons donc pas la portée de ce texte qui est, avant tout, un acte de foi dans un avenir meilleur.

Un autre texte important dont vous avez délibéré est le Code de conduite sur la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

L'utilisation des intrants est la clef d'une haute productivité agricole. Les pesticides ont, dès lors, un rôle important à jouer. Il importe d'assurer que la production, les pratiques commerciales, l'utilisation de ces pesticides se fassent dans les meilleures conditions. Les dérèglements que l'on connaît parfois aujourd'hui ne peuvent se perpétuer. Le drame de Bhopal nous rappelle qu'il y a des précautions à prendre. Les écologistes ont raison d'être vigilants. Ce Code sera donc une protection pour tous, pour les producteurs que le marché ne sera pas faussé, pour les utilisateurs, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement, que leur sécurité sera sauvegardée.

C'est pour cela que j'ai pris l'initiative de présenter ce Code. Ce Code répond à un besoin du moment. La FAO a fait oeuvre de pionnier en l'occurrence et nous pouvons tous nous en féliciter.

D'ailleurs, le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire répond aussi à un besoin du moment. L'actualité mondiale demandait que la FAO puisse formuler un code de principes sur la sécurité alimentaire. Après dix ans que ce Comité de la sécurité alimentaire existe, nous sommes allés avec notre temps en vous proposant ce document. Je suis content que votre Conseil l'ait approuvé, et j'espère que la Conférence le ratifiera.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais remercier les pays membres de l'organisation pour leur appui à ma proposition d'utiliser jusqu'à 15 millions de dollars d'économies au financement de projets de relance agricole en Afrique. Je suis persuadé que les pays africains concernés apprécient ce geste. L'Afrique, en tout cas, va rester au centre de nos préoccupations. Pour ma part, je vais saisir deux occasions toutes proches pour plaider encore en sa faveur. Je me réfère au Sommet de l'OUA qui va avoir lieu à Addis-Abeba à la mi-juillet et à l'ECOSOC qui consacrera la dernière semaine de sa session à ce continent.

Par ailleurs, j'ai noté avec appréciation les remarques positives du Conseil concernant la mise en oeuvre des décisions de l'Equipe spéciale Nations Unies/FAO sur le PAM. Le Directeur exécutif et moi-même estimons que cette mise en oeuvre progresse bien. Nous pouvons donc légitimement nous attendre à l'appui de tous les Etats Membres, sans exception.

Monsieur le Président, un dernier mot enfin concernant le budget. J'ai déjà souligné dans d'autres interventions les justifications techniques, économiques et sur le plan de l'assistance qui militent en faveur des propositions soumises à votre considération.

Je rappellerai seulement ici dans quelles perspectives budgétaires il convient de les considérer.

Avec un budget pratiquement en croissance zéro en termes réels, le biennium 1984/85 a coûté aux Etats Membres, par rapport à 1982/83 quelque 40 millions de dollars de plus. Voilà ce qu'a coûté le budget croissance zéro 1984/85.

En 1986/87, avec une croissance nette de programme de 1,4 pour cent (même pas 1,5), mais surtout de 3,8 pour cent pour ce qui concerne les programmes techniques et économiques, le budget 1986/87, paradoxalement, coûtera cependant moins cher en dollars pour les Etats Membres que le budget 1984/85.

A l'adresse des pays tenants de la croissance zéro, et il y en a, je voudrais dire que ceci n'avait peut-être pas été clairement perçu dans vos capitales au moment où vos instructions ont été préparées. Le budget que je propose est en croissance budgétaire zéro, croissance contribution zéro. Il devrait donc vous satisfaire, car je n'ai jamais entendu personne se faire l'avocat d'une croissance zéro de programme et j'espère que ce ne sera pas le cas.

Je suis persuadé qu'à votre retour, après les éclaircissements que je viens de donner, il sera plus facile à vos gouvernements de se joindre au consensus qui, je l'espère, sera total et entier à la Conférence.

C'est dans la perspective d'un moindre déboursement pour un programme en croissance que mes propositions doivent être considérées. J'ai confiance qu'en dernière analyse, elles recueilleront l'adhésion de la Conférence tout entière, par un consensus que j'appelle de mes vœux.

Monsieur le Président, distingués Délégués et Observateurs, le temps pour moi est venu de vous laisser. Je remercie toutes les délégations pour leur participation active à nos travaux. A ceux qui viennent des capitales, je souhaite un retour sans encombre et vous donne rendez-vous à tous et à toutes en novembre prochain.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We wish you a very pleasant journey to Mexico. We will now continue our discussion. Have we agreed that paragraph 15 remains as it is with the reservation put in by the delegation of the United States?

R. SALLERY (Canada): I am not certain whether the Colombian and the Saudi Arabian amendments have been withdrawn or not, as suggested by the Director-General. As I indicated in my first intervention, we also were about to make that one simple addition of "as adopted" following "United Nations". It is quite a simple, straight forward procedure followed in United Nations bodies. So if the Colombian proposal is withdrawn, I am proposing for the consideration of Council we add those two simple words.

J. GLISTRUP (Denmark): I did not participate in the debate because I thought we could have found a solution to this. We, for one, and I believe many other delegations, would like to keep political issues out of this. What we are embarking on here is to make a report of what took place in the Council. Indeed, I was very grateful to the delegations of Saudi Arabia and Colombia for their proposals. I believe these are now withdrawn because of the United States reservations, so I also suggest that the words "as adopted" after "United Nations" should remain in the text, which would be only normal practice.

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): Por última vez, señor Presidente, volvemos a reiterar que nosotros entendíamos y entendemos las propuestas de Arabia Saudita y Colombia, que fueron de buena fe y de transacción y solamente para evitar que una delegación estableciera sus reservas; sin embargo, le pedimos a aquella delegación que está incluida dentro de la segunda parte de este párrafo que habla de otros Miembros, que respeten lo que algunos Miembros dijeron, porque no vamos a hacer más consideraciones y modificaciones sobre lo que ellos dijeron.

Sobre la segunda parte del párrafo solicito que respeten algunas delegaciones, recogidas en la primera parte del párrafo y que no insistan más en modificar este párrafo y que se acepte tal cual. En última instancia, si no les parece bien, que expongan sus reservas y pasemos a otro punto.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je viens d'écouter le représentant du Mexique. Je crois que si on se limite à demander simplement que l'on ajoute "as adopted" ou "telle qu'elle a été adoptée", cela ne change pas du tout le sens de la première ou de la deuxième partie du paragraphe 15. Donc, je pense que le meilleur système pour sortir de cette discussion serait d'adopter ce paragraphe tel qu'il nous est proposé dans le texte du Comité de rédaction, en ajoutant simplement: "telle qu'elle a été adoptée". Ensuite, nous pourrions continuer nos débats.

R. C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): Si a usted le parece, señor Presidente, haríamos la propuesta como creemos que podría ser aceptada. En el párrafo 15 terminaríamos diciendo: "la Resolución 39/210 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, tal como fue adoptada". Allí terminaría la frase y en ese párrafo constaría la reserva de los Estados Unidos.

Creemos que esa es la mejor solución ya que es sobre lo que hemos estado hablando en estos últimos veinte o treinta minutos sin ponernos de acuerdo.

La frase podría quedar, diciendo: "Resolución 39/210 tal como fue adoptada", y se eliminaría la última frase que es "otros Miembros", porque éstos son los que hacen reservas, y hasta ahora tenemos uno solo.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Me parece que con la intervención que ha hecho la distinguida representación de Dinamarca y la que ha aclarado la Argentina, podemos terminar el párrafo respetando los criterios, y si no hemos podido lograr que la delegación, la única que tiene reservas, lo retire, dejamos el párrafo tal como se ha expresado por la representación de Dinamarca, como fue adoptado, punto, y el párrafo final con la reserva de un miembro.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I think we are very close. There are two separate issues here. First, when we had "as adopted", that accounted for the 19 or so reservations which appear on Resolution 39/210 of the General Assembly which, after all, is the correct place for that debate to be held. The fact is that some of us regard the introduction of this matter into this Council session as a separate matter, and therefore, it would be important to leave the second sentence in there. If I can ask our Argentinian colleagues and others to allow that, there are two separate points at issue.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): J'interviens dans le sens de notre collègue canadien.

Je voudrais savoir de mon collègue de l'Argentine pourquoi souligner un événement qui s'est déroulé dans certaines conditions et dans des contextes tout à fait différents.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je crois que nous devons nous inspirer de l'invitation qu'a bien voulu nous faire le Directeur général avant son départ. Nous devons essayer d'être justes, même si nous avons des questions de principe. Au-dessus de tout, il faut que nous soyons justes. Il y a des propositions qui ont été faites en espérant que nous nous y rallierons, mais nous nous rendons compte que nous n'arrivons pas à nous mettre d'accord. Ne forçons pas les choses. La première phrase exprime l'opinion d'une catégorie de gens parmi lesquels figure notre délégation. Nous pensons qu'on ne peut pas nous obliger à dire d'une autre façon ce que nous avons envie de dire. Cette première phrase est très claire. Certaines délégations souhaitent que l'on ajoute: "Telle qu'elle a été adoptée". Nous sommes prêts à faire cet effort, mais nous ne pouvons pas faire plus. Selon nous la seule façon de s'en sortir est d'accepter la proposition de l'Argentine qui est, après avoir fait cet effort qui consiste à ajouter après la première phrase les mots "telle qu'elle a été adoptée", de mettre un renvoi en bas de page contenant la réserve des Etats-Unis. Mais on ne peut pas nous demander de nous exprimer dans des termes qui ne sont pas les nôtres et ensuite d'accepter que ceux qui ont la possibilité de s'exprimer s'expriment deux fois par rapport à nous.. Ce n'est pas -juste. Il faut avoir de la mesure dans ses desiderata. Tous nous avons des désirs, mais il faut savoir se contenter. Je pense que vous devez pouvoir trancher, et vite, car nous avons perdu assez de temps.

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): Just to clarify the position of my delegation. If the second sentence in this paragraph is to be deleted as proposed by the delegate of Argentina, then my delegation is obliged also to put in a reservation. In this connection, I support the proposal made by the delegate of Canada and seconded by my Italian colleague.

R.C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): No hay ninguna novedad en que Japón quiera hacer una reserva a este párrafo, ya lo dijo en París.

Queremos decir acá y respecto a las dudas de Canadá e Italia en cuanto a lo que quizá podríamos negociar, y aquí venimos a hablar en nombre de quienes han propuesto este párrafo, es cambiar la última frase, sacaríamos la última frase las que sigue a Nicaragua, es decir las palabras "impuesto por razones políticas". Así no queda la palabra "política" en ningún lugar del párrafo y aquí podríamos quizá ampliar y explicar el porqué decimos esto. Creemos que aquí no estamos tratando una cuestión de carácter político, sino una medida económica que tiene efectos políticos; pero en las medidas económicas, hablamos del hecho de un embargo comercial, no de una invasión ni nada por el estilo, de un embargo comercial; no estamos hablando de cuestiones políticas; y además en este mismo foro los mismos países que se oponen, como se ha dicho antes, han apoyado este mismo concepto; por eso no creemos que ello sea un problema. Sugerimos en concreto; sacar la frase última pero ofrecemos a cambio el que se saque "impuesto por razones políticas".

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Our preferred formulation would be one in which the first sentence of the paragraph finished with "as adopted" where it refers to Resolution 39/210. We would not like to see the second sentence deleted as in this form it is not an expression of regret and the introduction of this matter reflects what we felt to be the feeling of some members of the Council.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): We share the position of the delegation of Japan and some others, and would like to see the second sentence retained. If it is not, we also would have to have a reservation.

CHAIRMAN: In view of the fact that there is no agreement on the revised formulation I will have to take a consensus by a show of hands. There is a proposal that paragraph 15 remains as it is with a reservation by the delegation of the United States. There is a difference of view on the second sentence and it has been suggested that the United States withdraw its reservation, so there will be a show of hands as to whether we retain this paragraph as it is with the reservation of the United States entered into it, and if any other country wants to enter a reservation it is entitled to do so. It is agreed by majority. Please indicate if you do.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Perhaps I misunderstood you, Mr Chairman. Are we retaining the last sentence?

CHAIRMAN: We are retaining the paragraph as presented to us with no change at all. Paragraph 15 remains as it is with the statement made by the delegate of the United States who has a reservation on the paragraph because it represents an introduction of an inappropriate issue in the proceedings of the Council of FAO.

Paragraphs 1 to 16 approved with reservation

Les paragraphes 1 à 16 sont approuvés avec des réserves

Los párrafos 1 a 16 son aprobados con reservas

PARAGRAPHS 17 to 27

PARAGRAPHEs 17 à 27

PARRAFOS 17 a 27

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We have a slight difficulty with the English language in paragraph 2.3 with the use of the word "monitor". We are very much in spirit with the essence of the proposal in this paragraph, but in English "monitor" can be taken to imply some continuing process requiring the establishment of a permanent administrative machine. As this is a voluntary Code and lacking a legal basis this could prove difficult in our administration.

We very much wish to participate in the observance of the Code and to collaborate with the Secretariat and the Secretary-General in compliance with their spirit. Therefore, we suggest as an alternative form of words, "The Council emphasized the need for member governments, in collaboration with FAO, to consider the observance of the Code". Alternatively, we could say "to keep under review the observance of the Code", if it is felt that that holds the feeling of the sentence. This point also occurs further on in the Draft under operative paragraph 3 of the proposed Draft Resolution where it says "Request governments to monitor the observance of the Code".

I suggest that there should be some harmony between the drafting. We again propose "keep under review the observance of the Code".

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the United Kingdom has proposed that in paragraph 23 the word "monitor" be replaced by the words "to keep under review", as he feels that the word "monitor" implies an administrative burden.

J. POSIER (France): Je voudrais proposer un mot en français un peu plus faible que "contrôler" et plus fort que "suivre" et qui serait "veiller à". Je pense que cela se situe entre les deux et pourrait être acceptable.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): La proposition de la France est la bienvenue. Nous avons discuté au Comité de rédaction et je suggérerais au Président de passer la parole au Président du Comité de rédaction pour qu'il explique la situation que nous avons vécue à ce Comité où nous avons beaucoup débattu de ladite question.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I think this is largely a linguistic problem because I do not think that it was the intention of the drafter of the Code that governments should set up separate machinery or elaborate administrative machinery to deal with this Code. I think that the English translation of the French would probably be the best way of handling this, or something along the line that the delegation of the United Kingdom has suggested.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Comme on vient de le dire, nous avons passé suffisamment de temps sur ce paragraphe et effectivement je crois qu'il s'est agi beaucoup plus d'un problème de mots exacts qu'il fallait placer là et parce qu'il semblait que les mots, dans les différentes langues, ne correspondaient pas exactement à ce que nous voulions dire. Mais je pense que la proposition que vient de faire la France peut, en tout cas en français, être acceptée par notre Conseil. En débattant de la question, nous nous sommes aperçus qu'il s'agissait bien d'un problème de vocabulaire beaucoup plus que d'un problème de fond.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we adopt the French suggestion and its English expression?

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I was wondering how it would read in English.

CHAIRMAN: My understanding is that it is more or less close to "keep under continuous review".

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): We did spend a long time with this paragraph and the Drafting Committee thought that the word "monitor" was more or less a word which is acceptable in many situations, and that probably this would be one of them. I do not precisely understand the difficulty with the word "monitor". To "keep under review" might mean something much less than what we should expect out of the Code, because to sit down here and to talk about it is in a way keeping under review. Perhaps more words are needed than "keep under review". On the other hand, "monitor" means that you follow the developments that are taking place in the observance of the conduct of the Code on Pesticides.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I think that probably we have got the meaning that the delegate of the Philippines refers to, because what we are talking about is keeping under review the observance of the Code. I think that this takes up his point, and also I think takes the point made in the French language text by my French colleague about the need to get the right balance of language so that we are not implying something of very heavy administration. So I think we have two points of meaning that the Philippine delegate desires about the use of the word "observance".

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): If we sit down in a room such as this with a piece of paper before us and talk, how do we know what has been going on in the different countries? How do we know what is happening with the observance of the various points of the Code in the different countries unless somebody follows these developments in the observance or non-observance of the rules of the Code? I thought that the word "monitor" was the standard word that was being used for this matter.

R. SALLERY (Canada): Our delegation believes very strongly that the Code has been one of the major achievements of the FAO in the past few years, both in terms of its substantive content and in terms of how it was achieved. It is an important Code and we hope that it will form the baseline for many national codes over time.

I have considerable sympathy with the points being made by the delegate of the Philippines. We want something with a bit more teeth in it than just an observance which has no time limit. Perhaps we could say "review regularly", or something like that. I certainly have a lot of sympathy with the delegate of the Philippines in terms of the word "monitor".



CHAIRMAN: Shall we retain the word "monitor" since that seems to capture in English what is said here?

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): I think the way out of this may be the literal translation of the French, which I do not think would give us the word "monitor". Everyone seems to have accepted this. Alternatively, we would be very happy with the Canadian formulation.

CHAIRMAN: The Canadian formulation is what I said earlier, to "keep it under continuous review".

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): My delegation would go along with the suggestion made by the Philippine delegation. In that way we would keep the word "monitor", because as it was explained by the Philippine delegation, it is very clear. That is why we support the Philippine proposal to keep the word "monitor".

J. POSIER (France): Personnellement j'ai proposé le terme "veiller à" pour essayer de trouver une solution transactionnelle, un compromis. Je n'y tiens pas absolument mais cela me semble être mieux approprié et personnellement le terme "contrôler" me gêne. Je ne m'y oppose pas (je ne veux pas que le débat s'éternise) parce qu'on se pose immédiatement la question: qui va contrôler? Sinon c'est un terme abstrait qui ne recouvre aucune réalité. Je veux bien qu'on le conserve mais j'attire l'attention sur le fait qu'il serait dépourvu de sanctions réelles et de moyens réels de contrôle.

CHAIRMAN: It is the equal of what is intended in English. The proposal of the Philippine delegation is that the word "monitor" captures the same spirit as in the French. One is to monitor the progress, continuously watching over the other. The suggestion is to keep it under continuous review. Let us come to a quick conclusion.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): This concerns words of languages other than my mother tongue, but we feel that we would give preference "to keep under review".

CHAIRMAN: Shall we accept the formulation of Canada: "The Council emphasized the need for member governments, in collaboration with FAO, to continuously keep under review the observance of the Code and agreed that further improvements to the Code, following its adoption by the Conference, could be considered in the light of practical experience gained from its use"?

J. POSIER (France): On a traduit "suivre" en français. L'interprétation a traduit "suivre". Le terme français, qui est quand même plus fort, est le terme "veiller à".

R. SALLERY (Canada): "The Council" that is, we, "emphasized the need for member governments, in collaboration with FAO, to keep under continuous review". In other words, when national governments seek the assistance of FAO, FAO will help. It is important to give it more than just "another-piece-of-paper" treatment.

CHAIRMAN: We will keep the suggestion of the French Ambassador.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Since you have said that we will keep it, I do not know if it is appropriate for me to speak. It is a voluntary Code and it is addressed to more than one party. So I do not see why there is this concern about being forced to set up a vast administrative machinery. But if it helps the adoption of the Code to say "to keep under continuous review", and it is acceptable to the Council, I have nothing more to say, except that in my mind it means the same as to monitor. What worries me is the French as I am not sure that "veiller à" is the same as "to keep under continuous review".

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): I am sorry that I have to take the floor. I am grateful for the explanation by Mr West. If "to monitor" and "to keep under review" has the same meaning, I think I prefer to keep it as it is.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we leave it as it stands, as suggested? The intention is now not to impose any new administration etc. The delegates know the strong feelings we have.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I can only repeat that this was the interpretation which immediately came to us, that there is a requirement for monitoring machinery. If another wording means the same thing, I would prefer that wording which does not mean and imply that.

CHAIRMAN: To keep under continuous review means that you must have somebody to keep it under review! So let us keep it as "monitor", and go ahead to paragraph 24.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je voulais faire une observation au nom des pays de la communauté.

Vous vous rappellerez qu'il y a eu une déclaration du représentant de la communauté européenne pour présenter, au nom des dix membres de la communauté européenne, une série d'observations dans un souci de clarification et de coopération.

Si je lis rapidement les paragraphes successifs du rapport, je vois que bien des amendements ou des observations qui ont été présentés par la communauté ne sont pas repris. Je voudrais vous suggérer, pour faciliter vos travaux, un petit amendement au paragraphe 24. A la toute dernière ligne, on dit: "les principaux amendements sont les suivants..."• ne pourrait-on pas ajouter le mot "notamment", ce qui donnerait "les principaux amendements sont notamment les suivants".

Ensuite, je voudrais faire une recommandation au Directeur général et au Secrétariat pour qu'ils tiennent compte, pour la préparation de la présentation de la Conférence, des amendements qui ne sont pas cités dans le rapport.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je ne pense pas vraiment que tous les amendements ont été recensés dans ces quelques paragraphes. Il y en a une multitude. Il est entendu que, parmi ces amendements, il y en aura peut-être dont le Directeur général pourra tenir compte. C'est pour cette raison que, pour ma part, je ne vois aucun inconvénient à ce que l'on ajoute ce mot "notamment".

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I agree with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. It is clearly envisaged in the second sentence of paragraph 24 that there are other amendments which will be considered, but in a certain sense, because the sense is given at the end of the paragraph, and whether or not you insert "in particular", all the amendments submitted will be considered in the sense of the second sentence of the paragraph. So I don't think the words are necessary, because the last sentence says "Among the principal amendments were the following:". These are not even all the principal amendments, let alone the minor ones - but if again it helps people to accept this, let us put "in particular". I think the Council is losing its time at the moment with these inessential amendments.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): After the words of Mr West, I have nothing more to say - that was exactly what I was going to say. You have "Among" here: that means that there are others.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je crois que M. West a raison. J'ai regardé le texte anglais. Effectivement le mot "parmi" figure. Or, s'il y a le mot "parmi", je ne pense pas qu'il soit utile d'ajouter le mot "notamment". Je crois que cet amendement est valable pour le texte français dans lequel il n'y avait pas ce mot-là. Il convient donc d'ajuster le texte français au texte anglais.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I do not like to prolong our proceedings on this, but I think the point made by the distinguished delegate of Italy is a good one. I must, however, say that we do have here two classes of amendment: those which are principal ones, which are in the context, and then there are others which the Secretariat will I am sure be taking into consideration. If this is quite clear, then I think we will not insist that some of those amendments which were also of principal nature, which were put forward by the EEC representative in the name of the Member States, are included here - but I very much hope that this is being taken into consideration by the Secretariat.

CHAIRMAN: I think that is very clearly stated here.

J. POSIER (France): C'est simplement pour m'assurer, M. le Président, que la rédaction de la dernière phrase du paragraphe 24 est bien la suivante dans le texte français: "les principaux amendements sont notamment les suivants..."

CHAIRMAN: That is correct. Shall we move on to paragraph 25? 26? 27 -the Draft Resolution for the Conference? These are now approved?

Paragraphs 17 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 27, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part II, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, II partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de 1ª Plenaria, Part II, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART III

PROJET DE RAPPORT - TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE III

CHAIRMAN: We will now move on to CL 87/REP/3 - Item 13 of the Agenda, Preparation for the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 4

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 4

PARRAFOS 1 a 4

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): In paragraph 3 it says "The Council also agreed...", and it continues to say that the issue of the Plant Genetic Resources follow-up should be taken up by Commission II. We have some problems with that. I wonder whether we could say "The Council also decided!".

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): M. le Président je crois que vous aviez vous-même tranché sur cette question après un certain nombre d'interventions. Il faut tenir compte du fait que tout le monde, en s'exprimant en séance plénière, n'était pas d'accord, mais qu'une décision a été prise à la majorité. Par conséquent puisque c'est la majorité qui a pris la décision, nous avons pensé qu'il fallait mettre: "le Conseil a décidé". Je crois que c'est ce que nous avons mis, tout en exprimant le point de vue de la minorité, mais c'est le Conseil qui prend la décision. Je pense que c'est ce que reflète ce rapport.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El distinguido colega y amigo Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, tiene mala memoria, pero yo sé que no lo hace a propósito, sino que seguramente es cuestión de olvido. Al menos así yo lo espero. En cambio, ya el Embajador Tchicaya recordó a usted la conclusion que usted mismo, señor Presidente, hizo ante este Consejo cuando 16 miembros, 16 miembros, repito, estuvieron en favor de la propuesta de México y 8 miembros se opusieron. Entonces este párrafo refleja exactamente la conclusion de ese debate y en la parte siguiente se expresa la opinion de que algunos miembros consideraron que ese punto debería mantenerse en la Comisión I. Esto es exacto. Estos colegas aquí no deben insistir más. Les queda aún una opción en la Conferencia cuando allá se discuta el tema 3 de la Conferencia, que es la adopción del Programa, pero que por favor aquí no insista en debates que fueron sencilla y claramente ya definidos por el Consejo. Creemos que hay que actuar con seriedad y respeto por las decisiones que usted mismo propuso y que el Consejo todo acepto.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I think the distinguished delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany has a point here. If you look at paragraph 2 that says "The Council agreed to add to the Provisional Agenda ..." a certain item. That was clear - "The Council agreed" - but to use the same English word for what happened in paragraph 3 is not correct, and I believe that even the distinguished Chairman of the Drafting Committee - at least in the English translation of the French - used the word "decide". That is something different to "agreed" because there is no agreement on the issue discussed in paragraph 2 - there was a decision of the majority of the Council but there is no agreement.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I very much hope at least that the word "agreed" could be changed to "decide". If my memory does not betray me, I think that at the end of the discussion on this subject my delegation at least had the feeling that the issue would be taken up again, maybe even before the Conference - that is to say, at the next Council session so that this matter could be looked into again. But I have of course no hesitation in saying that it will be the Conference which decides finally to which Commission the different agenda items will be allocated.

CHAIRMAN: Before I allow the next speaker to take the floor, I will repeat the suggestion made by the United States of America and supported by the Federal Republic of Germany. It is that paragraph 3 should commence "The Council also decided that item 7.4 'Code of Conduct ...' ". That would replace the word "agreed".

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO (México): En primer lugar agradecemos al señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción, Embajador Tchicaya, por el recuerdo que hizo de lo que ocurrió en la Plenaria. Asimismo a nuestro querido amigo Embajador de Colombia Gonzalo Bula Hoyos porque recordó aquí la forma en que se expresaron las distintas delegaciones, pero por lo que nos han dicho las delegaciones de Estados Unidos y Alemania en esta última intervención, parece que el problema es tan sólo en el inglés, en donde se usa la misma palabra que en el párrafo 2, palabra que no coincide, según ellos, con el resultado de la posición de la minoría.

Por tanto, señor Presidente, si es un problema del inglés, que se corrija en ese idioma. En español nos parece que es correcto.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): No quería intervenir en el debate porque considero que estas son cuestiones de ortografía y semántica, pero no veo por que va a ser difícil admitir este párrafo en español. El verbo "decidir" es perfectamente correcto. De manera que no veo por qué nos empeñamos en usar la palabra "acordó" si "decidió" es una acción en definitiva que está aceptada en el otro idioma. Nada más para eso.

CHAIRMAN: Is that agreed, "the Council decided"? Thank you.

Paragraphs 1 to 4, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 4, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 4, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 5 approved

Le paragraphe 5 est approuvé

El párrafo 5 es aprobado

Paragraphs 6 and 7 approved

Les paragraphes 6 et 7 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 6 y 7 son aprobados

Paragraph 8 approved

Le paragraphe 8 est approuvé

El párrafo 8 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 9 to 10

PARAGRAPHES 9 à 10

PARRAFOS 9 a 10

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Mr Chairman, I would like to suggest to add at the end of paragraph 10 the following: "This decision should however not be considered as a precedent for the future". That is one sentence I suggest you add. I have another one, but perhaps you would like first to clear up that suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: You heard the proposal of Germany that the sentence, "This decision should however not be considered as a precedent for the future" should be added.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I have no problem with the suggestion of the Federal Republic of Germany, I do have some other comments though which I will make after this issue is settled.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo sinceramente que se está cometiendo una acción irresponsable contra la marcha de los trabajos del Consejo. Salvo que me equivoque, nadie ha dicho nada de esa propuesta que acaba de presentar el colega Grabisch; además la acaba de presentar en una forma anónima y sibilina.

Yo conocí al colega Grabisch a mediados de la mitad de los años 60. Era un muchacho simpático, joven, inteligente, positivo. Le gustaba el baile, como él mismo decía; después", la evolución de los tiempos, señor Presidente, pero que por favor que sea serio, que no insista y que nos deje trabajar.

CHAIRMAN: The Federal Republic of Germany and the distinguished delegate of Colombia, have pointed out that this was not raised on the floor of the Council, and as I have repeatedly said, this is a report of what happens in the house and has to be authenticated by the verbatim records.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (República Federal de Alemania): Por intermedio de Usted, Señor Presidente, puedo asegurar al distinguido representante de Colombia que a la persona que estaba mencionando le sigue gustando el bai le.

R. SALLERY (Canada): We did specifically mention in our intervention that it should not be a precedent for the future. The comments that I wish to make or suggest is one of two things. Either that paragraph 10 begins "The Council in general noted", or that down at the end of line 5 after "agriculture in Africa." a sentence to the effect - let me read it quickly first to get the idea, -"that some members requested that the issue be reexamined to determine whether the TCP was indeed the most effective delivery channel for these funds". A number of us made that suggestion because of the criteria of TCP as we understand it. In other words, if we have a limit of US\$250 000 for each project, you may have a situation where a project requires quite a bit more, and since there was some US\$21 million in the TCP at the time of the Finance Committee which was unobligated we saw no particular reason for delaying it.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je n'ai pas beaucoup de commentaires à faire. Quant à la proposition faite à la fin de ce paragraphe, je ne sais pas si M. Grabisch l'a retirée. Ce qu'a proposé le Canada, nous n'en avons pas discuté au Comité de rédaction. S'il insiste au sein de notre Conseil pour ajouter ce membre de phrase, et cela a été dit par quelques délégués, je ne pense pas que cela puisse poser des problèmes majeurs dans la mesure où cela a été accepté. Mais d'une façon générale nous pensons que le libellé de la première phrase ne doit pas être modifié. Nous devons dire: "le Conseil a également noté avec satisfaction ..." mais si on ajoute le membre de phrase proposé par le représentant du Canada, je ne pense pas que cela puisse poser des problèmes.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Moi aussi je me pose la question de savoir ce qu'est devenue la proposition. Il faut qu'on tranche la question. Si j'étais membre du Comité financier, je pourrais trouver, dans l'observation faite par le représentant de la RFA, une sorte de blâme au Comité financier. Il n'est pas tellement de bon aloi de s'adresser en ces termes à un Comité qui se montre suffisamment prudent. Cela veut dire qu'on ne partage pas les préoccupations de ce Comité. Mais si l'on a quelque chose à dire, il faut le dire clairement et non pas en termes voilés. J'espère donc que la RFA va retirer sa proposition.

CHAIRMAN: Since this question has been raised, my impression has been that Dr Grabisch did not press for it.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I just wish to recall that my delegation did make the point by stating, "my delegation considers this step a valuable contribution of the Organization in an extraordinary emergency situation which requires exceptional regulations". This would imply of course, Mr Chairman, that this decision was not to be taken as a precedent, but if other delegations have great difficulties in accepting that, as it was just stated by us, I do not insist in putting in the sentence which I have suggested.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que debemos mantenernos fieles a los debates que celebramos aquí. Por ello quiero recordar que el distinguido Jefe de la delegación de los Estados Unidos de América, Sr. Kauzlarich, hizo una intervención a este respecto que motivó una reacción mía a la cual el Jefe de la delegación de los Estados Unidos respondió en términos positivos cuando explicó cual era su inquietud y dijo que le preocupaba esencialmente que el límite a que estaban sometidos estos proyectos del PCP afectaran a algunos proyectos que tendrían que ser o podrían ser de mayor magnitud para algunos países africanos. Creo que en ese sentido el Sr. Kauzlarich está de acuerdo conmigo. Podríamos proponer una frase que aceptáramos porque, repito, entendimos, y el mismo colega norteamericano lo aclaró, que su intención era positiva.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I intervene to support the Canadian proposal because I wanted to make precisely that point, that concern here is not to reverse a decision of the Finance Committee, not at all, but I think we have to be practical about this, and I think it needs to be reflected here that some delegations did express a concern that at some point in the future, one could hope fairly early on, the Finance Committee could look again to see if there are bottlenecks developing because of the criteria that TCP, by its regulations, imposes. That is my only point. Then the Finance Committee needs to make another decision and my impression of what the Canadian delegation's suggestion was, was to make precisely that point.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quisiera rogarle al colega del Canadá que leyera lentamente su propuesta. Mientras tanto y ya que tenemos el uso de la palabra, deseo hacer observar a la Secretaría que tanto en el párrafo 9 como en el párrafo 10 se dice en castellano: "El Comité" y en ambos párrafos debe decirse: el Consejo.

CHAIRMAN: That is only the problem of the Spanish version. Canada, will you kindly repeat the insertion for the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. "The Council noted", but you wanted an alternative sentence in between. Can you kindly read it?

R. SALLERY (Canada): Mr Chairman, I haven't given much time to the drafting of a sentence. I am sure Mr Bula Hoyos or anyone else, Ambassador Tchicaya - could come up with a formulation, the intent of which is "some members requested that the issue be reexamined by the Finance Committee to determine whether TCP was indeed the most effective delivery channel for these funds". Now that could be modified by saying "to determine whether the criteria of the TCP were adequate to facilitate delivery" or something like that.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I think, as read out the first time, that was precisely the thought that I at least wanted to get across in my intervention to determine whether TCP was the most effective delivery channel for these funds.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I am going by the Verbatim Record PV/12, and also from my recollection of the discussion the next day, because although I do not have the Verbatim Record in front of me, if my memory serves me right the delegate of the United States raised this question on 25 June.

I think what we have to remember is that what is reflected in paragraph 10 is the result of the Council's consideration of this matter when it considered item 15.2. If any members of the Council wish to change the text as stated in that paragraph that is of course up to you, Sir. But what is now proposed to be introduced would seem to me an additional point which was indeed made by the delegate of the United States the next day, but it was made after the discussion on this item had been concluded, and I believe that there were also some responses from other members of the Council to indicate that they did not wish to pursue the situation. So I find it rather difficult to see how the extract of this report could now reflect a discussion which took place after the item had been considered by the Council and a suggestion on which there did not emerge any clear follow-up decision.

R.D. KAUZLARICH. (United States of America): What Mr Shah has just recorded is basically what happened with one exception. First, the documents say that there was a move for closure of this debate. I believe I was on the list of speakers and unsuccessfully tried to get in at that time. Therefore I took the opportunity of agenda item 17 to raise the point. The difference between Ambassador Bula Hoyos and myself was one of lack of clarity on my part, because he was assuming that I was trying to reverse the decision that the Finance Committee had taken as is described here in the section. I believe that after my explanation, when I made clear that that was not the case, there were no objections, at least I am not aware of any. So I think we have a bit of a problem because of the truncated fashion in which this matter was dealt with. I cannot speak for the delegate of Canada, who suggested this change, as to where he would like to put it. I do not care particularly what part of the record it ends up in, but I think it ought to show up somewhere.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El distinguido colega y amigo Sallery, del Canadá, me ha estimulado cuando dijo que a lo mejor yo podría proponer una redacción aceptable. Si les parece podríamos adoptar la siguiente redacción:

"Algunos miembros solicitaron que el Comité de Finanzas podría volverse a ocupar de este asunto a fin de que esta transferencia cumpla eficazmente sus objetivos."

Creo que esto fue lo que quiso decir el colega de los Estados Unidos, salvo que él crea que yo no le interpreto adecuadamente.

CHAIRMAN: Since the Canadian delegation asked for this formulation from Colombia, are you happy with the suggestion of Ambassador Bula Hoyos?

R. SALLERY (Canada): I knew I was right when I suggested that he could do it.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the United States also agrees?

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): It is rather difficult to talk in an exhaustive manner on this matter, especially as this proposal has come from my colleague, his Excellency the Ambassador of Colombia. This Council should be cautious when taking such a decision. We have to bear in mind that members of the Finance Committee were elected from this Council. It is not one single State, two or three States which elected the members of the Finance Committee, but all the members of the Council. This means that the Council has given full authority, full confidence and trust to the Finance Committee. Therefore when the Finance Committee was requested to take such steps this would mean one of two things. First, that some of the members of this Council do not have enough confidence and trust in this Committee. Why am I saying this? It is because when the Finance Committee has given its backing and support to the transfer operation, and I myself being a member have endorsed such a step Mr Chairman, I think that you are wise enough to know Mr Chairman, that our adoption and our endorsement of this transfer was not something done spontaneously or in a haphazard manner, but rather it was the outcome of very long hours of deliberations and discussions. During these hours we raised various questions to the various officers of this Organization, in addition to the fact that the delegates of Australia, Canada and Germany had some direct contacts with Mr Shah and they had enough information, or even more information than that we received as members of the Committee. So that is to say that our decision was based on various contacts, studies and information we received, because we know that we represent the Council and we are not the representatives of the Director-General or Mr West or Mr Shah. Therefore we think that we should enjoy the trust of this Council. To my mind, the amendment proposed would have a nefarious effect on the Finance Committee,

Secondly, when something is requested from the Finance Committee, this should be done by the approval of the majority of the members of the Council and not only by one or two delegations. The majority of the members of the Council should accept and endorse such a step in order for the Finance Committee to take up such a decision. So the Finance Committee will not accept the proposal and I as a member of the Committee will not accept it unless it comes from the majority of the members of this Council. I would like to hear that the majority of the members of the Council approve this amendment. If this amendment is accepted I wish to hear all the Members of the Council endorse it.

CHAIRMAN: Let me formulate what I consider to be the issue. I think nobody is reopening the issue of the US\$15 million. The Finance Committee's decision on this matter has been endorsed and supported. The question raised is whether the guidelines of the TCP are unduly restrictive in achieving the purposes of the African Rehabilitation Programme, are they adequate or too restrictive? This is what we would like the Finance Committee to examine, how to use this money to the best advantage to achieve the objectives of the African Rehabilitation Programme.

A.Y. BUKHARI ( Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I was speaking about that. I know that the transfer of the US\$15 million has been approved. I am speaking about the TCP.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I thought we were addressing ourselves to the amendment we proposed here, and of course that is in relation to what you have referred to earlier. I think whether we put this here or not, the Finance Committee is going to review the implementation of these projects anyway. I thought that this was uncalled for because, as the delegate of Saudi Arabia pointed out, it is something like a reprimand to the Finance Committee. But if the objective is just to let the Finance Committee review it, they are going to review it anyway. The report of the expenditure on this will come to the Finance Committee. They will see it and make their own judgment whether it is fulfilling its objectives or not. These additional words would not add anything, except something which is probably undesirable.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je dois dire que le libellé de la proposition nous a donné la même impression que celle qu'a eue la délégation de l'Arabie Saoudite, et je pense que la meilleure façon de faire est peut-être de demander à M. Bula Hoyos, qui est l'auteur de cette proposition, de mieux s'expliquer car nous-mêmes sommes plus ou moins surpris par cette proposition qui apparaît comme une sorte de blâme à l'égard du Comité financier en qui nous avons confiance.

Entre-temps, en aparté, nous échangeons nos points de vue et il semble que ce que M. Bula Hoyos veut faire passer ne passe pas à travers le libellé. Il a peut-être une autre idée que celle que transmet ce libellé. Je suggère donc qu'on lui donne la parole pour éviter qu'on ait trop à discuter.



G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, usted y mis distinguidos colegas comprenderán que me siento un poco incómodo; me ha abandonado hasta mi vecino de la derecha.

Quiero decir, en primer lugar, que siento grande y sincero respeto por el Embajador Bukhari, de Arabia Saudita, miembro muy competente del Comité de Finanzas, y estoy seguro de que él y todos los demás miembros de ese Comité, que ha sido elegido por nosotros, siguen contando con la plena confianza del Consejo.

Yo creo que ya usted, señor Presidente, con la competencia que le caracteriza, adelantó las explicaciones que podrían facilitar el objetivo de mi propuesta.

Yo creo que está muy claro. Usted lo dijo, señor Presidente y el amigo Kauslarich lo ha repetido. No se trata de pedir que el Comité de Finanzas revoque una decisión que tomó en plena legalidad basado en su Reglamento Financiero. Se trata, simplemente, y también el colega Carandang, de Filipinas lo dijo, que, como es natural, al informársele a este Comité el uso que se ha hecho de esas transferencias entonces el Comité de Finanzas debe tratar de que en realidad los proyectos para la rehabilitación de la agricultura en África resultaran eficaces, sobre todo a la luz del límite de 250 mil dólares que se aplican a los proyectos del PCT. Esa es la intención que yo he captado de parte de los colegas, y veo que asiente el Jefe de la delegación de los Estados Unidos.

Mi propuesta, al menos en castellano, mi pobre lengua materna, es clara. Estamos pidiendo al Comité de Finanzas, entre otras cosas, o no interpreté a algún miembro, e hice esa redacción porque creo que hay que terminar el debate esta noche, no podemos seguir oponiéndonos a lo que dice uno o dos miembros, sean de un lado o de otro; hice esa propuesta porque se trata que el Comité al ir a ocuparse de este asunto de nuevo pueda constatar si en realidad son eficaces esos proyectos; esto es positivo para los países de África. ¿Por qué? Porque si alguno de esos proyectos, dada la limitación del PCT no ha cumplido el objetivo, el Comité de Finanzas puede proponer que se usen nuevos fondos para que esos proyectos sean eficaces y yo creo que esto es positivo y creo que mis compañeros del Tercer Mundo nunca creerán que yo hago una propuesta que pueda ir en contra de las aspiraciones y de los derechos de los países africanos.

Quisiera pedir al representante de Arabia Saudita, - con el respeto, la admiración y afecto que siento por él, que ahora, a la luz de mi explicación, considerara su actuación, y si él insiste yo acataría su punto de vista y retiraría mi propuesta.

R.D. KAUSLARICH (United States of America): I can endorse every word I have just heard from the delegate of Colombia. I do not know if that is the first time during this Council session or not, but that is precisely my view. It is simply because we do have the respect we have for the Finance Committee that we are suggesting this. It is not to blame anyone or to question their competence, but it is an important enough issue. There is urgency in spending this money and if there are problems with the approach that the Finance Committee decided on in the abstract, and experience shows that that money will not be dispensed as fast as it needs to be, then I can only suggest, as did the delegate of Colombia, that the Finance Committee examine that question again to make sure the transfer meets the objectives it was intended for. It is with the deepest respect for the work of the Finance Committee that I make that suggestion.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I have indeed a great respect for our great Ambassador Bula Hoyos, but I think there are two ways of looking at this formulation which has been suggested.

In the first place we are trying to say that the Finance Committee reopen the issue. I believe it is like opening Pandora's Box. Also this suggestion is directed at the competence and credibility of the Finance Committee. It was duly competent to take the decision to authorize the Director-General to transfer up to US\$ 15 million to support small-scale quick action projects for the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa as stated in lines 5 and 6 of paragraph 10. By saying that the Committee should take up the question again, we are also raising doubts with regard to the effectiveness of TCP as an institution to give quick relief for the small-scale projects. There are no two arguments with regard to the institution of TCP as an effective delivery system.

If we read between the lines, there is no necessity for introducing this formulation into this paragraph. It is hazardous. I believe my colleagues would agree. I agree with the delegate of Saudi Arabia that indeed there is no need for this formulation, no need for an addition. That is how I look at it. I agree with the delegate of Saudi Arabia, and with my apologies to the distinguished Ambassador Bula Hoyos I hope he will go along with us.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je note que ce paragraphe, pour notre part au niveau du Comité de rédaction, ne nous a pas pris autant de temps qu'ici en plénière. Je crois qu'il y a deux choses: ou bien nous adoptons le paragraphe en l'état et ce serait ma première proposition, ou bien, à la lumière des discussions, je proposerais une autre formule. Je ne sais pas si elle recueillera l'assentiment de tout le monde ici. Mais on pourrait dire:

"Certains membres ont demandé que le Comité financier suive de près la mise en oeuvre des projets financés par ce biais pour s'assurer que ce transfert permette d'atteindre de manière efficiente son objectif."

Je crois qu'ainsi aucun grief n'est lancé contre le Comité financier, que nous respectons tous je pense, et nous ne faisons que confirmer ici son travail qui consiste à suivre de près l'utilisation des fonds de notre Organisation. 11 n'y a rien là, je crois, qui puisse choquer. Je ne sais pas ce que les membres de notre Conseil en pensent.,

CHAIRMAN: Sometimes it is difficult to carry on in an ordinary way because we find a particular solution to the problem. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee gave a formulation so we have something to comment on.

R. SALLERY (Canada): We have been trying to join the three. Cs on this side of the room - Colombia, Congo and Cuba. We came extremely close until I heard the response of the delegate of Congo to the formulation of Ambassador Bula Hoyos. There are two issues at stake for me. One is that it is the responsibility of a report to reflect what happened in a debate. These issues were raised by a number of members, so theoretically they should find some formulation in the text of the report.

Secondly, there is no suggestion at all in the comments that I have heard from others that were undervaluing, under-estimating, or showing disrespect for the Finance Committee. On the contrary. This Council can endorse a suggestion, if that would make people happier; the Council has requested that often, but there is no suggestion at all that we have lost confidence in the Finance Committee. We are trying to make sure that this money set aside for African rehabilitation achieves its goal. It is as simple as that.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I think we are taking too long, but my humble understanding is that it is a very dangerous sentence we are trying to introduce at the end of paragraph 10. My apprehension is that this is a kind of directive from the Finance Committee to the Council to take on a prerogative of the Programme Committee to see that the criteria and projects which are to be funded through TCP should be vouched for by the Finance Committee. We are trying to reopen the whole issue. There is complete agreement. I think what we are trying to say at the end of paragraph 1.0 negates whatever we say in the entire paragraph 10 now. We are saying that all that is done and endorsed in the previous report is not correct. Personally, I feel that my delegation would not agree to the addition of anything beyond paragraph 10 as it is.

R.M. MUPAWOSE (Zimbabwe): I may be at a loss to follow this because we are going round and round in circles on this issue. If the delegations who want a modification on this consider that this is innocuous one questions why they wanted it to reflect the views indicated. Anything we put in is not necessarily reflecting every view put forward in the discussion. If we have a Finance Committee, a Programme Committee and a Council, and members of the Council who are going to benefit from this TCP, and we are saying here we should ensure there is a review to ensure that these funds are properly used to benefit and assist those people, there is a sentiment of paternalism in this. My delegation would find it difficult to understand what we are asking the Finance Committee to do which no Finance Committee would normally do. Are we not ourselves trying to impugn that they would not do exactly what they are supposed to do? I find it difficult to associate myself with this version.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I would like to express a point which I think is very important. I did not hear any reference during the discussion or during the subsequent reopening of the discussion to the criteria of the TCP except in one sense, which was maybe the limitation of US \$250 000 per project was too little. If that is the only problem, why does not Council adopt a report saying that for this particular US\$15 million the limitation per project we agree should be US\$1 million or US\$2 million?

That proposition was not put forward, and Council cannot do it now, because it was not put forward. But I must say that unless the amendment were to refer specifically to that issue, to that issue alone, it would carry with it the dangers referred to by the last two speakers. The

reference to criteria and effectiveness calls into question the whole of the TCP criteria and its administration.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creía que estaba actuando con toda buena voluntad, señor Presidente, pero a la luz del curso que ha tomado el debate, creo que no debo seguir participando.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My intervention has been made easier by Mr Shah, Director of the office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, as there is a lot of significance in this paragraph, as he has explained. I think this paragraph is very good, well-balanced, and it does not need any addition or deletion. I entirely agree with this paragraph as it stands and with the delegation of Pakistan.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I would like to thank the Ambassador of Colombia for his efforts to find a way of reflecting the concern that I had, and I should also like to thank the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

I must say that I deeply resent the implications of certain speakers that somehow, despite my clear statement to the contrary and my reiteration of that statement, we were impugning the integrity of the Finance Committee by making our statement. I find that totally unacceptable, whether it comes from governments or from the Secretariat. I made my position and the reasons for that position quite clear. I regret that I have had to intervene to make this point.

CHAIRMAN: Can we go on? We are on the formulation of this additional sentence proposed by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I am still not entirely convinced even after hearing the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and the suggestion he has put before us. Perhaps there is a misunderstanding. I believe that the TCP is not a Programme that has been established only last year or two years ago. I think that the TCP was established a long time ago. I have been in the Council seven years, and on the Finance Committee. I have never heard a delegate from a developing country state that he is not satisfied with the TCP. All of the delegates from the developing countries ask that the activities of the TCP be increased. As I said, I believe that there is a misunderstanding, but I would still insist that we not add an additional paragraph to this.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we proceed or is there insistence that we must add a sentence?

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I propose that we proceed to paragraph 11 and adopt paragraph 10 as it stands.

CHAIRMAN: Shall we proceed?

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): I have another small point on paragraph 10. Yesterday when discussing the CCLM report we learned that the minority view of the delegate of Algeria had not been embodied in the CCLM report in its last session. We were surprised to learn that, and we had full sympathy with the delegate of Algeria.

When discussing the agenda item before us, 15.2, on 24 June, last week, it surfaced that the Finance Committee seemed to have had a similar problem. We have raised this issue with the Chairman of the Finance Committee and we have spoken also on the subject during the debate. There is no reflection of that in the text before us. I have drafted a paragraph which would take care of that, but in order not to delay our proceedings I will refrain from proposing it.

Mr Chairman, we would like once again to urge the Committee of the Council to appropriately and in a businesslike manner adopt reports and not to consider terminating sessions unless they have done so. In case of disagreement they would have to report to the Council. Otherwise, Mr Chairman, it would be rather difficult - I do not like to use a stronger word - for the Director-General as well as for the Council to understand where the matter stands.

R. SALLERY (Canada): We endorse word-for-word the statement just made by Dr Grabisch.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): Since our delegation is not a member of the Drafting Committee, that means that we must look to the Drafting Committee for guidance.

We appreciate very much the work done by the Drafting Committee to formulate paragraph 10 as it is. We fully appreciate, as stated by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, that this is very important and very useful for a developing country such as Indonesia. That is why we support the statement made by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia.

M. FRANCISCI di BRASCHI (Italie): Peut-être que les remarques qui ont été faites par M. Grabisch sont correctes pour les questions qui nous préoccupent, mais concernant l'initiative algérienne, il s'agissait de toute autre chose. Il s'agissait d'amender un rapport qui avait été déjà approuvé dans le passé; il s'agissait de le changer dans un contexte qui n'était pas fondé.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I wish to record my regret that it has not been found possible to include an innocent and helpful suggestion from a member of this Council in our report. If the proposers wish to drop it, fine, but I do regret. No criticism whatsoever is intended of anybody. It is an idea which has come historically subsequent to the decision. If it is rejected by the Finance Committee, fine, but I would much prefer that there was a reference to that in the report.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I am the only member of the Finance Committee who also is a member of the Council, and I think that the delegate of the United Kingdom refers to the Finance Committee. As I seem to be representing the Finance Committee, I can say that I find that extraordinary because the Finance Committee includes nine members, and it is a point of honour for me. All I am doing is defending the terms of reference of the Finance Committee; I am not defending myself.

We are not against this amendment or this possible additional sentence, but it is prejudicial to the term of reference of the Finance Committee. For several years we have been considering the TCP, and I do not believe that the Committee needs recommendation from one, two or more members for that Committee to consider the TCP. We consider it because we feel responsible, and we feel that this Council has entrusted this to us and we wish to deserve that trust. This is why every year we review the TCP and its objectives.

As I have said, no delegate from any country which benefits from the TCP has ever criticised this programme, neither have they requested that its terms of reference be restricted. They have done quite the opposite; they have all asked that the terms of reference of that programme be extended, and they have stressed the importance of that programme.

We are not against any idea that might be raised. As everybody knows, my delegation respects the views of everyone and we have friendly relations with most, if not all, the members of the Council. This is why I wanted to say that this amendment could be misinterpreted. There is no reason for adding anything to that paragraph.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): May I make one last attempt to formulate words which would avoid this totally unintentional situation. This may not be historically correct, but we could say that "The Council noted that the Finance Committee would consider whether the mechanism of TCP was adequate for the delivery of these resources should unacceptable restraints be identified by the Secretariat".

CHAIRMAN: We have one more proposal. I suggest that we adjourn for ten minutes while the members with various proposals get together with the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

The meeting was suspended from 17.45 to 18 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 45 à 18 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.45 a las 18 horas

CHAIRMAN: After this adjournment we hope that all who have consulted together will be able to develop a consensus statement.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I believe that the formula which would come at the end of paragraph 10, to which we have all agreed, should read: "Some members suggested that at its next session the Finance Committee review progress in implementation and consider if a waiver of the limitation of US\$ 250 000 for each TCP project was required in respect of this transfer in order to ensure full and speedy implementation."

Paragraphs 9 to 10, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 10, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 10, así enmendados, son aprobados

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos apoyar esta propuesta que viene de un distinguido colega y amigo, miembro del Comité de Finanzas. Pero no intervengo sólo para eso, ya que creo que esa sería la opinión unánime del Consejo, sino para utilizar este acuerdo que se ha logrado y proponer una adopción que pueda permitirnos avanzar satisfactoriamente. Proponemos que el resto del REP/3, que se ocupa simplemente de asuntos financieros, cifras, cuadros, etc., sea adoptado en bloque y que también el REP/4 que contiene el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que en el Comité de Redacción nos ocupó larguísimo tiempo, y que representa un equilibrio aceptado por todos, pueda ser igualmente aceptado en bloque.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 17 of REP/3 has to be considered.

R.C. GUPTA (India): We have restrained ourselves from participating the whole of this afternoon, but I do wish to make an observation. Mr Chairman, this august body, this Council, constituted a Drafting Committee consisting of thirteen members of this Council. I believe that this group had some kind of authority or mandate to consider the Secretariat draft of the report, and give our views, try to modify it, so as to bring it in line with the discussion as we perceived it, and to hope that this will find satisfaction. Mr Chairman, this group of 13 persons, I say with all humility, has worked diligently and conscientiously and with the best of their abilities devoted more than 20 hours to this task, and after all that those people who had reposed confidence in this Committee are questioning almost every major paragraph of this report.

This raises a very serious question whether we have not reached a stage where the Drafting Committee business has become a useless futile exercise, and in future the draft as prepared by the Secretariat should be put up to the Plenary of any Conference and we do away with Drafting Committee business altogether, but if this is not considered so, then one could reasonably logically hope that the members of this august body would kindly take into consideration the fact that their own representatives have spent so much time so ably on this drafting, and they have considered the various viewpoints. This drafting represents the various compromises, various concessions on both sides, and if we are trying to raise the same problems as were raised in the drafting group, we are giving scant regard to some of our own colleagues. I am not saying this personally; I just wanted to sound this note of disappointment and frustration and I hope this will have some effect on the discussions we are to engage in just now.

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I should like to endorse the views of Mr Gupta because in fact I would have liked to make the same query, because if the Drafting Committee does not have the trust and confidence and appreciation of the Council - and here I should like to correct the number of hours worked. In fact this Drafting Committee has worked for 40 hours, of which only 10 hours were allocated to REP/4. Therefore I should like to endorse the ideas proposed by Mr Bula Hoyos.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros también queremos unirnos a la proposición que ha hecho la representación de Colombia referente a adoptar estos Documentos en bloque. Creemos que las observaciones que ha hecho el Sr. Qureshi aducen bastantes razones para esto y el Comité de Redacción ha presentado textos que son de compromiso después de las discusiones dentro del Comité de Redacción, y si son textos de compromiso creo que si nos ponemos a agregar palabras lo que estaremos creando es una dificultad para terminar. Son situaciones que van a ser discutidas en la Conferencia y no creemos que aquí de fondo haya nada que pueda afectar a ninguna de las partes.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have some considerable sympathy with the suggestions of the last speakers and particularly I have admiration for the work of the Drafting Committee and the suggestions are probably or possibly perfectly sound, but these rules have to be established from the start. Had we known that we would have adopted without further comment the proposals of the Drafting Committee of which the United Kingdom is not a member, we would have established more specific liaison with the representatives in it, so I think we can hardly change the rules just at this stage. I just hope we can go on, but I will restrict to the minimum my own suggestions for changes.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Just to support the United Kingdom's statement. Having established a rule I think we should stick with it and I think we should proceed rather quickly.

CHAIRMAN: Now if we are going to take the role of the Drafting Committee and so on, I suggest we defer it to the end, otherwise we will be unable to complete this report. I entirely agree with the Drafting Committee members but if you are going to take up the fundamental question today, the role of the Drafting Committee and the role of the Council, in its Plenary, after all every member of the Council who is not represented on the Drafting Committee can offer comments. It is the report of the Drafting Committee that is coming for consideration. But if you want to establish some criteria for subsequent meetings, let us not do it now, otherwise this evening we will not be able to do anything except to discuss the roles and the responsibilities of the Council, the Drafting Committee and so on.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I want to make myself very clear. What I said was not at all intended to shut off discussion or even to suggest that anything should be adopted en bloc. I only wanted to say that this thought should be borne in mind.

I. DIAZ YUBERO (España): Yo también, igual que el delegado de la India, pretendo que no se apruebe en bloque; pero también pretendo que no se bloquee.

R. SALLERY (Canada): I share many of the views that Mr Gupta has put forward. With all due respect for the Drafting Committee - I have served on dozens of them in the past three years - but not to let the idea drop. I will be willing to work with anybody, any other delegation in this room, prior to Conference to perhaps look at how we approach meetings and how we work on drafting groups and so on. I think it is a very good and sensible suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: Certainly at midnight we will have some time for this item. It is all a question of how we conduct ourselves. Shall we go on now and adopt the Colombian resolution except where there are some factual points.

PARAGRAPHS 11 to 22

PARAGRAPHEs 11 à 22

PARRAFOS 11 a 22

D.K. CROWTHER (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department): I would like to draw the Council's attention to paragraph 17 relating to voting rights problems. The report, as currently drafted, states that the Islamic Republic of Iran had remitted an amount of US\$ 1 760 000 to the Organization which, upon receipt, would ensure the right of the government to vote at the Conference. I am happy to say that this amount was received yesterday. The Permanent Representative has requested that reference to Iran therefore be deleted from the list of those having a voting rights problem as set out in the Council's report. I would propose that the Secretariat be authorized to make the appropriate adjustment in the schedules to reflect this payment.

Also, a payment of US\$ 19 819 was also received yesterday from Burundi, thus ensuring its right to vote at the Conference. I suggest therefore that its name should also be deleted from the listing in paragraph 17.

Finally, Mr Chairman, the last change that would be required would be at the bottom of paragraph 17 following the quote, "The statement that now appears in REP/3 about the Islamic Republic of Iran should also be deleted".

CHAIRMAN: I am very happy to hear this piece of information, that two Member Nations - Burundi and Iran, will go out of this list.

Paragraphs 11 to 22, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 22, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 22, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 23 to 27

PARAGRAPHES 23 à 27

PARRAFOS 23 a 27

A.F. de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): I have just one point to raise on paragraph 25 which does not seem to reflect what happened because the delegations that intervened on this point did not express reservations. They were opposed to the use of the UN Scale and that is the point I would like to be changed.

CHAIRMAN: Brazil has proposed "several members were opposed to the use of the UN Scale".

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Estoy totalmente de acuerdo con la propuesta hecha por Brasil.

CHAIRMAN: Since it reflects what they say, shall we adopt "opposed"? Thank you very much.

Paragraphs 25 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 23 à 27, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 23 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part III, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, 3ème partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte III, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV

PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of the Colombian Ambassador is that we adopt this as a whole, but let me at least go page by page in case there is any important point.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 5 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 5 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 6 to 9

PARAGRAPHERS 6 à 9

PARRAFOS 6 a 9

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Two points in the section 6 to 9. We would like to see a reference to the particular - I am not sure whether it is a minority but the particular points of view put forward by some governments for suggestions of improvement in presentation or suggestions for improvements, and I would suggest a new paragraph or sentence which reads, "Some delegations proposed certain improvements in the presentation of information to member countries including concrete and costed programme options, comments on effectiveness of programmes in achieving objectives, and requested that these be taken into account in the preparation of the final budget for the Conference."

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Pour nous, en tant que Comité de rédaction, le paragraphe 6 nous paraît bien équilibré et devrait être adopté en l'état. Je pense qu'il n'est pas vraiment utile que cet amendement figure ici.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Creo que no debe seguirse la práctica de que cada punto de vista que exprese uno, dos o tres delegaciones se incluya en el Informe porque así haríamos este texto interminable.

El párrafo 7 en su forma habitual nos parece aceptable completamente, de manera que tampoco sabemos dónde ha propuesto al Reino Unido que se agregue esa frase, que nosotros rechazamos y no vamos a aceptar de ninguna manera.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I am trying to record a historic event, the suggestions by the United Kingdom, and Japan I seem to recall, and possibly others, Australia, and there is nothing in any of the paragraphs which reflects this. This sentence could be a new paragraph after paragraph 7, but I would wish to insist on this.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): I recall the discussion on this item. There were a number of delegations who made an attempt to suggest some systematic changes in the way that information on the budget was presented. My recollection is that the United Kingdom delegate made some what seemed to me reasonably sound proposals. I am not sure that, despite Mr Shah's excellent presentation, we got a complete answer to those proposals. Certainly they were sufficiently detailed and well thought out by the United Kingdom, and I think Japan as well, to deserve some mention.

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): During the debate my delegation expressed its opinion that the Summary Programme of Work and Budget should be improved to some extent. My delegation also proposed some concrete suggestions. So in this connection I would like to support the amendment made by the United Kingdom delegate.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): To reply to the delegate of Colombia, I think it is important, and I believe the rules of this House allow it, for minority views to be expressed, and I think this is perfectly acceptable.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, creo que usted debe imponer su autoridad porque, como ya se ha dicho, el Comité de Redacción hizo un trabajo excelente. Australia y Estados Unidos, miembros de ese Comité, ya participaron activamente en todo esto, debilitaron los textos como quisieron para que pudiéramos obtener el consenso y ahora aquí esas mismas dos delegaciones insisten en puntos de vista que nosotros creemos que es improcedente y no podemos seguir aceptándolo. Esa es una actuación desleal e incorrecta, señor Presidente.



CHAIRMAN: I think every member of the Council is entitled to express a view.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction) : Ils ont la liberté de faire connaître leur point de vue, c'est exact, mais, nous l'avons dit, la discussion a été suffisamment longue sur tous les points que nous vous avons soumis et nous avons nous-mêmes, en introduisant, rappelé qu'il y avait un certain nombre de points sur lesquels il y avait divergence et nous les avons rappelés brièvement; or, nous ne pensons pas qu'au niveau de ce point il y ait eu divergence parce que j'ai noté tous les points et il faut avouer que nous étions en Comité de rédaction, nous avons travaillé dans une atmosphère à mon avis sereine et il n'est pas bon que les membres du Comité de rédaction soient les premiers à introduire des amendements et autres ou appuyer des amendements qui vont à l'encontre du document que nous avons accepté. Bien sûr, il y a la liberté pour les membres de ce Conseil de s'exprimer aussi mais il y a également un certain nombre de principes que nous devons respecter. Je crois que cela est normal.

D. HUTTON (Canada): Certainly my delegation has full respect for the work that was done by the Drafting Committee and there are issues here that we recognize have a delicate balance to them. The US\$15 million proposal was certainly that kind of an item. But this is different. My delegation also was going to propose wording, although we can certainly accept the United Kingdom wording, because this is an omission which the Drafting Committee did not take up. Therefore we think it is a positive constructive suggestion, and not one that should involve the kind of policy debate that it seems to have done.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous sommes de ces délégations qui ne sont pas très nombreuses et qui, pour comble de malheur, ont dû se départager pour assister à plusieurs séances du Comité de rédaction et en plénière actuellement. Ce n'est pas pour vous dire que nous opterions pour cela pour des solutions de facilité mais je pense qu'il faut garder aussi à l'esprit l'observation faite par la délégation de l'Espagne qui nous a dit qu'effectivement nous avons commencé l'analyse des rapports suivant une certaine procédure et qu'il ne fallait pas s'arrêter. Mais il ne s'agit pas non plus de bloquer le rapport. Tout au long de ce débat nous avons essayé d'expliquer aux uns et aux autres, en tant que membres du Comité de rédaction, combien nous avons dû prendre du temps pour passer au peigne fin chaque question afin d'essayer de recueillir le consensus et on s'était mis d'accord pour ce qui concerne les questions qui faisaient l'objet de divergence, de donner mandat à notre Président pour que celui-ci fasse état de cela afin que les interventions des délégations qui n'auraient pas été comprises au niveau du Comité de rédaction ne soient pas interprétées comme un signe d'indiscipline. Mais malgré tout nous nous rendons compte qu'il y a une indiscipline dans la mesure où les membres du Comité de rédaction évoquent des questions sur lesquelles nous n'avons pas eu de problèmes et c'est la raison pour laquelle sincèrement nous sommes très inquiets et nous nous posons la question de savoir où nous allons en venir.

Cela approche la question que j'avais évoquée tantôt, notamment que les mêmes délégations qui étaient au Comité de rédaction, parlant au nom de leur pays, disent : moi-même, je n'étais pas au Comité de rédaction. Moi j'étais au Comité, nous sommes convenus d'une certaine rédaction. Il faut aussi une certaine discipline sinon il n'y a plus d'organisation.

CHAIRMAN: Regarding this last point of members of the Drafting Committee themselves raising issues, one would expect the others who were not in the Drafting Committee to raise issues. But I hope we can continue in a spirit of cooperation and trust.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom is not a member of the Drafting Committee. I was reluctant to quote the "Rule Book" because I was uncertain whether in making these mere suggestions I was a minority opinion, but it would seem from the discussion that the Council deems that one or two of us are a minority opinion. Therefore I would like to insist on our rights, as set out at page 111 of the Basic Texts, Rule VI, which says: "The Director-General shall communicate ... a report ... including, when requested, a statement of minority views" etc. This I think entitles us to have our minority view recorded.

CHAIRMAN: There is no doubt at all about minority views being expressed, that is what we are doing all the time, but what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee is saying is that some of these issues were discussed, there was a consensus, and they devoted a lot of time, forty hours, and if we reopen

this it becomes an almost impossible task. So it is only a plea that those issues which have been discussed in the Drafting Committee we do not reopen here. That will be very helpful in our progress towards adopting the report. So I suggest that we accept what the Chairman of the Drafting Committee says and leave it as it is here. The Verbatim Record will show the views. But if you insist...

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Yes.

CHAIRMAN: The United Kingdom delegate would like to see the sentence he read out inserted as a separate paragraph after paragraph 7.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es muy curiosa y acomodaticia la forma como algunos colegas interpretan el derecho de las minorías, porque si cada vez que las minorías expresan sus puntos de vista, y lo han hecho en más de 500 intervenciones, todo eso debe reflejarse en el Informe, entonces no sabemos donde vamos a llegar.

Yo he hecho un esfuerzo, he redactado sólo una página entera, nada más; entonces le pido a usted, señor Presidente, que aceptemos la propuesta del Reino Unido y luego me dé la palabra para hacer las propuestas nuestras de la gran mayoría de los miembros del Consejo y así terminaremos con el resto del Informe. Sólo he redactado una página pero puedo redactar tres o cuatro más.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The delegate of the United Kingdom made a point, and apparently this point was also made by the delegate of Japan, and both felt that the views expressed by their delegations were not reflected in the report, but they have to be respected. With regard to the last proposal, I think the delegate of Columbia did participate in the Drafting Committee.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Es cierto que participé en el Comité de Redacción y por eso soy coherente, definiendo este texto que aprobé en la Sala de México, de manera que es infundado el argumento del señor Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania.

Estoy redactando ahora las otras tres páginas de nuestra declaración, pero mientras tanto quisiera hacer una propuesta alternativa para ver si logramos obtener seriedad en nuestros trabajos. Podríamos en el párrafo 7 decir: "El Comité convino en general, repito "en general", y allí ya está reflejado la opinion de aquellos que no compartieron la información y los temas, de lo contrario le ruego que se lea al texto del Reino Unido y luego me dé la palabra para leer mis cuatro páginas.

CHAIRMAN: Colombia has made a decision, the Council agreed in general to take account of the fact that it is not everybody's view. I would suggest that we adopt the proposal of Colombia and get on.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): I fully support the proposal of the Ambassador of Colombia.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I am grateful for the suggestion, but I do not think this really meets our concern. I simply wish these views to be recorded in the report. They can be described as "A country" or "A number of countries made..." I have no commitment to the specific wording. If Canada has a better one I would be happy to consider that, but I do wish to have this minority view put in the report.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I would request the delegate of the United Kingdom to please read slowly what he has suggested.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): It would be a new paragraph, after paragraph 7, and would read: "Some delegations proposed certain improvements in the presentation of information to member countries including concrete and costed programme options, comments on the effectiveness of programmes in achieving objectives and requested that these be taken into account in the preparation of the final budget for the Conference".

A.Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): Although it is hard for me to accept this, and especially to put it in a separate paragraph, we can modify this proposal from the United Kingdom and insert it in paragraph 7. We can do that after the presentation of the document. Then we can say, "Some delegations proposed", and put a few words in that if necessary.

R.C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): Tengo alguna duda. Por ejemplo, quién está capacitado para decir de antemano que lo que se van a introducir van a ser mejoras. Debía ser el mismo Comité, como resultado de estas propuestas y recomendaciones, el que después debería decidir si son mejoras o no. No nos parece prudente. En todo caso podría hacerse otra formulación, pero esto no nos parece prudente.

CHAIRMAN: Will the delegate of the United Kingdom give some consideration to this suggestion? We will come back to it. Let us move on to paragraph 10.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I had not exhausted my comments on paragraphs 6 to 9. This is paragraph 8. In our view the Council did not support the view that the proposal for the next biennium merited full endorsement by the Council, because several countries were unable, as is said later in paragraph 39, to support the proposed budget level. We think that paragraph 8 as it now stands would mislead the Conference. I would make two alternative suggestions. One is to omit the words "merited its full endorsement" or, if this were not acceptable to others, add at the end of paragraph 8 "subject to the reservations made by several members on the proposed level of the budget".

J. TCHICAYA: (Président, Comité de rédaction): Peut-être pourrait-on supprimer les mots "sans réserve", et mettre simplement: "et méritent son approbation", tout court. Il est inutile d'ajouter ce que propose le Royaume-Uni. Je ne sais pas ce qu'il en pense...

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quiero observarle al colega del Reino Unido que, a partir del marco financiero, párrafo 35, todo lo que él está tratando de anticipar ya está incluido allí. Que por favor no trate de cambiar el trabajo que nosotros hemos hecho en una labor seria y responsable.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I think paragraph 39 and the related paragraphs actually do cover this point, but what is required is a sort of cross reference to that, which is what I was suggesting, because as read, paragraph 8 is misleading. Certainly the point is our endorsement so far as the strategy, plans and other things are concerned but I do not think it can be described as meriting full endorsement if there are reservations on the budget level. That is my main point.

CHAIRMAN: The Chairman of the Drafting Committee suggested "merited its endorsement". Does that take care of it?

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I realise that is intended to be helpful, but it does not actually meet the specific point I made.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): A force de vouloir être patients, nous risquons de manquer de patience. Il ne faut pas trop compliquer les choses: les renvois croisés, comme si l'on devait s'adresser à des satellites qui devraient renvoyer des reflets, cela devient compliqué! Il faut simplifier les choses. Nous trouvons qu'il y a une sorte de contradiction dans le raisonnement que l'on nous tient: On nous dit que l'idée qu'ils veulent exprimer est reprise dans les paragraphes 39 et suivants. Il faut comprendre les autres. Il ne faut pas qu'à chaque paragraphe, nous assistions à une sorte de confrontation. Cela ne peut pas durer comme cela! Nous sommes en train d'accumuler des pressions. Ce n'est pas possible, il faut faire un effort de part et d'autre, et lorsque l'idée est déjà reprise quelque part dans le rapport, ce n'est pas la peine d'y insister outre mesure, puisqu'après tout, lorsqu'on lit un rapport, on retient les conclusions principales et si dans ces conclusions, l'idée que l'on veut exprimer se retrouve, ce n'est pas la peine d'insister.

J'appelle l'attention de tout le monde pour que, de part et d'autres, des efforts soient faits afin de faciliter notre tâche à tous, parce qu'à cette allure-là nous avons l'impression d'assister à un comité de rédaction; nous risquons de quitter la salle mardi!

Monsieur le Président, il faudrait peut-être reprendre les choses en mains et essayer d'accélérer!

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quiero observar al colega del Reino Unido también que el párrafo 8 concluye con la expresión "constituía una base satisfactoria, una base satisfactoria". Este es un término amplio, señor Presidente. Luego es un hecho que las propuestas sobre prioridades, programas y políticas fueron aceptadas unánimemente por el Consejo. Hubo opiniones diferentes por parte de unas pocas delegaciones sobre los cálculos presupuestarios, y esto se refleja en el párrafo 42, largamente discutido en el Comité para lograr el consenso. Luego, en el párrafo 39, está la opinión de la minoría redactado por el representante de Australia con toda la amplitud y con todo lo que quiso incluir el señor Presidente, pero si ahora también, antes de que lleguemos a esos párrafos, se va a tratar de repetir esos mismos argumentos, creemos, señor Presidente, que esa actitud no es procedente.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): Just a brief comment. I am indeed lost. English is a difficult language, even for those who were born into the milieu but I am afraid even if we take the word "full" before "endorsement", it does not make much difference to my understanding because there is no half endorsement, there is no quarter endorsement, there is no three-quarter endorsement - it is an endorsement. I think I go along with the delegate of the United Kingdom if he lets us proceed further. We might as well agree with "merited its endorsement" because we are going round and round and coming back. He might wish to review my observations.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): Not to make a substantive point at this stage, but just to comment on something that the delegate of Colombia said. He may have left the Council with the impression that Australia had somehow drafted the last section of this report and was completely happy with the last section of it. I am sure that the Chairman of the Drafting Committee can confirm that that was not the case. I think he mentioned at the outset that there were some problems with the final paragraph of this text that arose in the Drafting Committee.

Y.A. HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Paragraph 8 as it stands at present is an evaluation of the work of the Finance and Programme Committees by the Council. We consider that the comments made by the delegate of the United Kingdom are reflected in other paragraphs when we come to the budget. Therefore we are of the view that we should keep paragraph 8 as it stands.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quiero aclararle al colega de Australia. Tal vez la traducción le llegó mal. Dije el párrafo 39, no todos los párrafos. El Presidente del Comité de Redacción podrá dar testimonio de que este párrafo lo aceptamos íntegramente como lo presentó Australia, con la condición, ingenua de mi parte, de que luego la conclusión sería inmodificable. Nos fallaron más adelante, pero a ello estamos acostumbrados, pero pedí la palabra para solicitar muy cordialmente del Reino Unido que lea el párrafo 42 detalladamente. Allí se le pide al Director General que prepare el texto definitivo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, basándose en estas propuestas del resumen, y, en la medida de lo posible, en el debate sobre este tema en el Consejo. Si el Reino Unido y otras delegaciones expresaron opiniones de que ya se tiene constancia, el Director General, también a la luz de este párrafo, las tendrá en cuenta. Por favor, permítanos avanzar.

CHAIRMAN: I agree the conclusion here is very clear. It clearly states and expresses the hope that a full consensus can be reached. It means that in many matters a full consensus has yet to be achieved. Therefore, I point out to members that if you put the verbatim records together so that every point of view is to be covered in a Council it would be very difficult and one could go on arguing. As the delegate of Colombia said, if you give him one page he can give three so we get nowhere at all. So I request the Delegate of the United Kingdom to drop his proposal so we can move on.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have indeed read paragraph 42 and I am afraid I have some proposals for amendments there. I am also afraid that I cannot drop my proposal. If it is necessary, I will make a reservation if this is the only way of going forward.

CHAIRMAN: Will you kindly formulate a sentence, and the delegate of the United Kingdom will have it as a reservation.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): ¿Cuáles van a ser las reservas del Reino Unido?, porque yo quiero dejar mis reservas sobre las reservas de él. Que lea su texto y yo leeré el mío.

CHAIRMAN: When he formulates his reservation, we will come back to this. Meanwhile, shall we adopt the remainder of the report.

PARAGRAPHS 6 to 9 not concluded PARAGRAPHS 6 à 9 sont en suspens PARRAFOS 6 a 9 quedan pendientes

Paragraphs 10 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 10 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 10 a 13 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 14 to 17 PARAGRAPHS 14 à 17 PARRAFOS 14 a 17

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have a last comment on which I do not place much emphasis. I refer to paragraph 15, and it arises due to the fact that the United Kingdom is a member of the Governing Council of UNDP.

The UNDP representative made it clear that sectoral allocation of UNDP resources is almost entirely for the governments of recipient countries. That is not in the record at paragraph 15. The fact that the share of agriculture is falling is a reflection of the priorities adopted by recipient governments, and in the circumstances we think it would be more appropriate if paragraph 15 read as follows: "It was noted that the share of food and agriculture products in technical assistance country programmes financed by UNDP was falling, and invited the governments of recipient governments to consider whether action was required to reverse this trend".

CHAIRMAN: I suggest that you do not press this because it clearly states that it is for the governments to do. It is very clear that one could reformulate the paragraph, but if you do not insist we will move on.

The United Kingdom has accepted the paragraph as it stands.

Paragraphs 14 to 17, approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 17 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 17 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 18 to 27

PARAGRAPHS 18 à 27

PARRAFOS 18 a 27

CHAIRMAN: Paragraphs 26 and 27 should precede Programme Activities on page 5.

J. GLISTRUP (Denmark): I just wish to state that we agree with your proposal that paragraph 27 belongs before Programme Activities, but there are also some words missing in the latter part of the English text, which does not make sense. Reading from the middle of the third line after "FAO", it is stated "so that the limited resources". The words "could be utilized" have to be added. Those words are missing in the English text.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for pointing that out. The sentence would then read, "so that limited resources could be utilized for the maximum benefit of all Member Nations, and in particular the developing countries".

Sra. D. RUIZ ZAPATA (Mexico): En el párrafo 22 hay una frase que no está correcta en español. Me da pena recalcarlo aquí, quitándole su tiempo, pero es verdaderamente muy importante que se apegue la traducción a la versión del inglés, que es correcta.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I hope that can be rectified.

A.F. de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): I have one small point at paragraph 21 at the end of the paragraph. There is a reference to the European region, which seems to me superfluous because it states, "adequate attention would be paid to requirements and programmes in other regions". That covers all of the regions. Either we mention all of the other regions, such as Asia, Latin America and the Near East, or we drop the reference to the European region.

CHAIRMAN: Does the Chairman of the Drafting Committee agree to the deletion of "including the European region"?

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Nous n'avons pas d'objection majeure sur cette question.

CHAIRMAN: I agree that we should not single out one region.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I have a small point on paragraph 26, which I do not think is controversial. I would suggest the addition of another sentence at the end of that, which would read as follows: "in particular, a suggestion was made that FAO should join the ICC in order to participate in its expanding network for electronic mail. That is a purely practical proposal and one which I think might clarify it to the reader.

CHAIRMAN: I thought that had been answered.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: My memory was that one delegation suggested this and it was answered, so it is up to the Council.

D. HUTTON (Canada): That is exactly correct. Obviously, I would not insist on something like that, but I do think that it would be a positive contribution to the dissemination of information.

Paragraphs 18 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 18 à 27, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 18 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 28 to 34

PARAGRAPHES 28 à 34

PARRAFOS 28 a 34

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have a query with regard to paragraph 31. I was not able to identify the point or the purpose of the last sentence, "This emphasis should also apply to FAO commodity work". What does it mean? To what are we lending our support?

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the United Kingdom is asking the meaning of "This emphasis should also apply to FAO commodity work".

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Comme nous n'avons pas beaucoup discuté la question, j'étais en train de voir dans quel contexte cela a été écrit.

R.C. GUPTA (India): Our understanding of this sentence was that these minor or secondary crops should receive attention in the work of the Commodities and Trade Division also, which has the intergovernmental groups, trade matters, and so on. These secondary crops should receive adequate attention. That was the purpose of putting in this sentence.

CHAIRMAN: Mr West agrees with the delegate of India.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I personally would prefer something which was not discussed in this meeting, the implications of which are not absolutely clear to me, and I suspect not clear to some others, not to be included unless its omission fails to do justice to the essential parts there.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Si les autres membres du Conseil sont d'accord, je ne pense pas moi non plus que ce soit vraiment fondamental,

CHAIRMAN: Let us accept that view and move on.

Paragraphs 28 to 34 approved

Les paragraphes 28 à 34 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 28 a 34 son aprobados

Paragraphs 35 to 37 approved

Les paragraphes 35 à 37 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 35 a 37 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 38 to 41

PARAGRAPHES 38 à 41

PARRAFOS 38 a 41

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Antes de que las delegaciones se ocupen de esta parte de nuestro Informe, quisiera indicar de manera muy objetiva y sinceramente consciente que se tenga en cuenta el siguiente hecho. Esta fue una parte del Informe que nos ocupó largo tiempo y sobre la cual logramos el consenso, la unanimidad de los miembros del Comité de Redacción, basados en los siguientes hechos.

En el párrafo 38 aparece la opinión de "la gran mayoría de los miembros del Consejo"; en el párrafo 39 aparece la opinión de la minoría de los miembros del Consejo y, repito, este párrafo lo redactaron los representantes de la minoría en los términos en que quisieron. En el párrafo 40 aparece la posición de aquellos países que tenían una posición intermedia y que también aceptaron esta redacción. El resto pertenece a las conclusiones que se desprenden del equilibrio que se refleja en estos tres párrafos.

Espero que esto ayude para que el Comité permita que se adopte sin mayor dificultad.

M. J. BLAMEY (Australia): I appreciate the comments from the delegate of Colombia. However, it should also be noted that while Australia and the United States participated in the drafting of some of these paragraphs, other countries did not. I would assume that they have rights to revise or to suggest revisions if they wish to do so. For our own part we had a major difficulty in the Drafting Committee. I think that was mentioned before. A major point in our view was that we felt - we made this statement quite clearly in the Plenary - that if governments were seriously to consider the proposal for 1.4 percent growth, particularly those governments which rightly or wrongly were attracted to the idea of zero growth, there would need to be some sort of clear definition of what was being discussed. With that in mind, it might be recalled that we asked the Director-General to provide an information paper to the Conference outlining some options for the work programme under the zero real growth constraint. As explained, the idea was to enable, certainly, our Government and possible other governments to make some real judgments about what was happening at the margin. As the Director-General and others have said, also we are talking here about a marginal increase and we must define that margin as well as possible.

With that in mind we have proposed some wording, bearing in mind the Director-General's willingness to provide additional information. Our proposed words would read something like this: "In response to the Director-General's agreement to provide additional information, one delegate requested an information paper for the Conference outlining some options for the work programme under the zero real growth constraint." There may have been other delegations who also made the request, but certainly we made that quite explicitly. We are proposing those words be included at the end of paragraph 41.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Comme je l'ai dit en introduisant ce rapport, nous avons travaillé avec un certain esprit et je dois dire que tout le rapport que nous avons présenté a été adopté presque à l'unanimité sauf deux ou trois points. L'un d'eux a déjà été évoqué, il s'agissait des Etats-Unis et du Nicaragua. Le second point est celui que vient de soulever l'Australie.

L'Australie voulait, au niveau du paragraphe 41, ajouter ce qu'elle vient de nous dire, et les autres membres du Comité interrogés sur la question ont refusé d'admettre que l'Australie puisse introduire cet amendement. Mais puisqu'il faut tenir compte de toutes les interventions des membres du Comité de rédaction, nous avons demandé à l'Australie d'intervenir en séance plénière pour faire état de son amendement. C'est ce que l'Australie vient de faire. Il appartient au Conseil d'en juger.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: A point of clarification: the Director-General did refer to providing more information, which is normal in the final Programme of Work and Budget. He did not of course agree to this proposal that options should be provided for zero growth. On the subject of the Programme of Work and Budget I have nothing to add, and could not add anything to what has been said this afternoon. I am not suggesting that the distinguished delegate of Australia has alleged anything to the contrary - I just want to clarify that, when promising further information, he did not agree to this particular proposal.

M. J. BLAMEY (Australia): He certainly did not agree to the proposal - there is no doubt about that. But the words of the Director-General - and let me read them - are perfectly clear in the text and quite accurate. He said "If you want information, tell us and we will provide it". That is what he said. I want some information; I am asking for it; I hope he will provide it.



H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): I would like to propose the adding of one very short sentence at the very end of this paragraph, 39, which reads: "In their view, this approach could be taken without affecting the content and level of the priority areas." During discussion this view was stressed, not only by my delegation but also by many other members of the Council, and I think that this is one of the very important points because we are not proposing real zero growth for its own sake, but we believe that this should be done without jeopardizing the important activities of FAO in the priority areas.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lo que ha propuesto Australia ya aparece en la parte final, en la ultima frase del párrafo 39. Eso se lo explicamos allá reiteradamente al Sr. Gregory, en el Comité de Redacción. Nosotros pensamos, señor Presidente, sinceramente, que este Consejo integrado por 49 Estados Miembros tiene que ofrecer respeto por igual sin distinción a cada uno de esos Estados Miembros. Creo que no es aceptable que una delegación haga una propuesta y pretenda que a base de esa sola intervención, el Director General vaya a destruir este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y a presentar uno nuevo completamente, porque la delegación de Australia así lo desea.

Yo creo que en realidad no se está actuando con seriedad y que se está cumpliendo una labor de obstrucción y de actitud permanentemente negativa; pero esta vez sí voy a ser muy serio y si la delegación de Australia insiste en su punto de vista yo comienzo a redactar algunas páginas de mi discurso, que por cierto fueron muchos, y pediré que se incluyan en el Informe.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous confirmons la déclaration de l'Ambassadeur Bula Hoyos, à savoir qu'en rédigeant les derniers paragraphes de cette partie du rapport nous avons essayé d'obtenir un certain équilibre en faisant en sorte qu'au paragraphe 38 l'avis de la majorité soit exprimé, qu'au paragraphe 39 l'avis d'un certain nombre de délégations soit exprimé et qu'au paragraphe 40 l'avis de ceux qui avaient une position intermédiaire soit exprimé, enfin que la conclusion soit en l'état où elle se trouve.

Nous reconnaissons que la délégation de l'Australie, qui était présente au Comité de rédaction, avait présenté la proposition qui vient d'être lue. Malgré cette présentation, nous n'avons pas accepté d'insérer cet amendement parce que, d'après nous, l'équilibre s'en trouverait affecté. Cette insertion amènerait à ajouter davantage d'arguments à la position mentionnée au paragraphe 39, dont la dernière phrase notamment est assez explicite, et nous pensions que la proposition de la délégation de l'Australie était couverte par cette dernière phrase du paragraphe 39.

Nous avons donc dit que si l'Australie voulait absolument insister, elle n'avait qu'à présenter sa requête à la séance plénière. Elle vient de le faire. Malheureusement, notre position n'a pas changé. Nous continuons à croire que le paragraphe 39 reprend l'idée de l'Australie et nous demandons que le texte soit maintenu en l'état.

R. C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): Nos toca hablar en un momento difícil porque vamos a quedar entre dos fuegos, pero creo que quizá, y siendo realistas, podríamos empezar a trabajar sobre la idea de que la idea de Australia propuesta para el párrafo 41 creemos que no va, ya que se habla de ideas apoyadas en general. Podría ser expresada en el párrafo 39, que es el párrafo donde la minoría expresa sus opiniones. En ese sentido el párrafo 39, tal como está, le seguiría la idea de Japón y posteriormente la idea de Australia para ir en orden decreciente. Se va de "algún Miembro" hasta que se llega a "una delegación".

Decimos esto con sentido realista y porque sabemos que es un punto crucial; lo hemos visto en el Grupo de Redacción y sabemos que tiene dificultades. Creemos que lo más sabio es que dejen reflejada su posición en un solo párrafo, que es el 39.

Después de hacer este tipo de solicitudes, vayan o no progresando, que es una cosa que ya no depende de nosotros, nuestra idea sería que si Australia acepta trabajar sobre la idea de incluir estas cuestiones que considero son muy importantes, en el párrafo 39, podríamos dar un gran avance a estas cuestiones.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): Some of what has just been said by the delegate of Argentina had been crossing my mind as we went over this. These are rather special paragraphs in this document, because they do not purport to reflect the view of the Council - indeed, they only purport to reflect the view of some members who have taken a certain position on the issue of budget. So it is not the sort of thing where you can talk about balance in the traditional sense

of negotiating a document in the way to which we are used in this House and perhaps in others. Therefore I think we have to look at these particular paragraphs with a very flexible attitude and, if there are points, such as the one made by the delegate of Japan, which obviously caused no problem to us, since we said the same thing - it does no more than represent the view of some governments who supported this particular option, but it in no way undercuts the views of other members of the Council - the views of the majority. But it does I think reflect the views of those who take that point of view. I leave it to the delegate of Australia to decide where best he may put his paragraph - but again I would see that in much the same vein.

CHAIRMAN: In order to move forward, would the delegates of Argentina, the United States, Australia and Japan, like to formulate a sentence which could be added at the end of paragraph 39 which reflects the views of some members, in regard to the suggestion by the delegate of Argentina. They could draft a sentence and we could take it up when they are ready. Would this be acceptable?

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): As far as we are concerned, this is quite a serious request. It is something that will quite seriously enable us to make a more careful assessment of what we are talking about, which is the margin of growth and what effect either the absence of the presence of that growth will have on particular programmes. That is the way our Government tends to look at things and it has been very difficult to date, frankly, in the Council and in the paperwork to come to grips with that sort of detail.

I take your suggestion and the suggestion of the delegate of Argentina and with that in mind, and on re-reading paragraph 39, there is a possibility that some words could accommodate our position, perhaps, as some have suggested, in a more balanced way. Could I suggest that it might be done by inserting the following words in the second last line of paragraph 39: after the words "final proposals" insert the words "including some programme options". That is simply in order to put some more definition into it. I must of course add that these are the views of some delegates, a minority. We cannot be sure that those ideals will be taken up, but that would accommodate our position in a minimal kind of way.

CHAIRMAN: I think you have heard Australia's proposal. The last sentence in paragraph 39, he suggests, should read: "... by reducing administrative and support costs to produce final proposals including some programme options to achieve ...". The rest remains the same; the addition is including "some programme options", and it reflects the minority viewpoint. Are you agreed? -Thank you.

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): Can you read the sentence which I proposed once again?

CHAIRMAN: The last sentence in paragraph 39 will read: "They urged the Director-General in formulating his final proposals to continue to pursue opportunities for reallocating resources, in particular, by reducing administrative and support costs to produce final proposals including some programme options to achieve zero-net programme growth in real terms."

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): How do you deal with the proposal which I read out?

CHAIRMAN: Will you repeat your proposal please?

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): My proposal is as follows - that this sentence comes at the end of the present sentence in paragraph 39: "In their view this approach could be taken without affecting the content and level of the priority areas."

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation would like to support the suggestion put forward by Japan. We had made a similar point in our statement but I refrain from repeating the text.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, se que voy a tomar una actitud drástica, pero realmente creo que no hay otra alternativa.

La delegación de Colombia propone que se cierre el debate y a la luz de esta moción que dos delegaciones, si lo desean, se opongan a mi propuesta y someta a la consideración del Consejo la adopción del párrafo 39 tal como está.

CHAIRMAN: The Colombian delegation has proposed a closure and suggests that paragraph 39 remains as it is. According to the rules two delegations can speak opposing the motion.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): I find this a very difficult situation. It is an interesting tactical approach that we are seeing here but these are minor modifications, I think, certainly from the point of view of Colombia to these words in paragraph 39. I am afraid if we do not get some satisfaction in this area it will be a matter of reserving on this area, possibly along with the United Kingdom and possibly even others if this sort of tactic is persisted with. I certainly oppose the motion.

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): Only to express our opposition to the motion made by the Ambassador for Colombia.

CHAIRMAN: According to the Rules I should ask for a show of hands, The Australian delegation has given notice that they will insert a reservation which they are entitled to. Those in favour of the Colombian motion, will you please raise your hands. Those opposed. The motion is carried by a majority, so the Australian delegation and any others who want to express a reservation should kindly formulate it.

Motion carried on a show of hands

La proposition est adoptée par un vote à mains levées

Se adoptó la propuesta por votación a mano alzada

PARAGRAPHS 38 to 41 not concluded

PARAGRAPHES 39 à 41 sont en suspens

PARRAFOS 38 a 41 quedan pendientes

PARAGRAPH 42

PARAGRAPH 42

PARRAFO 42

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): We have difficulty in the wording in the fourth line which asks the Director-General to prepare his full Programme insofar as possible taking into account the discussion of the Council. In our view, the wording should read "and taking full account of comments made during the discussion of the Council".

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Ce paragraphe a fait l'objet de discussions et si on a pu mettre "dans la mesure du possible" c'était pour obtenir justement un compromis. Donc "la mesure du possible" est un compromis que je voudrais voir accepté par les membres du Conseil.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Ya el Presidente del Comité de Redacción expresó muy bien el origen de esa expresión. Está aquí en esta sala el representante de los Estados Unidos quien dijo de manera muy acertada que todos los 49 miembros del Consejo habían hecho propuestas sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Entonces, hemos adoptado esta frase "en la medida de lo posible", justamente para dar al Director General la oportunidad de que pueda seleccionar entre esas propuestas y no pedirle que incluya allí todo lo que han propuesto los 49 miembros del Consejo. Este párrafo fue aceptado como compromiso unánimemente, unánimemente, por el Comité de Redacción.

CHAIRMAN: May I read out the relevant Rule XXXVII. Under the functions of the Director-General this led to the preparation of the Draft Programme of Work and Budget so it is relevant to what we are discussing and one of his functions is: "Prepare (i) in the light of guidance given by the Conference and Council at previous sessions and by regional or technical conferences, commissions or committees, a summary Programme of Work and Budget for consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees, other appropriate organs of the Organization, and the Council, and (ii) in the light of the observations by the aforementioned Committees, [ that is the Programme and Finance Committees ] and by the Council, a draft Programme of Work and Budget for submission to the Conference. So that in the functions of the Director-General himself, it is clearly stated that he will take into consideration the views expressed in the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council before he submits the draft Programme of Work and Budget to the Council.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): According to democratic procedures there is a system by which you determine whether a decision has been made or no decision has been made. Now, the formulation here really indicates that when you say you will take into account as far as possible the discussion of the Council, that means that you are really in the back of your mind making a distinction between those proposals that have received, let us say the support of the Council, and therefore have to be taken into full account by the Director-General in making his proposals, to use an expression, and there are those proposals which are not on the same level and did not receive a full measure of support by the Council. And therefore all the proposals that have been made during the Council are not on the same level.

Now when you say "insofar as possible" you are not obliging the Director-General to follow all those suggestions that, after all, did not receive the full support of the Council. If you say a full account, I think, Mr Chairman, this is probably saying a little bit too much. When you say the discussion in the Council, that means you will take the discussion of the Council in its proper context. You will scan all the decisions that have been taken, and I am sure the officer in charge, Dr Shah, will see which are the proposals that have to be followed and those that are, I would say recommendatory, and those which have not received any support at all. I think we should be fair and we should indicate exactly this decision, how the decision that is written here exactly indicates this procedure, and I therefore fully support the formulation as indicated here because that is indeed according to the rules of procedure, according to the democratic procedures that we have adopted in the Council. The other one gives cause for confusion.

CHAIRMAN: I think what the Philippine delegate has explained is what is really practicable. Somebody might expand officially and considerably and where are the funds? So whatever is practicable or possible is what is implied here, so I would request the United Kingdom delegate not to press. Let us adopt this formulation which has been considered by the Drafting Committee in great detail.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I am afraid I did read into this the implication that a substantial amount of the comments were impractical and were ruled out from the start. But if this is not what it means, I withdraw my objection.

D. HUTTON (Canada): If the United Kingdom has withdrawn its proposal, I was only going to suggest and to thank you for reading out the amendment. If we use the word in the regulation - I did not get the exact reference - so I cannot read it back to you, but it was in the light of, or something like that, and that in fact might be the best way of all to proceed.

Paragraph 42 approved

Le paragraphe 42 est approuvé

El párrafo 42 es aprobado

M. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I am sorry, Mr Chairman, but I would like an issue to be clarified. Does this mean we have adopted paragraph 7 - that is before we go on to the next part of the draft report.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, as it is. We now move on to Part V.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, not concluded

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie IV, est en suspens

Proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT - PART V

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE V

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE V

Paragraphs 1 to 51 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 51 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 51 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 52 to 65

PARAGRAPHES 52 à 65

PARRAFOS 52 a 65

M.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I have three points on REP/5. In paragraph 58, second line, I would prefer it to read: "Concern was expressed by a number of countries about the small amounts channelled through the IFS..." I think this was either a minority view, or certainly not the view of a large number of countries, as expressed.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 58 of REP/5, as the United Kingdom delegate has said: "Concern was expressed by some countries about the small amounts channelled through the IFS."

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): M. le Président, je crois que nous avons discuté de ce paragraphe et que nous sommes arrivés à sa formulation justement pour tenir compte qu'il y a des gens qui ne pensent pas comme cela. C'est pour cela que l'on a dit cette phrase au Dassif. Je ne sais pas comment c'est libellé en anglais, mais en français c'est libellé au passif "on", c'est pour dire que ce n'est pas le Conseil.

Nous avons discuté sur la question et nous avons tenu compte des observations faites par le représentant du Royaume-Uni.

J. POSIER (France): Je voudrais intervenir dans le même sens que le Président du Comité de rédaction. C'est une formule, je crois, consacrée. Quand il n'y a pas unanimité, quand il y a quelques délégations ou un certain nombre de délégations, on dit "on a". C'est un point de détail qui ne mérite pas que l'on s'y attarde trop longtemps.

CHAIRMAN: I hope this satisfies the United Kingdom delegate. Will you take up your next item?

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): This is paragraph 62 where, though there is some acknowledgement of the point made by the United Kingdom, Venezuela and others who spoke of caution in the over-use of fertilizers, I think it would be better if the last line but one would read: "and the need for judicious extension of fertilizer use and increasing their efficiency on rainfed crops".

CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of the United Kingdom delegate is that the last sentence in paragraph 62 should read: "The Council also agreed with the importance of increasing food production in rainfed areas and the need for judicious extension of fertilizer use and increasing their efficiency on rainfed crops". I think that is all right.

Paragraphs 52 to 65, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 52 à 65, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 52 a 65, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 66 to 81 approved

Les paragraphes 66 à 81 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 66 a 81 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 82 to 96

PARAGRAPHES 82 à 96

PARRAFOS 82 a 96

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): My last point is on paragraph 85, a quite different subject. This is the reference to: "A few members referred to the deliberations of the CFA and requested the Director-General to similarly provide the Council and/or the Conference with an interim progress report..." I think historically it was a few members, but I do not think it was necessarily a minority view. I would prefer that it referred to the Director-General offering a further report in due time. It could read: "The Council welcomed the agreement by the Director-General to provide the Conference with an interim report..."

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL : I do not like the words "welcomed the agreement by the Director-General". The Director-General had already announced that he was going to do it. It makes it sound as if there was a reluctance that the Council overcame.

CHAIRMAN: Let us leave it as it is here. Are there any other comments on REP/5? The report is adopted.

Draft Report of Plenary, Part V, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, V partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte V, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI

PROJET DE RAPPORT - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 13

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 13

PARRAFOS 1 a 13

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): On paragraph 6, What is the significance of pointing out that there was a certain imbalance in the distribution of funds among the geographic areas? I cannot recall this discussion.

DEB MENASVETA (Secretariat): Regarding paragraph 6, the imbalance of funds in the Programmes of Action, it is indicating the funds that we received for some projects such as agriculture are more than for others, like fishery management, policy and planning, and so on. So this depends on the donors. We cannot adjust these funds, and at the same time between geographic areas.

CHAIRMAN: I think it is very clear. Are there any other comments on fisheries? Thank you.

Paragraphs 1 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 13 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 14 to 21

PARAGRAPHES 14 à 21

PARRAFOS 14 a 21

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I would suggest that paragraph 20 should read from the third line "the Council expressed the wish that UNDP continue to use the competence of FAO in accordance with the agreed consultation procedures". This is a matter which is normally discussed in the UNDP Governing Council, and the criticisms which are mentioned here are not made there.

CHAIRMAN: I hope you have heard the United Kingdom proposals. Let me read it out. Paragraph 20, third line: "the Council expressed the wish that UNDP continues to use the competence of FAO for the execution of projects involving food and agriculture in accordance with the agreed consultation procedures".

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal): Cette proposition semble un peu dénaturer l'esprit visé dans ce paragraphe. Je crois que dans cette phrase, l'objectif essentiellement visé et qui a été fidèlement reproduit par le Comité de rédaction c'est qu'il y a plus ou moins une certaine défaillance constatée et que l'on exhorte en tout cas à utiliser au maximum la compétence de la FAO dans un domaine assez spécifique. La proposition qui nous est faite, non seulement remet en cause cette défaillance constatée, mais ajoute même une limite restrictive en disant: "conformément à ce qui est établi". Donc là, en fait, il vaudrait mieux se passer de la phrase. Or la phrase a son sens. Je pense, que nous aurions dû laisser la phrase telle qu'elle était proposée, afin de lui garder tout son sens.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je crois que le délégué du Sénégal a raison. Tout d'abord le Comité de rédaction a discuté de ce point et je crois que la version qui est proposée ici a été un compromis que nous avons réussi à obtenir, parce que le paragraphe original était beaucoup plus long et beaucoup plus explicite pour montrer comment cela se passe.

Je vous rappelle qu'à la 86ème session de notre Conseil nous avons adopté un paragraphe beaucoup plus consistant que celui qui est là, à notre avis, mais, compte tenu du fait qu'il y a eu beaucoup de discussions au sein du Comité de rédaction, on a accepté qu'il soit assoupli de cette manière.

C'est pour cette raison que je voudrais lancer un rappel au représentant du Royaume-Uni pour que l'on accepte le texte tel qu'il est libellé, car il est le résultat d'un compromis auquel nous sommes parvenus après de longues discussions.

M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Agradezco mucho al Presidente del Comité de Redacción su explicación porque yo iba a decir que en el texto español no dice "establecidos" sino "convenidos", que es más flexible. Estamos de acuerdo con él: "procedimientos convenidos de consulta". Me parece que es correcto.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I would only like to support the proposal put forward by the delegate of the United Kingdom. They raised this issue of UNDP, which is in our report in two other instances, and I did not speak to it then, though I seriously considered it. I had the pleasure of serving on the Governing Council of UNDP for four years and I think it is important that this Council understands and recognizes that it is the sovereign governments who determine what they will do with IFS resources that are provided through the system, and equally they are the ones who determine the executing government's agencies. This sentence would be totally inconsistent with my own position in UNDP and therefore here.

R. G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I do admit that there was not a full debate on this subject. It was touched upon. Had I regarded it as a peripheral issue and expected a decision of this Council I would have participated. But certainly as a member of the Governing Council of UNDP I could not go along with this formulation as it stands.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I do not know whether or not there is a misunderstanding but, as Senegal pointed out, there are two separate ideas here. The comment of Canada might apply to the first idea that the UNDP use to the maximum extent possible the competence of FAO but what we are really talking about is OPE, and there the Administrator of UNDP has a certain freedom of choice, except he is supposed to consult specialized agencies before deciding to offer the services of OPE to governments. If he does not consult us properly, or at all, and offers the services of OPE to governments, they are not necessarily going to be in a position to know, especially if the services are not offered to the Minister of Agriculture but somewhere else, that FAO is competent to carry out this exercise. So we are not saying we are taking away the sovereign rights of governments. There has been a long debate about this in the past and there are much fatter reports which are much stronger than this.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Quería referirme un poco a lo que dijo el Sr. West respecto a las delegaciones que se preocupan de los acuerdos que ya existen entre el PNUD y la FAO. No es así. Se trata de reflejar de la mejor manera posible los acuerdos que ya existen entre la FAO y el PNUD y que se lleven adelante de la mejor manera posible. No se trata de indicarle entonces al PNUD de la FAO qué es lo que tiene que hacer, sino que acaso nos estamos refiriendo a la imp lamentación de mecanismos de acuerdo y de participación en proyectos conjuntos que existen ya entre el PNUD y la FAO. Esa es la explicación que nos dio ayer en la redacción de este párrafo, que tardamos aproximadamente dos horas para hacerlo.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En su primera declaración el colega del Reino Unido dijo: "Esto es lo que hemos discutido en el PNUD," y luego, en otra intervención, dijo que él reconoció que no había habido debate al respecto, porque si hubiera existido ese debate él habría intervenido. Yo creo que está claro, hay que dejar el párrafo como está y el distinguido colega y amigo del Reino Unido ya podrá, en la Conferencia de la FAO, insistir sobre esos puntos de vista que no se trataron aquí.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I still consider that the appropriate thing to do, which would give this Council stature or would conform to its stature, is not to express a view on a subject which in this Council and on this particular occasion has not been thoroughly worked out. I can see we would all learn much if we had studied and discussed it, but in my view we have not reached this conclusion as a result of our deliberations and I cannot subscribe to this. I would counsel the inclusion of the rather more neutral language which I suggested. If it goes through in this form, I reserve.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): The wording as it stands now seems to us to go a little far. We have no special amendment to put forward, although perhaps one could say, "makes in as far as possible more use of the competence of FAO" - something like that. But perhaps the delegate of the United Kingdom could repeat his proposal.

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal): Je pense que nous sommes en train de discuter sur un problème qui n'en vaut pas la peine. Ce Conseil peut exprimer un voeu sans aller à l'encontre des décisions établies au niveau de l'Organisation en cause. Le PNUD peut décider quelque chose, mais le Conseil peut exprimer un voeu. Quand on exprime un voeu on n'oblige personne, mais on signale un fait en espérant qu'on en tiendra compte. Je ne vois pas où est la difficulté.

Le délégué de la République fédérale d'Allemagne vient de présenter une amélioration que nous pourrions accepter. Cela ne poserait pas un grand problème. Mais dans l'esprit de cet article je ne vois pas ce qui est gênant parce que le Conseil peut toujours demander ce qu'il veut, même l'impossible. Je ne vois pas la difficulté.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States): I must say my major concern with this particular issue is to ensure that these two agencies in the UN family work most closely and effectively together. I must say I was particularly struck by the extremely positive tone of the Representative of FAO in his presentation to the UNDP Governing Council last week or the week before, I am not sure exactly when it was. I think perhaps our United Kingdom colleague identified a possible problem. We who have been extremely sensitive within the UN family about the relationship between the Council, the Finance Committee and other bodies, ought to take the same sort of care and concern that by expressing our desire we are not somehow introducing an element of contention in a relationship that I think on the Secretariat side and the Member Government side we want to see work well and improve. We ought to look at these formulations in that sense. Perhaps the suggestion that our United Kingdom colleague has introduced may help us get a formulation that will not in itself be an additional cause of friction between these two Organizations.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba) Nuestra intervención va a ser muy rápida. Considero que realmente se está discutiendo una cosa improcedente. Por lo tanto, apoyo a las delegaciones de Colombia y Senegal para que quede el párrafo como está.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous aussi nous avons l'intention de rappeler ce qui s'est passé, mais étant donné l'atmosphère nous préférons nous prononcer en disant que nous souhaitons que le texte soit retenu tel qu'il est. Ce n'est pas la peine que nous nous expliquions davantage.



D. HUTTON (Canada): I have to state that my delegation and my country undertakes to have a consistent policy throughout the United Nations System, which involves a lot of travel and a lot of meetings. I would strongly urge the Council to accept the United Kingdom wording. If it deems it cannot, we would certainly reserve our position on that paragraph as well.

R.C. GUPTA (India): If I understood correctly, my distinguished neighbour Dr Grabisch has made a suggestion that we could modify the sentence to read, "The Council expressed the wish that UNDP made better use of the competence of FAO", if that could solve the problem. This is a very positive suggestion and perhaps can help in overcoming the problem.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: The Secretariat certainly wishes to pursue the same line as it did in the governing body, but I think the way out lies more with Germany than with United Kingdom in this case. I would suggest if it meets the views at least of the United States and Germany we might consider that the text should say, "The Council expressed the wish that the maximum possible use be made by UNDP of the competence of FAO" etc. So you express the wish of the governing body but do not urge them. This is what the United Kingdom is so sensitive about. It meets the point and if not, I hope it at least meets the point of the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States.

CHAIRMAN: "The Council expressed the wish that the maximum possible use by UNDP of the competence of FAO should be made in the execution of projects involving food and agriculture". That is what Mr West has said.

D. HUTTON (Canada): My first reaction is that it virtually uses the same words and says the same thing. It would be preferable in fact if it read "Some Members" or "a few members", or whatever. This was not a substantive issue in this meeting.

CHAIRMAN: The other way is to use the passive, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee says.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je crois que les membres du Conseil doivent être conséquents avec eux-mêmes. En novembre dernier, nous avons adopté une attitude beaucoup plus ferme que celle qui est contenue dans ce paragraphe. Est-ce qu'entre-temps la situation a changé? Est-ce que le Secrétariat peut nous donner des éléments qui nous amènent à croire que la situation a changé pour que nous puissions nous aussi modifier notre point de vue? Cela est important. Il faut que l'on nous dise si la situation a favorablement évolué depuis novembre dernier et que l'on nous donne des éléments d'appréciation pour nous permettre de modifier le contenu de ce paragraphe. Je pense qu'on ne devrait pas mettre cela à la forme passive.

R.I). KAUZLARICH (United States): The more this discussion goes on, the more trouble I seem to be in because it raises issues that have been bothering me throughout, and there are degrees of attention that this Council gave to issues. I, for one, recall the only discussion that took place with respect to UNDP was a discussion between UNDP, the Secretariat and one, perhaps two other members of the Council. Yet the way in which we put this document together means that if someone who had not participated in this meeting came to read it he would assume there was major discussion on that as with all the other points. On reflection and bearing in mind the points that our United Kingdom colleague made, the discussion that took place is quite different from the one that took place on the Summary Programme of Work and Budget.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I think I have said enough. I mentioned before we had stronger wording. I will ask Mr Régnier to read out the wording of the Council on the last occasion.

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): The Council during the November 1984 session in its paragraph 144 adopted the following language. It is quite a long paragraph but I will read it fully.

"In connection with the report on the Office for Projects Execution (OPE) of the UNDP (JIU/REP/83/9), the Council fully agreed with the concern expressed by both Committees. The operations of the OPE currently accounted for around 7 percent of total UNDP delivery but were mainly carried out by subcontracting and little training was involved. The Council was particularly concerned that the guidelines which had been developed by UNDP jointly with the agencies of the UN System prescribing prior consultation on projects executed by OPE in the areas of competence of the specialized agencies were not being consistently followed and that frequently, FAO was informed only after a decision had been taken to resort to OPE execution of a project involving food and agriculture.

The Council accordingly urged that these agreed consultation procedures between UNDP and specialized agencies such as FAO be consistently followed."

R.G. PETTIT (United Kingdom): There is obviously very clear language in some of our earlier decisions. I would not suggest that we try to recreate those decisions, but I see no reason why we should repeat them since we have not had a definitive discussion on this subject. I suggest that this opinion of the Council last year simply be left as the opinion of the Council last year and that no reference whatsoever be made in this report in the light of the small amount of discussion and our failure to take account of the very definitive discussion of this issue in last year's Governing Council of the UNDP.

MAME BALLA SY (Senegal): Notre délégation s'inquiète de ce qui se passe actuellement. En effet, le développement de nos débats a de quoi inquiéter parce que dire nous n'avons pas eu de débat assez approfondi sur cette question pour trouver une raison de ne pas écrire la phrase telle qu'elle se présente, c'est assez grave.

Je vais demander au Secrétariat de reprendre le document qu'il nous avait soumis pour relire ce qui a été écrit dans ce document. On oublie souvent que l'on nous donne des documents de travail des mois avant notre réunion, nous les étudions et lorsque nous arrivons en séance plénière, si personne ne dément une affirmation contenue dans ce document, le Conseil doit en tirer la conclusion qu'il y a eu un débat tacite sur ce qui a été rédigé par le Secrétariat. Donc, si personne n'a relevé les affirmations présentées dans ce document, le Secrétariat le présente au Conseil. Par contre, s'il y a une lacune, il est normal qu'elle soit signalée. Mais si personne ne s'est levé pour dire qu'une affirmation est gratuite, cela veut dire qu'elle est acceptée.

Je crois que l'amélioration du texte présenté par la République fédérale d'Allemagne devrait nous tirer d'affaire. Cette phrase pourrait laisser entendre que nous avons discuté de ce problème, ce qui est curieux, parce que cette phrase n'avait pas attiré l'attention de ma délégation. C'est maintenant qu'on en discute. Or, un lecteur ordinaire ne peut pas lui attacher une importance plus grande qu'à tout le contenu du paragraphe.

CHAIRMAN: There is a concrete proposal from the delegate of Senegal that we adopt the formulation of the Ambassador of the Republic of Germany that the UNDP make greater use of the competence of FAO for the execution of projects involving food and agriculture. In other words, express the wish that the UNDP makes greater use of the FAO.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian delegation I would like to support the proposal of Senegal.

CHAIRMAN: It is the proposal of Senegal and the Federal Republic of Germany.

R.C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): Nosotros también queremos apoyar la propuesta de Alemania. Creemos que se ha avanzado respecto a cuando empezamos a discutir, pero las delegaciones que se oponen ya no están discutiendo sobre lo que se dice aquí, sino en qué cantidad, cuantitativamente. Este tema fue poco discutido aquí y en mérito de eso fue incluido en esta parte del Programa, lo cual supone que ha habido acuerdo con lo que se dice. Por tanto creemos que la primera cuestión está zanjada.

Respecto a la segunda cuestión sí fue discutida, y lamento que se vuelva a hablar de ella cuando es un tema que se discutió en el Comité de Redacción y son algunos miembros de este Comité los que vuelven a insistir sobre esto. Yo puedo decir a la Secretaría que se hablo más de las relaciones FAO/PNUD, que de la ONUDI. Se hablo de problemas sustanciales del Grupo de Acción sobre Desarrollo Rural. Así que bien está el mérito de incluir esta cuestión aquí.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous appuyons la proposition du Sénégal et de la République fédérale d'Allemagne pour essayer de nous sortir d'affaire. Mais je pense que nous devons en profiter pour éclaircir un certain nombre de choses qui peuvent servir à l'avenir.

En effet, nous avons entendu qu'il n'y a pas eu de véritable débat. Est-ce que le débat devient véritable suivant l'importance de celui qui parle, ou est-ce qu'il y a une autre explication? Selon nous, la question a été évoquée ici par trois fois. La première fois, c'était le matin, le Congo est intervenu, l'Inde est intervenue, le représentant du PNUD est intervenu et a demandé à rencontrer les différentes délégations. Ils se sont retrouvés et le représentant du PNUD est revenu en séance plénière, en disant qu'on n'avait pas été capable de lui donner des exemples précis. C'est ce qu'on appelle un débat. C'était l'occasion pour les délégations qui avaient une autre opinion de s'exprimer. C'est l'aspect de la formation qui a suscité la question. On a dit que les organes en qui on avait confiance donnaient en sous-traitance les projets qui négligeaient l'aspect formation. C'est ce qui a suscité le débat.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Compartimos la opinión de los últimos colegas que han intervenido y le rogamos a usted que imponga su autoridad. La propuesta de la República Federal de Alemania está generalmente aceptada, y no permita que se siga obstruyendo la labor del Consejo.

M. MAHDI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; (original language Arabic): After the long time that we have spent on this paragraph I would like to say that I support the proposal made by the Ambassador of Colombia and that of the delegation of Indonesia, and all of those who supported the proposal by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I indicated my concern about the procedure and the difficulty I have in understanding the relationship of the Council urging that agreed consultation procedures in this respect between UNDP and specialized agencies such as FAO be consistently followed. That implies a discussion of some time. I am just wondering when we took that. Again, this is a more general problem than just this particular language.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): Perhaps the report on the Personnel Matters, which we have already approved on page 15, will give us an example. It is the question about reimbursement of expenses to member delegates and the manner in which this question was discussed. We have a very detailed description of the debate and the decisions taken in paragraphs 88 and 83, which is probably longer than the verbatim record of how the decision was taken. The debate on the matter probably took about five minutes. There were three delegations which spoke, and the matter was decided. It really does not depend on how much time or how long the debate lasted. It is a question of how the matter has been dealt with. I thought that this matter was something which was discussed in the past, which was agreed upon in the past, and which was referred to during the debate. I thought that there was no problem in that regard. A decision is taken not because one hundred speakers took the floor, but because the matter was sufficiently touched upon, and whether, according to the view of the Council, the decision was taken.

CHAIRMAN: I know that there has been a history in the last few years, as Mr Régnier said, and some who have not attended the previous discussions might feel that it is abrupt. But it is a continuation of the Council's views from last November.

I would like to say that we accept the reformulation of the sentence by the delegate of the Republic of Germany that UNDP make greater use of the competence of FAO, and so on.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I am afraid that I cannot be associated with that. I will make a reservation or ask for a minority view to be included.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Prefiero que hable primero Canada, porque una reserva más o una menos es lo mismo. Dele la palabra, señor Presidente, a Canadá y luego yo intervendré.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I am left in the dark. If the United Kingdom makes a reservation, well and good. That is not the same as expressing a minority view. If he expresses a minority view, it has to be spoken out loud here. I understand the conclusion to be that he is going to make a footnote reservation.

D. HUTTON (Canada): My delegation will make a reservation as well.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Para ganar tiempo yo quiero desde ahora anunciarle a usted, señor Presidente, y a la Secretaría que debajo de cada una de las reservas que se hagan usted agregue una contrarreserva de la delegación de Colombia, y le digo el texto: "La delegación de Colombia opinaron que la reserva es inaceptable". Esto queda ya como posición definitiva nuestra y así arreglamos todas las cuestiones pendientes.

CHAIRMAN: We will add what the Ambassador of Colombia has said.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Me uno a las reservas de la distinguida delegación de Colombia, a todas.

CHAIRMAN: All right we shall put the Colombia and Cuba reservations in the Report.

Paragraphs 14 to 21, not concluded

Les paragraphes 14 à 21. sont en suspens

Los párrafos 14 a 21, quedan pendientes

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI not concluded

Projet de rapport de la plénière, partie VI est en suspens

Proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VI queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT - PART VII

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE VII

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VII

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 6

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 6

PARRAFOS 1 a 6

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): J'ai seulement deux observations à faire sur le REP/7. La première est sur le par. 3, surtout sur la deuxième phrase "le Comité interministériel estime qu'il pourrait être nécessaire de promulguer une nouvelle loi pour le financement de la construction..." D'abord ce Comité interministériel n'existe pas; ensuite il est curieux de noter que ce Comité - ou bien le gouvernement italien - pense qu'il soit nécessaire d'avoir des plans détaillés pour exécuter un projet. C'est une chose qui se passe partout. De même pour une loi parce que c'est toujours le Parlement, dans n'importe quel pays, qui décide des dépenses publiques. Donc si personne n'a d'objection, je voudrais proposer de biffer la deuxième phrase du par. 3 qui s'arrêterait après la première phrase. "Le Conseil a toutefois été informé que plusieurs problèmes juridiques administratifs et financiers restent à résoudre avant que la construction puisse commencer." C'est ma première observation. La deuxième est plus importante.

CHAIRMAN: The first one is that the Ambassador says that the interministerial Committee does not exist, and therefore that paragraph will have to be omitted or reformulated.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Perhaps he can tell me privately afterwards what it was that I attended the other day - but if I have the title wrong, I apologise. The sentence was included because it was mentioned, but it was included with the intention of helping Ambassador Francisci di Baschi to solve his problem. If he does not want it, fine - let us exclude it.

CHAIRMAN: If he does not want, by all means let us exclude it.

Paragraphs 1 to 6, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraphs 7 to 10 approved

Les paragraphes 7 à 10 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 7 a 10 son aprobados

Paragraphs 11 to 13 approved

Les paragraphes 11 à 13 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 11 a 13 son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 14 to 24

PARAGRAPHES 14 à 24

PARRAFOS 14 a 24

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Ma deuxième observation: nous donnons une grande importance au problème de la discrétionalité du Directeur général. Je voudrais rappeler au Conseil que le Comité juridique s'est exprimé pour cette discrétionalité accompagnée de certaines conditions. Ensuite il y a eu une discussion au Conseil à laquelle un petit nombre de délégations a participé, mais dans ce petit nombre de déclarations je n'ai pas eu l'impression qu'il y avait une majorité du Conseil désirant confirmer la décision précédente du Conseil. Je voudrais savoir si vraiment le Conseil pense que dans sa majorité il s'est prononcé contre cette discrétionalité à donner au Directeur. C'est une chose assez simple à constater. Il suffit de demander au Conseil si sa majorité a conclu. Je n'ai pas eu l'impression d'une conclusion dans ce sens. Peut être que mon ami et collègue le Vice-Président qui représente ici Cuba pourrait nous aider sur cette question.

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Nous n'avons pas pu avoir un accord avec la représentation italienne qui a participé au Comité de rédaction sur ce point. Il me semble qu'une majorité d'entre nous pensait qu'il fallait laisser le texte en état mais, compte tenu des réserves assez précises de l'Italie, nous avons estimé qu'il fallait maintenir le texte en état, certes, mais qu'il fallait laisser le soin à la délégation italienne d'intervenir encore une fois au niveau de la plénière pour faire valoir son point de vue, parce qu'il semble qu'elle ne partage pas les conclusions au niveau du par. 24.

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je remercie beaucoup le Président du Comité de rédaction, mais il ne s'agit pas de faire prévaloir le point de vue de l'Italie. Il s'agit de savoir si le Conseil a vraiment conclu dans le sens indiqué dans ce paragraphe, c'est tout. Nous n'avons aucune intention d'imposer une volonté au Conseil, mais seulement de connaître celle-ci.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the Vice-Chairman, Ambassador Hidalgo would like to comment?

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): El párrafo realmente tiene, a mi juicio, algo de más. Creo que tiene dos párrafos que realmente se contradicen y esa contradicción hay que resolver.

Quisiera que el Embajador Francisci di Baschi, de Italia, nos hiciera el favor de explicarnos cuál es su opinión referente al último párrafo que comienza: "En consecuencia, el Consejo decidió no modificar la posición que había adoptado en su 82º período de sesiones".Cuál es su opinión específica y si considera que el Consejo no decidió modificar la posición que se tomó o si considera que esto no se discutió. Quisiera conocer eso, porque realmente el párrafo, a mi juicio, debe redactarse otra vez porque tiene una cuestión contradictoria entre la primera parte del párrafo y la última.

Esta no fue una de las cuestiones más controvertidas de la discusión, porque aquí se planteo especialmente que el Director General debía tener la facultad discrecional de recurrir o no, pero se aclaro que en caso de que lo decidiera era con el único fin de defender su inmunidad, yo recuerdo que esta fue la discusión fundamental. Entonces, me ayudaría mucho para comprender bien las opiniones del Embajador Francisci di Baschi que me diera su criterio sobre el último párrafo del 24.

CHAIRMAN: Would you like to respond, Ambassador Francisci di Baschi?

M. FRANCISCI DI BASCHI (Italie): Je n'ai pas d'idée à ce propos, je veux simplement connaître celle du Conseil. Peut-être ai-je une mauvaise mémoire mais autant que je me souviens je n'ai pas eu le sentiment que le Conseil ait conclu pour la position qui est reprise à la dernière phrase. Je voudrais simplement que vous demandiez au Conseil s'il est d'accord, s'il a décidé dans ce sens. Je n'ai pas personnellement d'idée, je veux simplement connaître les idées du Conseil.

LEGAL COUNSEL: At your meeting yesterday this matter was discussed and a number of delegations expressed themselves in favour of the view reflected in the first part of the paragraph, while other delegations supported the view reflected in the second part of this paragraph. It was the impression of the Secretariat when it prepared the draft report and submitted it to the Drafting Committee, that more delegations spoke in favour of the second view - in other words, that there should be no change in the Council's policy as established in the past. The point now raised by Ambassador Francisci di Baschi is that he would like confirmation, or the contrary, from the Council on the question whether the impression gained at least by the Secretariat, was correct.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I may have missed something when I was drafting, but the point I was going to make was that my own recollection was that the last sentence of this paragraph did not represent the view of the majority - but that was just the impression I received, and I am simply querying it.

R.C. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Sí, nosotros ayer también planteamos esta misma cuestión en el grupo de redacción porque teníamos la misma sensación de Cuba, que en ese momento presidía cuando se discutió en Plenaria, que el último párrafo no se adaptaba muy bien a la realidad.

Solicito disculpas por rediscutir una cuestión de fondo pero mi pregunta es por qué se vuelve a hacer hincapié en una cuestión que era ya una posición del año 82 cuando se presupone que todo lo que debería haberse hecho dentro del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos es una evolución respecto a lo que se tenía en el año 82. No soy abogado, pero mi lógica diría que si en 1982 había una postura, la recomendación del último período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos suponía una postura. Aquí se considera como que la posición justa era la del año 82 y todo lo que hizo el Comité en estas negociaciones, que tuvieron lugar casi durante tres años lo llevó adelante el Comité, parece que no eran las justas. Solicito explicaciones, nada más que eso.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Nous sommes tous vivants, tous présents bien que fatigués. Nous avons le don de la parole. On ne peut pas savoir si dans ce Conseil il y a une majorité dans un sens ou dans l'autre?

Quand au fond du problème je n'ai aucune intention d'ouvrir une discussion là-dessus. Je pense même qu'elle ne serait pas appropriée. Le Conseil a examiné un rapport du Comité juridique dans lequel on exprimait l'opinion de redonner une certaine discrétionnalité au Directeur général. Le Conseil a été appelé à se prononcer, au moins à exprimer un jugement sur cette possibilité. C'est tout. Il y a eu une décision en 1982, peut-être est-il souhaitable maintenant de la changer. Si le Conseil ne veut pas la changer, tant mieux ou tant pis.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je pense effectivement que Monsieur l'Ambassadeur d'Italie est très concret dans la proposition qu'il nous fait. En effet le Conseil continue à siéger puisque nous sommes tous vivants comme il nous l'a dit même si nous sommes fatigués. On peut vérifier je crois qu'il est plus pragmatique de demander si nous avons changé de position depuis la dernière session. Nous avons eu l'impression devant les difficultés qu'il valait peut-être mieux opter pour un statu quo. On nous dit que ce n'est pas ça, on peut le vérifier nous sommes encore tous présents.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo quiero hacer una proposición a ver si la representación de Italia la puede aceptar, porque nos parece que inclusive en la conclusión nuestra recogimos que varios miembros habían manifestado la posibilidad de que la Organización defendiera su inmunidad ante los tribunales. Este primer párrafo debe quedar igual. Yo propongo que el párrafo 24 termine en la palabra "inmunidad". Después hay tres párrafos: en el segundo dice: "Sin embargo, la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo llegaron a la conclusión de que no sería conveniente prever la comparecencia de la FAO ante los tribunales italianos, ni siquiera representada por la Avvocatura Generale dello Stato". Eso fue dentro de la discusión una mayoría, "con el único fin de defender su inmunidad".

Si el representante de Italia acepta pensando que los dos párrafos anteriores son reales y quita todo este último párrafo, esta es mi proposición.

R.C. GUPTA (India): The Ambassador of Italy has urged a question of fact and instead of expressing an opinion at this juncture and entering into a fresh discussion, I would suggest that it would be useful to ascertain the views of the Council by posing a question and a show of hands, and then decide whether the majority do really feel that FAO should not appear before the court even to claim immunity. Then decide the paragraph, and I would tend to agree with the Ambassador of Cuba that we could perhaps delete the last sentence. That is my view. We are not all lawyers. We have expressed a view and leave it at that.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): I am very uneasy about this whole discussion. While I sat through that entire debate yesterday I must say I did not understand what was going on except what my position paper told me to say.

I must say what this sounds like is that we are running contrary to a recommendation, a decision of the CCLM. Is that not the case, because if I remember correctly, there was a recommendation in that paper that there would be a certain amount of discretion allowed for the Director-General.

We have been very very conscious, and I think correctly so, to protect the integrity of other sub-bodies of this Organization, and yet in this case we are making an exception and in essence being asked to vote up or down on an issue that certainly I do not understand at this stage.

I know we have expressed a view, that view is reflected there, and there have been other delegations around the table that have expressed a view. Those have been there, but I do not know what else we can do besides that, without going back for a little bit more expert legal advice to make a decision.

M. FRANCISCI di BASCHI (Italie): Je regrette beaucoup que l'on ait soumis au Conseil une question qu'il n'est pas à même de trancher parce que, paraît-il, il est incompétent, partiellement ou totalement. Mais ici, il ne s'agit pas d'avoir un débat sur le fond juridique, il s'agit de constater qu'il y a une majorité du Conseil qui appuie cette thèse, qui est énoncée à la fin du paragraphe 24.

C'est très simple, mon collègue de l'Inde l'a dit également, il s'agit de demander au Conseil s'il s'identifie dans cette majorité qui est indiquée dans le paragraphe.

CHAIRMAN: I quite agree that we could take a show of hands and seek a majority or minority but in such issues I think all of us want to help the Organization and the Director-General, so we should take a position which will be in the interest of the Organization, and that is why I did not want to hasten and ask everyone to say yes or no because that is easy to do. I would suggest to the subsequent speakers, Senegal and France, if you will be as brief as possible.

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal): Je crois que nous n'avons pas de problèmes. Dans la mesure où nous avons ici une proposition de rédaction, je crois qu'il appartiendrait peut-être à ceux qui ne sont pas d'accord avec cette proposition de faire des objections, ou alors on devrait adopter le paragraphe qui nous est proposé - et sûrement pas gratuitement.

Il faudrait que le Conseil juridique maintenant nous aide dans notre décision. En effet, ici, on nous propose un service de "l'Avvocatura Generale dello Stato Italiano" pour plaider l'immunité devant les Tribunaux italiens. Or, il faudrait que le Conseil juridique nous dise, au cas où la FAO serait autorisée par le Conseil à accepter ces services et malgré la plaidoirie de ce service juridique et si les tribunaux condamnent la FAO, si la FAO sera tenue de se conformer à la décision des tribunaux.

En réalité, en matière de droit, si l'on renonce à un certain avantage, on demeure lié par les conséquences, en tous cas, de la décision qui serait prise.

C'est pourquoi, à part cette précision que nous aurions souhaitée de la part du Conseil juridique, il demeure que la question est très simple. Une décision a été prise par un organe qui ne se trouve pas en-dessous de nous, mais c'est le même organe, et s'il n'y a pas de changement dans la situation, si personne ne s'oppose à ce qui est proposé, je pense que nous pourrions passer sur ce rapport. Par contre, s'il y a maintenant quelqu'un qui s'oppose, au fur et à mesure que ces oppositions se manifesteraient, on saurait s'il y a une majorité ou non. Peut-être sommes-nous d'accord? ... Je pense qu'il y a une décision assez claire à prendre au sein de nos débats.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I think the difficulty is that when the debate took place just a few speakers took the floor, and from the number of speakers it was not very easy to determine whether the Council decided really to follow the advice of the CCLM or to hold firm to the old decision that was taken by the Council itself. It will be remembered that the decision of the Council on the basis of the Headquarters Agreement was that FAO was free from immunity according to the exact wordings of the procedure in the English text. There were a few who took the floor who said they favoured the opinion of the recommendation of the CCLM, but it was not all that clear that that was the view of the Council. The view of the Drafting Committee yesterday was that since it was impossible to determine, because there were some who thought that indeed it was the Council who favoured the decision of the CCLM and others thought it was still holding to the old view that was held by the Council before. Now they said let us ask the Council itself and find out whether they really felt one way or other.

CHAIRMAN: I think the time has probably come when we should ascertain. The major question seems to me that the sentence, "that the majority of the Council concluded that it should not be desirable to enter an appearance by FAO before the Italian courts even if represented and so on for the purpose." So the question is whether the majority feel this way or respect the views of the CCLM and keep the matter under review. What should be our position. The United Kingdom, would you like to offer a method of solving this issue.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I feel I can perhaps intervene in that my advice was not particularly directed on this and I have no strong views on this. In this case where there is wisdom of doing something, one should not necessarily take a majority view. One should be guided by those people who have very severe reservations about a particular course of legal action. I would suggest therefore that we do not bother to establish the majority or otherwise, that one simply leaves the text as it is but substituting for "majority", "a number of Council members", so that the logic is various people thought it might be a good idea, other people were worried about it, and therefore it was decided not to take action.

CHAIRMAN: We should take action. We give the discretion to the Director-General to come to a decision.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I cannot say on behalf of the Director-General that I am very happy with what the United Kingdom has said, or many other things that the United Kingdom has said for the last hour or hour and a half, but as I understand his proposal the consequences of it would be to keep the status quo, that is the Director-General does not go to the Court. On that basis I think it is all right.



J. POSIER (France): Je voulais simplement rappeler que vous êtes saisi d'une proposition et même d'une demande précise et concrète de l'Ambassadeur Francisci di Baschi qui consiste à vous demander s'il ne serait pas possible de consulter les membres du Conseil pour savoir exactement quel est l'opinion de ce Conseil, parce que, si j'ai bien compris, le représentant de l'Italie n'est pas absolument persuadé qu'il s'agisse de l'opinion majoritaire du Conseil et il demande simplement à ce que l'on procède à une vérification.

CHAIRMAN: I would suggest for saving time and also noting for ourselves that the Ambassador of Cuba made a suggestion that we just delete the last sentence.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Mantengo mi proposición de cancelar el último párrafo, pero quiero explicar una situación en la que el Embajador Francisci di Baschi creo que debe estar de acuerdo. La discusión llegó a un punto final en que se conoció que, a pesar de diez años de dar una serie de logros satisfactorios hay optimismo en resolver una situación, pero que no estaba terminada la situación. Por lo tanto, este ofrecimiento del Gobierno Italiano que le hace a la Organización, sencillamente, cuando se le ofrecen a la Organización los servicios de la Avvocatura Generale dello Stato para defenderse, es porque está claro que tiene que defender la inmunidad, que no existe, porque si no no le iba a ofrecer esa situación. Esto quedó claro. De hecho se ha ofrecido y se ha ofrecido porque hay que defenderla. Ahora lo que se discutió aquí es que varios miembros sólo plantean darle una facultad discrecional al Director General para recurrir o no. Esa es una de las partes, y la mayoría, a nuestro juicio, planteó que no debía preverse esta participación en los Tribunales Italianos. Esas son las cuestiones que se discutieron. La mayoría planteó, a nuestro juicio, a pesar de la cantidad de delegados que había aquí, que no era muy grande. Fue a últimas horas, en los momentos de terminar el Informe, pero la mayoría planteó que consideraban que no debía asistir. Punto. Por eso hay estas dos diferencias y la primera inmunidad está aceptada, y por eso se lo ofrece la Avvocatura.

CHAIRMAN: We now have Philippines, Venezuela, Italy, and Senegal on my list. Colombia has a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo creo que ya es hora de que formalicemos las propuestas que ha hecho el mismo Embajador Francisci di Baschi a los miembros del Consejo. Colombia formaliza una moción de orden. Propone que se cierre el debate, que usted pregunte al Consejo cuál es la opinión.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): I am opposing, Mr Chairman. The reasons I am opposing: number 1: the Chairman who conducted the proceedings had the impression that indeed it was the majority who wanted to retain the status quo. Number 2: there was a request from the Drafting Committee and it was brought here by Ambassador Francisci di Baschi that we asked the Council to take actually a voting by hands to show what was really the majority or the minority. But from the interventions that we have had here I had the impression that there were some delegations who are really reluctant to pronounce themselves on this matter, and to prove that, only a few delegations took the floor when the matter was debated in the Council. Why are we now going to force them to make this decision. I think that the motion made by the delegate of the United Kingdom is the most wise decision to take. We should decide to leave it because many people do not want to make a decision on this point.

CHAIRMAN: Who are the persons opposing the motion?

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Bajo la evidencia de esta discusión, es que nosotros no estamos realmente en disposición de tomar una decisión definitiva en esta Asamblea. El mismo Embajador de Cuba ha propuesto que se elimine la parte final, con lo cual estamos de acuerdo, y en cuanto a esta mayoría de los miembros del Consejo que llegaron a esta conclusión, pues en realidad ha declarado él mismo que no era una mayoría muy fuerte por ser tomada a última hora, como está esta noche, pues no era una mayoría muy definitiva. Por estas razones yo pienso que no sería una decisión muy consciente y muy meditada como lo merece esta decisión para ser tomada por una votación, y lo que yo propondría, como para que salga de esta reunión, es que, además de la última parte del párrafo, elimináramos también la oración que comienza por "sin embargo, la mayoría" y dejáramos hasta (me voy a permitir leerlo) sencillamente "podría concederse al Director General una facultad discrecional para que lo hiciera si lo estimara conveniente". En esas circunstancias el Director General tendría la facultad discrecional de recurrir o no a la *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato*, que terminara allí. Si más adelante, de aquí a la Conferencia, las delegaciones se ponen de acuerdo y el asesor llega a convencerle al Gobierno Italiano o el señor Embajador Francisci di Baschi, que también aporta su contribución de entendimiento, es posible que para la Conferencia se llegara a un acuerdo, pero forzar la aprobación de todo este párrafo en las condiciones en que está, a mí no me parece muy cuerdo que digamos.

De manera que mi proposición es limitar el párrafo hasta donde dice "tendría la facultad discrecional de recurrir o no a la *Avvocatura Generale dello Stato*" y así el Director General tendría la posibilidad de asesorarse lo mejor posible, incluso con los muchos delegados que están a favor de lo que dice aquí la segunda parte del párrafo.

CHAIRMAN: By the rules I am obliged to take your views by a show of hands. Those in favour of this sentence, "The majority of the Council concluded that it would not be desirable to envisage an appearance before the Italian courts by the Organization, even for the sole purpose of pleading its immunity", kindly show their hands.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): It is not clear what you are proposing.

CHAIRMAN: I am only ascertaining whether it is a large majority, some majority. The Ambassador of Italy has asked what it means, "the majority of the Council concluded". If the majority concluded, then the next sentence is quite correct - "Consequently". It simply means the majority of the Council concluded that the Director-General should not appear. That is the present position. Are you in favour of what the Ambassador of Venezuela has suggested, leaving the option that in such circumstances the Director-General would have discretion whether or not to avail himself? But first we must know whether this conclusion by the Drafting Committee is correct or not. Senegal, you have a point of order?

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal): J'avais demandé une précision juridique. Est-ce que cette possibilité de se faire assister par l'*Avvocatura Generale dello Stato* apporterait par la suite obligation pour la FAO en cas de condamnation, de se plier? Est-ce que cela pourrait constituer jurisprudence ou non? Pour mon pays, cette précision est très importante. Il faudrait que nous ayons l'avis du Conseiller juridique.

LE CONSEILLER JURIDIQUE: Si nous nous faisons assister par un avocat privé ou par l'*Avvocatura Generale dello Stato*, le résultat sera exactement le même. Si nous perdons le procès et que notre immunité n'est pas respectée, nous serions dans la même situation, que ce soit l'*Avvocato Generale dello Stato* ou un avocat privé qui n'a pas réussi à faire reconnaître l'immunité de l'Organisation. Et dans ces circonstances les tribunaux italiens pourraient chercher à faire appliquer des mesures d'exécution et ainsi mettre à l'épreuve la Section 17 de l'Accord de siège.

MAME BALLA SY (Sénégal): Dans de telles conditions - je m'y attendais d'ailleurs mais je n'avais aucune qualité pour le dire - mon pays, compte tenu des dispositions de la Convention de Vienne dont on s'inspire pour traiter l'Accord de siège des organisations internationales, ne peut engager l'immunité de l'Organisation comme il ne pourrait pas engager l'immunité de son propre Etat. Pour notre pays la décision est très claire, nous sommes très favorables au maintien du paragraphe actuel.

CHAIRMAN: We cannot reopen the debate. I want to know whether the majority is in favour or not. That is what Italy has asked. How many are in favour of the retention of the sentence as it is here? I would like to know how many are in favour of the retention of this sentence in the report, as it is now.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): What is the question?

CHAIRMAN: The question is whether this conclusion given here by the Drafting Committee is one which we all support or not.

The vast majority are in favour of the conclusion as reported by the Drafting Committee, so we adopt it as it is.

Motion carried on a show of hands

La proposition est adoptée par un vote à main levée

Se adopto la propuesta por votación a mano alzada

Paragraphs 14 to 24 approved

Les paragraphes 14 à 24 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 14 a 24 son aprobados

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VII, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, VII partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VII, así enmendado, es aprobado

Now we go to the three or four pending items. The first pending item is Cuba. Cuba, your reservation? It is on the World Food Security Compact. Can you read out your reservation?

DRAFT REPORT - PART I (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE I (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE I (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 46 to 51

PARAGRAPHES 46 à 51

PARRAFOS 46 a 51

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Voy a ser muy breve. Nuestra reserva debe ir inmediatamente después de la reserva que ya figura en el Informe. La misma debe decir:

Algunas delegaciones deploraron la reserva de este país por considerarla una actitud negativa a la cooperación internacional.

Digo algunas delegaciones, porque después de haber presentado la reserva, las delegaciones del Congo, Colombia, Panamá, Venezuela y Argentina, nos han dado mandato para unirse a nuestra reserva. Es posible que haya otras delegaciones que quieran unirse; pero ésta es la proposición y esta es mi opinión soberana.

D. HUTTON (Canada): I certainly have no comment to make on the actual wording put forward. However, I do think it is the appropriate procedure that the countries be named. If they are not in a position to name themselves now we accept that they would put it in. But that is the appropriate procedure in a reservation.

CHAIRMAN: This is true, because the earlier reservation says Australia, Canada and United States of America, So if we could have the names - Cuba, Colombia and so on - that would be the proper format. Kindly give the names and we will put it in that way.

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): I just want the name of my country to be included.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo di los nombres: Cuba, Congo, Colombia, Panamá, Venezuela y Argentina, hasta ahora.

CHAIRMAN: So I think we will enter a reservation on behalf of all these countries.

Paragraphs 46 to 51, as amended, approved with reservations

Les paragraphes 46 à 51, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés avec des réserves

Los párrafos 46 a 51, así enmendados, son aprobados con reservas

Draft Report of Plenary, Part I, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, I partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: We now move on to the reservation of the United Kingdom in Draft Report Part IV.

DRAFT REPORT - PART IV (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - PARTIE IV (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE IV (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 6 to 9

PARAGRAPHES 6 à 9

PARRAFOS 6 a 9

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): My reservation on paragraph 8 of REP/4: "The United Kingdom delegation recorded that its association with the endorsement of the proposals for 1986-87 was subject to a reservation on its position for the budgetary level for the biennium".

CHAIRMAN: And the next reservation?

PARAGRAPHS 38 to 41 (continued)

PARAGRAPHES 38 à 41 (suite)

PARRAFOS 38 a 41 (continuación)

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): The next reservation is on paragraph 39 of REP/U. "The United Kingdom reserved its position on paragraph 39 of REP/U because it inadequately reflected minority views expressed in the Council and because the United Kingdom delegation was denied an opportunity to express fully its views on this paragraph by a decision of the majority to terminate the discussion before consideration had been completed".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sería mejor que el colega del Reino Unido lea la otra reserva porque Cuba y yo tenemos un solo texto para todas tres.

CHAIRMAN: What is the third reservation of the United Kingdom?

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): The third reservation I am sharing with Canada,

D. HUTTON (Canada): I would like to be associated with the reservation on paragraph 39, and that wording is acceptable to my delegation.

BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Para simplificar nuestra posición queremos decirle que debajo de cada reserva que haga Reino Unido y Canadá y todos, se debe poner el siguiente texto:

"Las delegaciones de Colombia y Cuba opinaron que la reserva es inaceptable." Sin debate y sin mayor complicaciones esto se debe poner en todas las reservas debajo de todos los textos.

CHAIRMAN: I hope all of you will give the correct wording to our recorders.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): We have a reservation of our own on paragraph 39 of the document. I will read it slowly and then give you the text. "The United States reserved on paragraph 39 of document CL 87/REP/4 because of the abrupt closure of debate on the paragraph. In taking this action the Council denied some members their rights to be heard and to have their views reflected in the report of the Council, even though they be minority views. The action was especially lamentable because substantial agreement had been obtained on revised wording. This use of closure was an unacceptable and highly inappropriate departure from customary procedures".

H. NAKAGAWA (Japan): My delegation also associates itself with delegates of the United Kingdom and Canada in putting a reservation on the same paragraph 39..

J. TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Si je comprends parfaitement la position du Royaume-Uni et du Canada, je comprends moins celle des Etats-Unis qui devrait être celle de défendre le projet de rapport que nous avons fait tous ensemble, à l'exception du point précis où les Etats-Unis avaient émis une réserve. Pour certains des points que l'on signale ici, ce sont les Etats-Unis qui ont parfois aidé à la rédaction. Ce n'est pas honnête qu'au cours de cette session les Etats-Unis se comportent de cette manière. Il est honnête qu'un Comité de rédaction en séance plénière soit solidaire, et essaie de défendre le projet de texte qu'il a adopté, à l'exception des points signalés et sur lesquels nous ne nous sommes pas mis d'accord, le Comité de rédaction lui-même ayant décidé que telle ou telle délégation pouvait faire ses réserves en séance plénière. Cela nous le comprenons. Mais pour les autres points nous le comprenons moins.

Je voulais donc intervenir pour attirer l'attention des membres du Comité de rédaction sur le fait qu'il s'agit là d'un précédent assez dangereux qui risque d'avoir des répercussions dans l'avenir.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): I do not wish to enter any debate on any reservation that I have. I presume that will not be the course we follow. But for the record, this is the reservation. Australia reserves its position on document CL 87/REP/4 because it inadequately reflected minority views expressed in the Plenary. In particular, it did not give adequate expression to the following Australian suggestion: "In response to the Director-General's agreement to provide additional information one member requested an information paper for the Conference outlining some options for the work programme under the zero real growth constraint".

G. BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Queremos apoyar plenamente lo que ha dicho con valor y decisión el Embajador Tchicaya, Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Creo que aunque a algunos no les guste hay que usar un lenguaje claro y franco para condenar actitudes que son deshonestas porque incurren en inexactitudes y en juicios incorrectos. Nosotros condenamos la actitud de dos países que en el Comité de Redacción con nosotros adoptan un texto y luego aquí en la Plenaria vienen a decir que no se les permitió expresar sus puntos de vista. No queremos prolongar más el debate, pero también debajo de esa reserva Colombia y Cuba desean que se agregue la misma frase, en el mismo sitio después de cada una de las reservas.

R.D. KAUZLARICH (United States of America): First of all, the reply to the distinguished Chairman of the Drafting Committee. Our reservation on this paragraph was not about the language in it, but how suggestions that people who were not members of the Drafting Committee but members of the Council were treated in terms of the 'presentation of their views which were minority views and which, as I read from the Basic Texts, should have the right to be expressed. We were faithful participants in the Drafting Committee and again I find, as I have consistently throughout these two weeks, that our motivations are being questioned at every turn. I think the reservations I have made ought to stand. It is nothing to do with the decisions we took in the Drafting Committee but was in response to the decision of this Council in closed debate not to allow views of members who were not members of that Committee to be reflected in the report of the Council.

W.A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): My delegation also wishes to make a reservation on paragraph 39 of document CL 87/REP/4 because the procedure followed for its adoption did not allow its position to be reflected adequately.

Paragraphs 6 to 9, as amended, approved with reservations

Les paragraphes 6 à 9, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés avec des réserves

Los párrafos 6 a 9, así enmendados, son aprobados con reservas

Paragraphs 38 to 41, as amended, approved with reservations

Les paragraphes 38 à 41, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés avec des réserves

Los párrafos 38 a 41, así enmendados, son aprobados con reservas

Draft Report of Plenary, Part IV, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, quatrième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte IV, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT - PART VI (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT - QUATRIÈME PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME - PARTE VI (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 14 to 21

PARAGRAPHES 14 à 21

PARRAFOS 14 a 21

CHAIRMAN: We now request the delegate of Canada to read his reservation on paragraph 20 of REP/6.

D. HUTTON (Canada): As I said earlier, I would like to put the following reservation, and it does have the concurrence of the delegate of the United Kingdom on paragraph 20.

"The delegations of the United Kingdom and Canada disassociated their Governments from the position of the Council on paragraph 20".

Then the reservation of the delegations of Colombia and Cuba would follow.

Paragraphs 14 to 21, as amended, approved with reservations

Les paragraphes 14 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés avec des réserves

Los párrafos 14 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados con reservas

Draft Report of Plenary, Part VI, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la plénière, quatrième partie, ainsi amendée, est adoptée

El proyecto de informe de la Plenaria, Parte VI, así enmendado, es aprobado

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous n'avons pas de réserve à faire mais je pense que le principe de recueillir une réserve ne veut pas dire qu'on en profite pour dire n'importe quoi. On nous dit que le rapport ne reflète pas l'avis d'un certain nombre de personnes mises en minorité.

Nous avons eu des débats très démocratiques. Le problème se pose au niveau du rapport. Le Comité de rédaction a estimé que, dans la mesure du possible, on devait avoir le consensus. Si on ne l'a pas, on doit exprimer les positions qui se sont manifestées. Sur certaines questions.

il faut tirer des conclusions. Nous ne pouvons pas par exemple quitter le Conseil et laisser le Directeur général dans l'embarras en disant qu'on ne s'est pas prononcé sur telle question. Il y a une différence entre la façon avec laquelle nous avons travaillé pendant la session et la façon dont ce qui a été déclaré pendant la session a été transcrit dans le rapport. Il faut faire la différence. Donc une certaine honnêteté doit exister. Nous avons eu des débats démocratiques, et au niveau du rapport il y a certainement des choses qui n'ont pas été mentionnées. Mais ce n'est pas la même chose.

CHAIRMAN: It is too late in the day to discuss whether people want to reserve or not. Personally, I am very sorry that so many reservations have to be put down. I think that if people could withdraw all their reservations that would be excellent, but naturally I can see strong view points here. Hence, we have to go according to the Rules and those who want to express reservations have every right to do so.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): We are all tired; we have been looking at this report since this morning. The members of the Drafting Committee have been working for several nights up to 12 o'clock at night, so I understand that many tempers are short. But we regret that so many reservations have to be made. It would be desirable if such reservations were not made and now that they have been, we wish they could be withdrawn.

The Basic Texts, on page 111, indeed provide for the recording of the minority view. That same page also indicates that the verbatim records are also part of the report. Evidently not all views can be recorded in the report because if all views were to be so recorded, then we could just reproduce the verbatim records and say, "this is our report". But we regret indeed that this procedure has to be taken.

My delegation did not take any part in the voting when the motion for closure of the debate on the issue on which reservations are now being made was called for. We did not believe that that was the best way to resolve reservations. It is also regrettable that we should reach such a state, that for such little things we should enter reservations, and not on the substantive matters.

With reference to the report, Rule VI of the Rules of Procedure of the Council says that we have to indicate our decisions, conventions, resolutions, amendments, agreements, etc., and also the minority views, if requested but I think it should be said that many of those who have made reservations were indeed in the Drafting Committee. I thought it was the duty of the Drafting Committee to defend the report of the Drafting Committee to the best of their ability.

I should like to appeal to everyone to show some moderation in this respect. For example, the request is made for an information paper for Conference outlining some options under zero real growth restraint. That is in response to the agreement to provide information, but this is not just information. When you provide information, it is data you are asking for. If you are asking

for an information paper calling for options, this paper already includes value judgments; it is a whole document. You will have to prepare a whole document under which you have to make value judgments. This is not just simply information. With a little adjustment, the views of these delegations could have been stated, and if not all of their views some could have been stated, in reporting to their own governments that we expressed our opinions, and they could also cite the verbatim record. This is what we said during the debate, but it was not possible to put all of that in the report.

I think we should bear this in mind when we make reports to our governments; we could also refer to the verbatim record, because these also form part of the formal report of the Council.

I just want to express this regret and hope that in the future we will not proceed in the same way as we have proceeded today.

D. HUTTON (Canada): On the point just raised by the Delegate of the Philippines, I have been sitting here during two weeks next to the verbatim reporters and I must say that some of us listen to some of the words, but they have to listen to all of them and they have my full respect. But it does raise the interesting point mentioned by the Delegate of the Philippines. I believe all of us who have participated in this and other meetings can see the system is deteriorating. Our Permanent Representative is in Canada right now with all the other Permanent Representatives we have with the United Nations to discuss this very issue. I suggest we consider - and certainly Canada is more than willing to participate in any group - whether the decision-making process is still adequate for this Council. I even suggest that, having verbatim records, we do away with the report. This is not a reflection on the work of the Drafting Committee but that process seems no longer to serve us. We should rely on decisions of the Council on major issues, and use the verbatim records as the record.

CHAIRMAN: This involves a lot of modification. I would like to complete work on the report first.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I do not wish to be long. I only wish to add my voice to what the delegate of the Philippines has just said. It would indeed be very unfortunate if the final report of this Council carried so many reservations which would reflect that this House, which has traditionally been following the policy and great tradition of universal consensus, had somehow drifted in its practical approach. At this late hour, when we are all so tired and have been deliberating for so many hours, perhaps we should view the positive framework and reconsider, take another look, and see how we can reach a position where all these reservations would not really become a part of our report. That is all I wish to say.

M.J.E. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago): I do not wish to make any comment on the actual reservations, but we are concerned with the number of lamentations we have about the reservations.

I would like it to be known that Trinidad and Tobago did not participate in the debate for closure.

CHAIRMAN: I think we must look to the future. Lessons must be learned, but right now it will not help us in our debate.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: I feel that I have to say something on behalf of the Director-General. If he were here, I think that he would perhaps have intervened much earlier.



These matters are essentially matters within the hands of the delegates themselves. I think that he would certainly deplore the fact that reservations have been put necessitating, in the view of some delegations, counter-reservations. At the beginning of the Council he spoke of his desire for consensus. His last intervention was in the direction of appealing for a consensus at the Conference. I would still say that is his objective.

The adoption of reservations is not a very happy thing in that context, and I am sure that he would deplore the fact that they have been made, particularly in the context in which they have been made.

There are some issues which I would touch on except that when you are discussing rights, you have to take into account all the rights. On the one hand the Director-General has always said that minority views should be recorded. On the other hand, the Rules provide for closure. It cannot be said that a motion for closure is of itself undemocratic. In that case, why is it there? Whether the Council adopts the motion is a matter for the Council to decide. Some members may be unhappy with the Council's decision. Once a motion for closure has been made, no one can stop that process. That is how these things happen.

On the subject of drafting committees, I think that perhaps there is a certain amount of exaggeration going on. I think that what we have seen at this Council has been very exceptional. I am referring to the Drafting Committee and to what happened afterwards. On the one hand we have the position of people who were members of the Drafting Committee, and that has been adequately discussed. On the other hand, we have the position of others. If they want to express minority views, they should be able to do so. The question arises whether and when the process has to stop because, as has been pointed out, the verbatim records are a part of the official record in which minority views are expressed. Because one or many delegates are not members of the Drafting Committee they have to set themselves a limit, if they can, as to the number of changes they demand in a report. What I think is most exceptional at this Council is that, having demanded changes and having got them, they make reservations. That is a most extraordinary thing. Reservations seem to be in fashion at this Council. Perhaps the whole situation got too tactical at a certain stage. I have never before experienced a situation like this. I can only say that I think it is unfortunate.

I would certainly add on behalf of the Director-General an appeal for reservations to be withdrawn and that we try to come together as a more happy family at the next Council and at the Conference, particularly have an understanding about the role of the Drafting Committee, and then the role of members who are not on the Drafting Committee.

I leave it to the good sense of the Council to decide who should be on the Drafting Committee. Maybe the people who should be on the Drafting Committee are the ones who are going to make the most trouble when the report comes to Council, rather than on another basis.

However, I am chiefly concerned that we should put this series of incidents which have now taken place behind us. If the reservations could be withdrawn, that would be much better. If not, I hope that we can go on to a better atmosphere and a better conclusion at the next Council and at the Conference in the spirit that the Director-General put forward.

I want to make just one final brief point because I do not want there to be any misunderstanding.

One of the reservations was linked to an allied statement by the Director-General. Again, when the Director-General was offering more information he was not undertaking to do what one delegate just described as issuing a whole series of other value judgments, because that is what it would be. He would be saying that instead of doing this which I indicated you could, do that which I do not advocate. Those would be value judgments on his part. It is his right to put forward the proposals for work and budget in the way that he wants. It is up to the Council to propose alternatives if they want to do so. It is up to Conference to decide.

With that I am afraid that I must leave my note of clarification that the reservation on this point is not to be misunderstood. The delegate who put it may interpret it as he wishes, but it should not be misunderstood in any quarter.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): My delegation is also seriously concerned with the way the Council has gone. Although we are late, we are not too late. We might try to adopt some measures which will alleviate the matter. Though it will be a bit late, in the interests of all of us we can try as there is still time.

CHAIRMAN: I think something has happened which has never happened during my years as Chairman. This is my last year. I can see that the mood, unfortunately, has been one of confrontation rather than consensus which has permeated the Council.

I would like to suggest that those who have made reservations might like to think about them overnight and if they do not feel the same way tomorrow morning, please send a slip to the Secretary-General. The reservations will be recorded, because it is your right to have your views recorded. But when a reservation has been used in the manner in which it has been used here, it loses significance. It almost becomes a way of report writing to express the minority view. In my view a reservation to be effective should be used with care and circumspection and used only when absolutely essential.

Therefore, I would like to suggest that delegates think it over. All of the reservations have been recorded. If any member feels that he would like to withdraw his reservation, I shall be very grateful if you could inform the Secretary-General. If we do not hear from you by Monday morning we will know that you have the same views and the report will reflect those views.

As the delegates of Pakistan and Bangladesh have said, I do not think that we now have time to discuss the reservations one by one, why it happened, and so on. If acceptable to you I would make an earnest plea that those who have reservations and counter-reservations might reconsider their views.

M. BALLA SY (Senegal): Je voudrais appuyer la proposition que vous venez de faire d'autant plus qu'en réalité nous ne pouvons que regretter ces réserves dans la mesure où elles semblent se faire d'une manière si automatique que, finalement, le lecteur qui retrouverait les mêmes pays faisant les mêmes réserves et les mêmes pays qui font des contre-réserves pourraient se dire: en fait ces réserves là ne sont en réalité qu'une attitude dogmatique. C'est pourquoi nous avons pu regretter parfois que sur des points où nous aurions pu avoir des accords pour un consensus, des propositions logiques faites mêmes par ces pays qui habituellement font des réserves aient été systématiquement combattues alors qu'il s'agissait de propositions sages. Je crois, comme vous venez de le dire que ces réserves, même si elles étaient maintenues seraient regrettables, mais dans le fond on pourrait se demander logiquement quel est le sens de ces réserves. Je voudrais donc appuyer votre proposition qui procède d'une sagesse que nous devons respecter.

CHAIRMAN: You will recall that in the first week the Ambassador of the Philippines said that two weeks is too long for the Council meeting. After the last two weeks of intensive work it appears to me that we may all feel that the time has not been adequate to consider all issues. This time the agenda was rather heavy, heavier than usual. On the Programme of Work and Budget and on the African situation, as well as on the Compact, we spent a whole day each.

We are at the end of our session and there is no point in saying whether there was sufficient time or not.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I would wish to hear the delegate of the United Kingdom. Perhaps he is in a mood to withdraw his reservations. I think that would be a happy moment for all of us.

CHAIRMAN: You would like a happy ending to the Council meeting.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): I would like to go along with my colleague from Pakistan.

M.J. BLAMEY (Australia): I wish to thank you for your forbearance and for your excellent Chairmanship.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): Personally I would hope to continue this meeting and to start again on the four points in order to try and get a position which will allow us to withdraw our reservations.

More seriously, we have to make a judgment on whether to have a report which is fairly ambitious in delineating the area of agreement. If one is overambitious, one does automatically get a position where disassociations have to come. If one is less ambitious, one can avoid that. Probably we have tried to be too ambitious in the report and thereby have thrown up the areas of our disagreement on certain points. It is not a dramatic event. We have just made a slight error of judgment on this. There is no question of the lack of goodwill or preparedness to compromise.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Yo quiero dejar sentado en acta que la delegación de México lamenta muchísimo el clima en el que se ha adoptado el informe del Consejo.

Las posiciones se han polarizado y hemos perdido nuestra capacidad de negociación, lo cual tendrá la sola consecuencia de que las directivas que los Estados Miembros damos a la Organización serán confusas con el evidente perjuicio que eso entraña.

Quisiera unirme a su llamado, a pesar de la ingenuidad que eso significa a estas alturas para hacer un llamado a la reflexión ya que no me queda muy claro a quién benefician las reservas que se han hecho, en algunos casos por simple cuestiones de procedimiento. Ojalá puedan retirarse para que durante la Conferencia el indispensable clima de armonía sea restaurado.

H.M. MBALE (Malawi): I simply wanted to speak after the delegate of the United Kingdom had spoken, because I thought we would be able to look at this matter once again.

I feel that this is a most unfortunate situation, and I feel that we should really avoid having our records mucked up in that manner. Although we are very tired if we could make it possible for these reservations to be withdrawn by having some more time to look at the issues, then I would wish to recommend that we do; because in the final analysis that would be a better record to go away with. I think that the present situation has marred all our efforts which we have put into this since we came here about two weeks ago, and to those of us who have been on the Drafting Committee it is certainly a most discouraging experience and we would not wish to be involved in a similar situation in the future. My delegation is in no way saying that its participation in this Council has all been wasted - on the contrary, we have participated fully and I have got quite a lot out of it. It is just the end of it that is disappointing.

R.G. GUPTA (India): I do not wish to take any more of the time of this Council, but only to place on the record our deep sense of disappointment at the report which has been adopted. I would not like to impute any motives or reasons - this is difficult to say - but nevertheless we would have very much wished that these reservations, these procedural wrangles, could have been avoided.

To conclude, we express our regret at the way in which these proceedings have gone on and the way the report has been adopted.

CHAIRMAN: We all share your view. I would again like to repeat what I said for the honourable delegations who have made reservations to the report, because I know that at one stage the United Kingdom delegate said that some of the portions of the report are not available, and if you would feel inclined to withdraw your reservations, I would be very grateful if you would send a note to the Secretary-General by Monday morning.

R. MARTIN (Observer for Belgium): Rule XXV.9(c) says that any Member Nation not represented on the Council may participate without voting in any discussion - and that is what I would like to do.

LEGAL COUNSEL: If I understand it rightly, the point made by the Observer for Belgium is that an observer may participate not only in the substantive discussion on items on the Council's agenda, but also in procedural motions arising in the course of those discussions. I presume any form of point of order is meant, even, for that matter a motion for the closure of the debate. If I mention for instance a motion for closure of the debate it is because this hypothesis must of itself give the answer. Thus, it would be inconceivable in any parliamentary procedure whether the body be international or national, for a state which is a member of an organization but is participating in an observer capacity actually to intervene, not so much on the substance, but on the way in which the proceedings are being conducted.

If observers may raise points of order, they could propose the closure of the debate - and yet clearly it is a debate that they are observing. Therefore not only from the legal point of view but also from a practical point of view the ruling that your Chairman has I believe given you is entirely correct.

This is in fact the way in which I interpret paragraph 9(c) of Rule XXV. It does admittedly say "... participate without vote in any discussion." - but there must obviously be certain limits to that participation which are common to all parliamentary procedures. There are certain inherent limitations on the role of observers which are, in my view, quite clearly implied in Rule XXV, 9(c).

R. MARTIN (Observateur de la Belgique): Je voulais simplement dire que ce "Rule XXV" est très clair et que j'ai donc le droit de parler. D'ailleurs je veux simplement faire quelques remarques générales sur ce qui s'est passé maintenant pendant que vous, les Membres, vous avez décidé des choses et vous avez fait plusieurs démonstrations, ici, devant nous les observateurs.

En tant qu'observateur, je voudrais faire quelques remarques non pas sur la procédure du "n'importe quoi", mais généralement, un peu sur l'atmosphère. Cela doit certainement aussi plaire à quelques-uns.

La délégation belge s'excuse d'ailleurs de prendre la parole à cette heure tardive, mais c'est à la fois la première et la dernière fois qu'elle prend la parole je vous l'assure.

1. La délégation belge s'étonne que l'on ait proposé de changer les attributions des Commissions 1 et 11 après que les présidences de ces commissions aient été établies. Elle se demande ce qui se serait passé si le Président de la Commission 11 avait appartenu à un autre groupe.

2. La délégation belge s'étonne également que dans le rapport, très souvent, les termes "le Conseil est convenu" ou "le Conseil a décidé" aient été employés sans qu'il y ait un consensus ou sans qu'un vote ait eu lieu. Ceci ne semble pas être une procédure qui corresponde aux textes fondamentaux ni, chers collègues, un moyen d'éviter des réserves.

La délégation reviendra activement sur ce problème lors de la Conférence, si cela s'avère nécessaire.

Nous sommes placés devant un nouveau phénomène. Beaucoup l'ont dit, on fait maintenant des réserves et puis des réserves sur les réserves. On pourrait continuer et faire des réserves sur ces contre-réserves.

Mesdames, Messieurs, chers collègues où cela va-t-il nous mener? Chers collègues, de grâce réfléchissons. Comme disait le Directeur général adjoint: "Perhaps the whole situation got too tactical".

Je termine par une remarque tout à fait générale, si une répétition continuelle de certaines manoeuvres peut porter des fruits sur le plan de la tactique de certains, ce n'est pas nécessairement le cas sur le plan stratégique.

D.K. YOMAN (Observateur de la Côte-d'Ivoire): la délégation de Côte-d'Ivoire a bien lu les textes de base et soyez assuré, Monsieur le Président, qu'elle respectera ces textes de base et sa position d'observateur.

Aux termes de ces deux longues semaines de travail nous nous devons, en notre qualité d'observateur de la Côte-d'Ivoire, de vous faire part de notre sentiment de profonde déception pour les conclusions de nos débats et surtout pour l'esprit dans lequel notre Conseil s'est acquitté de sa tâche.

Nous nous posons la question de savoir si, dans les annales de la FAO, il y aura un rapport du Conseil avec autant de réserves et autant de divergences. C'est bien dommage ! Peut-être devons-nous inviter les membres du Conseil à plus de modération, à revoir leur position avant la date de la Conférence, car il serait très malheureux pour l'image de la FAO et surtout pour les populations qui attendent de nous un élan général, de voir que nous sommes divisés sur des questions essentielles comme le PNUD, le Code, le Pacte, etc.

Je voudrais simplement souscrire à votre suggestion pour que demain matin les auteurs des réserves et des contre-réserves réfléchissent davantage et se rallient au consensus qui a toujours caractérisé les débats au sein de cette Organisation. C'est notre vœu.

R.C. SERSALE di CERISANO (Argentina): Voy a ser muy breve. Hacemos uso de la palabra porque se hablo de las contrarreservas. Nosotros somos responsables de una sola contrarreserva. Nosotros, si se levanta la reserva, automáticamente quedaría levantada la contrarreserva argentina.

CHAIRMAN: You have already summarized it very well.

I think with this we will bring this particular session of the Council to a close. If there is no other delegation wishing to speak I would like to formally thank everyone. Before I close the session, is there anybody else who has an urge to say something urgent? No. Everybody has an urge to go home.

I will not take your time because the more we speak, the interpreters and the verbatim reporters and others who have been working the whole day, their time is prolonged. So I want to thank every one of you, the Council members; the Council is what the Council members make of it, the distinguished three Vice-Chairmen. I am very fortunate to have had all three very experienced Ambassadors as Vice-Chairmen and the very distinguished Ambassador of Congo and the very dedicated group of people on the Drafting Committee who have worked hard to prepare our report. I want to thank all of them. We are also very grateful to His Excellency Mr Lassaad BEN OSMAN, Minister of Agriculture of Tunisia, and also Mr Tomé Dias DA COSTA, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of Sao Tome and Principe. They were kind enough to join us in the early stages, and I want to thank them.

I want to thank the Chairmen of both Programme and Finance Committees as well as the Chairman of the CCLM. They are all away but they do a lot of work as they have explained. In all the Chairmen of our various Committees, we are very fortunate. They and their members work for long hours each day. The Director-General had to leave earlier as he said, and we are indebted to him and to Mr West and all his colleagues here and the entire staff of FAO, whether they are messengers or people in charge of keeping the records, helping us in the Secretariat and the Drafting Committee. To save time today, I am going to shorten my vote of thanks but let me say my not including anyone in my "thank you" speech is not an expression of our ingratitude to them. We are most grateful to everyone in this building for their totally dedicated work to help us, whether it is in the Council, or Drafting Committee and so on.

We have the World Forestry Congress starting next week and we have spent a lot of time this week - and rightly so - on issues of food security in Africa. I want to commend to all of you who have not read the latest issue of UNASYLVA, FAO's wonderful publication, a very interesting article written almost 40 years ago, almost at the birth of FAO, by Mr André Marie A. Aubréville who was then the conservator of forests in France. The article is called "The Disappearance of the Tropical Forests of Africa", and was written 38 years ago. I would like everyone of you to read it because there is a certain diagnosis of the problems which are exceedingly pertinent because the problem have really got aggravated over a period of time.

Let me conclude by a poem from Gitanjali by Rabindranath Tagore, because many people said we have wasted time and so on. Tagore says in this poem:

"On many an idle day, have I grieved over lost time,  
I was tired and sleeping on my idle bed,  
And imagined all work had ceased  
In the morning I woke up and found  
My garden full with wonders of flowers."

I think that our world is being saved by these silent workers, the plants who work night and day. When we are talking they are working, when there is sunlight, they harvest it, and if there is no sunlight they remove the air and purify it for our purpose, absorb the carbon dioxide and give us the oxygen, and I think we are all very privileged to be servants of those plants. What we are trying to do in agriculture is try to help plants grow better, animals to yield more, and therefore I think to work for a cause where there is tireless striving on the part of the silent green plants which keep our world alive is a great privilege. Mahatma Gandhi in my country used to say two things frequently.

He said "The means and the end are both very important. However great and good your end will be if the means are not right, then you have a problem." Similarly, when we work for a great cause some of the greatness falls on us and we also become great. When we talk about serving the cause of the poor and the hungry, the cause is a very great one, and I think a little bit of the shadow of that greatness of serving that cause falls on us. I finally hope it is. "Thank God, it is Friday". I said that last Friday, but not to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and members. Today many of you must be feeling "Thank God it is Friday", but I hope we will have some introspection and reflection for the next day or two, and do come to a conclusion that will make this Council meeting really reflect the spirit of comradeship and the spirit of kindness, and the spirit of determination to serve a larger cause which prevails in this room.

I thank you all very much, and for those of you who are going abroad I wish you well, and good night. The session comes to a close.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 21.50 hours

La seance est levée à 21 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.50 horas